

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

AN OVERVIEW OF THE

SLFRF Equity and Outcomes Resource Guide & Discussion About Implementation

June 2022

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American Rescue Plan

Last year, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act into law, which has resulted in one of the strongest periods of economic growth in a century.

The American Rescue Plan includes:

- State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, which delivers \$350 billion for states, territories, localities, and Tribal governments to respond to the COVID-19 emergency and lead a strong, resilient, and equitable recovery.

Key objectives of this funding:

- Fight the pandemic and support families and businesses struggling with its public health and economic impacts
- Maintain vital public services, even amid declines in revenue resulting from the crisis
- Build a strong, resilient, and equitable recovery by making investments that support long-term growth and opportunity



SLFRF Implementation Approach

Treasury's final rule provides greater flexibility and simplicity for recipients to turn the tide on the pandemic, maintain vital public services amid revenue shortfalls, and build a strong, resilient, and equitable recovery.

NEW FEATURES IN THE FINAL RULE

1 More Automatically Eligible Uses

- In the final rule, there is an expanded set of automatically eligible uses of funds when provided in disproportionately impacted communities. This makes it easier for recipients to address underlying disparities that contributing to more severe impacts of the pandemic in underserved communities.

2 Expanded Eligible Populations

- Expansion of eligible populations allows recipients to serve families and communities hardest hit by the pandemic.



SLFRF Implementation Approach Continued

Treasury's final rule provides greater flexibility and simplicity for recipients to turn the tide on the pandemic, maintain vital public services amid revenue shortfalls, and build a strong, resilient, and equitable recovery.

PROGRAM DESIGN ELEMENTS

3

**Structured to
Encourage Equitable
Practices &
Approaches**

- The SLFRF reporting is designed to support equity by encouraging recipients to engage their communities in the design of their SLFRF programs.

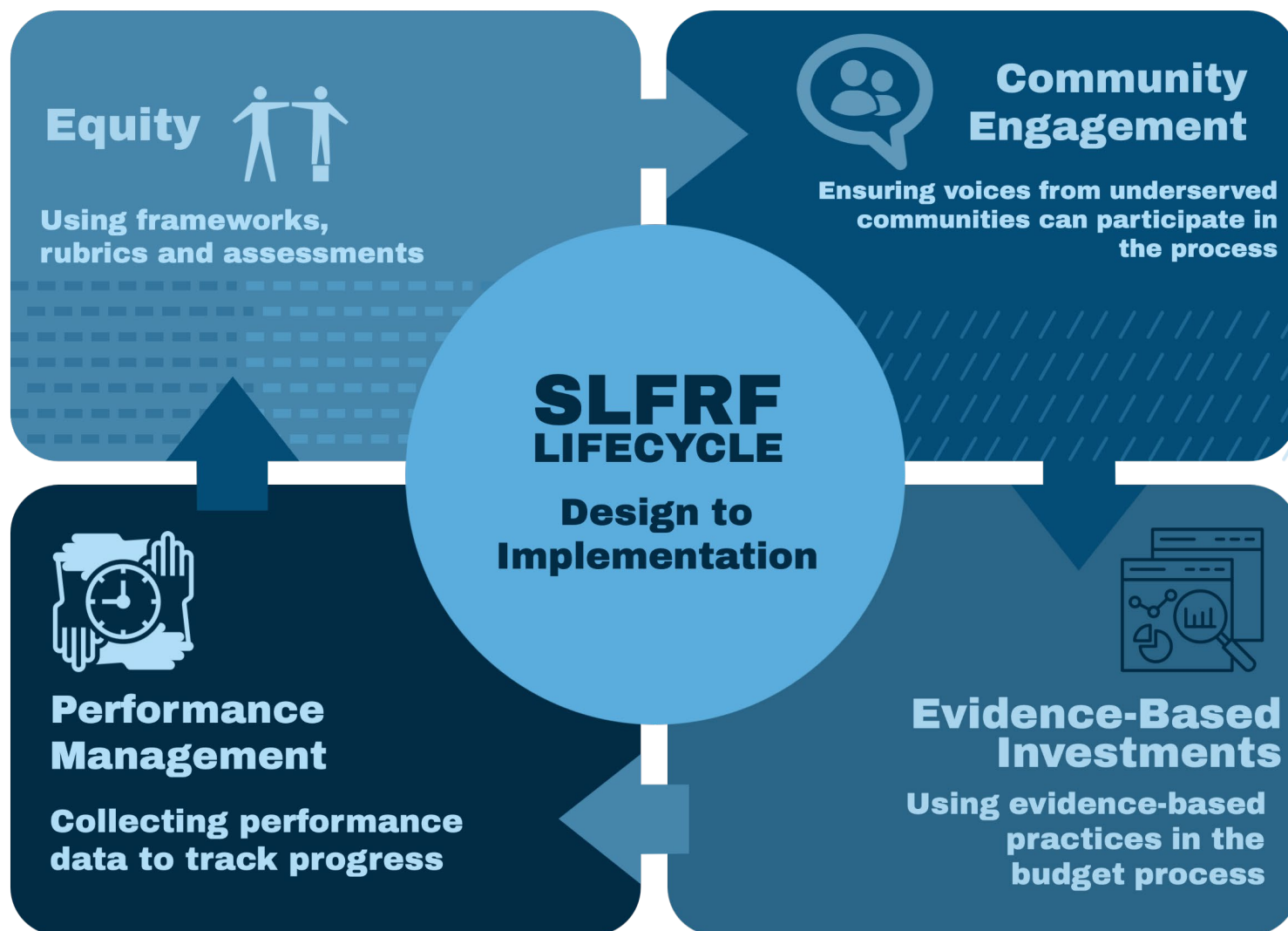
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**Providing
Government-to-
Government Support**

