

County of Stanislaus
Recovery Plan

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

2021 Report

County of Stanislaus
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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Stanislaus County is an agricultural community located in Central California. With an estimated 555,968 people, as of 2021, calling Stanislaus County home, the community reflects a region rich in diversity with a strong sense of community. The County is a global center for agribusiness, positioned by its mild Mediterranean climate, rich soils, and progressive farming practices. The County will benefit greatly from the ARPA State and Local Recovery funds. Areas of focus will be on infrastructure improvements, increasing access to housing opportunities, economic development by attracting employers to provide high quality employment opportunities for county inhabitants, access to services for individuals and families impacted by COVID-19, and additional response services as needed to continuously respond to the impacts of the pandemic.

Executive Summary

The County of Stanislaus will be utilizing the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) in the following four priorities: Supporting Families/Individuals in Need, Community Infrastructure, Community Development Corporation, and Economic Growth and Job Creation.

Under Supporting Families/Individuals in Need, the County plans on providing \$5 million to a county department to administer contracts with Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and Family Resource Centers (FRCs) to assist the County with COVID pandemic response and recovery. The County hopes to provide navigation services and capacity-building to facilitate access to service programs, benefits, and aids to assist individuals and families impacted by COVID-19.

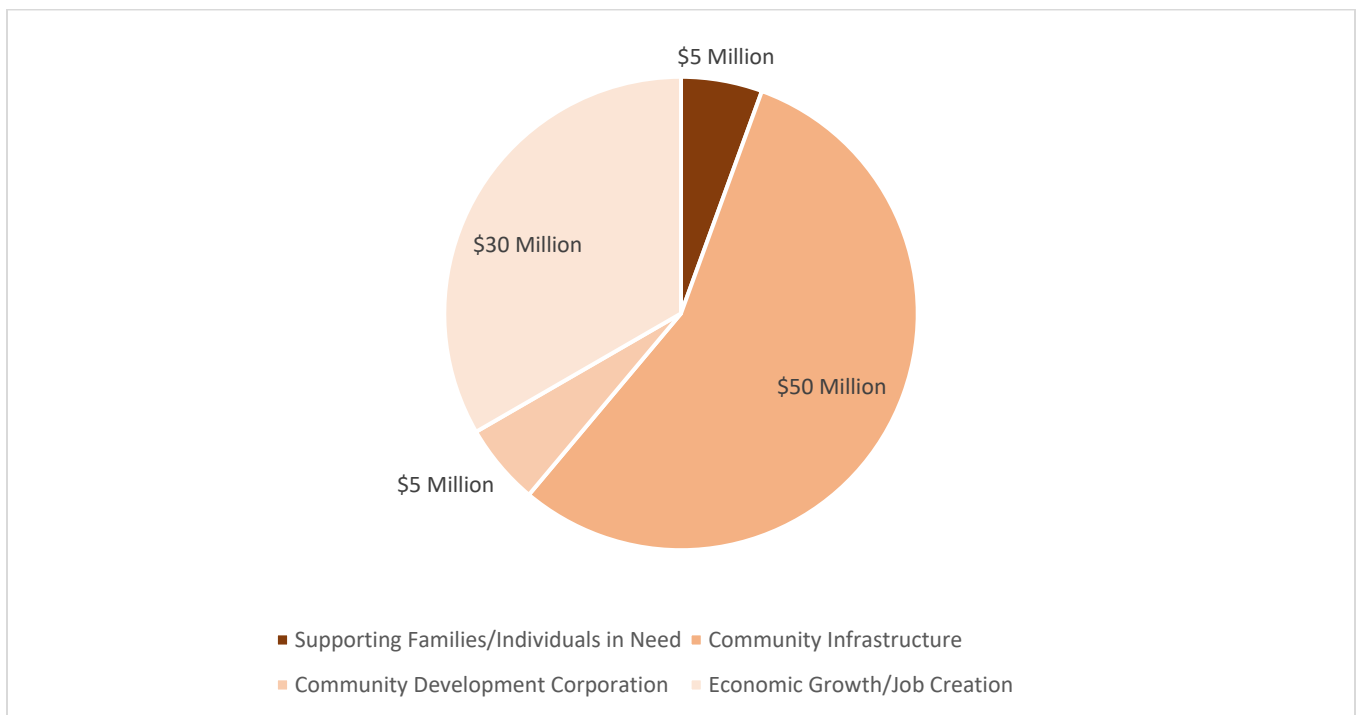
Approximately \$50 million is allocated for Community Infrastructure in addressing infrastructure deficiencies within unincorporated neighborhoods of the County. The main goals are to install sewer mainlines, potable water systems, and storm drainage.

