



City of Reno
**Recovery Plan Performance
Report**

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
2021 Report

City of Reno
2021 Recovery Plan Performance Report (RPPR)
Report Coverage Period: Award Date – July 31, 2021

Table of Contents

GENERAL OVERVIEW	2
Executive Summary	2
Uses of Funds.....	2
Promoting equitable outcomes.....	2
Community Engagement	3
Labor Practices	3
Use of Evidence	3
EXPENDITURES	4
Summary of Expenses by Expenditure Category.....	4
PROJECT INVENTORY	4
Project Inventory Summary.....	4
Project 10901: City COVID-19 Coordinator	5
Project 10401: Hybrid Meeting Technology	5
Project 40201: Retention and Recruitment for Homeless Shelter Staff	6
Performance Metrics.....	7

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

The City of Reno is in the early phases of determining how to allocate its \$51,519,997 in State and Local Fiscal Relief Funds (SLFRF) appropriated from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021. In August 2021, the Reno City Council approved a plan to engage the community, seek input, and develop an allocation plan for the funds. The key components of this process, including components of community engagement and project evaluation, are detailed in this report. As a first step in using the funds, the City approved three limited-scope projects in the categories of supporting the public health response to COVID-19 and providing premium pay for essential workers. These projects were identified as immediate needs as the City continues to seek input from across the community to develop an allocation plan that prioritizes the needs of the local COVID-19 response and recovery effort.

Uses of Funds

The City of Reno approved a plan to solicit, identify, and fund projects utilizing SLFRF on August 25, 2021. This plan outlines the process for collaborating with surrounding jurisdictions and the State of Nevada to help identify projects that meet the established criteria. The collaborative process is meant to support a coordinated effort to funding projects and avoiding overlap. Identification of other funding sources and opportunities is a critical aspect of the City's allocation plan and aligns with Council's desire to identify and fund projects that will have the largest impact on the City and its residents.

Funding proposals will be accepted in the five major categories outlined by the Treasury Department and must be measureable. Projects that support underserved or disproportionality-impacted communities will be given priority when allocating funds. City staff is working to collect proposals from the community through an expanded partnership with the State of Nevada as well as Council members and community organizations. Staff will develop a full allocation plan that is based on the identified needs of the community and alignment with strategic initiatives and Treasury Department guidance.

Additional efforts are underway to accept and utilize funding authorized through other programs authorized through ARPA, including the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERA2). Staff will be asking Council for guidance on the use of these funds in September 2021.

Promoting equitable outcomes

The City of Reno is in the process of soliciting feedback and developing an allocation plan based on identified needs of the community, the Council, and City staff. Part of the identification and evaluation process involves collaboration with the State of Nevada listening tour to gather information and feedback from various groups and topics directly impacted by the pandemic. This includes roundtables focused on housing, access for persons with disabilities, Black and Latino business owners, workforce impact, business impact, education, and others identified by the City and the State that will allow for deeper discovery of needs in the community.

The evaluation process identifies and aligns with projects that support greater impacts to populations that have suffered greater impacts or are traditionally underserved as identified by qualified census

tracts. As a part of the project approval process, the City also requires proposals to include metrics that ensure projects can measure impact to the community, including:

- Identification of projects that support or impact an underserved community; and
- Identification of projects that support or impact disproportionately impacted communities.

Community Engagement

Community input is a critical component of City's process to develop an allocation plan for SLFRF. Between August and October 2021, the City of Reno is collaborating with the State of Nevada to meet with stakeholder groups, some of which were identified in the previous section of this report, and to promote an online survey. These conversations and the survey are intended to gather feedback on high priority needs as the response and recovery continues. The City of Reno is also planning to visit each of its five Neighborhood Advisory Boards to seek additional input and will be requesting proposal ideas using an online portal. The data from the surveys and the feedback from the various meetings will be used to help guide the development of an allocation plan. The City of Reno will also keep the community apprised of progress on each of the projects through communication efforts, included a dedicated location on the City's webpage.