- The program provided ongoing government-to-government support to Tribal governments by prioritizing Tribal consultations to ensure that the final rule and reporting approach were tailored to the unique needs of Tribal governments.



SLFRF Equity & Outcomes Resource Guide

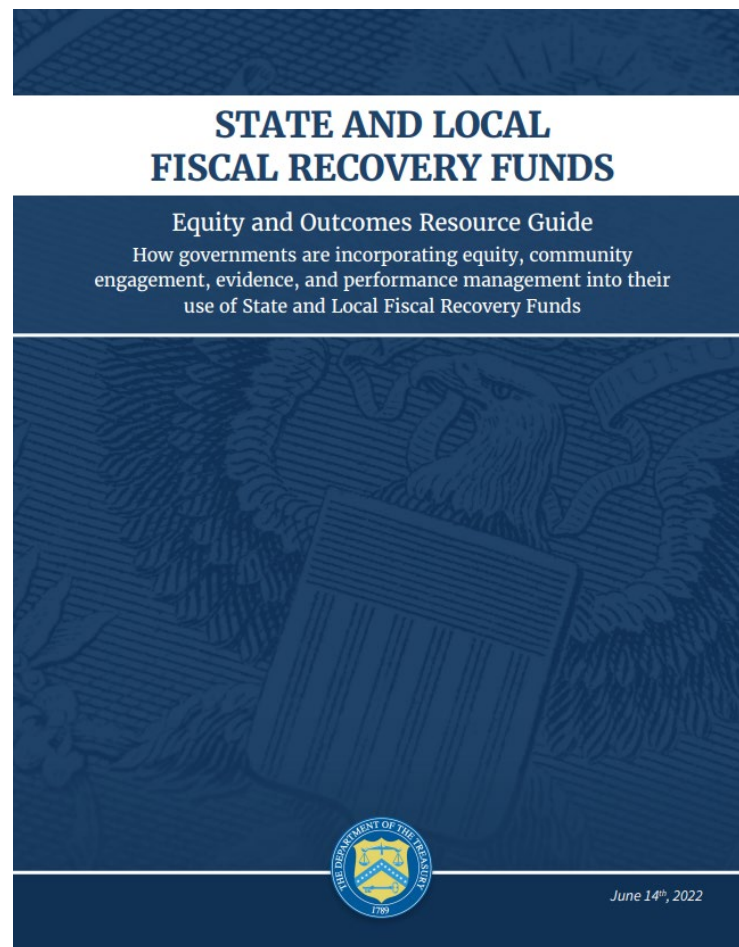


SLFRF Equity and Outcomes Resource Guide Summary

In the guide, Treasury highlights examples of approaches and tools recipients are using in the areas of equity, community engagement, evidence-based investments, and performance management.

KEY FOCUS OF THE GUIDE

- Goal Setting
- Using Equity Frameworks
- Identifying High Need Populations
- Engaging Underserved Communities
- Convening Leaders
- Using Evidence
- Tracking Outcomes



Peer Discussion

Speakers

Leo Flor

Director

Department of Community and
Human Services
King County, Washington

Andy Segovia

City Attorney
City of San Antonio
San Antonio, Texas



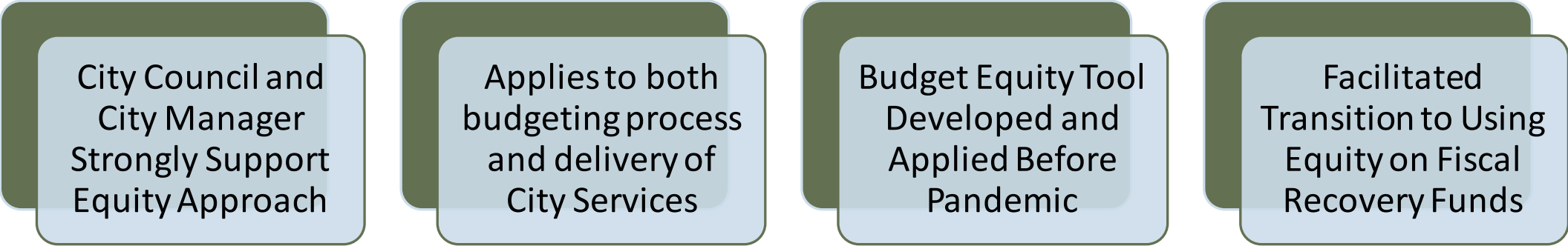
City of San Antonio Department of Diversity Equity and Inclusion

PRESENTED BY:

