

City of St. Petersburg, Florida  
**Recovery Plan**

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery  
Funds**

2022 Report

**City of St. Petersburg, Florida**  
**2022 Recovery Plan**

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## GENERAL OVERVIEW

### **Executive Summary**

In 2021, the City of St. Petersburg engaged with community for input regarding developing our spending plan for the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The City held three in-person workshops, in different geographic locations, to receive community input on how the funds should be used. We also included a virtual participation option for those citizens who were unable to attend an in-person workshop. A link to the City's website with information on this public input process is below:

[American Rescue Plan Act \(stpete.org\)](https://www.stpete.org/american-rescue-plan-act)

At the workshops and virtual participation options, the City outlined the following areas of impact eligible for the funds, based on the federal guidelines included in the ARPA:

1. Infrastructure (water, stormwater, sewer, and broadband)
2. Housing affordability and support,
3. Health and social equity,
4. Economic recovery/resilience, and
5. Public health/safety.

The participants ranked the areas for funding prioritization and the results from the public input were presented to City Council on August 19, 2021. Based on the ranking results, the City Administration suggested the following allocation plan of resources to City Council:

<b>Area of Impact</b>	<b>Community Driven Grant Proposals</b>	<b>City Driven Investments</b>	<b>Totals</b>
Housing Affordability/Support	\$1,000,000	\$14,137,957	\$15,137,957
Health & Social Equity	\$1,000,000	\$11,110,365	\$12,110,365
Infrastructure	\$1,000,000	\$8,082,774	\$9,082,774
Economic Recovery/Resilience	\$1,000,000	\$5,055,183	\$6,055,183
Public Health/Safety	\$1,000,000	\$2,027,591	\$3,027,591
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$5,000,000</b>	<b>\$40,413,870</b>	<b>\$45,413,870</b>

During discussion at the August 19, 2021, City Council meeting, there was general agreement with the above allocation plan.

Since that time, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact City residents. The City began, and continues to face, an historic increase in rent and housing costs which has amplified the already existing strain on affordable housing. Increasingly, City residents are experiencing housing insecurity and the related health and social impacts. Emergency Rental Assistance dollars have been expended. The toll of the pandemic was beginning to snowball into more sustained effects such as an increase in violence, mental health challenges, and workforce issues. These issues have disproportionately burdened the City's communities of color.

In January 2022, the City's first Black mayor was inaugurated and established intentional equity as a major principle of his administration. In February 2022, with the pandemic impacts becoming more apparent, City Council requested City Administration to revisit the ARPA allocation plan to more substantially address the affordable housing crisis and the health and social equity impacts. The City adjusted the allocation plan and presented the following proposal to City Council in March 2022:

<b>Areas of Impact</b>	<b>Previous Allocation</b>	<b>New Allocation</b>
Revenue Loss Standard Allowance	\$0	\$10,000,000*
Housing Affordability/Support	\$15,137,957	\$24,303,505
Health & Social Equity	\$12,110,365	\$11,110,365
Infrastructure	\$9,082,774	\$0
Economic Recovery/Resilience	\$6,055,183	\$0
Public Health & Safety	\$3,027,591	\$0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$45,413,870</b>	<b>\$45,413,870</b>

\*On March 3, 2022, City Council approved Resolution 2022-107 which transferred \$10M to the General Fund as part of the standard allowance for revenue loss allowed under the Final Rule. The transfer reimbursed the City for government service expenditures during Fiscal Year 2021. This transfer also freed up \$10M in the General Fund to be used for two Housing Affordability/Support projects: Deuces Housing and Community Development Project (\$6.5M) and the Affordable Housing Gap Financing Project with a focus on producing new rental units that would be affordable for households with incomes at or below 80% AMI (\$3.5M).

City Council was in general agreement with the above allocation plan.

City administration began to identify specific projects and strategic initiatives to fund in the above two areas of impact and presented the spending plan to City Council in May 2022. There was general agreement by City Council on the spending plan.

## **Uses of Funds**

The City identified the specific projects for use of the ARPA funds in the Housing Affordability and Support and the Health and Social Equity areas of impact as follows:

### **Revenue Loss**

The City elected to take the standard allowance of \$10M that a local government can claim as "lost revenue" under the Final Rule. The \$10M was transferred to the City's General Fund to reimburse the City for government services expenditures that occurred during FY21, specifically under the award eligibility period of March 3, 2021, to September 30, 2021. This transfer of funding then freed up \$10M in the General Fund to be used for additional affordable housing projects. \$6.5M went to the Deuces Housing and Community Development Project and \$3.5M to the Affordable Housing Gap Financing Project with a focus on producing new rental units that would be affordable for households with incomes at or below 80% AMI.



## Housing Affordability and Support

### ***Affordable Multi-family***

The City will use \$16.5M of the ARPA funds to provide gap financing for the construction of multi-family affordable housing.

The pandemic underscored the importance of having a safe place to shelter and to raise families. The selected multi-family projects will address demand for and increase the supply of affordable housing units for low- and moderate-income households in St Petersburg. In addition to providing families with greater stability, affordable housing provides households with more money to spend on necessities such as health care and adequate food.

