# U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

**AN OVERVIEW OF THE**

# SLFRF Equity and Outcomes Resource Guide & Discussion About Implementation

June 2022

# 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.
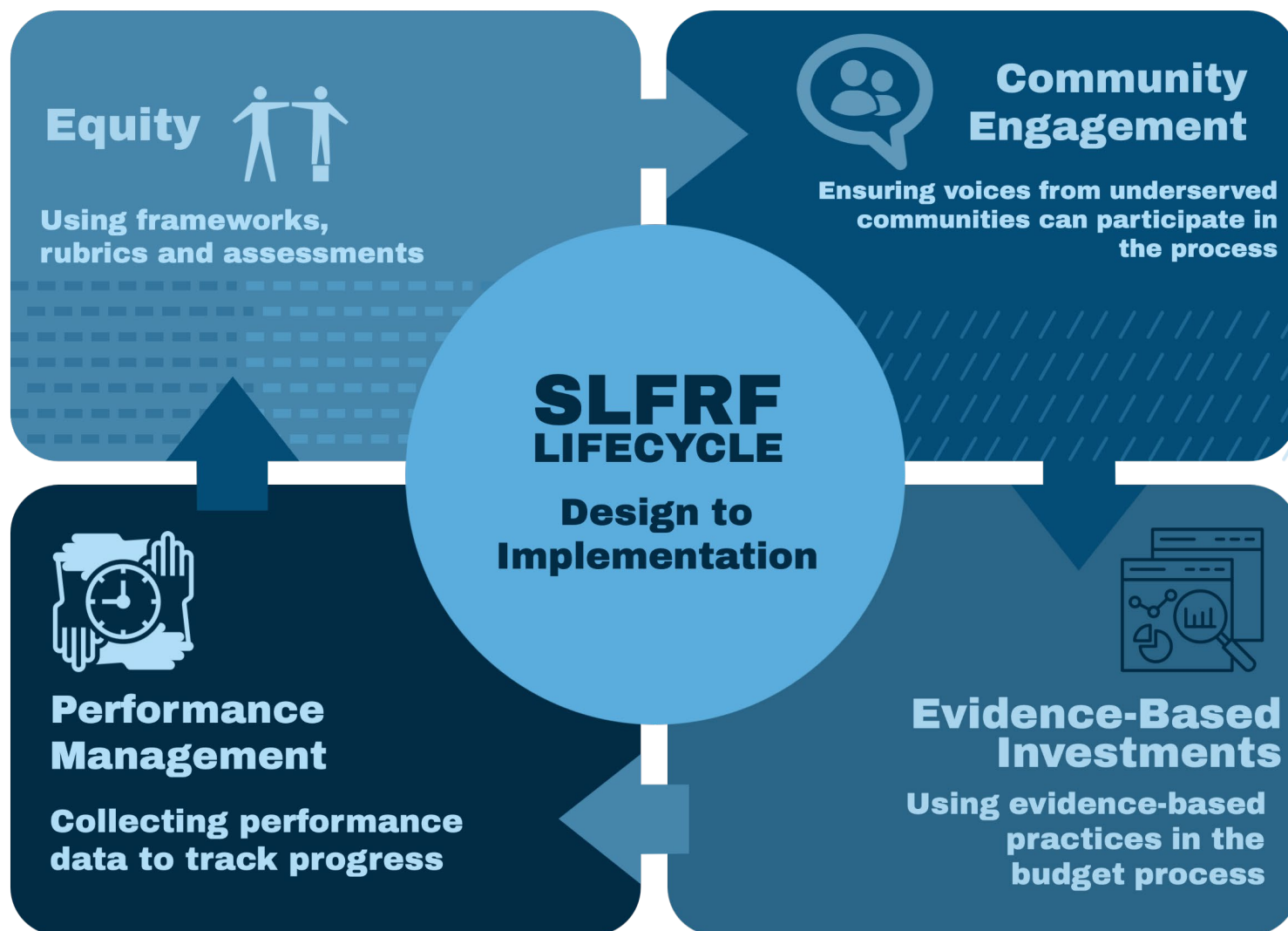
**4** **Providing Government-to-Government Support**

- 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.