Another \$5 million will be allocated to support the establishment of Community Development Corporations. The core initiatives to this priority are to connect low-income families to financial products to purchase affordable homes and to provide business services to underserved communities.

The County will allot \$30 million for efforts that spur Economic Growth and Job Creation. This will support future investments in economic development activities focused on creating quality job opportunities.

The remaining funds of approximately \$18 million will provide for expansion in any of the areas mentioned above as evidence and results show where the greatest needs lie, positive outcomes are demonstrated and/or to support other emerging local COVID-19 pandemic response/recovery needs.

Stanislaus County ARPA SLFRF Spending Plan by Category



Uses of Funds

Public Health:

The County will use SLFRF funds to provide an unprecedented opportunity to make a difference in the community and to build-up supports for county residents needing safety net services. Social inequities prevented some residents from taking advantage of programs/services in existence pre-COVID, and the pandemic has exacerbated difficulties for individuals/families already struggling with self-sufficiency and meeting basic life needs. Given the multitude of safety net programs in place in the County, augmented through several Federal/State funding streams to ensure adequate food, shelter and access to health services to prevent COVID spread and aid recovery, staff have identified a need to assist individuals and families to access the array of funding/services, rather than funding additional programs/supports. In consultation with the department heads from the priority area of Supporting Community Health, approximately \$5 million will be provided to the County Department Community Services Agency (CSA) to administer contracts with Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and Family Resource Centers (FRCs) building on the current year model in which service scope is designed to assist the County with the CRF-funded COVID pandemic response.

The contracted services, targeted to be effective after July 1, 2021 through December 31, 2024, will shift to navigation and/or capacity-building in these CBOs to provide stability in the community safety net. Multi-year contracts will allow the FRCs to staff this work and to focus on system improvement and outcomes. The following are the types of activities that will be encouraged through the scope of work:

- Provide navigation services to remove barriers preventing individuals and families from accessing COVID-19 recovery support services;
- Provide community case management services: facilitate access to services, benefits and programs to aid in COVID recovery and broadly for improved health and well-being;
- Provide general Community Health information, resource and referral services to assist individuals and families in accessing health, mental health, substance abuse services, social services, public assistance services, benefits and programs and COVID relief services, benefits and programs;

Negative Economic Impacts:

Cities and counties have entered an unprecedented era of funding opportunities in response to COVID-19. In addition to the funding outlined in this report, staff will consider several new programs in the next 6-12 months specifically designed to support economic recovery from COVID-19. Most of these new funding opportunities are with Federal and State programs and continue to emerge daily. In order to maximize our receipt of public and private investment opportunities, Stanislaus County and all cities must work quickly to align our community around a shared understanding and commitment to specific economic development strategies to facilitate our short-term and long-term economic health in Stanislaus County. Staff are recommending up to \$30 million in ARPA funding to support future investments in economic development activities focused on the creation of quality job opportunities in our community. In order to identify and prioritize potential economic development strategies, staff recommend support for a consulting engagement to bring together a broad consortium of public and private stakeholders to review existing conditions in Stanislaus County, advise on best practices in high-performing communities and develop a comprehensive plan with specific initiatives designed for the community. There are multiple examples of similar efforts in other communities which have proven successful in attracting and aligning funding for economic development activities.

Additional federal funds received to support the pandemic response include funding the County was allocated \$12.7 million of Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) under the American Rescue Plan Act. The ERAP funding will assist households that are unable to pay rent and utilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities:

In 2018, the Stanislaus Community Foundation contracted with LOCUS Impacting Investing to review workforce, wage and business data, and to better understand the economic ecosystem of Stanislaus County. The study yielded several findings including the lack of two unique organizations from our local landscape – Community Development Corporations (CDC) and Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs). The need for these two types of service providers in the community has become even more necessary as the community faces the negative economic impacts of COVID-19:

- CDCs are 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations, created to support and revitalize communities, especially those that are impoverished or struggling. CDCs often deal with the development of affordable housing and a wide range of community services, such as education, job training, healthcare, commercial development, and other social programs.

- CDFIs are private financial institutions dedicated to delivering responsible and affordable lending to low-income, low-wealth, and other disadvantaged people and communities to help them join the economic mainstream. By financing community businesses, including small businesses, microenterprises, nonprofit organizations, commercial real estate, and affordable housing, CDFIs spark job growth and retention in hard-to-serve markets.

