

St. Johns County, Florida **Recovery Plan**

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

2024 Report

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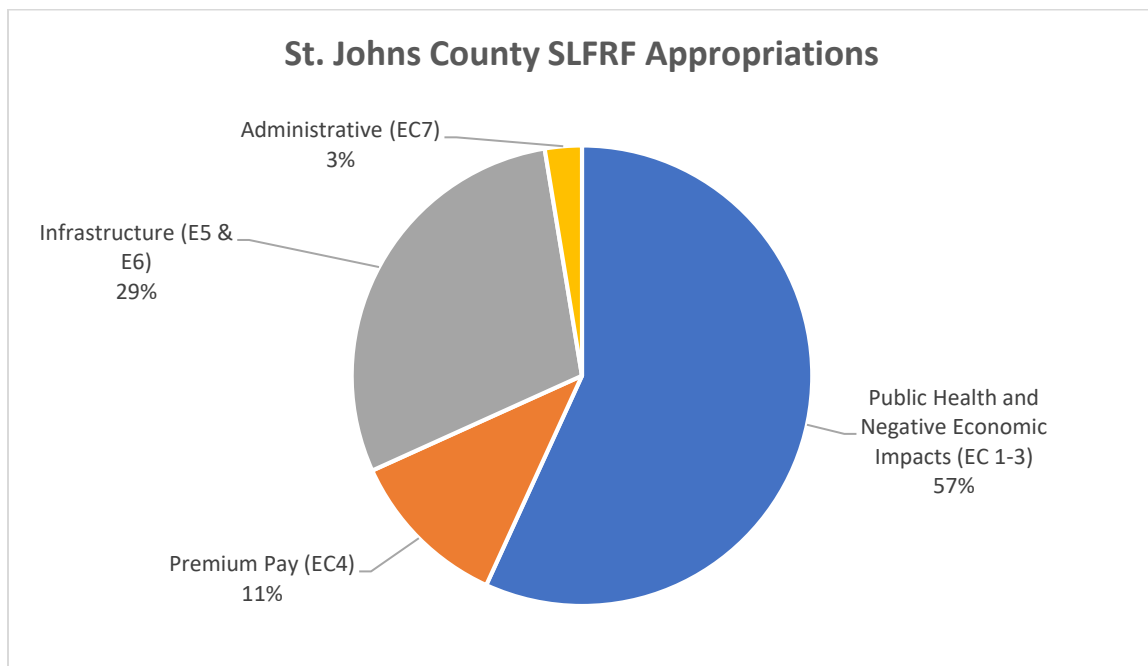
GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) was enacted to provide aid and relief to citizens and communities in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Act included funding for state and local fiscal recovery, of which St. Johns County received \$51.4 million.

The County has fully appropriated the funds received from the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF). St. Johns County is committed to upholding the intent of ARPA, acting as financial stewards, to support the County's response to and recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency. As required by ARPA, all funds will be obligated to qualifying recovery programs before December 31, 2024 and all recovery funds will be fully expended by December 31, 2026.

The County has compiled and is submitting this report of activities completed through June 30, 2024 to maintain compliance with ARPA.



Uses of Funds

Through June 30, 2024, the County has allocated \$51,409,433 of SLFRF for programs and projects responding to the current public health emergency, addressing the negative economic impacts caused by the pandemic, providing premium pay for public safety workers and water/sewer infrastructure projects, among others. As of June 30, 2024, the County has expended and/or encumbered \$35,786,318 in SLFRF program funding.

The projects are in various stages of development and implementation. The details of the specific projects can be found in the project inventories. Staff is currently working with internal and external partners to move forward with each project. For those projects which have not been

fully implemented, this report provides a status update on the current stage of the project as well as planned activities and expectations. Significant changes to the scope or nature of these projects will be included in subsequent updates to this report.

In alignment with the intent of the American Rescue Plan Act, St. Johns County has committed to use the funds to support a robust and equitable recovery in the county. As evidenced in the below table, the county has prioritized funding in the Public Health and Negative Economic Impacts categories. In assessing the needs of the County, themes emerged which revealed investments could be best used for the County in these two categories. Although water and infrastructure projects are not categorized within the response to negative economic impacts, it should also be noted that the water and sewer project will also significantly impact the economic recovery of an underserved area of the County.

St. Johns County's SLFRF Appropriations as of June 30, 2024		
Category	Category Description	Appropriated
EC1	Public Health	3,777,180
EC2	Negative Economic Impacts	22,605,037
EC3	Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity	4,300,000
EC4	Premium Pay	5,480,502
EC5	Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure	7,000,000
EC6	Revenue Replacement	7,000,000
EC7	Administrative	1,246,714
Grand Total		\$51,409,433

*No SLFRF appropriations were allocated to categories EC8, EC9, or EC10.

Below is a summary of the current and planned interventions for the respective categories in the table above.

Public Health (EC 1): Several programs and projects fall under the provision of services to combat the public health impacts of COVID-19. In the initial stages of the pandemic, the County partnered with a local hospital, Flagler Health+, to provide free COVID-19 testing to residents. The County also operated a free vaccination clinic centrally located and adjacent to two Qualified Census Tracts (QCT)¹. Additionally, temperature scanners and touchless equipment dispensers were purchased and installed in incarceration facilities and accompanying law enforcement offices. The small business exterior grant program provided grants to small businesses and non-profits to enhance outdoor spaces and provide more outdoor space for the community to interact. The St. Johns County Non-Profit Project administered by United Way provided grants to eligible non-profits to address impacts of the pandemic, including projects in the public health eligible expenditure category.

Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2): The small business exterior grant program referenced above qualifies in both EC1 and EC2. Grantees that are awarded funds from the County to revive neighborhood features and rehabilitate commercial properties fall under this category as they are exclusive to entities operating in disproportionately impacted areas. There are several other large

¹[County Table | HUD USER](#)

projects for which St. Johns County has allocated funds to address negative economic impacts in the community: a non-profit grant program; workforce training center; medical facility; and affordable housing and housing services. All of the projects are being administered through subrecipient agreements.

Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity (EC 3): The community of St. Johns County highly values its parks and recreation spaces as they can be used year-round and allow for the enjoyment of the County's bountiful natural resources. In the Final Rule, an enumerated use of SLFRF is for repair or maintenance of public facilities (including parks and recreation spaces) because of the greater use of public facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic. As such, the County is using funds to invest in the maintenance and repair of parks and outdoor spaces.

Premium Pay (EC 4): St. Johns County provided premium pay compensation to fire services first responders, emergency services communications staff, public safety personnel, and disaster recovery personnel. The project included 3 separate payments of \$1,776.82 gross per employee in recognition for work performed while serving in official capacity during the direct response to the public health emergency.

Water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure (EC5): The Hastings Water and Sewer project will benefit an underserved area of the county bringing potable water to residential, commercial and school sites.

Revenue Replacement (EC6): Four projects have been identified for the revenue replacement category. SLFRF allocations for these projects will be used as supplemental funding to meet expected cost expenditures.

Administrative (EC7): The funds allocated under this category are exclusively for administrative expenses to administer the County's SLFRF program in accordance with Treasury guidelines.

*No SLFRF appropriations were allocated to categories EC8, EC9, or EC10.

Additional Funding:

In addition to SLFRF, St. Johns County is utilizing funds from other Federal programs to contribute to recovery from the impacts of the pandemic. The Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) allocated \$25 billion to the U. S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury) to provide funds directly to states, territories, local governments, and Indian tribes for households that are unable to pay their rent and utilities due to the financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The County administered two different programs to assist low and moderate- income (LMI) households with rent-related expenses and utilities.

Congress provided \$5 billion in Community Development Block Grant – CARES Act (CDBG-CV) funding to respond to the pandemic. In Florida, the program is administered by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO). It funds various public service activities, housing-related activities, public facility improvements, and other uses. In April 2022, Florida DEO awarded St. Johns County \$406,633 to construct an annex building to the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The annex building will allow for interface with first responders and the public during an emergency response situation. Currently, the operations center is the Emergency Management and Disaster Recovery Office for the County. The addition of an annex

building will allow the office operations to continue while disaster recovery activities are coordinated and executed via a separate building.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes

Equity in Program and Project Design

St. Johns County has embedded the intent of the American Rescue Plan Act in its SLFRF programs to not only help the County recover from the pandemic but to prioritize interventions that increase equity. The following components are discussed in terms of how equity was incorporated in the design and selection of interventions.

Goals: When identifying and designing programs and projects to be funded by SLFRF, the County upheld the goal of directing interventions toward the most vulnerable groups. Of the projects funded, St. Johns County has prioritized interventions for the incarcerated, medically disadvantaged, and jobless/undertrained, among others. Geographically, as applicable, projects are targeted to historically disadvantaged and/or underserved areas such as QCTs, areas with less access to potable water, areas with higher LMI populations, etc.

Awareness: To ensure equitable access to benefits, St. Johns County held in-person public meetings that were live streamed and recorded as well as a public workshop. The public meetings and the workshop provided residents the opportunity to give direct input to County leadership on how the SLFRF should be allocated. The County also has a dedicated page on the County website to provide information for residents on ARPA. One of the larger projects is a partnership with United Way to manage a non-profit program for eligible subgrantees to provide essential services. As part of the partnership St. Johns County established a steering committee and held regular public meetings to accept applications from non-profits, score and rate the applications, select sub-awardees and provide updates. St. Johns County continues to provide updates in public forums, online, and via social media as appropriate.

Access and Distribution: St. Johns county has made efforts to ensure benefits are equally accessible across groups. One such effort is placing the vaccination center in a historically disadvantaged area adjacent to a Qualified Census Tract. The placement made vaccinations more accessible to those who may be mobile challenged in that area. Another approach to access is addressed in St. Johns County's Non-Profit Program. According to the program structure as established, United Way staff provided technical assistance to help potential grantees complete their applications and navigate the grant process.

Outcomes: As applicable, projects funded through SLFRF incorporate performance measures that will allow for the disaggregation of data by target populations. In 2022 and 2023 St. Johns County had three Qualified Census Tracts in its boundary revised to two in 2024. Data is being collected as applicable to determine the comparative access and interventions in those areas. For other areas of the County that are not in Qualified Census Tracts, socioeconomic or other identifiers will be used to measure impact across specific groups such as the jobless or undertrained.

Equity in Program and Project Implementation

Goals and Targets: From the initial data gathering stage and assessment of needs, two geographic areas of St. Johns County were identified for specific capital infrastructure interventions based on equity goals: West Augustine and Hastings. As the County's ARPA program progressed, the County identified other ways to assist underserved populations regardless of the geographic location of the person. The County's goals honor the intent of SLFRF to fund interventions that benefit the those who were disproportionately negatively impacted by the pandemic specifically within the categories of public health, negative economic impact and services to disproportionately impacted communities through both programs and capital infrastructure investment.

Project Implementation:

Five projects, as detailed in the project inventories, are included in the Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2) expenditure category. The projects are detailed individually in the project inventories; however, additional information is presented in this section with respect to considerations of equity. Output and outcomes for these projects are included separately within the project inventory section.

Disadvantaged Business Improvement Grant and West Augustine Medical Clinic

The County has 2 Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs)², which are part of the West Augustine area, a historically African-American community. This area is targeted for intervention due to the socioeconomic disadvantages and historical inequities faced by the community. For example, according to the US Census of Population and Housing, the community has lower rates of high school and college graduates than St. Johns County as a whole and a higher rate of unemployment. The racial inequity is also evident in the fact that the West Augustine community suffers disproportionately in health outcomes such as infant mortality, diabetes, strokes, heart attacks, and mental/behavioral health relative to county-wide averages. According to a recent community health evaluation by Flagler Health+³, significant evidence abounds regarding the disparities in health results in African-American communities of St. Johns County compared to the County on the whole. According to the report, two indicators of community health, infant mortality and low-birth weight were found to have higher rates of incidents in African American in comparison to the remainder of the county. For example, a significant disparity is observed when comparing the low birth weight of babies born to teen mothers by race. More than twice the proportion of low birth weight babies are born to teen black mothers than teen white mothers in St. Johns County (17.1% low birth weight babies born to black teen mothers compared to 7% low birth weight babies born to white teen mothers).