Labor Practices

The City of Reno has not initiated any infrastructure projects with ARPA dollars to date. Relevant information about labor practices will be provided in future reports.

Use of Evidence

The City of Reno has established a rigorous evaluation and review process for all proposed projects that intend to utilize SLFRF. A process for community input, partner collaboration, project evaluation, and ongoing monitoring has been developed and approved by the Reno City Council to clearly identify how projects will be selected and funded under the guidance of the Treasury rules as well as other qualifications specific to the City. City staff will evaluate all project proposals utilizing a standardized evaluation tool to ensure fair and complete evaluation of all projects, including the identification of measurable outcomes for all proposed projects.

Project evaluation criteria (projects must meet the following):

- Meets eligible use criteria and timeline established by the Treasury Department
- Proposal includes measurable performance indicators that can be monitored for life of project

City of Reno evaluation criteria (strong preference to projects meeting the following):

- Project aligns with the Council Strategic Plan
- Project is listed or aligns with the Capital Improvement Plan
- Project aligns with the City of Reno Master Plan – ReImagine Reno

Additional evaluation criteria used to identify project potential (priority given to these criteria):

- Prioritizes underserved communities as identified in the guidance
- Does the project prioritize efforts to address climate change

EXPENDITURES

Summary of Expenses by Expenditure Category

Between the award date and July 31, 2021, the City of Reno did not expend its ARPA dollars as the City is continuing to go through its community engagement effort to develop a funding allocation plan. While there are no expenditures during this reporting period, it should be noted that the Reno City Council approved on August 25, 2021 several initial projects to be funded with ARPA dollars, including:

1. \$90,000 to extend the contract with the City’s COVID-19 coordinator;
2. \$200,000 to improve hybrid meeting technology; and
3. \$480,000 to recruit and retain staff at the local homeless shelter.

Additional details on each of these projects are described in the *Project Inventory* section of this report. Expenditures for these projects will be incorporated into future reports.

Table A: Expenditures by Category			
Expenditure Category (EC)		Cumulative Expenditures through 7/31/2021	Amount Spent Since Last RPPR
1	EC: Public Health	\$0.00	\$0.00
2	EC: Negative Economic Impacts	\$0.00	\$0.00
3	EC: Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities	\$0.00	\$0.00
4	EC: Premium Pay	\$0.00	\$0.00
5	EC: Infrastructure	\$0.00	\$0.00
6	EC: Revenue Replacement	\$0.00	\$0.00
7	EC: Administrative and Other	\$0.00	\$0.00

PROJECT INVENTORY

Project Inventory Summary

The following projects have been identified and approved to be funded as of August 25, 2021. No action has been taken outside of approval during this reporting period. The summaries provided below identify the project and planned funding allocations. These projects will evolve and a more detailed measurement plan will be implemented as part of their rollout over the next 30 days.

Table B: Project Inventory Summary					
Project #	Project Name	Allocation	EC #	EC Name	Status
10901	City COVID-19 coordinator	\$90,000	1.9	Payroll costs for public health, safety, and other public sector staff responding to COVID-19	In progress
10401	Hybrid meeting technology	\$200,000	1.4	Prevention in congregate settings	In progress

40201	Retention and recruitment for shelter operations for VOA staff	\$480,000	4.2	Private sector: grants to other employers	In progress
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[Project 10901: City COVID-19 Coordinator](#)

Funding amount: \$90,000 (through June 30, 2022)

Project expenditure category: 1.9 – Support public health response: Payroll costs for public health, safety, and other public sector staff responding to COVID-19

Project Overview

This project extends the contract for the City’s EMS COVID coordinator position through June 30, 2022. This position has been instrumental in assisting the City with the necessary testing, contact tracing, compliance, mitigation, and response duties as it relates to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Through the coordination and management efforts provided by the coordinator, the City provided 10,400 vaccinations and more than 500 tests to City personnel and our community.

Responsibilities of the position include:

- Assisting with developing the City's infectious disease (i.e. COVID-19 and influenza) strategies;
- Coordinating and managing all ongoing vaccination POD (COVID and influenza) activities for City employees and the community;
- Managing all ongoing COVID-19 testing;
- Acting as the City’s infectious disease liaison with regional and state partners; and
- Assisting City leadership with ongoing mitigation efforts.