The selected projects will be those that will produce affordable housing units for households with incomes that are at or below 65% of the Area Median Income or at or below 300% of the most recently published Federal Poverty Guidelines and who are therefore presumed to have been negatively impacted by COVID. The funding will come with affordability period requirements, and the developments that agree to produce permanently affordable units will be prioritized during the selection process.

The Request for Proposal/Notice of Funding Availability was issued on June 1, 2022, with responses due on June 30, 2022. There were seven multi-family responses received through the RFP. The project review team is scheduled to meet on August 9, 2022, to evaluate the responses received. Awards will be brought to City Council for approval and appropriations when the investments are agreed upon. The target date for the first round of awards is September/October 2022. The total request for funding for this project is \$20M, \$16.5M in ARPA funds and the additional \$3.5M coming from the City's General Fund.

### ***Scattered Site Family Shelter***

The City entered into an agreement with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul South Pinellas to use \$2.5M of ARPA funds to provide scattered site family shelter to meet the need for literally homeless families with minor children experiencing a housing emergency through December 2024.

Due to the pandemic, additional family shelter is a tremendous need in our community. The desired impact of this project is to allow for safe shelter for at least 112 families during the contract period. This will be measured by the number of families being sheltered.

The intended and actual use of these funds will achieve the goals of utilizing the Housing First approach and providing safe, low-barrier, temporary shelter to literally homeless families with minor children.

This project will help support a strong and equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic by assisting those families, within the City of St. Petersburg City limits, that were disproportionately impacted with immediate emergency shelter and further, obtaining permanent housing. This is specific to families with minor children (up to 18 years of age). To qualify, families need to have either previously lived within the Qualified Census Tracts (QCT) of St. Petersburg and/or meet the income limits mandated by the Department of Treasury's final rule 65% of AMI. The subrecipient has five staff members that will be assigned to this project. One Manager to oversee the project, a supervisor to direct staff and staff complex cases, two Family

Coordinators to provide housing focused intensive case management, and one Housing Specialist to assist families with locating housing from entry into program. The project will utilize master leases and hotels for services and twenty-eight families in shelter at any given time. It is estimated that stays will last approximately six months per family but could be longer due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and housing affordability issues in the area. These funds will support our communities by keeping families together and ultimately, providing resources that will lead to permanent housing.

The Request for Proposal to identify and select the subrecipient was released in December 2021 and awarded on April 13, 2022.

### ***Permanent Support Services***

The City will use \$1M of ARPA funds to provide case management and wrap around services for permanent supportive housing through December 2024.

The project is specific to participants who reside in households which qualify as low- and moderate-income as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the county and size of household and are residents of St. Petersburg. The subrecipient will provide case management and wrap around services for permanent supportive housing to an estimated 75 unduplicated participants annually to increase health outcomes, reduce risk to health and safety, and assist participants with obtaining and/or retaining permanent sustainable housing in accordance with HUD's definition of Housing First by way of:

- a. Link individuals to resources in the community and provide a warm hand-off to services through the Continuum of Care (COC) or community providers (medical, dental, legal).
- b. Provide or arrange for transportation to services and appointments.
- c. Assist in increasing income (referrals to employment, workforce development, linkage to obtaining Social Security Disability Income, etc.)
- d. Support individuals in their interactions with other service providers.
- e. Complete subsidy applications and recertifications.
- f. Other assistance to tenants in requesting and obtaining a reasonable accommodation.
- g. Landlord mediation that may include advocating with property management and other service providers.

Case management is a significant component of permanent supportive housing and is to be participant driven. Case managers will actively engage participants in voluntary case management and service participation by creating an environment in which participants drive the case planning and goal setting based on what they want from the program. Services must include flexibility in intensity, strength-based approach to empower participants, use of trauma-informed and strengths-based approaches, and application of the Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (SPDAT).

The Request for Proposal to identify and select the subrecipient was released in March 2022 and awarded on May 19, 2022, to Boley Centers, Inc. Boley Centers has been providing community-based services, treatment, and support to disabled persons, exclusively to low-income persons. To date, the subrecipient has hired a Program Director, ARNP, and one Intensive Case Manager and are in the process of hiring another two Intensive Case Managers, one LPN, and one Peers Specialist. This project provides a funding source that is needed but not typically available and will work with other jurisdictions to leverage/maximize funding.

The population served by this strategy, at or below 65% AMI, focuses on the special needs of people who have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding will assist in helping people become sustainable and back to a customary way of life pre-pandemic. The subrecipient will be reimbursed for operating expenses that are used in providing services for people to retain current housing or to place people who are homeless into housing.

### ***Rental Assistance/Housing TBD***

The City has reserved \$3.804M of the ARPA funds to possibly provide emergency rental assistance and will determine goals and objectives if this strategy is implemented. If this strategy does not move forward, the funding will be placed in the Multi-Family Development strategy. The decision had not been made at the time of this report.

### ***Housing Administrative Expenses***

The City will use \$500K of the ARPA funds to cover the City's administrative costs for the various ARPA funded housing programs during the life of the ARPA program.