These two service entities will assist with:

- Pathways to Homeownership – collaborate with local housing partners to facilitate the development of innovative and cost-effective housing projects; act as a convener and “gatekeeper” in advocacy of unique pathways to homeownership across sectors; partner with CDFIs and other financial institutions to create financial products and services; connect low-income families to capital and financial products to purchase affordable homes and accumulate wealth; provide technical and administrative support.
- Economic & Resource Development - provide business services to underserved communities (consulting services and access to capital); micro-enterprise development (support and invest in low to moderate income entrepreneurialism as a pathway to self-sufficiency).

Water and Sewer Infrastructure:

Stanislaus County has been working for several years to address infrastructure deficiencies within unincorporated developed neighborhoods of the County. On August 23, 2011, the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors took several actions intended to guide infrastructure improvements and support the annexation of unincorporated pocket areas to incorporated cities. For residential neighborhood infrastructure projects utilizing redevelopment and community development grant funds, the Board action placed priority on those with public health and safety needs. The installation of sewer mainlines and potable water systems would be the first priority. Storm drainage would be considered a second priority in areas subject to persistent standing water problems. Further, the Board adopted a resolution supporting the annexation of unincorporated county residential pockets within adopted city spheres of influence. The greatest impediment to such annexations is providing municipal infrastructure (curbs, gutter, sidewalks, streets, sewer, storm drain, lighting, etc.) consistent with city standards. Such infrastructure improvements are costly and without an adequate funding source. In the past, Stanislaus County has utilized a variety of sources of funds (California redevelopment funding, community development block grant funding, highway user tax, federal/state grants) to advance work in this area slowly. In a subsequent action, the Board on March 28, 2017 prioritized Community Development Block Grant Funds to low-income neighborhoods in the unincorporated area of Stanislaus County for sewer infrastructure improvements.

In 2019, Stanislaus County began to develop cost estimates for public improvements consistent with city standards and to prepare an expanded analysis of key criteria in order to prioritize urban pockets for annexation. The analysis evaluated 41 individual pocket areas. The urban pockets are located in all 5 Supervisorial Districts but predominantly around Modesto, Turlock, Ceres and Riverbank. A preliminary analysis revealed a total of 7,641 total parcels with infrastructure needs in the 41 pocket areas examined. Further, \$453 million was the estimated cost associated with needed infrastructure improvements in these pocket areas. In 2020, a companion analysis was conducted of 13 County Communities: Cowan, Crows Landing, Del Rio, Denair, East Oakdale, Grayson, Hickman, Keyes, Knights Ferry, Monterey Park, Salida, Valley Home, and Westley. A preliminary analysis revealed a total of 9,453 total parcels with infrastructure needs in the 13

County Communities. Further, \$178 million was the estimated cost associated with needed infrastructure improvements in the County Communities. ARPA funds provide a unique opportunity for Stanislaus County to begin making a “dent” strategically on the infrastructure needs in its urban pockets.

Promoting equitable outcomes

The ARPA funded initiatives are still under development and will look to incorporate involvement from County Departments and partner community organizations to deliver services and execute plans that promote equity and accessibility for all county inhabitants. Stanislaus County will build upon lessons learned through the many evidence-based practice programs operated throughout the health and human service agencies, as well as robust community partner support providing needs assessments, community health metrics, COVID survey impacts, non-profit support research and data/demographic trends identifying areas/populations in greatest need.

Community Engagement

Spending plans proposed to be funded with ARPA-SLFRF are first brought to Public Meetings with the County’s Governing Body, the County Board of Supervisors, for public awareness and Board of Supervisors approval. These reports to the Board of Supervisors are agendaized and published for the public to see and inspect 72 hours before the public meeting is held. Members of the public are invited to bring forward comments and attend the meetings in person, or to view the meetings in televised form. In addition, the meetings accept correspondence on this and any other issue of public interest and discloses receipt of correspondence in the meeting agenda and in the Board of Supervisor’s public meetings. This process will continue as future plans and updates to approved plans are brought back to subsequent Board of Supervisor’s public meetings.

Further, each of the identified funded strategies will incorporate community and partner input to ensure service delivery models are informed by and targeted to areas of greatest need, and/or to remove/reduce barriers to individual/family accessibility.

Labor Practices

Community Infrastructure – Urban Pockets/County Communities

The County intends to use SLFRF funds to help address infrastructure needs in its urban pockets and unincorporated areas. It will work with City and other partners (e.g., school districts, community services districts) to collaborate and build on prior/current efforts in this area. County staff is working on developing a draft framework for prioritization recognizing that the Board of Supervisors has previously established priority for the use of former redevelopment and community development block grant funds. A draft framework will be presented to the Board for formal consideration and then a robust community outreach effort will be initiated to solicit input from community residents. Once a framework is approved by the Board, and projects identified, County staff will follow the required formal public bidding and procurement policies to ensure quality infrastructure is delivered using licensed contractors experienced with public projects.

