

**St. Lucie County Board of County
Commissioners, Florida
Recovery Plan**

**American Rescue Plan Act
State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
2025 Report**



ST. LUCIE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS FLORIDA 2025 RECOVERY PLAN

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

Under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, St. Lucie County was awarded \$63.8 million through the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF), part of Florida's \$4.17 billion allocation. These federal funds were provided to support public health, strengthen local economies, and invest in critical infrastructure following the widespread disruptions experienced in 2020 and 2021.

The County received its funding in two equal installments in 2021 and 2022. As of 2025, project implementation remains ongoing, with a strong focus on spending all obligated funds in compliance with U.S. Treasury guidelines by the federal deadline.

US Treasury Expenditure Categories	Amount
1 – Public Health	\$1,263,544
2 – Negative Economic Impacts	\$5,171,783
5 – Infrastructure Utility Water & Wastewater Infrastructure	\$36,187,289
5 – Infrastructure Stormwater Infrastructure	\$15,068,288
6 – Revenue Replacement	\$5,898,041
7 – Administrative Administration Review & Compliance Reporting	\$178,899
TOTAL	\$63,767,844

Uses of Funds

Public Health (EC 1)

- COVID-19 Vaccination (1.1): Partnered with the County Department of Health to host vaccination clinics.
- Congregate Settings (1.4): Planning a needs assessment to expand the correctional facility's medical unit.
- Public Outreach & Tech (1.7): Outreach efforts; upgraded network switches and installed contactless payment kiosks.
- Mental Health Services (1.12): Funding for veteran mental health programs.

Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2)

- Household Assistance (2.2): Mortgage, Utility, and Emergency Rental Assistance ongoing.
- Internet Access (2.4): Funds to expand broadband to qualified students.
- Affordable Housing (2.15): Conducting a Housing Needs Assessment.
- Homeless Services (2.16): Partnering with Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council.
- Small Business Assistance (2.29): Small Business Aid program transitioned to SLFRF.

Infrastructure Investments (EC 5)

- Investing in water, wastewater, and stormwater systems to address climate change and sea level rise.
- Protecting Indian River Lagoon and St. Lucie River, vital for ecology, fishing, tourism, and community health.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes

St. Lucie County is dedicated to ensuring consistent, fair, and impartial treatment for all individuals through the strategic implementation of funding and projects detailed in this Recovery Plan.

Community Engagement

In late 2019, St. Lucie County began a community-based strategic planning process. Guided by a community survey, public workshops shaped the Vision, Mission, Goals, and Objectives, which the Board of County Commissioners approved on June 2, 2020.

Using this plan, staff developed a list of qualifying projects over the following year, engaging commissioners and the public through several meetings:

- June 1, 2021: BOCC Approved agreement with U.S. Treasury for the American Rescue Plan.
- June 2, July 13, and August 10, 2021: BOCC and staff held public meetings to discuss project list development and funding uses.
- August 17, 2021: BOCC Approved the final project list.

Ongoing funding reallocations and updates are regularly presented to the County Commission and Citizens Budget Committee in public meetings.

Labor Practices

St. Lucie County follows CFR 200 for federally funded projects, advertising all bids openly. Design contracts go to the most qualified firms, construction contracts to the lowest responsive bidder. The County actively notifies DBE, MBE, and WBE firms to encourage participation in SLFRF-funded projects.

Use of Evidence

The County focused SLFRF funds on essential water infrastructure projects, such as drinking water and stormwater improvements, which do not require evidence-based evaluations. If future projects require them, the County will fully comply with federal guidelines.

Performance Measurement

St. Lucie County staff from multiple departments collaborate closely to manage American Rescue Plan projects and meet regularly to review progress. By monitoring schedules, completion rates, and fiscal management, the team ensures timely delivery and compliance with all American Rescue Plan Act Final Rule requirements. Status updates are routinely provided to the County Administration and the Board of County Commissioners.

