



**Richland County**  
**State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF)**  
**Recovery Plan Performance Report**  
**FY 2025**



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## **Executive Summary**

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 into law. The \$1.9 trillion package, based on President Biden's American Rescue Plan, is intended to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, including the public health and economic impacts. ARPA allocates hundreds of billions of dollars for public health and vaccines, assistance for vulnerable populations, education and housing stabilization, economic recovery assistance and direct assistance for families and individuals. As part of the \$362 billion in federal fiscal recovery aid for state and local governments, \$65.1 billion is provided under ARPA direct aid to counties. The ARPA funds are intended to provide support to State, local, and Tribal governments in responding to the impact of COVID-19 and in their efforts to contain COVID-19 on their communities, residents, and businesses.

The COVID-19 pandemic has profoundly shaped communities around the nation. The citizens of Richland County have seen substantial impacts on the health of residents, the quality of life in neighborhoods, and the overall functioning of the local economy. To help turn the tide on the pandemic, address the negative economic consequences that have resulted, and begin on the path toward a productive, sustainable, and equitable economic recovery, the County was allocated \$80,576,312 in State Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA). This funding presents a unique opportunity for the County to:

- Support urgent COVID-19 response efforts to help bring the pandemic under control.
- Replace lost public sector revenue to support vital public services.
- Support economic stabilization for residents and businesses; and
- Address systemic, institutionalized disparities, inequity, and racism.

Richland County is committed to ethical, equitable and transparent use of State Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to assist residents, non-profit organizations, and businesses recovering from the negative impacts of COVID-19. These funds will be used to improve the quality of life in Richland County. All uses of these funds must receive approval from County Council. County Administration presents all planned uses for the funds to the Coronavirus Ad hoc Committee for evaluation. The Committee then considers input from County Administration, the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Community Survey conducted by Richland County, as well as other sources of information. The Committee then determines if the planned uses need to be held in committee for further evaluation before forwarding to County Council with a recommendation to approve or deny the planned use.

## **Uses of Funds**

Richland County established the following principles to aid in the deployment of its intended uses of funding:

- **Data driven.** Establish evidence and evaluation-based projects/programs that contain the necessary data to demonstrate how they will address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic or assist in recovery.
- **Equitable outcomes.** Establish projects/programs with goals to increase equity and resilience for disadvantaged and unincorporated communities.
- **Avoid duplication.** Ensure established projects/programs do not duplicate services already provided by the state or federal government, including municipal coordination to avoid duplication of efforts of agencies/organizations within Richland County.
- **Directed towards health and safety measures.** Establish countywide projects/programs that bolster the health and safety response to COVID-19.

### **Public Health Expenditures**

- **Payroll Costs.** For Richland County Public Health, Safety, and other First Responder staff responding to COVID-19.
- **Personal Protective Equipment.** Richland County anticipates a sustained demand for the equipment among Richland County staff as organizational policies change to require the use of personal protective equipment in daily operations.
- **COVID-19 Testing.** Continuation of Richland Countywide testing program to serve Richland County residents for the mitigation and prevention of COVID-19.
- **COVID -19 Vaccination.** Continuation of COVID-19 vaccination programs for residents of Richland County are intended to mitigate the disparate health impacts and reduce the number of deaths caused by COVID-19.
- **Investments to County Infrastructure.** Richland County is currently assessing the need for capital projects that would improve Richland County's response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. These include plans to improve Richland Department of Social Services and Richland County's Jail Facilities.
- **Improving Teleworking Capability.** Enhanced teleworking capacity will allow for social distancing while maintaining essential Richland County operations and ensures that Richland County continues to provide services to the public while maintaining the safety of the employees and the public.

### **Promoting Equitable Outcomes - Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities**

**Household Assistance** - Richland County was approved for \$45,016,601.00 in aid for citizens in the County for the Rental Assistance Program (RAP). These funds were allocated to ensure tenants/citizens did not lose their place of residency.

**Affordable and Transitional Housing Programs.** Richland County recognizes that individuals experiencing homelessness have been particularly hard hit during this pandemic. As such,

Richland County plans to continue working with local agencies to develop projects that provide housing, food, and mental health support for homeless populations in Richland County.

**Aid to Nonprofit Organizations.** Richland County is currently in the planning process to develop programs to provide support to local nonprofit organizations to assist those in Richland County impacted by the public health emergency to include expanding the scope of services provided.

**Mental Health Assistance.** Enhanced mental health collaboration including expansion of services within Richland County has been a top priority since the onset of the pandemic. COVID-19 Mental Health resources have been provided by the Big Red Barn and the explanation of Cigna Health Care System. Richland County supports the various methods and ways mental health has been able to be rendered to staff and citizens within the county since the inception of the pandemic. Funding will be targeted to individuals/groups who have been directly impacted through COVID-19 in a variety of ways including, but not limited to testing positive for or having had the COVID-19 virus, loss of family to the virus, lost wages, loss of employment, women and children of domestic violence, homelessness, loss of insurance, mental and behavioral illness exacerbated by the pandemic, and other COVID-related trauma.

### **Community Engagement**

Richland County continues to provide programs/projects to improve the quality of life for all citizens regardless of their income status, race creed, religion, gender, or political affiliation. Accessible, culturally appropriate community engagement has been a fundamental component to how the County implements programs and services. The County's long-term strategy for healthy, safe, and thriving communities focused on improving population health and achieving collective impact through public-private partnerships. The Richland County Council recognized community partners who represent all sectors – from government, to business, to schools, to faith-based and community organizations and represent the diverse communities they bring to the table and the mission to serve the citizen of Richland County.

These partners are actively involved in collaborating and even came together during the COVID-19 Pandemic to participate in the County's COVID-19 Education and Outreach sectors. Through these sectors, the County continuously communicates sector-specific COVID-19 information to thousands of stakeholders to facilitate transparency, ensure accessibility for all populations, and keep the public informed of the latest information as it relates to local response efforts.