ANDY SEGOVIA

CITY ATTORNEY - CITY OF SAN ANTONIO

City of San Antonio – Equity Approach to SLFRF



City Council and
City Manager
Strongly Support
Equity Approach

Applies to both
budgeting process
and delivery of
City Services

Budget Equity Tool
Developed and
Applied Before
Pandemic

Facilitated
Transition to Using
Equity on Fiscal
Recovery Funds

Equity Focused Investments

Arts
Funding

Public Health
Accessibility

Housing and
Rent relief
programs

Small Business
Programs

Public Outreach



MEETINGS HELD
THROUGHOUT THE
CITY



FACILITATED BY
COUNCIL MEMBERS



OUTREACH THROUGH
SOCIAL MEDIA /
SURVEYS



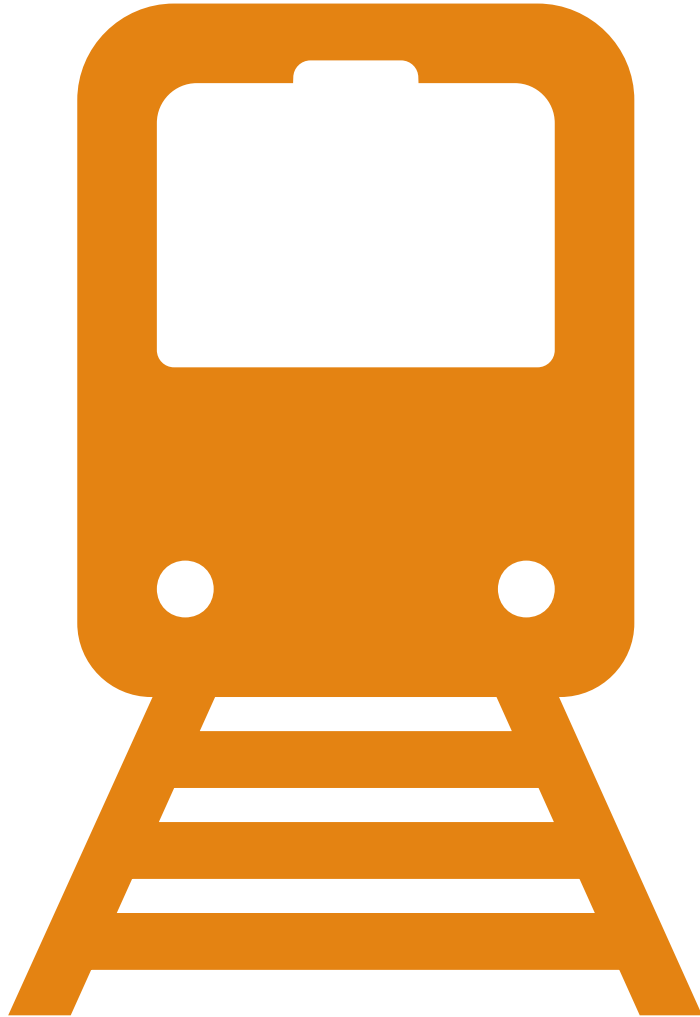
FOCUS ON DIGITAL
DIVIDE



How to Incorporate Equity

Start With:

- Tangible
- Short Term
- Easily Measured
- Educate/train Staff on Equity Principles
- Community Outreach
- Measuring of deliverables and outcomes



Example: Street Maintenance Program

- Essential City Service
- Community impact daily
- Grading system allowed for easy measurement
- Equity principles worked within Citywide funding

National Perspective

Speakers

Sarah Beth Gehl

Executive Director

Southern Economic Advancement Project



CENTERING EQUITY & ENGAGEMENT IN COVID RECOVERY

JUNE 2022

SARAH BETH GEHL, SEAP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

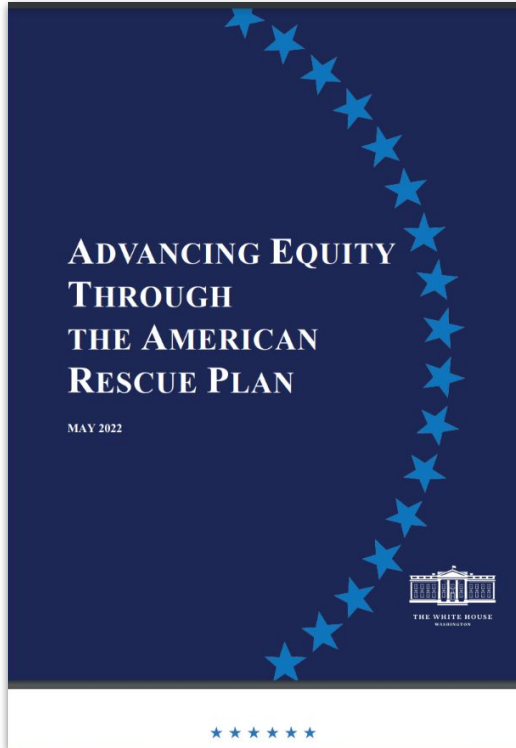
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ABOUT THE SEAP

SEAP partners with policy thinkers and doers to amplify their efforts and bridge gaps in policy infrastructure. We act as a connector, convener, and policy entrepreneur across issues and states.