The City will use the funding to cover the salary and benefits of one full-time position hired specifically to perform duties related to the ARPA funded housing programs plus the salaries and benefits for other housing staff who may perform duties related to the ARPA housing programs. The funding may also be used for other administrative expenses that may be deemed necessary and appropriate to efficiently and effectively manage the ARPA housing programs. The Housing and Community Development Department will follow the rules and regulation in 2 CFR Part 200 related to administrative costs. City Administration has the following projects being implemented with ARPA funding in which housing staff will need to oversee:

1. Multi-Family Developments
2. Case Management and Wraparound Services for Permanent Supportive Housing
3. Emergency Rental Assistance

An appropriation for this use of funds was approved by City Council on March 23, 2022.

This funding is being used for administrative costs to manage all goals and objectives included in the above strategies.

### **Health and Social Equity**

#### ***Neighborhood Based Wraparound Services***

The City will identify a subrecipient for \$8.58M of the ARPA funds to establish a network of coordinated, neighborhood-based, trauma-informed social service hubs (Hubs) and establish an administrative support/shared services organization (SSO) to build capacity in local nonprofits through December 2026.

The Hubs will be located in neighborhoods that have suffered disproportionate impacts from the pandemic, which are our communities of color. The Hubs will have direct access to emergency funding to address crisis needs and stabilize the household. Once stabilized, the Hubs will provide trauma-informed therapy, case management, and assertive outreach. Services provided at the Hubs will be from local, trusted nonprofit organizations already knowledgeable of and imbedded in the targeted communities.

The SSO will work with the local community nonprofits and provide an array of administrative services to build capacity in these nonprofits to scale their organizations and better prepare for funding opportunities after the ARPA funds terminate. This is a key component for sustainability of the Hubs once the ARPA funds end.

The Request for Proposal to identify and select the subrecipient is scheduled to be released in July 2022.

### ***Food Security***

The City will identify a partner to implement a Healthy Neighborhood Store Program in census tracts designated as “food deserts.” There are numerous corner/convenient stores in these census tracts, but healthy food options are not made available to neighborhood residents. This program will provide technical assistance, capital improvements, and incentives to participating stores. Approximately \$535,000 will be allocated to a contractor to design, implement, and monitor the program for a two-year period. The contractor will be identified through a Request for Proposal which will be released in July 2022.

The City has allocated \$100,000 of the ARPA funds to support the Summer Food Program over a two-year period. These funds are used to improve the capacity of City sponsored sites to implement the USDA Summer Food Service Program and to increase quality and quantity of food delivered to youth at recreation centers. This project is underway and will support the Summer Food Program over two years (summer of 2022 and 2023).

Additionally, the City has allocated \$544,000 to develop and implement a Healthy Food Action Plan. This planning is necessary to chart the vision and path forward for a sustained inclusive and equitable food system in the City. These funds will be used to pay stipends to neighborhood food equity advocates living in the “food desert” neighborhoods to provide their expertise to the plan; contracting with a planning consultant; and support a new City position to support the planning process and implementation of the plan. The City is planning on starting this project in the Fall of 2022.

### ***Youth Development***

The City has allocated \$246,435 of the ARPA funds to enhance the budget of the City’s existing Youth Development Grants Program. This program provides grants to local nonprofits to provide literacy, after school programming, tutoring, and other programming to address the widening achievement gap for our children of color. The City has operated this program for many years and the demand for these grants historically are greater than the funding available. The demand for these services is greater since the pandemic. These additional funds will almost double the amount budgeted annually for this program.

The City has allocated \$700,000 for a Youth Opportunity Grants Program, a guaranteed income program focusing on youth aging out of foster care who do not continue engagement with the child welfare system. Too often these youth end up homeless and/or victims of trafficking. These funds will provide an economic floor for these youth and allow for better future outcomes.

### ***Impact Monitoring***

Finally, the City has allocated \$405,000 over the next four years for a City position to establish metrics and measure community impacts and systemic changes intended by these funding uses. This position will work with the subrecipient and grantees to track progress toward closing

the equity gaps in the social determinants of health and establish feedback loops to ensure timely adjustments to these initiatives as lessons are learned.

### **Promoting equitable outcomes**

The use of funds prioritizes and centers racial equity in its design. Local data demonstrates that COVID-19 had a disproportionate impact on our communities of color. Pre-pandemic issues related to mental health needs, violence, and cost burdened households of color have been exacerbated by the pandemic. Housing insecurity, food insecurity, and other trauma inducing experiences are disproportionately felt by our neighborhoods of color. The use of the funds is designed to improve the health and wellness of targeted neighborhoods who have historically been under-invested and who have carried the burden of the pandemic. These targeted neighborhoods are well known in the City yet improving community metrics in the social determinants of health has been elusive. These funds allow for the creation of a community-led systemic approach to addressing root causes of inequitable outcomes.

#### Housing

The pandemic disproportionately impacted residents of low-income neighborhoods. All housing projects will be focused on serving those impacted by targeting persons at or below 65% are median income or 300% of the poverty level, whichever is greater. All activities will follow Fair Housing laws.