### **Labor Practices**

Richland County labor practices will follow and comply with all local, state, and federal laws, regulations, and directives. This includes compliance with all laws and regulations pertaining to wages and hours, state and federal income tax, unemployment insurance, Social Security, disability insurance, workers' compensation insurance, and discrimination in employment. The

County, its contractors, and subcontractors shall comply with all applicable federal laws including:

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d et seq.) and Treasury's implementing regulations at 31 C.F.R. Part 22, which prohibit discrimination based on race, color, or national origin under programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. § 794), which prohibits discrimination based on disability under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance

The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§ 6101 et seq.), and Treasury's implementing regulations at 31 C.F.R. Part 23, which prohibit discrimination based on age in programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance.

Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 et seq.), which prohibits discrimination based on disability under programs, activities, and services

Per the guidelines, workforce practices must be reported on for projects being pursued under SLFRF Expenditure Category 5: Water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure. The infrastructure component of the County ARAP Framework would most align with this category, however projects are still being developed. When the projects are developed, labor practices will be described in future reports. General applicable local and state labor laws and regulations.

### **Use of Evidence**

Richland County is committed to ensuring that all programs monitoring, and evaluations will be conducted in accordance with the American Rescue Plan requirements and SLFRF funds are being allocated. Scientific Evidence-Based interventions are based on the conviction that systematic documenting of a larger number of high qualities RCTs (Randomized with Concealment, Double blinded, complete follow-up, intention to treat analysis) gives the least biased estimate. Many of the County's ARPA Framework projects are still under development and design. The County will prioritize projects that are based on evidence-based practices and will assist in the evaluations process.

Agencies requesting funding will need to conduct process monitoring data including but not limited to Individual Level Interventions (ILI), Group Level Interventions (GLI), and Prevention Case Management (PCM), additionally, interventions proposed should also be ensuring cultural competence. This will provide for better information and data outcomes. It is important to understand there are diverse types of program performance assessments.

## **Performance Report**

Performance measurement is ongoing monitoring and reporting of program accomplishments, particularly progress toward pre-established goals. It is typically conducted by program or agency management. Richland County staff and administration makes every effort to communicate information on a regular basis as well as monitor the performance and progress of projects funded. To-date Richland County has funded 31 projects as identified below.

### **Project Inventory**

#### **Public Health Projects**

##### **Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center - Prevention in Congregate Settings (Prison/Jails, Dense Work Sites)**

**Project Overview & Use of Evidence:** Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center purchased Tek84 Intercept Scanner is a whole-body security scanning system, the only American-made body scanner that detects both metallic and nonmetallic threats, including weapons, drugs, cell phones and other contraband. This system operates by screening from below the feet to above the head revealing items under the clothing and within the body. One staff member can screen up to 200 subjects per hour, while maintaining the COVID-19 safe distance of 6 feet between individuals. An FDA-approved thermal camera measures the temperature of each inmate, providing an early indication of COVID-19 and other infections.

**Performance Report:** Within less than 3 months the system was completely 100% installed in the Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center. One product solves two problems: detecting concealed threats while protecting against COVID-19 transmission. The implementation of the body scanner has been an immediate success and has put Alvin S. Glenn Detention Center at an advantage in keeping staff and inmates safe.

##### **Senior Resources, Inc. - COVID-19 Assistance to Non-Profits**

###### **Household Assistance - Food Programs**

**Project Overview & Use of Evidence:** Seniors Resources, Inc. provides services for seniors to remain independent in their homes. They provide for individual basic needs, food, personal care, emotional and social interaction. Senior Resources covers eleven districts which is 757 sq. miles and more than 33,000 seniors. Their Senior Meals programs serve seniors in two ways -- through Meals on Wheels, and through congregate meals at our four Wellness Centers. Meals on Wheels provides daily delivery of hot and frozen meals to home-bound seniors and disabled adults. The meals are planned and prepared by a caterer who specializes in senior nutrition, and they meet one-third of the daily dietary recommendations for seniors. In addition to staff who delivers the

meal, volunteers also deliver meals and provide more than just daily sustenance. The volunteer is often the only person a home-bound client sees each day, and the visit provides both companionship and a vital safety check. In this way, the Meals on Wheels program not only meets the nutritional needs of at-risk seniors and disabled adults, but also combats loneliness and helps them maintain their independence within their own homes. In the Wellness Centers, participants are served the same daily meal that is on the Meals on Wheels menu. Wellness Center participants are clients who are not yet completely home-bound, but may have transportation or financial challenges. Senior Resources, Inc provides transportation to and from the centers each day. In addition to the meals served, the Wellness Center clients also participate in games, crafts, physical fitness and social time.

**Performance Report:**

- Program/Project Completion Percentage 33.32%
- Number of Meals on Wheels Clients Served = 599
- Number of Congregate Meal Clients Served = 162
- Number of Transportation Clients Served = 72

Transportation point to point miles - 348 Information and Assistance calls fielded - 40  
Nonemergency Medical Appointment trips provided for seniors - 16.5 hours of Physical Fitness provided

Demographics Female 118; Male 33; Unknown 11; White 11; Black/AA 134; Unreported 16; Hispanic 1  
Meal on Wheels Demographics Female 365; Male 223; Unknown 9; White 155 Black/AA 333; Unreported 109; Other 2; Transportation Demographics Female 118; Male 33; Unknown 11; White 11; Black/AA 134; Unreported 16; Hispanic 1.

**Boys & Girls Club of the Midlands**

**Project Overview & Use of Evidence:** During the COVID-19 pandemic Richland County's schools shifted from in-person to virtual learning methods abruptly. This shift was challenging for all students, but especially for students from low income and/or rural communities due to the lack of high-speed internet services and access to proper technology for virtual learning. With these challenges and without the additional support from their teachers and aides, most of the students from low-income communities fell behind by one or more grades during this period. This project will employ certified teachers as tutors to spend extra time with these students and work with them to bring them back to grade level. Project Learn is an evidence-based program developed by Boys & Girls Clubs of America. Recent research, synthesized by the U.S. Department of Education, documents that after-school programs can improve educational outcomes for school-age youth.

**Performance Report:** The program served students from low income and high-risk communities and/or households attending one of the County's 27 schools. Their efforts are essential for promoting equity and ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to participate fully in the Project Learn Program.