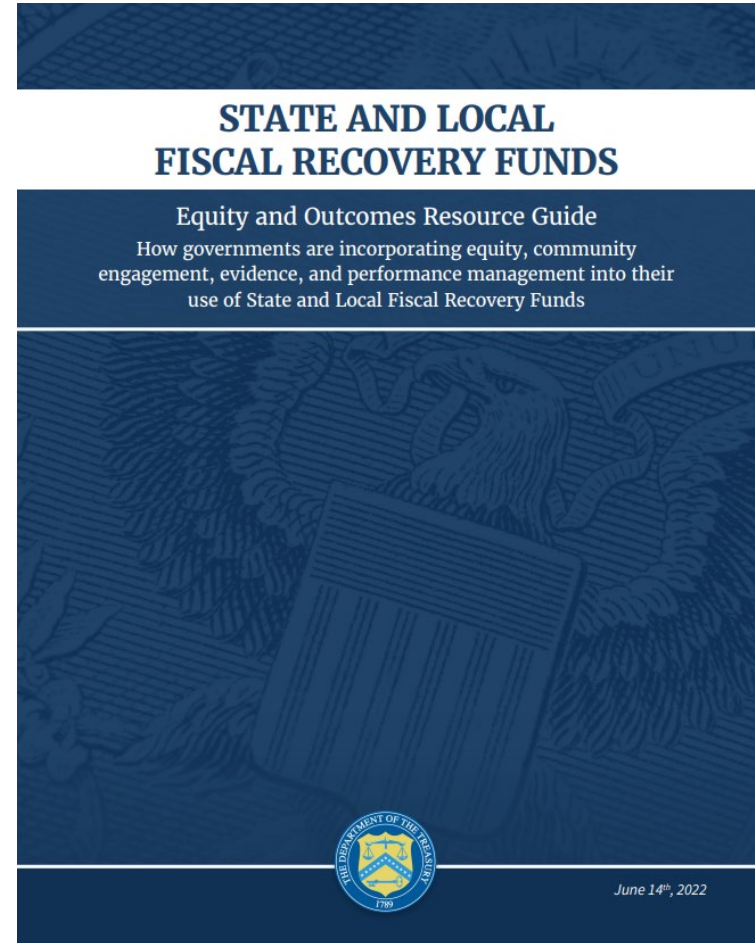# SLFRF Equity & Outcomes Resource Guide

# 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

**STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS**

Equity and Outcomes Resource Guide
How governments are incorporating equity, community engagement, evidence, and performance management into their use of State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