In order to address the disproportionate impacts of the pandemic in this community, five projects/programs were prioritized under the EC 2 expenditure category. The Disadvantaged Business Improvement Grant provided grants to enhance the business or non-profit's outdoor space for COVID-19 mitigation or to improve the built environment. In addition to the public health benefit, these improvements have the dual benefit of attracting new economic investment

² As of January 2024, the county has 2 QCTS: 203 and 210.02. For 2022-23, the county had 3 QCTS: 203, 204, and 210.02.

³ Flagler Health+ Community Improvement, Health Inequity Summary, 2022

through beautification and greening of the area. The second project is a capital investment project to bring a new medical center complex to the West Augustine community. The wellness center has partnerships with entities such as YMCA to provide comprehensive wellness services to the uninsured and underinsured.

Affordable Housing

Three capital expenditure projects were identified to address Affordable Housing and housing services in low-income areas of the county. The Home Again Housing Project is administered through a subaward agreement with Home Again, Inc., a local non-profit serving the unhoused. Upon completion, the project will result in transitional housing units capable of housing 8 individuals who are temporarily experiencing homelessness. Two other capital expenditure projects are a part of the project “Non-Profit Program” but are specifically related to affordable housing and thus included here (see page 16-19 of the Project Inventory section). Ability Housing, Inc. was awarded a subrecipient funding agreement with the County to expend \$1,207,134 towards the Villages of New Augustine new 92-unit apartment complex. The 92-unit, new-construction apartment community 6.5 acres at the intersection of North Volusia Street and Chapin Street within the West Augustine Community Redevelopment Area (CRA). All units will be affordable to households earning up to 60% of the Area Median Income, based on data updated annually by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)⁴. Habitat for Humanity of St. Augustine/St. Johns County was awarded \$949,280 to supplement funding on the 36-home affordable housing neighborhood located off of Volusia Street in West Augustine. All homes will be sold at the appraised value and potential homeowners will have the opportunity for low interest mortgages. These projects are being implemented with equity in mind. As the West Augustine community grows, the threat of gentrification could have the negative consequence of displacing current residents of the historically African American community. These projects will allow residents access to affordable housing options, mitigating the threat of rising home costs and rents.

Vocational Training Campus and Sewer/Water Infrastructure

Hastings, Florida is an unincorporated low to moderate income community in St. Johns County. Due to economic difficulties, in 2018, the City of Hastings dissolved and was incorporated within the County. The economic struggles from the town’s dissolution were evident in the inadequate water and sewer infrastructure. The lack of available infrastructure has further constrained the economic potential in this area of the County. Flooding, aging infrastructure, and/or lack of infrastructure has a negative impact on economically disadvantaged residents, causing additional financial and emotional stress on these residents. In efforts to address the disproportionate negative economic impacts from the pandemic, two large infrastructure projects were directed to the Hastings community. The Vocational Training Campus project is a partnership between St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners and the St. Johns County School Board to bring a second campus of First Coast Technical College to the Hastings area. The new Vocational Training Campus will include workforce training courses leading to certifications in high-wage jobs, adult basic education options and childcare for the community and parents studying at the college. The second infrastructure project is to bring potable water improvements to the community. These improvements will not only impact residents and attract

⁴ [Ability Housing Breaks Ground on Villages of New Augustine - Ability Housing](#)

economic investment from businesses, but allow South Woods Elementary School, a Title I school, to connect to the central water system.

Non-Profit Grant Program

The non-profit grant program administered by United Way is a program structured to aid individuals and households experiencing disproportionate negative economic impacts. As local non-profits are close to the communities they serve, this model allows flexibility for each non-profit to tailor their program to the population. This model has shown to be effective as over 82% of funds expended in 2024 were used to serve disadvantaged communities through programs or services where the primary intended beneficiaries live within a Qualified Census Tract.

Community Engagement

St. Johns County is committed to ensuring constituents' and community-based organizations' feedback and suggestions are heard and considered and uses various engagement methods to reach the community.

Noticed Meetings

ARPA funded programming has been and will continue to be discussed as noticed agenda items at regularly scheduled Board of County Commissioners meetings. These ARPA agenda items include an opportunity for the attending public to comment. A specific ARPA workshop was also held to solicit direct feedback from constituents on how ARPA funds should be allocated within the County. County Administration has continued to provide updates on ARPA expenditures and program progress in public notice meetings and expects to continue this practice going forward.

Web-based platforms

St. Johns County's website will serve as the primary platform through which the community can find information about ARPA programs offered by the County. A web-based survey was offered in two (2) phases to residents and community groups providing an opportunity to suggest projects and services for the APRA program. The survey was available to all constituents and did not require an invitation to participate.

Community Partners

St. Johns County worked with local community leaders in the non-profit sector to identify projects that would meet the needs identified by the community in the meetings, workshops and survey referenced above. The solutions proposed helped form the various projects identified to address the negative economic impacts of COVID-19. More detail on the community involvement is detailed in the individual project inventories. St. Johns County will continue working with various community partners to collaborate and share information as the projects progress.

Social Media

St. Johns County has utilized and will continue to utilize its social media platforms including Facebook, Instagram, Nextdoor, and Twitter, to communicate information about ARPA-funded programs and services.

Labor Practices

St. Johns County is committed to promoting the effective and efficient delivery of high-quality infrastructure projects. The County's existing Purchasing Policy and associated procedures outline the procurement process and ensure all County projects follow the required Federal, State, and local laws. All ARPA-funded infrastructure projects implemented by St. Johns County will be procured in accordance with the St. Johns County Purchasing Policy (SJC Ordinance 2022-22), and all ARPA requirements. Additionally, all procurements for ARPA funded projects also include provisions for Small/Disadvantaged/Minority/Women Business Enterprises, Davis-Bacon Act and OSHA requirements.