Furthermore, the coordinator is the point of contact for all federal and state agencies requesting access to or the collection of clean, valid, reliable, and timely data as it relates to vaccination, testing, training, and emergency medical services. The position ensures the data collected in the context of field visits and potential exposures are evaluated for attributes such as quality, definitions, timeliness, completeness, simplicity, generalizability, validity, and reliability.

Use of Evidence

The position will continue the assigned COVID responsibilities of addressing the City's COVID-19 strategies and communication with City employees, testing centers, and City leadership. Specific metrics for the remainder of the fiscal year will be identified with the coordinator.

[Project 10401: Hybrid Meeting Technology](#)

Funding amount: \$200,000

Project expenditure category: 1.4 - Support public health response: Prevention in congregate settings

Project Overview

This project focuses on implementing a hybrid meeting solution that allows the City's boards and commissions to conduct meetings safely in a physical location while also allowing participation of members and the community through an online audio and video connection. The project includes three phases allowing for development of more immediate solutions while simultaneously implementing more complex and flexible options that can be sustained in the future. Project completion is expected by October 31, 2021 based on staff and product delivery timelines.

Use of Evidence

Phase 1 will identify and outfit specific City-owned locations with appropriate equipment to conduct hybrid meetings. These locations will be evaluated and updated to include additional technology required to conduct hybrid meetings.

Phase 2 will incorporate lessons learned from development of the fixed locations and identify equipment that can be packed into a mobile option for use at other locations. This phase will require more time as additional equipment (e.g. hotspots, screens, laptops, tablets, etc.) will be required to support a fully mobile option.

Phase 3 will include updating hybrid technology in Council chambers to ensure meetings can be held virtually as needed.

Project 40201: Retention and Recruitment for Homeless Shelter Staff

Funding amount: \$480,000

Project expenditure category: 4.2 – Premium pay for essential workers: Private grants to other employers

Project Overview

The COVID-19 pandemic's impacts have gone beyond traditional healthcare and public health response. Supporting the unsheltered population through a pandemic has presented many challenges, including the ability to retain and recruit staff to support critical shelter operations. There has been a 42 percent turnover rate at the CARES Campus, the region's primary low-barrier shelter, the last 12 months due to attrition and an inability to recruit effectively based on pay and the requirements of the job. The positions include outreach, housekeepers, case managers, and other support staff. ARPA identified a funding category to support essential workers by providing premium pay incentives for people working directly and in close physical contact with the community. This pay is only eligible for people earning 150 percent of the average annual salary in Washoe County. Based on the most recent data from the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, that amounts to \$77,235 annually. This pay can provide up to \$13.00 an hour on top of current salary or \$25,000 total additional pay a year. All positions receiving the premium pay option qualify under these requirements. The following premium pay structure has been developed to improve retention and support significant recruitment efforts related to sheltering operations. This program will expire on December 31, 2021.

Use of Evidence

- Shelter operation staff

- Tiered pay for work completed through the pandemic – total \$100,000
 - Employed as of July 1, 2021 - \$500
 - Employed for three to six months – additional \$500
 - Employed for seven to 12 months – additional \$500
 - Employed over 12 months – additional \$500
- Tiered pay for essential workers through December 31, 2021 – total \$380,000
 - Employed through September 30, 2021 - \$2,500
 - Employed through December 31, 2021 - \$2,500

Pursuant to the ARPA funding guidelines set forth by the Department of the Treasury, this projects costs are eligible for reimbursement under the category “premium pay for essential workers” based on the average annual salary and the direct, ongoing contact with the public and homeless population.

Performance Metrics

As previously discussed in this report, the City of Reno is currently going through its community input and allocation plan process. Ensuring measurable key performance indicators will be a part of the evaluation process and determination of project funding. As projects are approved and funded, key performance indicators, including the mandatory performance indicators for certain expenditure categories, will be tracked and included in future reports.