*June 14th, 2022*

# Peer Discussion

# Speakers

**Lauren Larson**
Director
Governor's Office of State
Planning & Budgeting
State of Colorado

**Shamiah Kerney**
Chief Recovery Officer
Mayor's Office of Recovery
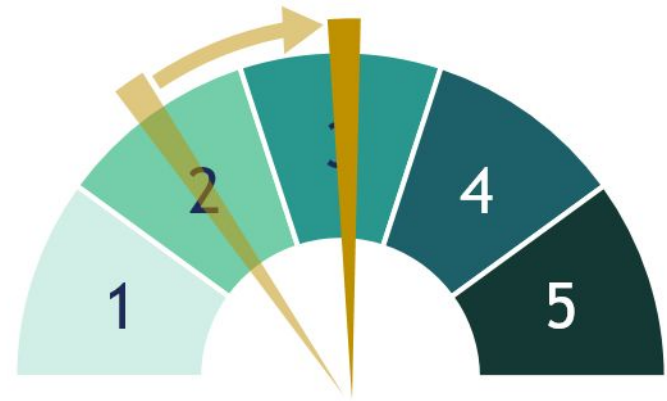Programs
City of Baltimore,
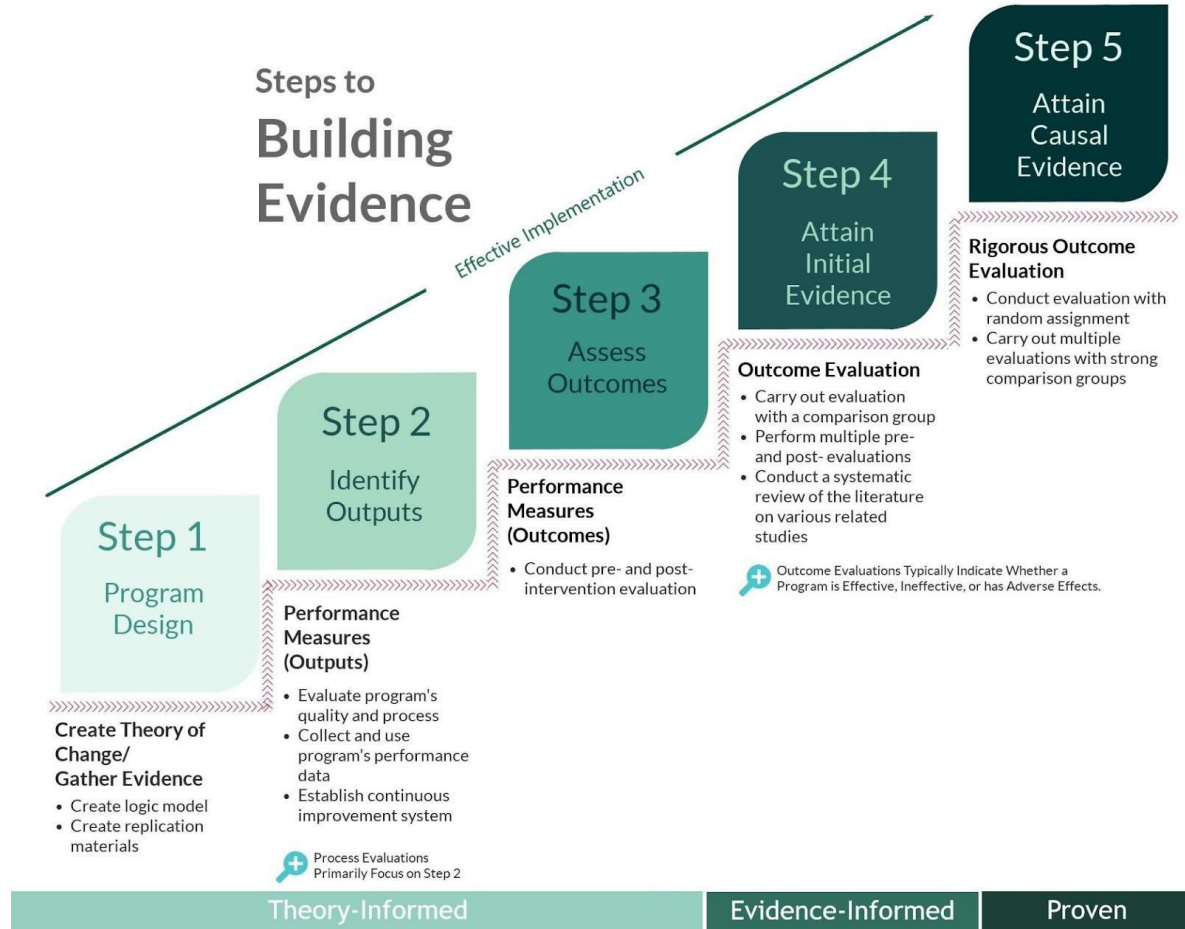Baltimore, MD

# Using Evidence in Fiscal Decisions

*Lauren Larson*
*Director, Colorado Governor's Office of*
*State Planning & Budgeting*

# Linking Budget Requests to Evidence

# Linking Budget Requests to Evidence

## The Evidence Continuum

Steps to **Building Evidence**

Effective Implementation

**Step 1** Program Design

**Step 2** Identify Outputs

**Step 3** Assess Outcomes

**Step 4** Attain Initial Evidence

**Step 5** Attain Causal Evidence

**Create Theory of Change/ Gather Evidence**
- Create logic model
- Create replication materials

**Performance Measures (Outputs)**
- Evaluate program's quality and process
- Collect and use program's performance data
- Establish continuous improvement system