Use of Evidence

St. Johns County is committed to evaluating all potential projects and pursuing only those that have a meaningful impact on the community. St. Johns County allocated the majority of the funds towards strategies to address the public health and economic impacts of the pandemic. The Treasury enumerated the categories of projects that are required to report on the amount of funds allocated to evidence-based interventions. While all projects in categories 1 – 5 were based on methods supported by evidence, three projects fall within categories enumerated by the Treasury for required reporting on the use of evidence-based data to inform project design and implementation. Further information on use of evidence is contained in the project inventories as applicable.

Public Health – Prevention and Mitigation

St. Johns County refers to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Guidance for Correctional and Detention Facilities⁵ to inform decisions on what measures to implement to best prevent and/or mitigate the spread of COVID-19 among the incarcerated and detained, staff and visitors. In coordination with the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office, the COVID Mitigation Equipment Project was implemented in correction facilities. The project installed security systems, including temperature scanners in high-traffic areas of select correctional facilities. The CDC references symptom scanning such as temperature scans as an additional layer of protection against the transmission of COVID-19.

Negative Economic Impacts

Two capital expenditure projects fall within the enumerated categories for reporting requirements on evidence-based interventions. The Vocational Training Project is administered through a funding agreement between St. Johns County and the St. Johns County School District. The funding agreement is for the renovation and restoration of the former Hastings High School building into a new campus of First Coast Technical College. According to the 2020 American Community Survey, census tract 211.01 has lower educational attainment, higher unemployment, and higher poverty rates than St. Johns County and the State of Florida. Vocational schools, or sector-based training, is widely supported by research as a pathway for higher-wage jobs in high-demand sectors for workers without a four-year college degree⁶.

⁵ [Correctional and Detention Facilities | CDC](#)

⁶ Holzer, Harry and Sandy Baum. 2017. Making College Work: Pathways to Success for Disadvantaged Students. Washington DC: Brookings; Katz, Lawrence et al. 2020. "Why Do Sectoral Employment Programs Work? Lessons

Once renovated, the facility will have space not only for career technical training for high-wage jobs, but also have space for adult education training and early learning and child care. The Treasury cites a 2021 National Institute for Early Education Research study and a 2020 Monash University study about the disproportionate impacts of the pandemic on lower income households with respect to childcare and early learning, which in turn limits the parents' ability to remain or reenter the workforce. As an enumerated eligible capital expenditure, this multi-purpose vocational training center with the co-location of early learning and childcare services provides a unique opportunity to meet the needs of the disadvantaged area of Hastings.

Another capital expenditure project that falls within a category enumerated by the Treasury as requiring reporting on evidence-based interventions is the Home Again Housing Project. This project is administered through a subrecipient agreement between the county and Home Again St. Johns, Inc. Unhoused or those at risk of homelessness are a population the Treasury recognizes a disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. In St. Johns County, there are several nonprofits that provide services and transitional housing to unhoused persons. A stable housing environment is essential to maintaining employment and can be a barrier for those who are unhoused. The Home Again Housing project builds on the evidence of their 12 years of serving the homeless population in St. Johns County and the evidence of need from the annual St. Johns County Continuum of Care Point-in-Time (PIT) count of sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness.

Two additional affordable housing projects, Ability Housing and Habitat for Humanity, are a part of the Assistance to Non-Profits category which does not require reporting on the percentage of funds allocated to evidence-based interventions. However, like many other of the County's projects, the Ability Housing and Habitat for Humanity projects are evidence-based. Ability Housing utilized a subrecipient funding agreement with the County to expend \$1,207,134 towards the Villages of New Augustine 92-unit apartment complex. Similarly, the subrecipient agreement with Habitat for Humanity allocated \$949,280 to supplement funding on the 36-home affordable housing neighborhood located off of Volusia Street in West Augustine. The Treasury enumerated in the Final Rule that affordable housing is an eligible expense, noting the lack of affordable housing supply was exacerbated by the pandemic⁷.

Performance Report

St. Johns County is committed to performance measurement and data to inform decisions from program and project selection through completion. As of June 30, 2024, the completed programs include: County-sponsored vaccination program/site, County supported COVID-19 testing, COVID-19 mitigation equipment, Disadvantaged Business Improvement Program, and Public Safety Premium Pay program. Those five projects are measured primarily via outputs of numbers served as described in the project inventories and project and expenditure reports. Other major capital expenditure projects will be measured in accordance with construction completion.

from WorkAdvance." National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper; Schaberg, Kelsey. 2020. Meeting the Needs of Job Seekers and Employers A Synthesis of Findings on Sector Strategies.

⁷ Final Rule, 103-104.

For program funded projects, the below KPIs are presented per Treasury's Compliance and Reporting Guidance. The data is updated quarterly by United Way in accordance with the subaward agreement for the Non-Profit Program. The below are the year to date results through Quarter 2.

Key Performance Indicators	Number Served
Households receiving eviction prevention services	178
Affordable housing units preserved or developed	25
Individuals enrolled in sectoral job training programs	352
Individuals completing sectoral job training programs	43
Individuals participating in summer youth employment programs	0
Students participating in evidence-based tutoring programs	1,325
Children served by childcare and early learning (pre-school/pre-K ages 3-5)	140
Families served by home visiting	189

PROJECT INVENTORY

Project: St Johns County Vaccination Response

Identification Number: County Project 4451

Funding amount: \$1,650,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.1 COVID-19 Vaccination

Status: Complete

Project Overview

The County established and operated a vaccination program at the Solomon Calhoun Community Center, offering residents free vaccinations to contain and mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The vaccination center operated 7 days per week between March 3 2021 and May 24 2021 from 7am to 7pm. Vaccination Center staff duties included but not limited to administering the COVID 19 vaccine, scheduling appointments, data entry and cleaning. The vaccine site was placed in a centrally located area that was accessible to the underserved community and ADA compliant. Vaccination appointments were available to the public online and by phone to ensure equitable access for all residents. The County also operated a COVID-19 hotline seven days a week to assist residents with COVID-19-related questions and scheduling vaccination appointments.

Use of Evidence

The program's goal was to provide free vaccinations at an easily accessible location to increase the available vaccination sites in the County. Accessibility to medical services, including preventative health services, has been shown to be correlated to the level of health in a community. The West Augustine community was identified as an area of the County with a deficiency in accessible non-emergency medical facilities and would benefit from a County vaccination site.