### **Palmetto AIDS Life Support Services (PALSS) - COVID-19 Assistance to Non-Profits**

**Project Overview & Use of Evidence:** PALSS provides free, confidential HIV testing with results in less than an hour. It provides STI screening for syphilis, gonorrhea, Chlamydia, and Hepatitis C, as well as vaccinations for Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B. PALSS provide targeted prevention education and community training for HIV, TB, and Hepatitis; HIV and TB outreach and screening. The dedicated staff will help with counselling, referrals to care and support groups. PALSS has provided care to thousands of people living with HIV. They provide housing, case management; community-based HIV/STI counseling, testing, and referral services; comprehensive risk counseling services; client advocacy; support groups; education about emergency contraceptives; emergency financial assistance for housing issues; an emergency food pantry; and transportation assistance through targeted programs.

#### **Performance Report:**

**Goal 1: Increase access to HIV/STI/Hepatitis/COVID19 counseling, testing, and education for rural and hard-to-reach populations.**

- PALSS conducted 3-5 monthly community testing activities each month using PALSS mobile unit. Progress to date:
  - Number of Mobile testing and other outreach events: 24
  - Number of client encounters: 616
- PALSS provided COV/D19 outreach and education to persons in Richland County to encourage COVID-19 testing, vaccine, and boosters. Progress to date:
  - Number of Outreach events: 38
  - Number of client encounters: 3,298
  - Number of COVID vaccines provided: 74
- PALSS provided HIV and ST/ counseling and testing for persons in Richland County. Progress to date:
  - Number of HIV tests: 760; Number of STI screening test: 1416; Syphilis screening tests 125

COVID-19 still influences how services are being provided. PALSS continues to limit the number of persons physically in the office at any given time. They can only transport one client at a time due to COVID-19 concerns. Transportation is an issue even without the burden of COVID-19 concerns. PALSS still need up to date telehealth equipment and portable Wi-Fi specifically to reach clients in rural areas who do not have internet service. Activities: PALSS scheduled and

completed 3-5 monthly community testing activities each month using PALSS mobile unit. The mobile unit is staffed by testing specialist, outreach specialists, and case managers. These staff provide direct services and referrals to care for community members. Each activity serves at least 12-15 community members. One of PALSS CDC Proven Scientific Interventions include: Voices, a video-based HIV and sexually transmitted disease (STD) prevention intervention designed for gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men (MSM). This project has successfully completed 100%.

### **Planned Parenthood of South Atlantic - Other Public Health Services**

**Project Overview & Use of Evidence:** For more than 100 years, women, men, and young people have relied on Planned Parenthood for accessible and affordable quality healthcare, accurate information and comprehensive health education. Planned Parenthood South Atlantic (PPSAT) is a nonprofit health care provider offering a wide range of affordable and reliable reproductive and sexual health care services in 14 locations across North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia. PPSAT is staffed by highly-trained doctors, nurses and other health care professionals who are proud to serve your reproductive and sexual health care needs. They are committed to providing high-quality health care to everyone who walks through our doors, no matter their race, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, documentation, or insurance status.

**Performance Report:** Planned Parenthood South Atlantic provides high quality education that reflects the needs of young people, their families, our patients, and the communities they serve. At its core, PPSAT education programs are about helping young people reach their full potential while helping community members gain access to the health care and information they need to live healthy, productive lives.

Specific programming is tailored to the needs of the community, but all of PPSAT's education programs adhere to the following high standards:

- Offering multi-session, Planned Parenthood branded peer education programs that use evidence-based curricula;
- Prioritizing family engagement to foster open and effective communication between teens and their parents or caregivers;
- Maintaining alumni programs that offer young people long-term ways to stay engaged with PPSAT and make meaningful difference in their community through service projects, educational presentations, and advocacy;
- Creating science-based, well-cited community presentations on issues related to Planned Parenthood South Atlantic's mission and of specific interest to community members.

PPSAT successfully implemented their Comprehensive Sex Education Program in Richland County. This project provides high quality sexual health education that reflects the Richland community, including young people, families, and patients. Planned Parenthood of South Atlantic provides virtual an in-person programming that offers resources in the form of weekly workshops with parent, bootcamps in the summer and other sessions throughout the year.

## **Public Health - Mental Health Services Project**

### **MIRCI - Mental Illness Recovery Center Inc. – Public Health - Mental Health Services**

**Project Overview & Use of Evidence:** The ARPA grant will support two of the organization's programs: 1. Provide immediate services to people who are homeless and vulnerable to COVID and other negative outcomes and; 2. Provide operations/ support services to female identifying youth who will be invited to live in a 10-bedroom transitional living home which is anticipated to open in late 2024.

**Performance Report:** During the reporting period, MIRCI engaged 1,061 adults and youth through outreach. The benefits team submitted a total of 93 applications for SSI/SSDI income, SNAP and miscellaneous services including phones and transportation. Two SOAR (SSI/SSDI) claims were approved and seven are pending. Eighteen SNAP applications were approved. The total annual benefit to clients of SOAR and SNAP benefits is \$21,939 and clients will receive back pay totaling \$4,570. Also provided 306 patients behavioral health care; 96% made progress on the plans of care. Nine male youth resided in the transitional home (nine currently reside in the ten-bedroom home); four exited to positive situations. Regarding housing stability, MIRCI housed 253 clients including 19 children in four complexes and HUD Continuum of Care leases in six commercial housing complexes across Richland County. MIRCI assesses housing tenure (six- and 12-month stability) at the end of program year.

### **SC Thrive - Public Health - Mental Health Services**

**Project Overview & Use of Evidence:** This project is to provide access to mental health services to help address the increase of mental health issues such as anxiety and depression because of the pandemic. This organization will use the requested funds to provide Mental Health First Aid Training to 300 school personnel over the next two years at various schools in Richland County to provide mental health services and support for students.

**Performance Report:** To-date of this project was able to expand the population of personnel within Richland County schools trained to identify the need for and administer mental health first aid to students and adults.