Process Evaluations Primarily Focus on Step 2

**Performance Measures (Outcomes)**
- Conduct pre- and post-intervention evaluation

**Outcome Evaluation**
- Carry out evaluation with a comparison group
- Perform multiple pre- and post- evaluations
- Conduct a systematic review of the literature on various related studies

Outcome Evaluations Typically Indicate Whether a Program is Effective, Ineffective, or has Adverse Effects.

**Rigorous Outcome Evaluation**
- Conduct evaluation with random assignment
- Carry out multiple evaluations with strong comparison groups

Theory-Informed | Evidence-Informed | Proven

3

# Linking Budget Requests to Evidence

## SB 21-284 Evidence-based Evaluations for Budget

| | |
|---|---|
| **Proven program** | High level of confidence. One or more high quality randomized controlled trial; multiple evaluations with strong comparison groups. |
| **Evidence-informed program** | Moderate or promising level of confidence. Evaluation with a comparison group; multiple pre- and post-evaluations. |
| **Theory-informed program** | Moderate to low or promising level of confidence. Pre- and post-intervention evaluation of program outcomes; evaluation of program outputs; identification and implementation of a theory of change. |
| **Opinion-based program** | Low level of confidence. Satisfaction surveys; personal experience; no existing evidence |

# Resources

- Summary of Colorado Evidence-Based Practice (Nov 1 budget letter Attachment 5)
- OSPB Research & Evidence webpage
  - OSPB Budget Instructions for FY23-24, including requirements for evidence
  - Research and Evidence Section with Training Video
  - Evaluation Grant Applications and Reports
  - Partners and more
- SMART Act and SB21-284 Evidence-Based Evaluations for Budget
- Examples of ARPA SLFRF legislation driven by evidence
  - HB22-1302 concerning behavioral health integration with primary care
  - HB21-1330 concerning wrap-around scholarships for upskilling (COSI)
  - HB 22-160 concerning mobile home ownership and land banking
- 2021 Colorado spend plan guidance including guidance for program evaluation

Contact: Edmond Toy edmond.toy@state.co.us

# Use of Evidence and Performance Management

**Presented by:**
**Shamiah T. Kerney**
**Chief Recovery Officer**
**City of Baltimore**

**June 16, 2022**

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# Prioritizing Equity

"Equity means closing the gaps in policy, practice and allocation of City resources so that race, gender, religion, sexual orientations, and income do not predict one's success, while also improving outcomes for all."[1]

## Accountability

How will data be used to achieve and document equitable outcomes?

How will the target population(s) be represented in the execution of the project?

## Underserved Communities

How does the project account for potentially disparate outcomes for underserved communities?

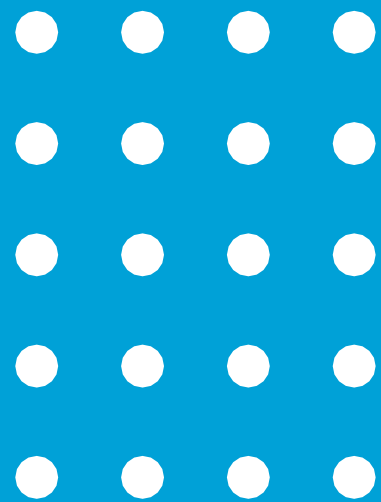Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs) are one method for identifying these communities.

## Historical Disparities

How will the project mitigate or decrease existing and historical disparities?