#### Coordinated Social Service Hubs

The City is releasing a Request for Proposal on July 1, 2022, to identify a subrecipient for \$8.58M of the ARPA funds. This subrecipient will be required to identify, through a competitive bid process, a local community nonprofit organization to lead the planning, design, and implementation of a network of Coordinated Social Service Hubs (Hubs). The subrecipient will be required to select a nonprofit from the local community who is an expert in trauma-informed services, embedded in the neighborhoods in need of service (i.e., a “trusted voice”), have a deep understanding of the community to be served and a track record of listening to community to design interventions. It is anticipated that services provided at and through the Hubs will be provided, in part, by the selected lead organization, however, other neighborhood embedded, small nonprofits will provide services as well. This provides the capacity building opportunity described below through the SSO. The subrecipient is prohibited from prioritizing a nonprofit’s administrative organizational capacity as a selection criteria for the competitive process (a known systemic barrier to funding culturally competent service providers).

The Hubs will have access to emergency funds to address immediate needs. We learned through deployment of the Emergency Rental Assistance dollars that residents in these targeted neighborhoods had difficulty in accessing the funds, partly due to difficulty in navigating the system and a mistrust of the system. With the Hubs located in the target neighborhoods, and staffed by trusted known providers, the equity barriers to receiving household assistance with food, housing, transportation, and other needs are mitigated.

The Hubs are expected to employ residents from the neighborhoods being served, especially those with barriers to employment. One of the criteria required of the subrecipient for selection of the Hub lead organization is for the lead organization to have the demonstrated ability to provide peer support and manage vicarious trauma for providers and employees. The

subrecipient will also be required to ensure that all employees of selected organizations provide a living wage and benefits.

The subrecipient will also be required to create a committee comprised of targeted neighborhood residents with lived experience to assist in review and recommendations related to proposals submitted for the Hubs, identify Hub locations, be a conduit for feedback loops related to service effectiveness and trends identified for service needs, and assist in community based participatory research. It is anticipated that through feedback loops, systemic barriers will be identified and the need for an equity analysis of policy, procedure, and process issues will arise to address those barriers.

It is intended that these Hubs demonstrate improvement in the lives of those served (program evaluation) and improve the neighborhood metrics in the social determinants of health (community impact). The resident committee will assist the subrecipient in identification and definition of community impact metrics. The subrecipient will measure, track, and report data on the community defined metrics. At the end of the ARPA funds, December 2026, we expect that the equity gaps in the social determinants of health will be narrowed.

#### Administrative support/shared services organization (SSO)

The same subrecipient (discussed above) will also be required to establish, through a competitive bid process, an Administrative Support/Shared Services Organization (SSO). Local smaller community nonprofit organizations who are closest to the issues facing the communities where the Hubs are to be located are traditionally underfunded and historically underinvested. Funders typically award dollars for service delivery but severely restrict funds for administrative infrastructure capacity building. The lack of administrative infrastructure, in turn, prevents these community nonprofit organizations from being competitive for service delivery funds. It is a cycle that impedes effective intervention to achieve the outcomes necessary to close the equity gaps in the social determinants of health. The SSO shall establish a network of administrative vendors and services, with a priority among those led by people of color, to work with community nonprofits.

Individual local community nonprofits may select some or all of the services from the SSO, depending on capacity level and needs. It is anticipated that the community nonprofits providing services at the neighborhood-based Hubs will participate in the SSO, as well as other community nonprofits who are needing to build administrative capacity to launch additional programs and develop readiness for funding.

The SSO will be expected to provide evaluation and research services. These services should allow for shared outcome metrics across participating community nonprofits to help drive effective service delivery, identify trends, and adjust service interventions to address trends.

It is anticipated that through the SSO, these nonprofits will engage in best practices for program monitoring, reporting, accounting, legal support, and other requirements for grant administration to reduce risk and encourage funders to support nonprofits who are closest to the issues that funders seek to address. These local community nonprofits will scale their programs and make a substantial impact in their communities.

## Food Security

The Healthy Neighborhood Store Program is designed to bring healthy food options to census tracts designed as “food deserts” and to identify systemic issues that perpetuate these “food deserts.” These census tracts are the same neighborhoods described above – predominantly our neighborhoods of color. The Healthy Food Action Plan will incorporate the learnings from the Healthy Neighborhood Store Program, as well as information from the neighborhood equity advocate experts, and identify root causes of and solutions to eliminate “food desert” neighborhoods in our City.

## Other Initiatives

The remaining initiatives in the Health and Social Equity space center economic equity, with intersectionality of racial equity. The Summer Food Program allocation seeks to increase the quality and quantity of food delivered to low-income youth at the City’s recreation centers.

The youth development grants program allocation seeks to increase grants to nonprofits who provide literacy, tutoring, and other programming to address the widening achievement gap for youth who are low income and often youth of color.

The youth opportunity grants, a guaranteed income program, focus on youth aging out of foster care who are disengaged from the child welfare system. This population is low income and often youth of color. This program is in the design stage and impact metrics have not yet been identified.

## **Community Engagement**

At the beginning of the process to developing the City’s spending plan for the ARPA funds the City felt it was important to gather input from the community before allocating these funds to specific projects due to requests from the public to be involved in the decision-making process and the emphasis on community participation noted in the ARPA itself. At the end of July 2021, the City held three in-person workshops to receive community input on how the funds should be used. They were held in three different geographic areas of the City to help ensure we received input from all citizens throughout the City.

In-Person Workshop Dates and Locations:

1. Monday, July 26, 6-8 p.m. at Enoch Davis Center (1111 18th Ave. S.)
2. Tuesday, July 27, 6-8 p.m. at JW Cate Rec Center (5801 22nd Ave. N.)
3. Wednesday, July 28, 6-8 p.m. at Willis S. Johns Rec Center (6635 Dr. MLK Jr. St. N.)