## **Negative Economic Impact Projects**

### **Transitions/Midlands Housing Alliance, Inc. - Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance**

**Project Overview & Use of Evidence:** The funds provided by Richland County supported the day-to-day operations of Transitions. It is the largest facility in our area, providing basic shelter and comprehensive services to homeless men and women, ages 18 and older. Transitions also operates a Day Center which is open 7 days a week to provide an alternative to the street during the day and to allow homeless individuals an opportunity to get services and treatment. On any given day, they provide meals and shelter for approximately 330 homeless individuals. In FY 2024,

3,486 unique individuals utilized their programs and services. Individuals using the Day Center had access to showers and laundry facilities. They served 188,873 meals during this fiscal year. The food recovery program continued this year, bringing in approximately 135 tons of food from area businesses and agencies. This recovered food was used in the meal programs, supplementing breakfast, lunch, and dinner for residents and day users.

Transitions' goal is to assist all their clients into stable, permanent housing as quickly as possible. To accomplish this outcome, Transitions provide "client-centered" case management to identify their clients' barriers to housing and help them address those impediments positively through a variety of onsite services and programs. Major services include mental health and substance abuse counseling, health care, employment training and job skills, life skills, legal assistance, housing assistance, and veterans' services. In FY 2024, they helped 156 clients move into permanent housing. Since opening Transitions placed 3,454 individuals into permanent housing. In FY 2024, Transitions continued its Rapid Re-housing program, placing many into housing immediately. Their Rapid Re-housing program helps clients move into permanent housing by providing short-term financial assistance (rent and utility) and supportive services. They assisted over 50 clients (including families) through Rapid Re-housing this program this year

**Performance Report:** In FY 2024, 56% of individuals reported at least one disability (of those reporting their disability status). In FY 2024, 9% of all clients served at Transitions (Day Center and residential programs) were veterans and 28% of all clients were classified as chronically homeless.

Other client demographics include:

- Gender: Male (58%), Female (23%), Transgender (<1%), Not Reported (19%)
- Race: African American (56%), Caucasian (24%), Other (1%), Not Reported (9%)
- Age: 18-24 (6%), 25-34 (15%), 35-44 (17%), 45-61 (32%), 62 and older (14%), Not Reported (16%)

Their outreach team works with local law enforcement and area service providers to find people on the street and encourage them to come to Transitions for services. They provide hygiene packets, snacks, clothing, blankets, and bus tickets as needed. Transitions outreach team also responds to neighborhood and business complaints about homeless individuals and engages those people about coming to Transitions for help and services. In addition, they work directly with the Homeless Services Department with the City of Columbia to find immediate nighttime shelter for individuals they encounter.

## **Services for Unhoused Persons**

### **Alston Wilkes Society – Housing Stability for Former Offenders**

**Project Overview & Use of Evidence:** The (AWS) sought funds to increase housing stability for low-income, homeless or at-risk of homelessness populations with a specific focus on former offenders, for whom lack of stable housing is a major barrier that research shows must be overcome for successful reintegration back into the community's has a successful history of administering federal funding awards for programs such as the Veterans Administration's Supportive Services for Veteran Families grant, the Federal Bureau of Prisons' Residential Reentry Centers, and the Veterans Administration's Grant & Per Diem Programs for homeless male veterans.

**Performance Report:** ASW provided Supportive Housing Programs and Transitional Housing support services aimed at helping individuals transition from incarceration to stable living. They were able to connect individuals with services such as mental health care, substance abuse treatment, and job readiness programs. By addressing the barriers and leveraging available resources, communities can help individuals successfully reintegrate and build stable, productive lives. Collaboration between government agencies, nonprofits, and local organizations is essential in creating sustainable solutions and promoting long-term success.

## **Richland County Home Repair Project for Seniors**

### **SC Uplift Community Outreach**

#### **Richland County Home Repair Project for Seniors**

**Project Overview & Use of Evidence:** SC UpLift Community Outreach is a community development corporation founded in 2008 that nurtures human potential by offering educational, economic, and health programs. Their primary focus is helping people improve their quality of life through safe, secure and affordable housing and employment services. We will implement the Richland County Senior Home Repair Program to address the growing demand for home and emergency repairs.

**Performance Report:** The Richland County Senior Home Repair Program focused on providing home repairs and emergency repairs for seniors, 62 years and older, in owner-occupied, low-to-moderate income households (at or below 80% of area median income) who primarily live in Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs) within the zip codes of 29203, 29204, and 29223 and other Qualified Census Tracts of Richland County, as funding allows. Home and emergency repairs completed under the Program included: repair or replacement of roofs, HVAC units, water heaters, plumbing, etc. for owner-occupied homes. Repairs and replacements will be limited to \$10,000 per senior household. The \$10,000 will cover the costs of supplies and the labor of licensed, bonded contractors (e.g., roofers, general contractors, HVAC professional, et al.).

## **Serve & Connect - Household Assistance for Food Programs**

**Project Overview & Use of Evidence:** Serve & Connect believes they can make a difference and tackle some of the greatest challenges when they collaborate. Because they believe in these principles, they are committed to working with police and community, helping to identify where there are the greatest opportunities for making lasting change and building the pathway to make those dreams a reality.

Food insecurity is a serious issue in Richland County. According to a recent report by the City of Columbia Food Policy Committee, more than 65,000 Richland County residents are food insecure which is defined as “lacking access, ability, availability or income to acquire healthy, safe, culturally appropriate food.” In this project, we offer a strategy for meeting residents where they are and addressing food insecurity via police officers.

**Performance Report:** If provided with proper resources, officers can be a critical bridge between services available in the community and residents in need, helping to mitigate barriers to support that can make a lasting difference for individuals experiencing food insecurity. Greg's Groceries provides police officers with vital resources that enable them to help people in need and bridge available community supports with those who may most benefit. The project provided 1,000 boxes of Greg's Groceries and 875 Greg's Groceries Express bags to police officers in Richland County. In addition, they offered training and technical assistance to officers and ensured they were connected to their statewide network of police agencies providing a community of support to reinforce their efforts to assist people experiencing hunger. Each box of food includes a list of available local resources, and officers are encouraged to connect recipients with other services such a local food banks or other supports that might help them address food insecurity in a sustainable way. They recently served 1503 households served.

## **Prisma Health Midlands - Household Food Assistance**

**Project Overview & Use of Evidence:** Prisma Health addresses food insecurities for lower income households with small children under the age of 6, single parent households with children, and elderly households of color between ages 65-75. The clinic provides food vouchers that include \$15 vouchers to purchase fresh food from local small business to address food insecurities of patients at the Prisma Health Clinic.