Expenses by Expenditure Category

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
1	Public Health	\$1,263,544	\$73,986
2	Negative Economic Impacts	\$5,171,783	\$0
3	Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity	N/A	N/A
4	Premium Pay	N/A	N/A
5	Infrastructure	\$31,154,456	\$12,148,541
6	Revenue Replacement	\$5,898,042	\$4,308,135
7	Administrative	\$178,899	\$0

PROJECT INVENTORY

Expenditure Category 1 – Public Health

Project ARHEAL001: Vaccine Point of Dispensing (POD) events \$165,718

Project Status: Complete

ARPA Expenditure Category: 1.1 COVID-19 Vaccination

Project Overview:

St. Lucie County hosted community vaccine clinics to support public health across our community.

Project ID ARHEAL003: Vaccination Program-Personnel & Supplies \$215,336

Project Status: Complete

ARPA Expenditure Category: 1.1 COVID-19 Vaccination

Project Overview:

St. Lucie County Public Safety Department/Emergency Operations used temporary administrative staff and medical personnel from the Employee Health Clinic and Fire District to support community vaccine distribution and manage related supply needs.

Project ARHEAL2619: Jail Medical Wing Expansion Study \$209,220

Project Status: Complete

ARPA Expenditure Category: 1.4 Prevention in Congregate Settings

Project Overview:

Conduct a study, preliminary design, and probable cost to determine the need for an expansion to the inmate medical unit at the St. Lucie County Correctional Facility at Rock Road.

Strengthening operational preparedness, prevention, and management of public health emergencies remains a priority.

Project ARHEAL008: Vaccination Programs – Communications **\$191,122**

Project Status: Complete

ARPA Expenditure Category: 1.7 Other COVID-19 Public Health Exp. Communications

Project Overview:

St. Lucie County's Communications Division led a public outreach initiative in partnership with the Department of Health, Public Safety, and others, delivering weekly video updates, a dedicated website, a "Myth Busters" Town Hall, multilingual media, online assistance applications, and countywide advertising across all major platforms.

Project ARHEAL009: Enhance Employee Safety Broadcast System & IT Projects **\$198,147**

Project Status: Complete

ARPA Expenditure Category: 1.7 Other COVID-19 Public Health Exp. Communications

Project Overview:

To support remote operations and maintain public services, St. Lucie County enhanced its Employee Safety Broadcast System and upgraded IT systems for secure access by staff working off-site.

Project ARHEAL010: Utilities Contactless Payment Kiosk **\$84,000**

Project Status: Complete

ARPA Expenditure Category: 1.7 Other COVID-19 Public Health Exp. Communications

Project Overview:

The Utilities Department identified customer payment challenges and introduced payment kiosks to provide real-time, contactless bill payment options.

Project ID ARHEAL004: Mental Health – Veterans **\$200,000**

Project Status: On schedule

ARPA Expenditure Category: 1.12 Mental Health Services

Project Overview:

St. Lucie County has allocated funding through the Veterans Affairs Division to support mental health services for the veteran community.

Expenditure Category 2 – Negative Economic Impacts

Project ARECON003: Mortgage & Utility Assistance Program **\$960,202**

Project Status: Complete

ARPA Expenditure Category: 2.2 Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid

Project Overview:

St. Lucie County established a mortgage and utility assistance program available to residents of the unincorporated County, the City of Fort Pierce, and the City of Port St. Lucie.

Project ARINFR44008: Fiber Broadband / Digital Access \$2,900,000

Project Status: Complete

ARPA Expenditure Category: 2.4 Household Assistance: Internet Access Programs

Project Overview:

St. Lucie County collaborated with local providers, the School District, and partners to identify students county-wide that qualify for assistance with digital access programming.