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EQUITABLE RECOVERY



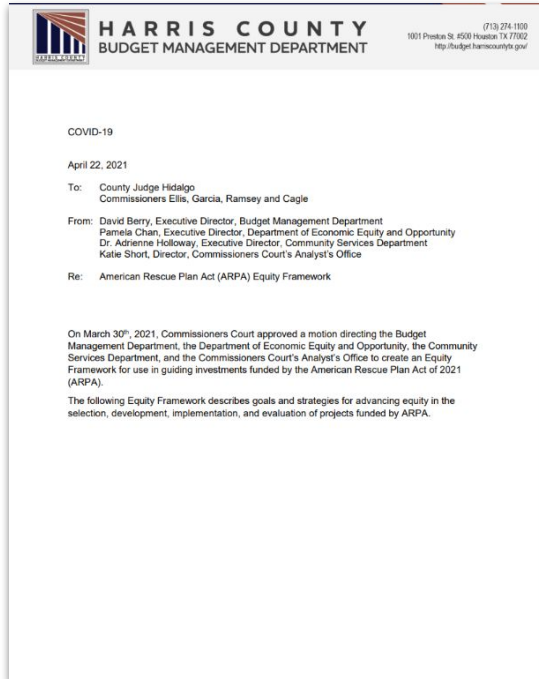
May 24, 2022: White House announces ARP equity stats including...

- “Black Unemployment – largest calendar year drop since 1983 & below pre-pandemic rate
- Hispanic Unemployment – record calendar year drop & below pre-pandemic rate at just 4.1%
- Asian American Unemployment – down to 3.1%
- Credit Card Delinquencies – which usually hit low-income and Black and Latino borrowers hardest – are at record lows
- Strong real income growth for Black and Hispanic workers
- Expanded American Rescue Plan subsidies helped lead to 26% increase in Hispanic enrollment and 35% increase in Black enrollment in health coverage on HealthCare.gov”

HOW ARE COMMUNITIES PRIORITIZING EQUITY?

- Phase 1: Setting the stage with equity frameworks
- Phase 2: Asking the community through equitable engagement
- Phase 3: Determining projects with equity assessments
- Phase 4: Showing results with equity metrics

PHASE 1: Equity Frameworks



Harris County, TX ARP equity goals:

- Reversing negative pandemic-related trends and closing gaps
- Building capacity within County government, creating a shared understanding of and commitment to equity, and developing tools and practices to support equity-centered solutions.
- Measuring racial and ethnic disparities and incorporating an equity assessment in each project
- Monitoring investment across the entire program to ensure the overall portfolio is reaching populations and neighborhoods most impacted by the pandemic.

PHASE 1: Equity Frameworks

NO. R-21-371

CITY HALL: OCTOBER 7, 2021

BY: COUNCILMEMBERS BANKS AND GISLESON PALMER

A RESOLUTION COMMITTING THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS TO THE STRATEGIC, EQUITABLE, TRANSPARENT, AND RESPONSIBLE USE OF AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDS

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 global pandemic caused unprecedented health and economic impacts to communities worldwide and across the United States; and

WHEREAS, the pandemic has resulted in a tragic loss of life, created long-term health impacts for many survivors, isolated our seniors, wreaked havoc on the mental health of millions, overburdened health care systems, and exacerbated many of the underlying vulnerabilities in our communities; and

WHEREAS, the economic impacts triggered by the pandemic caused millions of jobs to be lost, thousands of small businesses to close, and in many instances resulted in those least able to afford missing work becoming the most exposed to infection; and

WHEREAS, these severe and extended economic impacts have led to increased insecurity for local families who struggle to meet household expenses for housing, food, and basic utilities; and

WHEREAS, the negative health outcomes from the COVID-19 virus have been found to disproportionately affect communities of color; and

WHEREAS, the loss of jobs and income due to the pandemic's economic downturn have been borne to a greater degree by our most vulnerable lower income households; and

WHEREAS, the measures taken to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus also caused significant disruption to the nature and form of our community's civic discourse, through limitations on public gatherings and forums; and

WHEREAS, the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act was signed into law on March 11, 2021 in which the federal government has taken the heretofore unprecedented action to appropriate \$130,000,000,000 in direct funding to local governments to aid them in combatting the challenges created by the pandemic; and

NOW THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, That the Council:

1. The City of New Orleans declares that in utilizing ARP funds, priority shall be given to the following: supporting economic recovery for all with special emphasis to aiding those on the lower end of the wage scale, improving public health and safety, supporting local businesses and workforce development, increasing access to and improving the quality of public education, improving equity outcomes, and supporting the housing needs in our community.