**Performance Report:** The program engages those in the community through outreach, education, information support, and services to include screenings and assessments to enhance lives. The program has established new partnerships with local businesses, organizations, and those in the community who share in their mission. The program has helped 250 patients within the community connect to needed services.

- Referrals Received- 61
- Screenings- 61

## **Palmetto Aids Life Support Services - Household Food Assistance**

**Project Overview & Use of Evidence:** Food assistance is a crucial support service for individuals living with HIV/AIDS, as proper nutrition plays a significant role in managing the condition and maintaining overall health. With the use of funding PALSS aim to provide food assistance in the form of canned goods; dry goods; grains; meats and proteins as well as fresh fruits/vegetables along with household staples of flour, sugar etc. In an effort to provide this service two commercial refrigerators and a freezer will be needed.

**Performance Report:** It's a valuable resource for the community, offering a range of food items to low-income households.

## **Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations**

### **Midland Fatherhood Coalition - Workforce Development**

**Project Overview & Use of Evidence:** This Workforce Development to Strengthen Economically Disadvantaged Families program takes a holistic approach to strengthening fathers and helping them overcome obstacles with a range of education, services and support that includes:

- A comprehensive fatherhood program to teach the essentials of responsible fatherhood
- Employment coaching to help dads get jobs or find better paying jobs
- Help navigating the child support system
- Guidance on establishing paternity, visitation and other legal issues
- Peer-group sessions that provide fathers a safe space to talk and support each other
- Referrals for help with complex problems
- Mediation with the child's mother and other family members
- Access to men's healthcare education, screenings and referrals
- Assistance with transportation

**Performance Report:** Based on their core list of services they assist low income and non-custodial fathers who struggle to provide stability and emotional and financial support to their children by preparing them for long-term careers. They have used the funds to enhance their program by rebuilding enrollment and partnership efforts through outreach, awareness, recruitment, and retention efforts as well as employment readiness through unique programs like "Jobs Not Jail" a way to catch up on child support obligations that is a successful alternative to incarceration. Via ongoing connections with an experienced, supportive program staff many fathers have already experienced the benefits of the program offerings and are on their way to rebuilding their lives.

## **Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional**

### **Lynn Brown Inspires Young CEOs and Leaders of Tomorrow**

**Project Overview & Use of Evidence:** Is a program for youth in grades 4-12 and ages 17-25 that promotes Economic Empowerment through Entrepreneurship with an emphasis on Leadership and Education through FREE Entrepreneurship summer camps and 6 Business Pods with Business mentors. Students and parents are provided with the resources and programs needed to create, maintain, and sustain a productive business through education, leadership, and community service to achieve their entrepreneurial, leadership, educational and also personal goals.

**Performance Report:** With County funding this project provided 187 students with access to the training camp which typically focus on teaching participants essential business skills, fostering creativity, and encouraging innovative thinking. They can vary in scope, duration, and target audience, ranging from elementary school students to high schoolers and even college students.

## **Addressing Impacts of Lost Instructional Time**

### **Richland County Public Library**

**Project Overview & Use of Evidence:** - The Richland County Public Library (RCPL) serves Richland County, South Carolina. It's a valuable resource for the community, offering a range of services including:

- **Books and Media:** Extensive collections of books, audiobooks, e-books, DVDs, and more.
- **Programs and Events:** Regularly scheduled events like story times for kids, book clubs, author talks, and educational workshops.
- **Digital Resources:** Access to online databases, e-books, and digital magazines.
- **Community Services:** Meeting rooms, study spaces, and assistance with research and technology.

**Performance Report:** Education Studio Program - Helping Young Leaders with Learning Loss. This project provides resources to Richland County elementary students between 1st and 3rd grade reading below their grade level. Since launching their studio, the RCPL has used funds to expand the Education Studio Program at additional Library locations to reach more underserved students. This program provides literacy camps during the summer, parent and caregivers classes with educators with increased accessibility to the program. They often have branches spread throughout the county, each offering its own unique programs and resources.

### **Lower Richland Alumni Association**

**Project Overview & Use of Evidence:** The Lower Richland Alumni Association (LRAA) is an organization dedicated to supporting and connecting alumni from Lower Richland High School in Richland County, South Carolina. The association aims to foster a strong sense of community and pride among graduates, support current students, and promote the interests of the school.

Key activities and functions of the LRAA typically include:

- **Reunions and Social Events:** Organizing gatherings for alumni to reconnect and network.
- **Scholarships and Support:** Providing scholarships or financial support to current students or recent graduates.
- **Community Involvement:** Engaging in projects or initiatives that benefit the school and local community.

**Performance Report:** LRAA wanted to pay it forward to their community by providing students of all ages in the lower Richland Area School Cluster with assistance with getting back on their educational path being out due to COVID-19. As such LRAA has carved out space for an Educational Learning Center to provide their students with the much-needed tutoring and academic assistance due to lost instructional time. Thus far they have welcomed many students and predominately serve lower income households.

### **Richland County Public Library**

#### **Home Spot: Bridging the Digital Divide**

**Project Overview & Use of Evidence:** Richland Library is committed to the values of equity, diversity and inclusion. As a library system, they are unwavering in our dedication to fostering a community where everyone feels welcomed, valued and represented. Through intentionality and tangible actions, they will embed and amplify these commitments throughout the library and the communities they serve. Bridging this gap is crucial for ensuring equitable access to information, resources, and opportunities in today's increasingly digital world. The Richland County Library is attempting to Expanding Access by providing more widespread access to internet and digital devices, particularly to underserved and disenfranchised persons. This can involve initiatives such as installing public Wi-Fi hotspots, creating community technology centers, or distributing affordable devices. The project aims to assist low income households who may deal with broadband and internet issues by covering the cost of 250 hotspots to lend out to households that do not have broadband services or the infrastructure is not in place.

### **Broadband Expansion for Fourth District of Richland County**

#### **Columbia International University**

**Project Overview & Use of Evidence:** CIU aims to improve and increase the capability of the university's broadband and internet access. This would include purchasing and installing access points and wall plates in order to improve the connectivity to internet for students and community members who rely on CIU's broadband connection.