Performance Report

Output KPI: Through the County Vaccination project, 96,284 doses of the vaccine were administered to the community.

Outcome KPI: Community was better protected from the spread of COVID-19.

Project: Public Safety Premium Pay

Identification Number: County Project 4456

Funding amount: \$5,480,502

Project Expenditure Category: 4.1 Premium Pay: Public Sector Employees

Status: Complete

Project Overview

According to the Treasury's Final Rule, an eligible category of expenditures is premium pay to essential workers. Some essential workers, such as fire services, emergency personnel and law enforcement, face a heightened risk of exposure to COVID-19 because of their direct, in-person, close interaction with the public. Due to the nature of their job requirements, these first responders were not able to implement many of the preventative/mitigation measures, such as social distancing, in their daily work. The County expended \$5,383,718 on the premium pay program of the allocated funding.

Other essential workers include those who weren't first responders but are "needed to maintain continuity of operations of essential critical infrastructure sectors..." (221). St. Johns County, in accordance with the final rule also included civilian personnel in telecommunications (managers and below) in the premium pay project.

The recipients for premium pay designated by St. Johns County meet the three-pronged framework: 1) eligible worker, 2) performing essential work, 3) being responsive to essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency. In addition, those receiving the premium pay fall under the category of non-exempt. St. Johns County provided a gross bonus amount of \$1,776.82 per eligible employee. This premium pay represents recognition for work performed during the pandemic and was provided three times to eligible employees in the job classes listed below.

- Sworn Sheriff's Office personnel (Lieutenants and below)
- Sheriff civilian personnel in Telecommunications (Managers and below)
- Fire Rescue first responders (all ranks below Deputy Chief)
- Fire Rescue personnel in Telecommunications (Managers and below)
- Emergency Management personnel

Use of Evidence

The final rule cited findings that essential workers are often paid below the average national wage, and not all receive hazard pay. As the SLFRF program was designed with the principles of equity in mind, premium pay is a method that recipients can use to provide greater equity to lower-wage earners in high-risk occupations and those who were required to work longer hours because of the pandemic. The final rule likens premium pay to hazard pay, an established method of supplemental compensation used by governments and the private sector.

Performance Report

Output: Public Safety Employees (Fire, Rescue, Sheriff, and Emergency Operations) were paid a gross bonus amount of \$1,776.82 per employee. This premium pay representing recognition for work performed during the pandemic occurred three times over the course of two years.

Outcome: County employees were provided compensation for additional essential work they performed during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Project: COVID Testing

Identification Number: County Project 4452

Funding amount: \$50,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.2 COVID-19 Testing

Status: Complete

Project Overview

St. Johns County provided financial support to Flagler Health+ to administer COVID-19 testing. The county expended \$48,896 of the allocated amount on testing.

Use of Evidence

COVID-19 testing is an enumerated use by the Treasury in the final rule as an effective measure to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Performance Report

Output: St. Johns County reimbursed Flagler Health+ for testing services provided in March 2021. From 3/3/2021 – 3/31/2021 Flagler Health+ provided vaccine services to the community; administering 61 tests.

Outcome: Community members had access to free testing.

Project: COVID Mitigation Equipment

Identification Number: County Project 4453

Funding amount: \$370,000

Percentage Allocated to Evidence-based Interventions: 100%

Project Expenditure Category: 1.4 Prevention in Congregate Settings

Status: Complete

Project Overview

St. Johns County funded mitigation measures in the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office (SJSO) and selected incarceration areas. St. Johns County purchased the procurement and installation of whole-body security scanning systems. The scanning systems purchased include a thermal camera/scanner to detect fevers. The temperature scanning systems were installed in identified high traffic areas. Additionally, the County purchased and installed Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) distribution machines and related equipment for SJSO. The 24-hour controlled access distribution machines allow for a contactless way for Sheriff employees to obtain PPE and other supplies needed on the job. Total expenditures of the project total \$353,530.

Use of Evidence

Symptom scanning such as temperature scans is referenced by the CDC as an additional layer of protection against the transmission of COVID-19. Similarly, reducing unnecessary interpersonal interactions helps to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. Installation of PPE distribution machines is a method for following CDC guidelines of social distancing.

Performance Report

Output: Two body scanners and PPE vending distribution machines were purchased and installed.

Outcome: The interventions were utilized to mitigate the spread of disease.

Project: Small Business Outdoor Space / Facade Improvement

Identification Number: County Project 4454

Funding amount: \$907,180

Project Expenditure Category: 1.8-COVID-19 Assistance to Small Businesses

Status: Complete

Project Overview

In September 2021, St. Johns County allocated funding for small business exterior improvement grant program. Initially appropriated at \$500,000, in March 2022 an additional \$500,000 was allocated in March 2022. The program provided eligible small business owners and non-profits to receive a one-time grant of up to \$49,500 to enhance the business or non-profit's outdoor space for COVID-19 mitigation or to improve the built environment of a neighborhood in a qualified census tract. St. Johns County awarded 25 grants totaling \$850,853.

Use of Evidence

The Final Rule enumerates “physical plant changes to enable greater use of outdoor spaces or ventilation improvements” as an eligible expenditure to implement COVID-19 mitigation tactics (Final Rule, p64). The Final Rule cites the CDC’s research that transmission of COVID-19 is lower in outdoor spaces⁸ in the rationale for including enhancing outdoor spaces as an eligible expenditure. Concerning disproportionately impacted small businesses, the Final Rule recognizes that those businesses “may benefit from additional assistance to address the sources of that disparate impact” (151). Continuing, the Treasury specifically enumerates, “.... rehabilitation of commercial properties; storefront and façade improvements....” (420) are eligible expenditures for disproportionately impacted small businesses in a Qualified Census Tract.

Performance Report

⁸ See Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Participate in Outdoor and Indoor Activities, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/outdoor-activities.html> (last visited November 8, 2021).