[1] Subtitle 39 – Equity Assessment Program https://legislativereference.baltimorecity.gov/sites/default/files/Art%2001%20-%20MayorCouncil_0.pdf

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# Performance Management and Evaluation Approach

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# Performance Data and Metrics

- Our goal is to use performance data to demonstrate equity and return on investment

- Developed metrics for funded entities by:
  - Reviewing ARPA and associated guidance
  - Leveraging existing measures from other efforts (budget and strategic action plan)
  - Coordinating with funded entities on data collection feasibility for proposed metrics

- To ensure compliance with performance management efforts, performance measures are included in grant agreements with funded entities

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# Sample Performance Measures

| City Stabilization Project | Measure |
|---|---|
| Broadband and Digital Equity | Number of WiFi Sessions and Public Computer Sessions |
| Public Health | Number of total tests |
| Public Health | Percent of population vaccinated |
| Public Health | Number of seniors receiving community-served meals |
| Economic Recovery | Net number of new and expanding businesses in commercial corridors |
| Economic Recovery | Number of jobs created or retained in Baltimore City |
| Economic Recovery | Number of new permanent jobs per $1 million of public investment |
| Economic Recovery | Number of assisted new businesses still in operation after one year |
| Workforce Development | Percent of participants who are placed in an unsubsidized job, participate work study, job shadow, or internship, including a summer subsidized job |
| Workforce Development | percent of Baltimore City TANF participants who enroll in Employment Continuum, obtain employment, and remain on the job for eight consecutive weeks |
| Workforce Development | Number of Baltimore City registrants that obtain job placements through the career center network |
| Workforce Development | Cost per participant ($) to obtain an occupational certification in a high growth industry |
| Workforce Development | Number of ex-offenders who received at least one service and obtained employment |
| Violence Prevention | Number of (adult) homicide and shooting victims who were under state parole and probation supervision |
| Violence Prevention | Number of juvenile shooting and homicide victims in Baltimore City |
| Violence Prevention | Number of conflict mediations conducted through Safe Streets |
| Violence Prevention | Number of Fatal and Non-Fatal Shootings |
| Violence Prevention | Percent of 911 calls diverted to a non-law enforcement response |

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# Evaluation and Accountability

- To ensure sound rationale for proposed projects, applicants were required to provide existing research or best practices (new programs/services)

- To add capacity in data analysis and evaluation, the City of Baltimore opted to employ a university partnership approach

- Issued an RFI to select university partners

- The City of Baltimore set aside $1.8M for research and evaluation services

- Selected the University of Baltimore and Morgan State University to leverage local subject matter expertise

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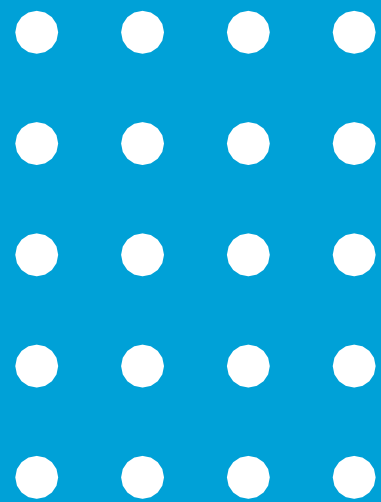
# Leveraging University Partnerships

The City of Baltimore is leveraging its university partnerships in the following ways:

- Develop research on economic impacts of COVID-19
  - Employment
  - Demographics
  - Industries
- Leverage existing locally-based research and studies

- Develop research on peer cities and use of SLFRF funds
  - Detroit
  - St. Louis
  - District of Columbia
  - Baltimore Co. MD

- Identify funded projects for evaluation
  - Guaranteed Income Pilot
  - Small Business Wage Subsidy Program
  - Small Business/Nonprofit Technical Assistance
  - Economic Relief Fund

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# National Perspective

# Speakers

**Beth Blauer**
Executive Director
Centers for Civic Impact at
Johns Hopkins University

**Jen Tolentino**
Director, Local Practice
Results for America

# SLFRF Equity & Outcomes Resource Guide: Examples



**Performance Management**

Collecting performance data to track progress

**Evidence-Based Investments**

Using evidence-based practices in the budget process

# Q&A

# Thank you.

**For More Information about SLFRF:**

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

**For Media Inquiries:**

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

**For General Inquiries:**

Please email [SLFRF@treasury.gov](SLFRF@treasury.gov)