**Performance Report:** CIU was successful in expanding their bandwidth connectivity to internet for students and community members.

## **Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers**

### **Richland County Public Library - Workforce Digital Equity Program**

**Project Overview & Use of Evidence:** RCPL used their learning spaces to bridge the digital divide in the Richland community, specifically underserved adults who do not have access to a computer and are utilizing Richlands Library's workforce development programs and resources.

**Performance Report:** The Richland Library will use funds to purchase \$350 laptops and Chromebooks to give to this community. Providing a much-needed service to their community enabling those in need of technology.

## **Small Business – Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship**

### **Caughman & Co. LLC**

**Project Overview & Use of Evidence:** Small businesses throughout Richland County have suffered severe negative economic impacts due to the effects caused and exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. These impacts include losses in revenue due to the quarantine restrictions during the pandemic and extraordinary increases in operating expenses due to pandemic related economic shocks and COVID-19 mitigation compliance. Richland County developed the Small Business COVID-19 Financial Assistance Program to make reasonable awards to small businesses to stabilize the instability caused by the pandemic and ensure that impacted small businesses can cover their costs and continue to serve their communities far into the future.

**Performance Report:** Funding was used for marketing, advertising and other promotional media to promote the business.

## **Administrative - Administrative Expense**

### **Guidehouse, Inc.**

**Project Overview & Use of Evidence:** This agency provides consulting services to the county with compliance issues, strategic planning to address public sector entities, subject matter advises, best methods in deciding how and where to spend ARP funds, which includes budgeting, determining what community programs need to be established or improved and the development of creating a spending plan.

**Performance Report:** This agency provides, best methods in deciding how and where to spend ARP funds, which includes budgeting, determining what community programs need to be established or improved and the development of creating a spending plan. This is an ongoing project.

## **Premium Pay – Public Sector Employees**

### **The Cooperative Ministries – Premium Pay – Public Sector Employees**

**Project Overview & Use of Evidence:** The Cooperative Ministry exists to increase the economic self-sufficiency of people experiencing poverty in the Midlands through crisis assistance and sustainability programs. The purpose is to provide premium pay to the employees of The Cooperative Ministry that performed essential work during the public health emergency. The public-facing nature of their services continually placed their staff at increased risk of contracting COVID-19.

## **Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers**

### **USC Columbia Technology Incubator**

**Project Overview & Use of Evidence:** To effectively assist underemployed individuals, it's important to tailor support to their specific needs and circumstances. USC through their tech Incubator program they have community partnerships, personalized career services, and access to educational and training resources, all crucial components of a comprehensive support strategy. By leveraging these resources and approaches, underemployed individuals can better position themselves for fulfilling and well-matched employment opportunities.

**Performance Report:** USC has been assisting underemployed individuals by providing support to those who are working in jobs that don't fully utilize their skills, qualifications, or potential, or who are working part-time when they need full-time employment. Also offered are career assessments/coaching; job training/placement; resume building; and interview prep.

## **Community Violence Reduction**

### **Midlands Mediation Center**

**Project Overview & Use of Evidence:** The Community Violence Reduction project aims to decrease violence and increase civic engagement in local communities through various methods like mediation, restorative justice, and community dialogues. Midlands Mediation Center will lead the project by providing capacity-building efforts such as training, funding community intervention personnel, and administering programs. Participants will receive education and coaching in evidence-based methods for limiting the spread of violent outbreaks.

**Performance Report:** This project was facilitated by listening sessions to evaluate individual actions and promote restorative practices. MMC hosted Youth Engagement: Activities and programs that keep young people engaged in positive and constructive activities, such as after-school programs, sports, and arts. Education and Awareness: Workshops and campaigns that educate individuals about the impacts of violence, conflict resolution, and non-violent

communication. Family Support: Programs that support families, including parenting classes and family counseling, to address issues that may contribute to violence.

### **Richland County Projects**

**(RC) currently has several projects listed below. These were projects voted on by County Council and Administration.**

**Project Overview & Use of Evidence:** Named for the sprawling “rich land” that supported hearty indigo and cotton plantations for generations, Richland County today is home to a diverse population of more than 400,000 residents.

The County was carved out of the Camden District in 1785 and flourished with rolling farmland as important trade routes were established along the Santee, Congaree and Saluda rivers. In 1786, the state capital was relocated from coastal Charleston to the geographic center of the state, and a new city was born. Once Columbia was established as the state capital and county seat, Richland County’s boundaries were formally incorporated on Dec. 18, 1799.

The balanced scale of justice and the South Carolina Statehouse are featured on the Richland County seal, denoting the County’s significance as the headquarters of South Carolina State Legislature. During Gen. William T. Sherman’s burning of Columbia and surrounding areas in 1865, the Statehouse was spared. It was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1976.

From its agrarian roots to its establishment as the legislative hub of South Carolina, Richland County today boasts a vibrant military community at Fort Jackson, several acclaimed educational institutions, award-winning hospital systems, the South Carolina State Museum, a cutting-edge urban scene in downtown Columbia and a plethora of recreational activities, all nestled between its many rivers and lakes. Read a brief history of Richland County, complete with vintage photographs,

### **Testing Incentives - Public Health - COVID-19 Vaccination**

**Project Overview & Use of Evidence:** It is through community engagement that Richland County continues to provide programs/projects to improve the quality of life for all citizen regardless of their income status, race creed, religion, gender, or political affiliation. Accessible, culturally appropriate community engagement has been a fundamental component to how the County implements programs and services. The County’s long-term strategy for healthy, safe, and thriving communities focused on improving population health and achieving collective impact through public-private partnerships. The Richland County Council recognized community partners who represent all sectors – from government, to business, to schools, to faith-based and community organizations and represent the diverse communities of they bring to the table and the mission to serve the citizen of Richland County.

**Performance Report:** These partners collaborated during the COVID-19 Pandemic to participate in the County's COVID-19 Education and Outreach sectors. Through these sectors, the County continuously communicates sector-specific COVID-19 information to thousands of stakeholders to facilitate transparency, ensure accessibility for all populations, and keep the public informed of the latest information as it relates to local response efforts. Project Completed.