Performance indicators are primarily output in nature for capital expenditures. As the eligible projects in this program are capital expenditures, St. Johns County will hold grantees responsible for adherence to the terms of the grant, which incorporate all requirements of the Final Rule, such as labor standards, procurement, conflict of interest and reporting.
Output: 25 small businesses qualified and were awarded reimbursable grants.
Outcome: Improvements provide more opportunity for outdoor interaction and better ventilation.

Project: Recreation Space

Identification Number: County Project 4455

Funding amount: \$4,300,000

Project Expenditure Category: 3.5 Public Sector Capacity: Administrative Needs

Status: In progress – 87.5% complete

Project Overview

St. Johns County allocated \$4,300,000 for repair and/or maintenance of County parks and recreation spaces. To date, St. Johns County has expended or encumbered \$3,354,582 on 10 park maintenance projects such as replacing field turf, resurfacing tennis courts, replacing basketball courts and repairing boardwalks at County parks. The maintenance and repairs were necessitated by the additional burden on public facilities during the pandemic. The parks are located in both Qualified Census Tracts and non-QCTs.

Use of Evidence

SLFRF provides an opportunity for St. Johns County to fund maintenance and repairs necessitated by the additional burden on public facilities during the pandemic. St. Johns County's climate and natural resources provide excellent affordable opportunities for the community to get outdoors. As the transmission of COVID-19 is lower in outdoor spaces, keeping options available for residents to utilize outdoor spaces is essential. St. Johns County Parks and Recreation Department also offers free and low-cost programs for youth and adults. The maintenance and repair of the park facilities will allow residents in all areas of the County to continue safe access to the resources and services offered. As outdoor activity is linked to positive health outcomes, the St. Johns County maintenance and repair program will have the additional benefit of promoting healthy lives.

Performance Report

Output: 9 park maintenance projects are complete.

Outcome: Improved recreation space for the community allows for increased opportunities for outside recreation.

Project: Hastings Water and Sewer

Identification Number: County Project 4459

Funding amount: \$7,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 5.2 Clear Water: Centralized Wastewater Collection and Conveyance

Status: \$1,256,070 has been expended or encumbered on the project. Survey and design are complete and construction is under competitive bid. Award is expected by end of the fiscal year with project completion by end of Fiscal Year 2025.

Project Overview

The project will install up to approximately 15,000 linear feet (LF) of potable water main. In addition, the project will install treatment plant upgrades to provide resiliency, prepare for future capacity increases, and provide additional fire supply to the residents and the growing business area. Currently, South Woods Elementary School utilizes an onsite package wastewater plant and a small water plant with wells. The school is scheduled for expansion, and the project would allow the school to connect to the central system. The new potable water line will connect to the existing system and provide a loop to increase water quality and pressure for fire protection in several areas.

Use of Evidence

The Hastings area has lost much of its retail businesses over the last 30 years and without adequate water and sewer infrastructure, new commercial growth cannot occur. The project will provide the necessary distribution and transmission backbone to allow proposed commercial development. For example, the required land use and zoning for most of Hastings have already been established with development rights. There are several large commercial and industrial areas with job growth potential if water and sewer infrastructure is provided. Concerning residential development, two potential residential projects have requested letters of availability to construct attainable housing. If these projects move forward, they will provide the necessary density to promote the development of commercial sites, including a grocery store to serve the area. The project will also improve the existing infrastructure by providing additional pressure and volume for fire protection and increasing water quality by offering loops for water circulation.

Performance Report

Output: KPIs include the number of residential connections, the number of potable and sewer lines laid, and the number of commercial sites served. Data will be collected upon completion of construction.

Outcomes: The outcome will be improved access to clean water which can improve health outcomes and spur economic development.

Project: Non-Profit Program

Identification Number: County Project 4462

Funding amount: \$7,365,217

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations

Status: 90% of the non-capital expenditure projects are complete with 100% projected for completion by September 30, 2024. The 2 capital investment projects for Affordable Housing have fully expended the allocated funding.

Amount Allocated to Evidence Based Interventions: \$100%

Project Overview

St. Johns County signed a subrecipient subaward agreement with United Way of St. Johns County (United Way) to administer a non-profit grant program on behalf of the County. A steering committee was established with members from the community, county leadership and the United Way to establish the terms of the agreement. On July 19, 2022 the Board of County Commissioners passed Resolution 2022-261 approving a subaward agreement with United Way and allocating \$7,365,217 to United Way for the purposes of administering a non-profit grant program. Over the next month the steering committee met to establish the parameters of the grant program including eligibility requirements for applicants, types of eligible projects to be considered and scoring criteria.

In September 2022, a notice of funding opportunity was released and applicants were given 2 months to respond ([United Way NOFO](#)). During the 2-month application period, applicants were offered technical assistance by United Way staff to ensure all who were interested had an equal opportunity to participate in the application process. By then, United Way of St. Johns County recruited more than 30 community volunteers to assist in reviewing and scoring both program and capital project funding requests.

At the November 2022 ARPA Steering Committee meeting, the committee received the program and capital funding recommendations. The committee accepted the program funding recommendations as presented and forwarded the capital funding recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners for further consideration and contract management.

19 local non-profit entities were selected for program funding and 2 entities were selected for capital projects. Recipients who received program funding entered into reimbursable grant agreements with United Way. The two entities awarded funds for capital expenditures signed subaward agreements with the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners in June 2023.

The following table lists the non-profit sub-awardees as administered by the United Way/St. Johns County Non-Profit Grant Program.