Project ARECON004: Housing Hub \$500,000

Project Status: Complete

ARPA Expenditure Category: 2.16 Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons

Project Overview:

St. Lucie County funded the Housing Hub through the Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council, the lead agency for the Continuum of Care. The Hub operates a men's residential program serving chronically homeless men, providing mental health and substance abuse evaluations, housing support, benefit assistance, counseling, and referrals to medical and mental health services.

Project ARECON005: Housing Needs Assessment \$150,000

Project Status: Complete

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

Project Overview:

St. Lucie County conducted an assessment to identify affordable housing needs for low-income families, seniors, special needs households, and homeless individuals in the community.

Project ARHEAL006: Comprehensive Homelessness Plan - TCHSC \$50,000

Project Status: Complete

ARPA Expenditure Category: 2.16 Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons

Project Overview:

The County allocated funds to local agencies such as the Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council and the St. Lucie Health Department to support community needs.

Project ARECON001: Small Business Assistance Program \$611,581

Project Status: Complete

ARPA Expenditure Category: 2.29 Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship

Project Overview:

St. Lucie County established a Small Business Assistance Program to support local businesses in economic recovery.

Expenditure Category 5 – Infrastructure

Utility Projects

The County is using ARPA funds to expand water and wastewater services to better protect public health, improve environmental quality, and support the needs of our growing community. These investments help prevent pollution, ensure safe drinking water, and make our infrastructure more reliable and resilient—benefiting residents now and into the future.

Project ARINFR203604: North Hutchinson Island (NHI) Septic to Sewer \$4,615,426

Project Status: Construction

ARPA Expenditure Category: 5.2 Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Collection & Conveyance

Project Overview:

The project will build a wastewater collection system on North Hutchinson Island, connecting 532 homes in Queens Cove, Fort Pierce Shores, Coastal Cove Unit I, and Coral Cove to central sewer. This will retire legacy septic tanks, reducing nutrient pollution in the Indian River Lagoon and protecting this vital Florida waterway.

The County will cover a portion of the project cost, with the remaining amount funded by homeowners through a special assessment program.

Project ARINFR213614: Okeechobee Rd Water & Force Main Seminoles Tie-in

Project Status: Construction \$8,760,646

ARPA Expenditure Category: 5.2 Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Collection & Conveyance

Project Overview:

This project installs 28,000 linear feet of 12" water main and 6" force main, connecting existing infrastructure to Midway and Okeechobee Roads. As phase 1 of 7, it extends utility service to the southern St. Lucie County area (~12,000 acres, bounded by I-95, Picos Road, and Midway Road) and improves water flow and wastewater collection along the Okeechobee-Midway corridor.

Project ARINFR213607: Indrio Road Water & Force Main \$6,217,966

Project Status: Complete

ARPA Expenditure Category: 5.11 Drinking Water: Transmission Distribution

Project Overview:

This project installs 8,300 linear feet of 16" water main and 12" force main from Indrio Road/Emerson Avenue to existing infrastructure at Indrio Road/Taylor Dairy Road and Turnpike

Feeder Road. As phase 3 of the Indrio-Taylor Dairy-US1 corridor loop, it improves water flow and wastewater collection across approximately 28,000 acres bounded by US1 (east), North Boulevard (north and west), and St. Lucie Boulevard (south).

Project ARINFR213609: North U.S. Highway 1 Water & Force Main **\$1,407,762**

Project Status: Construction

ARPA Expenditure Category: 5.11 Drinking Water: Transmission Distribution

Project Overview:

This project installs 3,250 linear feet of 8" water main and 4" force main from US1/Turnpike Feeder Road to the northern County line, completing water and wastewater service expansion along the US1 corridor. It serves approximately 500 acres and supports economic growth and job creation in the area.

Project ARINFR213616: Okeechobee Rd. Water & Force Main S. Header Canal Tie-in

\$2,491,014

Project Status: Construction

ARPA Expenditure Category: 5.11 Drinking Water: Transmission Distribution

Project Overview:

This project extends water and force mains to provide utility service to the southern portion of St. Lucie County. It will benefit properties from the Okeechobee Road and Midway Road intersection west to South Header Canal Road. The extension is part of a larger trunk line serving an area bounded by Okeechobee Road (north), Carlton Road (west), Peacock Road (east), and the County line (south), covering approximately 47,000 acres with mixed-use potential.