We also included a virtual participation option for those citizens who were unable to attend an in-person workshop. The public comment option was closed on Friday, August 6, 2021. A link to the City’s website with information on this public input process is below:

[American Rescue Plan Act \(stpete.org\)](https://stpete.org)

The purpose of the series of workshops and virtual participation option for community feedback was to help prioritize which areas of impact receive funds. Feedback collected during these workshops was aggregated and directly influenced the ranking of priorities for receiving funds.

The City outlined the following areas of impact eligible for the funds, based on the federal guidelines included in the ARPA:

1. Infrastructure (water, stormwater, sewer, and broadband)
2. Housing affordability and support,
3. Health and social equity,
4. Economic recovery/resilience, and
5. Public health/safety.

Through the three in-person meetings and the online public input, the City received feedback from 557 citizens. The number 557 consisted of:

- 26 total tables at the three in-person meetings (each table counts as one)
- 157 individual cards collected at these meetings (each card counts as one)
- 374 participants on-line (each on-line counts as one)

The citizens were asked to provide rankings of the five areas of impact: Infrastructure (water, stormwater, sewer, and broadband), housing affordability and support, health and social equity, economic recovery/resilience, and public health/safety. The categories were ranked from 1 to 5 with 1 being the highest rank and 5 the lowest.

Based on citizen ranking here are the results as a weighted average score:

CATEGORY	SCORE
1. Housing and Affordability Support	2.25
2. Health and Social Equity	2.66
3. Infrastructure	2.82
4. Economy Recovery/Resilience	3.41
5. Public Health/Safety	3.86

In addition to the ranking of the five areas of impact, the City also allowed for qualitative feedback on the comment card and online. The following issues were seen in many of the responses:

- Housing/Homelessness
- Phillis Wheatly Rise to Reading
- Sickle Cell
- Reproductive Health
- Increased Bus Service
- Childhood Development
- Gun Violence
- Food Access
- Flooding
- Mental Health
- Streets, Sidewalks, and Alleys
- Climate Change, Seawalls
- Job Training/Income
- Individual Grants



Some examples of the qualitative feedback are included below:

*“The cost of rent in the area has gotten completely out of hand. We need more affordable housing.”*

*“We want our City officials to stay focused on the health, safety, and economic security of our communities, particularly people of color working to make ends meet....”*

*“A very meaningful share of funding should be allocated NOW to accelerate completion of the Southside’s many current community-based designed improvement projects as embodied in their Warehouse Arts District/Deuces Live Joint Action Plan.”*

*“Need more funds going to early childhood development.”*

*“Following President Biden in his effort to ensure ARPA funds make a measurable difference in the Black and Brown Community. How will St Pete ARPA be evaluated for effectiveness?”*

*“Case managers for families and individuals trying to access services for adults with disabilities, especially adults who move to St Pete (mental and behavioral health)”*

*“It is very important to focus on bread and butter issues. Jobs, income and housing that is affordable.”*

*“Our City seems to be economically recovering on its own. Housing, housing, housing., (affordable that is)”*

The result of the initial community engagement meetings showed that affordable housing and permanent supportive housing services were of the highest need, along with the related health and social equity consequences of the pandemic. Our Housing Consolidated Plan public hearings and City Council meetings have identified that affordable housing is a high community need. Also, the Housing Consolidated Plan needs assessment survey supported affordable housing as being one of the highest needs.

Case management is a significant component of the permanent supportive housing project and is to be participant driven. One of the goals of the program is to provide case management and wrap around services to 75 unduplicated participants annually. Case managers will actively engage these participants in voluntary case management and service participation by creating an environment in which participants drive the case planning and goal setting based on what they want from the program. Services include flexibility in intensity, strength-based approach to empower participants, use of trauma-informed and strengths-based approaches and require case managers to understand the impact of trauma and stress on participants’ emotional, behavioral, and cognitive capacity, and application of the Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (SPDAT). The subrecipient is also required to maintain accurate and up-to-date agency and program data with the Pinellas County Homeless Leadership Board, Inc. and participate in the Pinellas Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

Those with lived experience are the experts and know the barriers and the solutions to address the equity gaps in the social determinants of health. The above Use of Funds section describes the community driven nature of Affordable Housing, Rental Assistance, Permanent Supportive Housing Services, Scattered Site Family Shelters, the Hubs, SSO, Healthy Neighborhood Store Program, and Healthy Food Action Plan. Community driven initiatives cannot be transactional – seeking only input. There must be a shared ownership, and shared power, to design,

implement, and measure impact to truly make systemic change and close the equity gaps. The community driven feedback loops are imperative to identify systemic barriers and to solve them timely.

The Coordinated Social Service Hubs project will require the subrecipient to create a committee comprised of targeted neighborhood residents with lived experience to assist in review and recommendations related to proposals submitted for the Hubs, identify Hub locations, be a conduit for feedback loops related to service effectiveness and trends identified for service needs, and assist in community based participatory research. It is anticipated that through feedback loops, systemic barriers will be identified and the need for an equity analysis of policy, procedure, and process issues will arise to address those barriers.