Non-Profit Agency	Program	Initial Allocation
Alpha-Omega Miracle Home, Inc.	G.R.O.W. Program	\$250,000.00
Catholic Charities Bureau, Inc. – St. Augustine	Emergency Assistance Program	\$250,000.00
Children’s Home Society of Florida	Community Partnership schools St. Johns	\$250,000.00
Emergency Services and Homeless Coalition of St Johns County, Inc.	Hope for the Homeless	\$114,800.00
EPIC Community Services, Inc.	Counseling Center Program	\$443,585.00
First Coast Cultural Center	Adult and Youth Art Programs	\$163,000.00
Goodwill Industries of North Florida	A-STEP Academic Support Through the Employment Process	\$148,426.00

Hugs Across the County, Inc.	School-Based Emergency Food Pantries	\$113,494.00
Jacksonville Area Legal Aid	Legal Aid Assistance	\$250,000.00
Operation New Hope	Ready4Work Pilot Program	\$250,000.00
Prevention Coalition of St Johns County	Youth Alcohol/Drug Misuse Prevention	\$90,000.00
St. Augustine Society, Inc.	Emergency Shelter	\$191,307.00
St. Augustine Society, Inc.	Port in the Storm	\$250,000.00
St. Augustine Society, Inc.	Street Outreach Services	\$250,000.00
St Augustine Youth Services, Inc.	Mobile Response Team	\$291,000.00
St Augustine Youth Services, Inc	Transitional Life Coaches	\$334,000.00
St Johns County Education Foundation, Inc.	Tools 4 Schools Program	\$86,973.00
St Johns Housing Partnership, Inc.	Housing Stability After Covid	\$344,071.00
The Salvation Army	Rent/Utility Assistance	\$178,000.00
The YMCA of Florida's First Coast, Inc	Healthy Living	\$250,000.00
Wildflower Healthcare Good Samaritan Health Centers, Inc	Dental Program	\$250,000.00
Youth Crisis Center, Inc.	Family Link	\$225,000.00
Habitat for Humanity	Volusia Woods Affordable Housing Program	\$949,280.00
Ability Housing	Affordable Housing Program	\$1,207,134.00

Use of Evidence

Through public workshops, meetings and online feedback, the community made clear the need to support the non-profits in St. Johns County. Many non-profits in the community receive appropriations from the County's general fund budget. The SLFRF program allows the County to broaden its support to non-profits and extend additional services to the community. The non-profits supported by the community provide critical services to the residents such as adolescent substance abuse treatment, services for adolescent and adult single mothers, services to help at-risk youth avoid criminal pathways, and homeless services, among others.

Performance Report

Output and outcome measures are required as part of the subrecipient agreement between United Way and St. Johns County. United Way, as the administrator of the non-profit grant program, will monitor the output and outcome measures of the individual subgrantees. As a wide variety of eligible projects are available through the non-profit program, in addition to the required KPIs as specified by the Treasury, other KPIs were applied individually by grant.

Output: 23 nonprofits were awarded operational grants in the amount of \$4.6 million and 2 entities were awarded capital expenditure grants. Habitat for Humanity was awarded \$949,280 to assist with infrastructure for the Volusia Woods Affordable Housing Project and Ability Housing was awarded \$1,207,134 for infrastructure for the Villages of New Augustine 92-unit apartment complex.

Outcomes: Aggregate performance data for the KPIs enumerated by the Treasury's Compliance and Reporting Guidance are provided below as of June 30, 2024.

Key Performance Indicators	Number Served
Households receiving eviction prevention services	178
Affordable housing units preserved or developed	25
Individuals enrolled in sectoral job training programs	352
Individuals completing sectoral job training programs	43
Individuals participating in summer youth employment programs	0
Students participating in evidence-based tutoring programs	1,325
Children served by childcare and early learning (pre-school/pre-K ages 3-5)	140
Families served by home visiting	189

Project: West Augustine Medical Center

Identification Number: County Project 4460

Funding amount: \$5,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.21 Assistance to Households: Medical Facilities for Disproportionately Impacted Communities

Status: In Progress

Project Overview

The West Augustine Medical Center will focus on illness prevention strategies by influencing behavioral changes that will result in healthier living through increased health check-ups, exercise, encouraging a healthier diet, encouraging follow-up on major health episodes (i.e., strokes, diabetes, etc.), prenatal care, and increased awareness and improvement of behavioral health. One major focus of the medical center will be redirecting residents to the Center as an alternative to emergency room visits for non-emergency health issues or concerns.

Use of Evidence

While capital expenditures are not an evidence-based program in and of itself, the capital expenditure will result in a medical center serving a disproportionately disadvantaged population in a qualified census tract. Access to health care is correlated with better health outcomes. As such, the intervention of funding a capital project to build a medical center supports an evidence-based response to improving health outcomes.

Performance Report

The County and subgrantee, West Augustine Community Development Corporation, are in sub-awardee grantee agreement negotiations. Additional supplemental funding has been appropriated by the State as of June 30 for the project.

Performance measures will be incorporated in the sub-recipient sub-award agreement with the West Augustine Community Development Corporation as the project is formulated. Data will be collected and reported according to Treasury's requirements. In addition to the output indicators related to the capital expenditure, potential KPIs post construction includes the number of LMIs served via the medical center, type of health services provided, and reduction in the number of patients referred to the emergency room, among others.

Project: Vocational Training

Identification Number: County Project 4461

Funding amount: \$7,665,000

Percentage Allocated to Evidence-based Interventions: 100%

Project Expenditure Category: 2.10 Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers

Status: In Progress

Project Overview

The County has allocated \$7,665,000 towards a sub-recipient agreement with the St. Johns County School District to establish a second campus of First Coast Technical College. The sub-award will provide funds to the school district to offer workforce training in the southern part of St. Johns County. The second campus will be located in an underserved area of the County with a targeted population of undertrained and unemployed. The campus is designed to mirror offerings at the main campus including Adult Basic Education (ABE) and General Education Development (GED) programs, technical courses in high-wage jobs, a pre-kindergarten program, and childcare. On February 20, 2024 the St. Johns County Board of County Commissioners approved and executed a contract with the St. Johns County School District for the renovation and restoration of the former Hastings High School for the purposes of using the school as a multi-purpose center for career technical education, workforce training, and early learning and child care.

Use of Evidence

While capital expenditures are not an evidence-based program, the capital expenditure will allow for evidence-based programming to occur in an underserved area of the County. First Coast Technical College under the St. Johns County School District currently offers courses in high-wage and fast-growing occupations. The community in the southwest geographic area of the County is underserved and marginalized in job training, early learning options, and child care. Currently, only one vocational school in the County serves the central and northern part of the County and is continually on a waitlist. The population in the geographic area is also disproportionately susceptible to disruptions in the workforce as 61.6% of the employed population are employed in "blue-collar and service" jobs compared to 25.8% in the County overall. Regarding childcare and early learning, there is only one PreK option

available in the southwest region and no low-cost childcare options compared to the numerous options in the other geographic areas of the County.

