

Suffolk County, New York
Recovery Plan

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

2021 Report

August 31, 2021

Suffolk County, New York
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Table of Contents

General Overview.....2

 Executive Summary.....2

 Uses of Funds3

 Promoting Equitable Outcomes4

 Community Engagement4

 Labor Practices4

 Use of Evidence5

 Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category5

Project Inventory.....7

Ineligible Activities: Tax Offset Provision7

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

Suffolk County, New York was severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, with the County having the highest positive COVID-19 case total in the state outside of the five boroughs of the City of New York. County employees have been at the forefront of public health, well-being and safety responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. Employees from a wide range of county departments have been dispatched to assist with various pandemic-related responses including supplementing the 311 one-stop assistance call-center, investigating COVID-19 cases reported to the county Health Department, contact tracing, running testing and vaccination sites across the county, inspecting businesses during shutdown and reopening and enforcement of various state mandates related to masks, gathering limits and other point in time allowable activities

The County was allotted about \$286 million in funds from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) through State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF), up to \$244 million of which will be allocated to government services from Revenue Loss. The County has thus far obligated \$71.3 million of ARP funding from Revenue Loss for the provision of government services including the restoration of budget cuts in the 2021 Adopted Budget. This included, but was not limited to funding for the prevention of layoffs within the county workforce, critical public safety, social, cultural and health services funding, as well as the funding needed to avoid reductions of some public transportation services.

Restoring government service funding allows the County to continue its robust response to the pandemic. Due to the spread of the highly-contagious Delta variant, the County may have to utilize some ARP funds to promote and execute the rollout of additional vaccine doses, per CDC recommendations and in light of the FDA fully authorizing the Pfizer-BioTech vaccine.

Given the substantial economic impacts that the pandemic has inflicted on small businesses, workforce development and retention, we anticipate that ARP funds may be utilized to assist in the continuation of the recovery of the local economy as well as the effects on our own workforce.

With the funds from SLFRF providing the largest federal government investment to local governments in recent history, there is an opportunity to accelerate our economic recovery by using a portion of the ARP funds to address critical infrastructure needs of the County. The start of construction for the largest investment in sewer infrastructure in the County in more than 40 years is expected to begin this fall. Three major sewer projects will connect over 5,500 residential parcels along critical river corridors to sewer services, thereby eliminating the use of the existing cesspool and septic systems, which have been identified as the primary source of nitrogen pollution in the surrounding bay areas.

Uses of Funds

- a. *Public Health (EC 1)* The County continues to provide resources to address the COVID-19 pandemic, and these efforts will be ongoing. However as we learned through the rapid preparation and ongoing response to COVID-19, the County will follow data to derive policies to address next steps and has not yet determined if the use of ARP funds for these efforts will be required.
- b. *Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2)*: The County is in the process of determining programs to enhance assistance to financially impacted small businesses. Details and monetary amounts dedicated to this endeavor are to be determined.
- c. *Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities (EC 3)*: Funding from SLFRF has enabled the County to maintain and utilize its workforce to respond to specific community needs related to the pandemic. The County provided approximately 9,600 free tests in underserved communities that were dealing with outbreaks of COVID 19 and focused on setting up additional pop-up vaccination sites in areas of the County with below average vaccination rates. In addition to testing and vaccination services, the County also offered informational services regarding benefits access, books, food, masks, hand sanitizer and shelter, in some cases for those who required isolation and had compromised housing situations. The County created the Suffolk Cares Mobile Food Delivery program as an emergency protective measure to provide food to meet the immediate needs of those individuals and families who did not have access to immediate transportation resources and were in need of food as a result of COVID.

The County also funded a media campaign and offered vaccine incentives including free Lyft rides to vaccination sites. These endeavors, while not funded through ARP, did include targeted outreach to disproportionately impacted communities, including majority minority populations, disabled/senior residents, teens and low-income community members.