The youth opportunity grants (guaranteed income) initiative is in the design stage. Listening sessions with youth at various stages of a continuum are being scheduled. These various stages include youth who are a few months from aging out of foster care (on one end) to adults who are former foster youth and in the homeless continuum of care (the other end of the continuum). We want to learn what age and what amount of funding would be most impactful to change the trajectory of one's life. We plan on creating a committee of lived experience residents to shape the program design.

Now that the spending of ARPA funds has commenced, community engagement will be an integral part of each project. Not including the \$10M standard amount for revenue loss, \$118,543 has been spent on ARPA programs as of June 30, 2022. The funds have been spent in three program areas: Scattered Family Shelter Sites, Summer Food Programs, and Housing Administrative Expenses. A fourth project Permanent Supportive Housing should have expenditures starting in July. These programs are just beginning, and we will provide more information in this section in future Recovery Plan Performance Reports as the programs get underway.

The City's Administration also provides status reports periodically to City Council on the ARPA plan and allocation at City Council meetings. The public has the opportunity to provide public comment at these meetings. The next update to City Council is scheduled for the July 14, 2022, City Council Meeting.

### **Labor Practices**

The City has not allocated any ARPA funding to an infrastructure project or capital expenditures at this time. This section will be completed in future reports if applicable.

### **Use of Evidence**

The programs described in the Use of Funds section incorporate evidence-based interventions and/or program evaluation. Additional detail on the use of evidence is included in the individual project inventories later on in this report. The programs in the housing initiative category will measure the number of affordable units produced and number of eligible households served. Specifically for the Scattered Site Family Shelter, the project will be measured by the number of families being sheltered. The project will utilize the Housing First approach and provide safe, low-barrier, temporary shelter to literally homeless families with minor children. These are families that have previously lived in the City of St. Petersburg's Qualified Census Tract, and/or

are at 65% AMI, understanding that they have been disproportionately affected by the impacts from Covid-19. Utilizing scattered site family shelter, with the intent to have some families shelter in place, is a moderate, evidence-based intervention and a best practice particularly, to mitigate the spread of Covid-19.

The programs launching in the Health and Social Equity initiative category incorporate program evaluation and evidence-based interventions. The subrecipient, described above, will be required to identify a lead nonprofit organization to design and implement the Coordinated Social Service Hubs (Hubs). These Hubs will be designed using evidence-based interventions such as the Trauma Recovery Center Model. The subrecipient will also be required to establish an Administrative Support/Shared Services Organization (SSO) who will provide, among other services, program evaluation of the Hubs. The subrecipient will be required to conduct community impact evaluation to measure whether neighborhood metrics (to be defined by the resident/lived-experience committee) are improving. In addition, the subrecipient will be required to evaluate the performance of the SSO and its impact on capacity building and readiness for competitive funding of these local, underinvested nonprofit organizations. Because the RFP to identify the subrecipient will soon open, the subrecipient has not yet been selected. Once selected, the subrecipient will implement its competitive solicitation process to identify the Hub lead organization and the SSO. The RFP is designed to provide flexibility and community driven identification of service components and metrics. Once the Hubs and the SSO organizations are identified, evaluation measures and community impact metrics will be defined, collected, and reported. The subrecipient will be required to create feedback loops to ensure a continuous learning environment for this initiative.

The Healthy Neighborhood Stores Program RFP will soon be released seeking to identify the organization who will design and implement the program. The program is an evidence-based intervention utilizing tools from the Nutrition Environment Measures Survey developed by the University of Pennsylvania. Once the RFP process is complete, the selected organization will be required to create an evaluation to assess enrolled neighborhood store capacity and performance. The selected organization will also be required to provide information to the City on barriers and challenges identified, and lessons learned through implementation of this program in the “food deserts” in the City. This information will be utilized in the City’s strategic Healthy Food Action Plan development process and priority programs from the plan will be implemented. The ultimate goal of these initiatives is to eliminate “food deserts” in the City. Data will be collected to monitor progress toward that goal.

The Youth Opportunity Grants (guaranteed income program) is currently in the design and development phase. However, there will be a research and evaluation component in the program to be conducted by an organization already engaged in evaluation of these types of programs across the country. *Mayors for a Guaranteed Income* has been providing technical assistance on program design and evaluation resources.

The Youth Development Grants is an existing City program that is being expanded based on these funds. The expanded program will focus on funding community nonprofit organizations to provide literacy services to children to close the achievement gap, especially our children of color. The expanded program evaluation is being designed now with an expected launch of September. Grantees are required to use evidence-based practices and interventions.

## **Performance Report**

These funds are targeted toward closing the equity gaps existing in the social determinants of health for residents of our City. A disproportionate number of our Black residents are housing cost burdened and there is a large equity gap in the rate of homeownership. A disproportionate number of our Black neighborhoods carry the burden of experiencing violence, food insecurity, educational gaps, and employment gaps. Local trusted nonprofit organizations who are closer to these issues are underinvested and unable to build capacity to compete for funding to provide needed services. The various initiatives described in this report work together to address these equity gaps. For example, as more affordable housing is developed, the trauma of housing insecurity and threat of eviction or fear of homelessness is alleviated. The Hubs address trauma issues to stabilize individuals and families and create a stable foundation for housing, employment, child safety, and future goal attainment. The services provided through the Hubs are only effective if culturally competent “trusted voices” are providing those services. The SSO initiative supports those providers. The Food Systems initiatives eliminate “food deserts” in these same neighborhoods. Together, these initiatives improve the community metrics for targeted neighborhoods across the social determinants of health and improve the health and safety of these neighborhoods. At the end of the ARPA funding (December 2026), these historically underinvested and challenged neighborhoods will see marked improvements in social determinants of health outcomes and move closer to the metrics of white counterparts in the City.

