AN OVERVIEW OF THE
SLFRF Equity and Outcomes
Resource Guide & Discussion About Implementation

June 2022

* DISCLAIMER: Reference to any commercial products or services in this presentation is not an endorsement or Government sanction of those non-Federal entities, its services or products.
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.


- 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 Lifecycle**

- **Equity**
  - Using frameworks, rubrics and assessments

- **Community Engagement**
  - Ensuring voices from underserved communities can participate in the process

- **Performance Management**
  - Collecting performance data to track progress

- **Evidence-Based Investments**
  - Using evidence-based practices in the budget process

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U.S. Department of the Treasury, Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
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
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

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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

SARAH BETH GEHL, SEAP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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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

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

- 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

IAP2’s Spectrum of Public Participation

- Inform
- Consult
- Involve
- Collaborate
- Empower
### PHASE 3: Equity Assessments

#### ARP Scorecard

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

**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
Additional examples

- **College Park, MD** (pop. 32,000) has a simple presentation with metrics and date.

- **Sun Prairie, WI** (pop. 34,000) has a simple dashboard with approved spending, associated goals, and resolutions.

- **Lakewood, WA** (pop. 60,000) has an easy to follow webpage with city contacts front and center, project updates, and community input visualizations.
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
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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