#### **Richland County ARP Essential Workers - Premium Pay - Public Sector Employees**

**Project Overview & Use of Evidence:** By promoting equitable outcomes and by providing services to disproportionately impacted communities through household assistance - Richland County was approved aid for citizens in the County for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). These funds were allocated to ensure tenants/citizens did not lose their place of residency. The chart below diagrams the amount received and number of clients served. The funds were to address equitable outcomes in the unserved/underserved disproportional communities throughout all eleven (11) districts of the County.

Richland County recognizes that individuals experiencing homelessness have been particularly hard hit during the pandemic. As such, Richland County plans to develop affordable and transitional housing programs by continuing to work with local agencies on project to provide housing, food, and mental health support for homeless populations in Richland County.

#### **Information Technology ERP Replacement Revenue - Administrative Needs**

**Performance Report:** This is an ongoing project as we work to replace existing structures and equipment. Many of the County's ARPA Framework projects are still under development and design.

#### **County GIS - Effective Service Delivery**

**Performance Report:** This is an ongoing project as we work to replace existing structures and equipment. Many of the County's ARPA Framework projects are still under development and design.

#### **Cyber Security Infrastructure - Effective Service Delivery**

**Project Overview & Use of Evidence:** Improving Teleworking Capability. Enhanced teleworking capacity will allow for social distancing while maintaining essential Richland County operations and ensures that Richland County continues to provide services to the public while maintaining the safety of the employees and the public. By implementing new email server hardware and software and new switching equipment RCSD will be addressing existing security vulnerabilities in their systems. This project impacts approximately 1100 employees as well as all Richland County citizens that rely electronic communication with the Sheriff's Department.

- Replacement of older unsupported desktop phones - Existing desktop phones are unsupported and present a security risk on the County network. This project impacts over

1400 employees as well as all Richland County citizens that rely on voice communication with all Richland County departments.

- MFA solution for remote access and law enforcement personnel accessing federal crime data sources. - Provides a third multi factor authentication method in addition to a username and password to increase security when County users connect the County network remotely as well as connecting to the new County finance and human resource application. This project impacts 2200 employees.
- Mobile audio and video equipment for hybrid remote meetings. - Project will allow large groups like county council to effectively communicate in a collaborative manner safely and remotely. Project will impact all Richland County employees and citizens through improved communication and messaging.
- Email Internet load balancing appliances. - Project will provide further protection of internal Richland County email servers from external threats and seamless failover between fault tolerant email server databases if hardware or software failures occur. Project impacts approximately 1800 employees as well as all Richland County citizens that rely electronic communication with all Richland County departments.
- New fault tolerant virtual private network, VPN appliances. - The County current uses a single Cisco VPN appliance to allow remote County staff to securely connect to all County resources and complete their jobs over a standard Internet connection from afar. By implementing a fault tolerate pair of VPN devices the County would ensure continuous remote access connectivity for these staff members in the event of a software or hardware failure on the primary unit. This project will impact approximately 750 employees as well as the Richland County citizens that rely on these employees for assistance.
- Replace storage area network, SAN, equipment. - The County database servers, application servers, and file servers that provide County departments and staff storage access to critical files and information rely on SAN equipment that is vulnerable to security exploits and attacks. This equipment also presents a performance bottle neck when newer equipment accesses this network storage. The new equipment would provide faster, more secure storage of all County information stored there. This project impacts approximately 1700 employees as well as all Richland County citizens that rely on the information stored on these systems.
- County wide replacement of unsupported and unsecure data switches and routers. - A large number of data switches and routers County wide are obsolete and present a cyber-security vulnerability and must be replaced. These switches and routers provide the connections between all County computers and telephones in all County buildings. This project impacts

approximately 2200 employees as well as all Richland County citizens that rely electronic communication with all Richland County departments.

**Performance Report:** These are ongoing projects as we work to replace existing structures and equipment. Many of the County's ARPA Framework projects are still under development and design.

#### **Temporary Employment Services - Administrative Expense**

**Project Overview & Use of Evidence:** As a result of COVID-19 the Information Technology Department was in fact short-staffed whereby a temporary employee was hired from Find Great People (FGP) Temporary Employment Agency to assist with departmental workload as a result of new software implementation for the County.

#### **Utilities – Lost Revenue/Revenue Replacement - Provision of Government Services**

**Performance Report:** This is an ongoing project as we work to replace existing structures and equipment. Many of the County's ARPA Framework projects are still under development and design.

#### **HVAC & Roof Repair**

#### **Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (Communication, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)**

**Performance Report:** This is an ongoing project as we work to replace existing structures and equipment. Many of the County's ARPA Framework projects are still under development and design.

#### **Family Services Center/DSS - Administrative - Administrative Expenses**

**Performance Report:** This is an ongoing project as we work to replace existing structures and equipment. Many of the County's ARPA Framework projects are still under development and design.

#### **Health Insurance (Employees) Administrative - Administrative Expenses**

**Project Overview & Use of Evidence:** Due to COVID-19, RC opted to use ARPA funds to pay for Employer-sponsored health insurance which is be a major benefit for employees. To include: Medical: Includes doctor visits, hospital stays, surgeries, and preventive care; Dental and Vision: Some plans also cover dental and eye care, which can be essential for overall health.; Mental Health: Coverage may include therapy, counseling, and medication.

#### **Emergency Medical Services (EMS) - Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (Communication, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)**

#### **Fire Bunker Services (EMS) - Other Public Health Expenses (Communication, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)**

**Project Overview & Use of Evidence:** Richland County's award-winning EMS team is one of the busiest – if not the busiest – EMS units in South Carolina. Crews respond to more than 74,000 calls each year. The County's EMS has distinguished itself as one of only a few nationwide to have

a motorcycle paramedic response team, and the department recently initiated South Carolina's first Mobile Integrated Healthcare Collaborative, a program that has helped more than 100 patients save more than \$300,000 in healthcare cost through education, resource guidance and assistance.

**Performance Report:** Emergency Services was authorized funding to purchase equipment. They did not have any "projects" other than equipment purchases. They were authorized to begin the procurement process on September 6, 2022. The purchasing should be completed by January 1, 2024. All equipment purchased will be used to improve emergency response to approximately 500,000 citizens and visitors to our county. Purchase Orders have been issued for all items except the Fire Service Bunker Gear, Gear Extractor and Gear Dryer. They are waiting on Columbia Fire Department to provide information for these items.