The Affordable Housing Development and Support initiatives are newly launched. The Health and Social Equity initiatives have not yet launched (RFPs and design planning are in process). At minimum, data will be collected on the number of affordable housing units developed through these funds and the number of families served by home visiting through these funds. As these initiatives get further designed and implemented, output measures and outcome measures will be defined, and data collected.

The City will use these ARPA funds to hire a full-time staff member dedicated to tracking performance measures and community impact and incorporating those measures in the City’s overarching goals for closing the equity gaps across the social determinants of health. This staff member will also create public facing tools to be utilized by community for continuous improvements on the projects and for tracking progress toward closing these equity gaps. This staff member will also be responsible for the feedback loops described herein and utilizing lessons learned and trends identified to address policy and practice inequities in the City and in the region where appropriate (i.e., county run systems). These feedback loops, data collection, and community impact monitoring will provide the City with information related to gaps and future investment opportunities. For systems change to occur, and truly moving the equity needle, it is important that these initiatives are not evaluated in silos, but are pieces of the big picture where, if working together, sustainable change can occur. This position is key to maintaining that big picture.

The vast majority of these initiatives being implemented through the use of the funds are new. These are designed, in part, because of other initiatives of the City that have highlighted barriers to equitable access and/or gaps in interventions. It is through the availability, and strategic use, of these funds that the City can make progress towards its vision of opportunities for all who live in St. Petersburg.

## **PROJECT INVENTORY**

### **Project 19015: ARPA General Administration**

Funding amount: \$500,000

Project Expenditure Category: 7.1 - Administrative Expenses

#### **Project Overview**

This project will cover the City's administrative costs for the various ARPA funded housing programs during the life of the ARPA program. This funding will be used to cover the salary and benefits for one full-time temporary grant funded position that will be hired specifically to perform duties related to the ARPA funded housing programs plus the salaries and benefits for other housing staff who also may perform duties related to the ARPA housing programs. In addition, this funding will be used for other administrative expenses that may be deemed necessary and appropriate to efficiently and effectively manage the ARPA housing programs. The Housing and Community Development Department will follow the rules and regulations in 2 CFR Part 200 related to administrative costs. Administration has the following projects being implemented with ARPA funding in which housing staff will need to oversee:

1. Multi-Family Developments
2. Case Management and Wraparound Services for Permanent Supportive Housing
3. Emergency Rental Assistance

#### **Use of Evidence**

This project will not be used for evidence-based interventions, the goal is to support programs as outlined above.

#### **Performance Report**

The mandatory performance indicators (below) for projects under the Housing Assistance (2.2), Long-Term Housing Security (2.15) and Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance (2.18) Expenditure Categories are not applicable to this project due to this project being administrative in nature and not providing direct assistance to individuals/families.

### **Project 19021: Scattered Site Family Shelter**

Funding amount: \$2,500,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.16 Long-Term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons

#### **Project Overview**

The Scattered Site Family Shelter project will meet the emergent need of literally homeless families with minor children in the household. The project has the following objectives:

- a. To provide a decent, safe, and sanitary shelter for homeless families in accordance with federal, state, and local guidelines.
- b. To provide service delivery across the program that accentuates the importance of treating persons experiencing homelessness with respect, displaying sensitivity, acknowledging the trauma and state of crisis being experienced by those who are homeless.

- c. To provide and participate in client centered case management services to assist them in becoming self-sufficient and to connect them with the appropriate agencies and available services, including permanent housing.

The project commenced on April 13, 2022, and currently has an end date of December 31, 2024. Families will be sheltered utilizing master leased units and/or hotel/motel rooms with the focus of being permanently housed.

### Use of Evidence

Families served will be literally homeless with a minor child in the household meeting the income criteria of 65% AMI and/or having their last previous address within a QCT. The desired impact is to allow for safe shelter for at least 112 families during the contract period. This will be measured by the number of families being sheltered.

The goal of this project is to utilize the Housing First approach and provide safe, low-barrier, temporary shelter to literally homeless families with minor children. The families are provided with case management and a housing specialist working towards securing permanent housing or in some cases, sheltering in place at the leased units. These are families that have previously lived in the City of St. Petersburg's Qualified Census Tract, and/or are at 65% AMI, understanding that they have been disproportionately affected by the impacts from Covid-19. Utilizing scattered site family shelter, with the intent to have some families shelter in place, is a moderate, evidence-based intervention. The following are citations and/or links to articles where this has been studied and/or recommended as best practice particularly, to mitigate the spread of Covid-19.