Project ARINFR213617: South Header Canal Rd. Water & Force Main **\$7,817,485**

Project Status: Construction

ARPA Expenditure Category: 5.11 Drinking Water: Transmission Distribution

Project Overview:

This project extends 12,400 lineal feet of 16" water main and 12" force main between Okeechobee Road and the C-24 canal, providing utility service to the southern portion of St. Lucie County. It benefits properties from the intersection of Okeechobee Road and South Header Canal Road south to the County line, covering approximately 14,000 acres with mixed-use potential.

Project ARINFR213619: Midway Road Force Main **\$1,022,500**

Project Status: Design

ARPA Expenditure Category: 5.2 Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Collection & Conveyance

Project Overview:

This project is being designed using \$1,022,500 in ARPA funds, construction will be completed with proceeds from a Utility Bond.

Project ARINFRTrop: Tropicana Water Facility \$3,841,991

Project Status: Complete

ARPA Expenditure Category: 5.15 Drinking Water: Other Water Infrastructure

Project Overview:

Purchase of Tropicana water/wastewater facility to enhance the County's utility system.

Project ARINFR213613: North County Regional Deep Injection Well \$12,500

Project Status: Canceled

ARPA Expenditure Category: 5.5 Clean Water: Other Sewer Infrastructure

Project Overview:

This project was permitted with ARPA funds and will be completed with other county funds.

Stormwater Projects

The County is investing in stormwater system improvements to reduce flooding, protect homes and roads, and prevent pollution from entering local waterways. These upgrades help safeguard public health, preserve the environment, and make our communities more resilient during heavy rains and storms.

Project ARINFR213624: Ancient Oaks Preserve Wet Pond \$799,882

Project Status: Construction

ARPA Expenditure Category: 5.6 Clean Water: Stormwater

Project Overview:

The County owns a 1.7-acre parcel on Oleander Avenue reserved for a retention wet pond to treat stormwater before it enters the North Fork of the St. Lucie River. The project includes design, permitting, and construction meeting County environmental standards. This will increase stormwater capacity and improve water quality entering Ten Mile Creek.

Project ARINFR213625: Harmony Heights-Phase 3 \$3,283,223

Project Status: Permitting & Construction

ARPA Expenditure Category: 5.6 Clean Water: Stormwater

Project Overview:

This project involves constructing dry detention ponds and swales in the 228-acre Harmony Heights subdivision, which currently lacks a stormwater management system. It aims to capture and treat stormwater runoff that currently flows untreated, reducing nutrient pollution and improving drainage capacity. Enhancing drainage infrastructure will help prevent flooding and improve water quality in this older neighborhood.

Project ARINFR213628: Baffle Box Program - River Park \$2,176,501

Project Status: Construction

ARPA Expenditure Category: 5.6 Clean Water: Stormwater

Project Overview:

Located west of the North Fork of the St. Lucie River, River Park is a single-family subdivision where stormwater flows through shallow swales directly into the tidal waters of the Ten Mile Creek System with minimal treatment. This project involves surveying, designing, permitting, and constructing second-generation baffle boxes to improve water quality. It will help alleviate the influence of direct runoff by improving stormwater infrastructure and capturing contaminants before they reach the waterway.

Project ARINFR213627: Hog Pen Slough Stormwater Treatment Area \$150,000

Project Status: Design

ARPA Expenditure Category: 5.6 Clean Water: Stormwater

Project Overview:

In partnership with the City of Port St. Lucie, St. Lucie County will help fund the design of a regional stormwater treatment area (STA) on an 11-acre parcel owned by the City.