Performance Report

While a capital project may not directly tie to KPIs as it isn't a program, the project will be evaluated in a minimum of two ways. As a subrecipient, the St. Johns County School District will be required to report on the capital project and adhere to all Federal requirements as stated in the Final Rule. Additionally, the County will ensure that the project meets the intended outcome of providing workforce training, childcare, and preschool education to the targeted population. In addition to the required KPIs, the following additional KPIs have been identified as measures that will be tracked:

Output Measures:

Vocational School

- Number of workers enrolled in sectoral job training programs (required KPI)
- Number of workers completing sectoral job training programs (required KPI)
- Number of certificates issued
- Number of licensures obtained

Adult Basic Education

- Number served
- Number of people participating in summer youth employment programs (required KPI)

Child care and PreK

- Number of children served by childcare and early learning services (pre-school/pre-K/ages 3-5) (required KPI)
- Number of families served by home visiting (required KPI)

Outcome Measures:

Vocational School

- % completion rate
- % placed in jobs upon completion or in continuing education
- % employed in the field of study 12 months post completion

Adult Basic Education

- % completion rate (GED or high school diploma)

Child care and Pre-Kindergarten

- % PreK completion rates
- Maintenance of Pre-Kindergarten qualification

Project: Home Again Housing

Identification Number: County Project 4463

Funding amount: \$2,282,000

Percentage Allocated to Evidence-based Interventions: 100%

Project Expenditure Category: 2.15 Long-term Housing Security: Affordable Housing

Status: In Progress – Construction project is currently in design/engineering phase.

Project Overview

St. Johns County allocated \$2,282,000 to Home Again St. Johns, Inc. to provide housing services and affordable housing. The County signed a subrecipient subaward agreement with Home Again St Johns, Inc. for vertical and horizontal construction of combined office building and service center and transitional housing units. The agency will provide housing services along with transitional housing.

Use of Evidence

The PIT Count⁹ results showed that on February 28, 2022 there were 349 individuals experiencing homelessness in St. Johns County. Of those, 242 were experiencing unsheltered homelessness and 107 were residing in the shelter. This total was a decrease of 17% from the 419 individuals who were experiencing homelessness on the day of the 2021 count. Overall the number of homeless decreased year-over-year, but there was a 16% increase in the number of those who were chronically homeless.

Care Connect+ serves the homeless in the community and collects data on the homeless population in St. Johns County. According to their annual statistics, in 2021, 6,682 people were served by all Care Connect+ Information Network programs. Of those, 27% of adults reported that they were homeless at the time of requesting assistance. Additionally, in 2022, the St. Johns County School District has identified 780 homeless children and youth in the school district.

Performance Report

The subrecipient, Home Again St. Johns, Inc., and the County signed a funding agreement incorporating the requirement of the subrecipient to provide an annual performance report each August. The measures are listed below and the performance data will be provided in the first recovery plan performance report post-construction.

Output: Construction of service center and 4 duplexes to house a minimum of 8 homeless individuals or individuals with a partner or child, with a 25% guaranteed veteran preference.

Outcome: 1) Improve overall community health by providing access to services that address the following needs of mental health, substance abuse, physical health, counseling and employment related issues. 2) Provide access to transportation to medical appointments and mental health appointments. 3) Provide access to employment opportunities and access to programs that can move those individuals and families currently homeless or at risk of homelessness into a more stable situation.

Project: Administrative Expenses

Identification Number: Project 4450

Funding amount: \$1,246,714

Project Expenditure Category: 7.1 Administrative Expenses

Status: In progress

Project Overview

⁹ [2022 PIT COUNT \(squarespace.com\)](https://www.squarespace.com)

Consulting Services to provide project management services for the ARPA project. \$95,984 of the project funding has been obligated or expended.

Use of Evidence: This section is not applicable to this project per Treasury Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report

All of the ARPA funds are used in compliance with federal regulations.

Project: Dis Business Grant

Identification Number: Project 4454

Funding amount: \$292,820

Project Expenditure Category: 2.31-Rehabilitation of Commercial Properties or Other Improvements

Status: Complete

Project Overview

This project provided reimbursable subgrants to disproportionately disadvantaged small businesses operating in qualified census tracts of the County for rehab of property, storefront improvements and facade improvements.

Use of Evidence

The Final Rule recognizes that those businesses “may benefit from additional assistance to address the sources of that disparate impact” (151). Continuing, the Treasury specifically enumerates, “... rehabilitation of commercial properties; storefront and façade improvements...,” (420) are eligible expenditures for disproportionately impacted small businesses in a Qualified Census Tract.

Performance Report

Output: 9 small businesses in qualified census tracts received grants of up to \$49,500.00.

Outcome: Exterior improvements to the built environment were documented via site visits.

Project: Emergency Operations Center

Identification Number: County Project 4464

Funding amount: \$800,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.7-Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)

Status: In Progress – Facility under Design

Project Overview

The County is constructing an annex building on the existing County Emergency Operations Center. The annex building will be used to train individuals on COVID-19 test administration as well as response and recovery resource storage.

Use of Evidence

This section is not applicable to this project per Treasury Reporting Guidance.

Performance Report

Output: Completion of the construction of the building.

Outcome: The County will be better equipped to respond to an emergency.

Lost Revenue Projects

Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Output: Completion of the projects

Outcome: Improved facilities for residents

Revenue Replacement Project	Identification Number	Funding Amount	Description	Status
WGV Branch Library	RR WGV Library	\$2,000,000	Supplemental costs associated with the construction of a library in World Golf Village.	Not Started
SW SR 207 Fire Station	RR Fire Station	\$2,500,000	Supplemental costs associated with the construction of new fire station on State Road 207	Complete – Funds have been fully expended
CR 210 Greenbriar to Cimmarone	RR CR 210	\$1,700,000	Supplemental costs associated with road construction for County Road 210.	Complete – Funds have been fully expended
CR 2209	RR CR 2209	\$800,000	Supplemental costs associated with road construction for County Road 2209.	In progress - Funding is encumbered