Use of Evidence

Projects associated with improving the infrastructure systems in urban pockets and unincorporated areas are still in early development. Nonetheless, the prioritization framework

being developed will consider the “use of evidence” as detailed in the Reporting Guidance. The County has assessed the condition of the infrastructure in these targeted areas to better determine the level of work required.

Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category

No ARPA SLFRF dollars have been expended yet so this section is left blank.

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
1	Expenditure Category: Public Health		
1.1	COVID-19 Vaccination		
1.2	COVID-19 Testing		
1.3	COVID-19 Contact Tracing		
1.4	Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, etc.)		
1.5	Personal Protective Equipment		
1.6	Medical Expenses (including Alternative Care Facilities)		
1.7	Capital Investments or Physical Plant Changes to Public Facilities that respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency		
1.8	Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)		
1.9	Payroll Costs for Public Health, Safety, and Other Public Sector Staff Responding to COVID-19		
1.10	Mental Health Services		
1.11	Substance Use Services		
1.12	Other Public Health Services		
2	Expenditure Category: Negative Economic Impacts		
2.1	Household Assistance: Food Programs		
2.2	Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid		
2.3	Household Assistance: Cash Transfers		
2.4	Household Assistance: Internet Access Programs		
2.5	Household Assistance: Eviction Prevention		
2.6	Unemployment Benefits or Cash Assistance to Unemployed Workers		
2.7	Job Training Assistance (e.g., Sectoral job-training, Subsidized Employment, Employment Supports or Incentives)		
2.8	Contributions to UI Trust Funds*		

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
2.9	Small Business Economic Assistance (General)		
2.10	Aid to nonprofit organizations		
2.11	Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality		
2.12	Aid to Other Impacted Industries		
2.13	Other Economic Support		
2.14	Rehiring Public Sector Staff		
3	Expenditure Category: Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities		
3.1	Education Assistance: Early Learning		
3.2	Education Assistance: Aid to High-Poverty Districts		
3.3	Education Assistance: Academic Services		
3.4	Education Assistance: Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Services		
3.5	Education Assistance: Other		
3.6	Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care		
3.7	Healthy Childhood Environments: Home Visiting		
3.8	Healthy Childhood Environments: Services to Foster Youth or Families Involved in Child Welfare System		
3.9.	Healthy Childhood Environments: Other		
3.10	Housing Support: Affordable Housing		
3.11	Housing Support: Services for Unhoused persons		
3.12	Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance		
3.13	Social Determinants of Health: Other		
3.14	Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators		
3.15	Social Determinants of Health: Lead Remediation		
3.16	Social Determinants of Health: Community Violence Interventions		
4	Expenditure Category: Premium Pay		
4.1	Public Sector Employees		
4.2	Private Sector: Grants to other employers		
5	Expenditure Category: Infrastructure		
5.1	Clean Water: Centralized wastewater treatment		
5.2	Clean Water: Centralized wastewater collection and conveyance		
5.3	Clean Water: Decentralized wastewater		
5.4	Clean Water: Combined sewer overflows		
5.5	Clean Water: Other sewer infrastructure		

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
5.6	Clean Water: Stormwater		
5.7	Clean Water: Energy conservation		
5.8	Clean Water: Water conservation		
5.9	Clean Water: Nonpoint source		
5.10	Drinking water: Treatment		
5.11	Drinking water: Transmission & distribution		
5.12	Drinking water: Transmission & distribution: lead remediation		
5.13	Drinking water: Source		
5.14	Drinking water: Storage		
5.15	Drinking water: Other water infrastructure		
5.16	Broadband: "Last Mile" projects		
5.17	Broadband: Other projects		
6	Expenditure Category: Revenue Replacement		
6.1	Provision of Government Services		
7	Administrative and Other		
7.1	Administrative Expenses		
7.2	Evaluation and data analysis		
7.3	Transfers to Other Units of Government		
7.4	Transfers to Nonentitlement Units (States and Territories only)		

Project Inventory

No Projects are yet implemented so this section is left blank

Additional Projects

Project [Identification Number]: [Project Name]

Funding amount: [Funding amount]

Project Expenditure Category: [Category number, Category Name]

Performance Report

No Projects are yet implemented so this section is left blank

Ineligible Activities: Tax Offset Provision (States and territories only)

Not Applicable