Project ARINFR213626: Indrio Savannahs Wet Pond \$1,449,333

Project Status: Construction

ARPA Expenditure Category: 5.6 Clean Water: Stormwater

Project Overview:

Indrio Savannahs Preserve contains a natural flow-way linking northern St. Lucie County to Taylor Creek. An existing lake, currently bypassed, could be connected and enhanced with BMPs, including gabion walls to increase flow path length for improved nutrient removal. This large northeastern basin, which drains mobile home parks and industrial areas, has some of the County's oldest and poorest drainage infrastructure. The project aims to reduce nutrient loading and increase stormwater capacity.

Project ARINFR213622: Melville Road Stormwater Improvement-Phase 2 \$1,470,242

Project Status: Complete

ARPA Expenditure Category: 5.6 Clean Water: Stormwater

Project Overview:

The project improved drainage for a 175-acre residential area in historic White City, known for aging septic systems and poor drainage. Phase two of the Melville Project on an 8.8-acre site included designing, permitting, and constructing a large stormwater treatment pond with native plants and passive recreation. Located on low ground near the tidally influenced Ten Mile Creek, White City is prone to flooding, and this project addressed those issues by creating a significant stormwater retention area.

Project ARINFR174608: Stormwater Master Plan \$2,295,740

Project Status: Design

ARPA Expenditure Category: 5.6 Clean Water: Stormwater

Project Overview:

Located along Florida's east coast, St. Lucie County initiated efforts to address sea level rise and enhance resiliency. A resiliency team was hired, and grant-funded projects began. Central to these efforts is an updated stormwater plan designed to address future environmental changes and modern drainage needs, critical for the County's long-term resilience.

Project ARINFR213623: Sunland Gardens Retrofit \$328,449

Project Status: Complete

ARPA Expenditure Category: 5.6 Clean Water: Stormwater

Project Overview:

Sunland Gardens, a 425-acre single-family community developed before stormwater regulations, has low-lying homes and poorly draining roads needing drainage improvements. This project includes surveying, creating a drainage master plan, and defining basin limits to guide future multi-phase restoration. Located near Taylor Creek, Sunland Gardens is prone to flooding, and the plan aims to enhance flood preparedness and community resilience.

Project ARINFR213629: Ten Mile Creek Oxbow Restoration at George LeStrange Preserve

Project Status: Design Complete \$480,441

ARPA Expenditure Category: 5.6 Clean Water: Stormwater

Project Overview:

Ten Mile Creek, which drains nearly 90 square miles of St. Lucie County to the Atlantic Ocean, has seen diminished stormwater capacity over the years, highlighting the need for restoration to reduce flood risks. The County's Environmental Resources Department will use finalized plans to improve the George LeStrange Preserve by removing muck, spoil, and vegetation, and restoring a historic oxbow to improve water flow and quality.

Project ARINFR243604: Sheraton Plaza Stormwater Treatment Area \$2,634,476

Project Status: Construction

ARPA Expenditure Category: 5.6 Clean Water: Stormwater

Project Overview:

Construction of a 16-acre stormwater treatment area to improve water quality entering the Indian River Lagoon from the C-25 Canal. The project will also provide a benefit to the local underserved communities that presently have limited drainage or water quality infrastructure.

Expenditure Category 6 – Revenue Replacement

Project ARREV1: General Government Services

\$5,898,042

Project Status: On Going

ARPA Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview:

St. Lucie County elected to use the US Treasury’s standard allowance for revenue replacement up to \$10,000,000.

Expenditure Category 7 – Administrative and Other

Project ARHEAL007: Legislative Affairs - Grant Coordinator Position and Compliance Review

\$178,899

Project Status: Complete

ARPA Expenditure Category: 7.1 Administrative Expense

Project Overview:

The Board originally allocated \$708,532 for a dedicated ARPA Grant Coordinator. In 2023, the role was consolidated under the County Administrator and funded by the general fund, freeing \$529,633 for Revenue Replacement (Expenditure Category 6) to support general government services.