- o **Citation:** Somers JM, Moniruzzaman A, Patterson M, Currie L, Rezanoff SN, Palepu A, et al. (2017) A Randomized Trial Examining Housing First in Congregate and Scattered Site Formats. PLoS ONE 12(1): e0168745. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0168745>
- o <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/COVID-19-Homeless-System-Response-Alternative-Approaches-to-Isolation-and-Quarantine-Spaces.pdf>
- o <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/COVID-19-Homeless-System-Response-Rehousing-Out-of-Non-Congregate-Shelter-Maximizing-Placements.pdf>

The total dollar amount of \$2.5 million will be allocated towards this evidence-based intervention.

### Performance Report

The mandatory performance indicators (below) for projects under the Long-Term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons (2.16) Expenditure Category are not applicable to this project due to the nature of services provided.

1. Number of households receiving eviction prevention services (including legal representation) N/A
2. Number of affordable housing units preserved or developed N/A

The below are the key performance indicators for this project:

- a. Estimated number of families to be served annually – 56
- b. Number of families served nightly – 19

- c. Length of days a family has been, and estimated length of days family will be enrolled in the Project – 90 days
- d. Number/percentage of unduplicated families/persons that have exited to a permanent housing destination – 0
- e. Number/percentage of average occupancy rate for project – 34%
- f. Number of families that have been connected to mainstream resources – 19
- g. Number of hotel rooms utilized – 20
- h. Number of leased properties utilized – 3

### **Project 19027: ARPA Permanent Supportive Housing**

Funding amount: \$1,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.18 Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance

#### **Project Overview**

Boley Centers (subrecipient) is to provide case management, wraparound services and support that homeless individuals and families need to live safely in permanent supportive housing. Program is over a two-year period with a start date of June 1, 2022, and an end date of December 31, 2024.

#### **Use of Evidence**

The case management and wraparound services will increase health outcomes, reduce risks to health and safety and assist individual(s) with retaining permanent sustainable housing that is decent, safe, and sanitary in accordance with federal, state, and local guidelines. Additionally, individual(s) and families will receive client-centered case management services to include treatment plans, independent living skills coaching, employment training, transportation assistance, counseling, and assistance in becoming self-sufficient to maintain permanent supportive housing.

They will serve 50 residents at any given time, a minimum of 75 annually, with 3 case managers, a licensed practical nurse, a psychiatrist/ARNP, a peer specialist and the VP for homeless services to assist individual(s) and families with maintaining permanent supportive housing.

#### **Performance Report**

The contract with Boley began on June 1, 2022. As of this report, they had hired three of the seven positions and were working on filling the remaining positions. They expect to open the first cases soon, therefore there is no data to report at the time of report submission.

The mandatory performance indicators (below) for projects under the Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance (2.18) Expenditure Category are not applicable to this project because it is not specific to eviction prevention services, its inclusive of wrap around services as identified in the Use of Evidence. The table below references total wrap around services provided to individuals/families.

#### Key Performance Indicator

1. *Boley Centers* will serve 50 residents at any given time, a minimum of 75 annually.

Sub-recipient Quarter	Individuals Housed	Families Housed	Individuals Who Retained Housing	Families Who Retained Housing
June 2022	0	0	0	0
September 2022				
December 2022				
March 2023				
June 2023				
September 2023				
December 2023				
January 2024				
March 2024				
June 2024				
September 2024				
December 2024				

#### **Project 19072: Summer Food Program**

Funding amount: \$100,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.1 Household Assistance: Food Programs

#### **Project Overview**

To provide services to disproportionately impacted children in our recreation centers (childcare facilities), refrigeration units will be purchased, and supplemental food expenditures will be used to increase access to healthy food for children. The refrigeration units enable recreation centers (childcare facilities) to store non-shelf stable foods safely and offer supplemental nutritional snacks and meals promoting a healthy childhood environment.

The project will support the Summer Food program over two years (summer of 2022 and 2023).

#### **Use of Evidence**

The goal of this project is to use the ARPA funds to improve the capacity of City sponsored sites to implement the USDA Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), and to increase quality and quantity of food delivered to youth at recreation centers. Utilization of summer feeding programs, particularly SFSP, has drastically increased, this can be contributed to rising food needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Food service programs have become an essential component of the nationwide nutrition safety net, allowing millions of children to continue receiving vital nutrition. This project will ensure children in the community receive access to food during out-of-school time. This project is intended to enhance the USDA Summer Food Service Program, to ensure that the nutritional needs of vulnerable children are met in order to avoid exacerbating disparities in health.

The total project spending that is allocated towards this evidence-based intervention is \$100,000.



**Citations:**

Soldavini J, Franckle RL, Dunn C, Turner L, Fleischhacker S. Strengthening the Impact of USDA's Child Nutrition Summer Feeding Programs During and After the COVID-19 Pandemic. Durham, NC: Healthy Eating Research; 2021. Available at: <http://healthyeatingresearch.org>.

Dunn CG, Kenney E, Fleischhacker SE, Bleich SN. Feeding low-income children during the Covid-19 pandemic. N. [Engl. J. Med. 2020;382\(18\):e40. doi:10.1056/NEJMp2005638](#).

**Performance Report**

Below are the key performance indicators for this project:

- a. Number of children served by childcare and early learning (pre-school/pre-K/ages 3): 3100
- b. Number of households served (by program if recipient establishes multiple separate household assistance programs): 3300