2. The City of New Orleans will seek community input on the use of ARP funds, and will incorporate community perspectives in decision-making related to ARP resources. Recognizing that true inclusivity often requires making an extra effort to obtain input from those in disadvantaged groups, a variety of methods will be used to engage with the citizenry.

3. The City of New Orleans will commit to a high degree of accountability and transparency in the use of ARP funds, and will provide regular and accessible information to the community regarding the allocation of ARP funds to various uses.

4. The City of New Orleans will commit to measuring outcomes and results from the use of ARP funds, and will provide this information to the community proactively, using accessible platforms and communication tools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a certified copy of this resolution be sent by the Clerk of Council to Mayor LaToya Cantrell; Gilbert A. Montaño, Chief Administrative Officer for the City of New Orleans; Marjorianna Willman, Director of the Office of Housing Policy and Community Development; and Jeffrey Schwartz, Director of Economic Development for the City of New Orleans.

New Orleans, LA City Council passed resolution prioritizing equity:

- “NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS, 1. The City of New Orleans declares that in utilizing ARP funds, priority shall be given to the following: supporting economic recovery for all with special emphasis to aiding those on the lower end of the wage scale, improving public health and safety, supporting local businesses and workforce development, increasing access to and improving the quality of public education, **improving equity outcomes**, and supporting the housing needs in our community.”

PHASE 2: Equity in Engagement

Denver, CO (pop 716,000)

- Assessment of prior community input
- Tele-townhalls for most at-risk zip codes
- Equity and community-wide focus groups

Lorain, OH (pop 65,000)

- Surveys with 74% of responses from mailed surveys (through water bills) and 26% from online

Flint, MI (pop 97,000)

- Online survey, email address, drop box at City Hall, mailing address, and phone number with comments transcribed and submitted

Harris County, TX (pop 4.7 million)

- Focus groups through local nonprofit with communities of color, those earning less than \$75,000, various age groups and geographies

State of Colorado Engagement

The Listening Tour

Regional Meetings

- Pueblo & Southern Colorado
- Western Slope
- Northern Colorado
- Denver Metro North
- Denver Metro South
- Colorado Springs
- Eastern Plains

Audience Specific Meetings

- ❖ Events, Dining & Tourism
- ❖ African American Community
- ❖ Workforce
- ❖ Clean Energy & Conservation
- ❖ Local Governments
- ❖ Quality of Life
- ❖ Latino Community
- ❖ Rural & Agricultural
- ❖ Healthcare, Human Services & Behavioral Health
- ❖ Asian American & Pacific Islander

PHASE 2: Equity in Engagement

IAP2's Spectrum of Public Participation
Inform
Consult
Involve
Collaborate
Empower

- Establish your community engagement goals
 - What is the level of participation sought?
 - What are the metrics for specific populations, geographies, etc.?
- Identify existing and potential partners
- Identify tools and process
 - What are the barriers to participation?
- Develop and launch engagement plan and outreach activities