- d. *Premium Pay (EC 4)*: Not applicable at this time.
- e. *Water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure (EC 5)*: The County is in the process of completing three major sewer infrastructure projects, totaling \$520 million and will be using a portion of SLFRF to complete one of these initiatives. The County anticipates that approximately 1,264 jobs will be created during this process. In addition, an estimated \$814.2 million in economic output will come as a result of these projects.
- f. *Revenue Replacement (EC 6)*: Funding from SLFRF was used to for the provision of government services to the amount of \$71,268,670 including for the following:
 - o *Permanent salaries and overtime pay.*
 - o *Public bus transportation routes.*
 - o *Suffolk County Police Department and Office of the Sheriff to backfill vacancies created by numerous retirements.*

- *Local community organizations that provide critical services to residents, including domestic violence services, food pantries, substance abuse programs and youth programs.*
- *Town and village law enforcement agencies.*
- *Cultural arts organizations and local chambers of commerce geared toward increasing tourism to the region.*

Promoting equitable outcomes

Previous County vaccination and testing programs included numerous, specific strategies to increase testing and vaccination rates among disadvantaged and hard-to-reach residents, those in congregate living such as shelters and incarcerated individuals, first responders and veterans, as well as our county workforce of approximately 8,600. For example, the County established a mobile vaccine program for residents confined to their homes. Any resident over age 18 who was homebound, could call 311 and schedule an appointment for a Suffolk County Public Health nurse to come to the resident's home and administer a vaccine. To date, 634 of the county's most vulnerable residents were vaccinated through this program. Prior to vaccine availability, the County also offered on-site testing for employees and administered approximately 13,000 Covid-19 tests which enabled our workforce to maintain essential services the public relied on. The County is committed to ensuring that any future programs will prioritize equity, in a similar fashion to our previous and ongoing efforts to provide vaccines and testing to underserved communities.

Community Engagement

From the start of the pandemic, the county prioritized community engagement by quickly establishing one-stop website pages with specialized industry needs and feedback surveys, resource and contact information posted for all residents and businesses to engage with County officials. The County ensured that this information was accessible in multiple languages to ensure all residents had access to resources. In addition, the County Executive, Steve Bellone, held daily press conferences via local media outlets and Facebook live, numerous County officials also engaged with first responders and essential employees in a variety of industries including residents, business owners, school administrators and other community leaders, non-profit organizations, unions and other stakeholders via traditional and expansive social media sites and County Legislative meetings quickly transitioned to web based meetings whereby stakeholders are able to call-in, zoom-in or email comments. The County is committed to continuing community engagement and feedback for all future programs.

Labor Practices

The County has entered into a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) to guide construction of the treatment facility for the Forge River Sewer District, which will be funded in part using ARP funds. This will ensure that this important infrastructure project will utilize strong labor standards to promote effective and efficient delivery of high-quality sewers, while also supporting the economic recovery through strong employment opportunities for workers. The County will follow all applicable Federal rules for labor practices when using ARP funds for the projects.

Use of Evidence

Not applicable at this time.

Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category

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

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

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
5.5	Clean Water: Other sewer infrastructure	N/A	N/A
5.6	Clean Water: Stormwater	N/A	N/A
5.7	Clean Water: Energy conservation	N/A	N/A
5.8	Clean Water: Water conservation	N/A	N/A
5.9	Clean Water: Nonpoint source	N/A	N/A
5.10	Drinking water: Treatment	N/A	N/A
5.11	Drinking water: Transmission & distribution	N/A	N/A
5.12	Drinking water: Transmission & distribution: lead remediation	N/A	N/A
5.13	Drinking water: Source	N/A	N/A
5.14	Drinking water: Storage	N/A	N/A
5.15	Drinking water: Other water infrastructure	N/A	N/A
5.16	Broadband: "Last Mile" projects	N/A	N/A
5.17	Broadband: Other projects	N/A	N/A
6	Expenditure Category: Revenue Replacement		
6.1	Provision of Government Services	\$5,459,494	\$5,459,494
7	Administrative and Other		
7.1	Administrative Expenses	N/A	N/A
7.2	Evaluation and data analysis	N/A	N/A
7.3	Transfers to Other Units of Government	N/A	N/A
7.4	Transfers to Nonentitlement Units (States and Territories only)	N/A	N/A

Project Inventory – Not yet applicable

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

For the initial reporting year, States and territories will report the following items related to the Tax Offset Provision 31 CFR 35.8. Baseline revenue or revenue-increasing covered charges are not required at this time.

Item	Amount
a. Revenue-reducing Covered Changes	\$ N/A

See Section C(11) on page 28 of the Reporting Guidance for additional information.