### **Richland County Sheriff's Department (RCSD)**

**RCSD currently has several projects listed below, which are on-going project to better serve our community.**

**Project Overview & Use of Evidence:** RCSD is proud to be a progressive agency. Sheriff Lott stays ahead of the curve in this ever-changing profession. He invests in his deputies and ensures that they have all the tools necessary to excel in law enforcement. Sheriff Lott ensures that his deputies receive top-notch training, equipment and benefits, paid health care for employees and take-home vehicles for patrol deputies. At RCSD, their mission is to improve the quality of life of the Richland County community by providing professional, exemplary service through crime prevention and resolution, diverse services, and community partnerships. Their purpose is to keep the peace and provide a better quality of life for the citizens of Richland County. Sheriff Lott believes that his success as a Sheriff is only possible when the deputies he leads are successful themselves. Sheriff Lott is proud of the family-like atmosphere that he has fostered at RCSD and knows that it is important for his 550+ uniformed deputies to love not only what they do, but where they work and has implemented the following projects with the assistance of ARPA funding.

### **Shot Spotter – Richland County Sheriff's Department (RCSD) - Community Violence Intervention**

**Performance Report:** The program began in July 2023 and is ongoing. Funds provided access to Shot Spotter locations within locations around Richland County. Shot Spotter is an alert system that identifies gunshots within the area and will provide an alert to law enforcement immediately. The system went live in February 2023 and detectors are placed in areas around the County in strategically identified areas. Since that time, deputies have been able to respond and retrieve shell casings for gunfire that was not even reported by 9-1-1 call.

**Airplane Maintenance (RCSD) - Provision of Government Services**

**Performance Report:** Program began in July 2023 and we anticipate delivery by December 2023. The Cessna airplane in use by the Richland County Sheriff's Department Aviation Unit has reached the end of the lifespan of its engine and will no longer be allowed to fly after reaching a certain number of engine hours. This plane is critical to locating missing persons, apprehending fugitives and providing surveillance and support from the air. Funds were obligated to purchase a new engine and other needed maintenance.

**Bearcat Armored Vehicle (RCSD) - Provision of Government Services**

**Performance Report:** Program began in July 2023 and we anticipate delivery within 90 days. Funds were obligated to purchase a new Armored Personnel Carrier (BEARCAT) that will allow for safe and effective travel and scene entry for Richland County Sheriff's Department Special Response Team personnel. This vehicle will have the latest in electronic and tactical response equipment which will enhance officer and citizen safety. This is replacing the current unit, which is close to 20 years old and largely unusable.

**Mental Health Program/Deputy Wellness Project (RCSD) - Mental Health Services**

**Performance Report:** Program began in December 2021 and is continuing. Funds allow for an off-site licensed Mental Health Professional to provide quarterly online wellness check ins for all Richland County Sheriff's Department sworn personnel. In order to preserve Deputy privacy, we only know that each individual is required to do updates, but we do not know outcomes. This is part of a larger effort that Sheriff Lott has made to provide mental health and wellness support to employees. This is an on-going project as the need arises.

**Solicitors' Data Management System - Effective Service Delivery**

**Project Overview & Use of Evidence:** In South Carolina, the position of "Circuit Solicitor" is comparable to that of State's Attorney or District Attorney in other jurisdictions. The position of Solicitor was originally created by the South Carolina General Assembly in 1791; subsequently, there was a reorganization of the circuit courts and districts with the adoption of the South Carolina Constitution of 1868. The Constitution established one Solicitor (popularly elected for a four-year term) for each circuit (Article IV, Section 29, 1868 Constitution).

Currently, there are sixteen (16) elected Circuit Solicitors in South Carolina. The Solicitor is elected for a four-year term and has offices in each county. There are sixteen (16) judicial circuits each consisting of not less than two (2) nor more than five (5) counties. The Fifth Judicial Circuit serves Richland and Kershaw Counties.

In addition to the traditional methods of prosecution and punishment, the Solicitor's Office also offers several diversion programs and community services. Diversion programs include: The Alcohol Education Program (AEP), Pre-Trial Intervention (PTI), Juvenile Court Alternative Program (JCAP) in Richland County, Juvenile Pre-Trial Intervention (JPTI) in Kershaw County, the Traffic Education Program (TEP), Adult and Juvenile Drug Treatment Courts, DUI Treatment Court and

Veterans Treatment Court. Community Services include Victim/Witness Assistance, Expungement and the Worthless Check Program.

The Mission of the Fifth Circuit Solicitor's Office is to serve as ministers of justice in the fair and diligent prosecution of defendants charged with criminal offenses occurring in the Fifth Judicial Circuit, thereby preserving peace and dignity for all citizens of this Circuit.

**Performance Report:** Grant funds were awarded to the Fifth Circuit Solicitor's Office that will enable them to replace their current case management system to allow for increased efficiency and efficacy when managing, retrieving and presenting case evidence. The goal of the proposed project is to expand performance, data storage capacity, and increase the existing file system. A new, modern case management system was needed to allow this office to reduce caseloads, improve data security, performance, and the operation of this office and their courtrooms. They applied for and received two grants: First a federal grant from the Bureau of Justice Administration in October 2021, and second, the American Plan Rescue funding in summer of 2022. In early 2023, with Richland County Administration, the Fifth Circuit Solicitor's Office requested proposals for a Case Management System. This system would among other things, manage the records and documents related to all matters handled by the office, have an integrated calendaring system, fully automated discovery and be capable of interfacing with police agencies, and courts. Further, the system must have a robust report writing function that is client-customizable to allow data to be gathered and managed. The system must also offer customizable workflows that accommodate every function. The proposals were evaluated, and the contract was offered to Matrix in March, 2023. We are now in the process of preparing for project implementation. The \$140,000 that was awarded by ARPA toward purchase of the new Case Management System, was encumbered, but not expended. Matrix does not charge an implementation fee until the system is ready for 'go-live.' They anticipated that 'go-live' will occur in 2025. Their systems are currently live.