PHASE 3: Equity Assessments

ARP Scorecard

Scoring	Eligibility	Equity Impact	Strategic Goals	Community-Driven	Collaboration	Administration	Qualified Census Tract
0	Not an allowable use	Does not satisfy criteria	Not aligned with existing strategic goals	Residents were not consulted	No stakeholders identified	Very difficult to measure impact and report on equitable outcomes	Does not target funding into a QCT
2	Unclear if allowable use	Satisfies more than half of the criteria	Somewhat aligned with strategic goals	Insufficient input from most impacted residents	Some stakeholders identified, but lack of cross-sector collaboration	Somewhat difficult to measure impact and report on equitable outcomes	Targets some funding into a QCT
4	Clearly allowable use	Satisfies all criteria	Aligned with existing strategic goals	Residents most impacted are driving this proposal	Stakeholders engaged from multiple sectors	Easy to track metrics, evaluate impact, and report on equitable outcomes	Targets all funding into a QCT

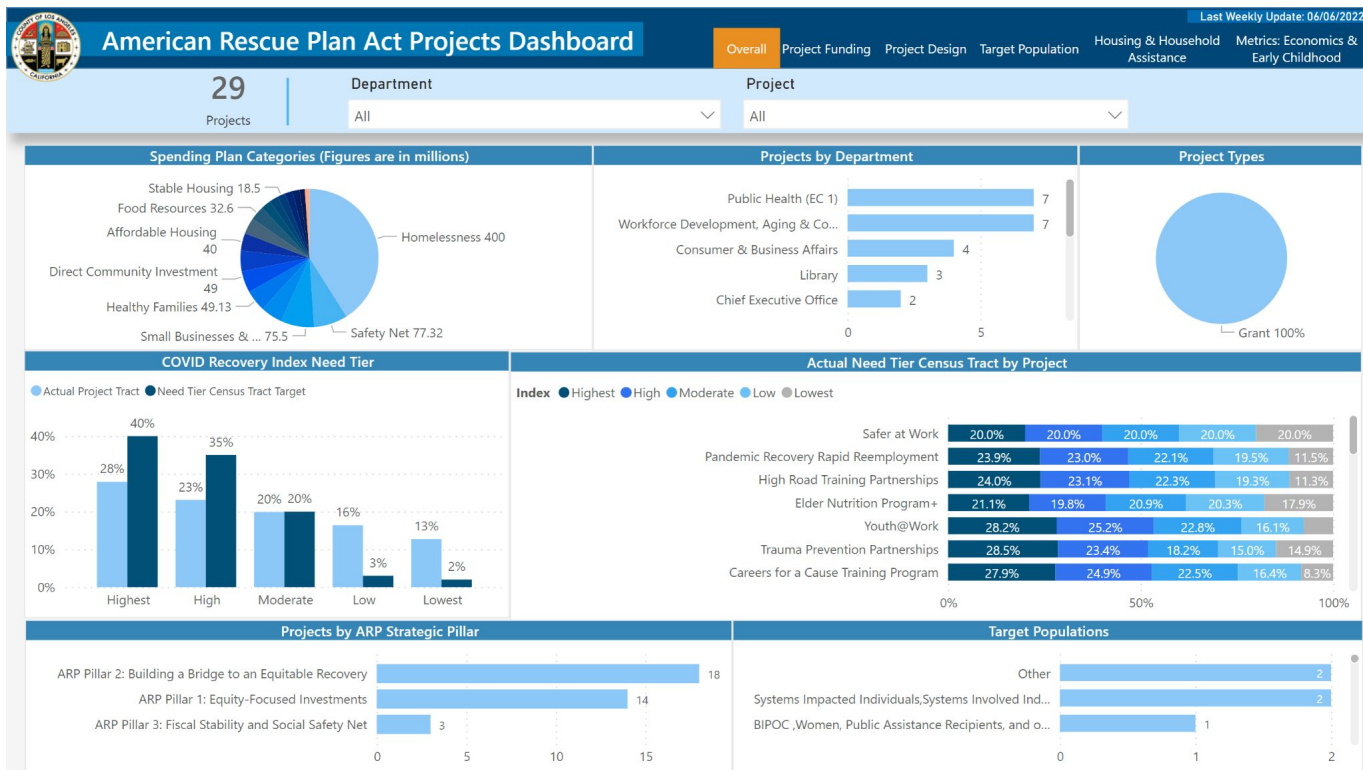
Durham, NC

PHASE 3: Equity Assessments

Harris County, TX equity reflection questions for project assessment:

1. How does your project leverage clear outcome measures and disaggregated data from beginning to end to identify inequity and ensure programs are prioritizing disproportionately impacted groups? Who has been disproportionately impacted?
2. How have you analyzed specific factors underlying inequities? What did the analysis reveal?
3. How does your project include voices from disproportionately impacted groups? How have community members been engaged in project development and / or evaluation?
4. How does your project minimize additional burdens and maximize benefits for disproportionately impacted groups?
5. How does your project evaluate performance through defined metrics and provide opportunities for reflection? What do the evaluation and reflection reveal and what changes may be needed?
6. How are you sharing information about the project? Is it reaching people from disproportionately impacted groups?

PHASE 4: Equity & Accountability



Los Angeles County, CA equity dashboard

PHASE 4: Equity & Accountability

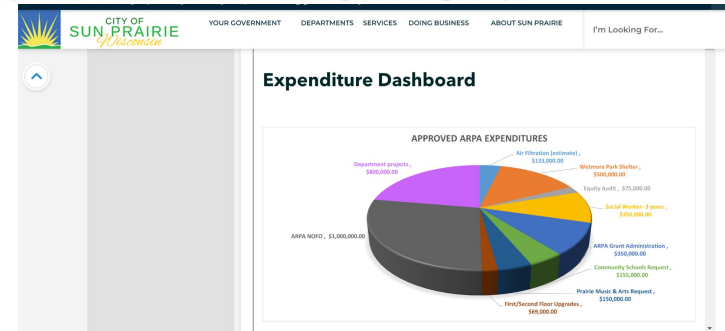
Additional examples

- **College Park, MD** (pop. 32,000) has simple presentation with metrics and date
- **Sun Prairie, WI** (pop. 34,000) a simple dashboard with approved spending, associated goals, and resolutions
- **Lakewood, WA** (pop. 60,000) has easy to follow webpage with city contacts front and center, project updates, and community input visualizations

City of College Park-American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) as of April 26, 2022

Businesses	Local Ownership	\$250,000 to Food Assistance Programs	\$150,000 to First Responders	Non-Profit	Families/ Individuals
37 Approved	70% Minority Owned	• Helpers to Good, Inc • Route One Communities Care Project • United Methodist Community Meals Program • Meals on Wheels • College Park Community Food Bank	• College Park Volunteer Fire Department • Berwyn Heights Volunteer Fire Department • Branchville Volunteer Fire Department	2 Approved	28 Approved
Awarding \$915,000 in ARPA Funding	60% Women Owned			Awarding \$37,350 in ARPA Funding	Awarding \$73,398.12 in ARPA Funding

College Park based Families, Individuals, and Businesses can apply for ARPA Assistance at www.collegeparkmd.gov/arpa



Top Takeaways

Pandemic recovery is unlike other disaster recoveries in important ways...and so are pandemic recovery dollars.

Equity and engagement practices are not just for large jurisdictions.

Equity should be woven into every stage of the process.

THANK YOU

ARP Toolkit

www.theseap.org/arp-toolkit-2/

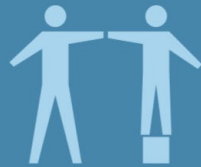
SEAP's ARP Assistance Team

southstrong@rooseveltinstitute.org

Local Budgeting: Equity & Voice
[Report](#)

SLFRF Equity & Outcomes Resource Guide: Examples

Equity



**Using frameworks,
rubrics and assessments**



Community Engagement

**Ensuring voices from
underserved communities
can participate in the process**

Q&A

Thank you.

**For More Information about SLFRF:**

Please visit Treasury's State & Local website at www.treasury.gov/SLFRF

For Media Inquiries:

Please contact the U.S. Treasury Press Office at (202) 622-2960

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