



County of Union Board of Commissioners

Recovery Plan Performance Report - American Rescue Plan Act Programs

Executive Summary

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was signed into law by President Biden. The County of Union was allocated \$64.6 million in State and Local Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Funds. The County is currently considering a broad range of uses of the funds, in compliance with federal guidance.

The County is currently seeking public comment in an effort to properly allocate its resources. In an effort to do so, the County is in the process of utilizing a survey to gauge the interest and needs of citizens of the County so that may consider these needs when allocating funds.

In compliance with the U.S. Treasury's Reporting and Compliance Guidelines, the County of Union submits this Recovery Plan Performance Report to reflect the progress made to date.

Use of Funds

A. Public Health Response to COVID-19

- The County continues to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, the County has expended funds for COVID-19 testing, vaccination, and contact tracing initiatives, including healthcare professionals, supplies, scheduling programs, waste management and door to door campaigning to increase awareness and reach hard to reach communities. The County further aims to use funding to prevent the spread of the virus through the use of PPE and other mitigation techniques for prevention in congregate settings (i.e., nursing homes, prisons, dense work sites, schools, etc.), and to provide alternate care facilities. Finally, the County has expended funds for payroll costs of public health, safety, and other staff.
- The County is considering opportunities to ensure first responders' ability to safely respond to emergencies and disasters along with advance support of the County 911 service and other emergency services for impacted residents such as shelters, food, supplies and other basic needs.

B. Community Infrastructure

- The County is considering ways to increase broadband access to its citizens, especially the County's underserved and unserved citizens, which is expected to have an economic impact for generations to come.
- The County is reviewing and determining infrastructure deficiencies within the County's neighborhoods with the intent on focusing strategically on the infrastructure needs in the County's urban areas.
- The County is considering infrastructure deficiencies with regard to public roads, streets and sidewalks, to better serve the County's citizens and communities, including those underserved and unserved citizens.

C. Address Negative Economic Impacts

- The County has expended funds for household assistance, including food distribution, along with the appropriate supplies and equipment.
- The County has expended funds to give increased pay to lifeguards to attract more applicants for these positions. The County operates several pools which serve lower-income families and individuals and provide an outlet exercise and socialize within their community. The County relies on lifeguards, to ensure public safety, by providing a safe environment for families and individuals to utilize the pool. Providing an increase in pay for lifeguards allowed the County to attract lifeguards to staff the pool, which will allow families and individuals effected by negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic to attend safely.
- Cities and counties have entered an unprecedented era of funding opportunities in response to COVID-19. The County will be considering programs designed to support economic recovery from COVID-19. The County is reviewing opportunities to support future investments in economic development activities focusing on the creation of quality job opportunities within the County community.
- The County intends to provide apprenticeship programs to assist its citizens in returning to work.
- The County recognizes that County businesses and restaurants have been greatly impacted by COVID-19. The County is considering opportunities to further assist such businesses and restaurants in response to COVID-19.
- The County is considering ways in which to increase tourism back in to the County in order to assist businesses, entertainment and residents in job creation as a result of COVID-19.
- The County seeks to install athletic fields for recreational use by athletic groups and for families and individuals and provide an outlet for exercise and socialization within their community.

D. Replace Public Sector Revenue Loss

- The County of Union experienced a revenue loss of \$26.7 million in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The analysis regarding revenue replacement is based on the formula in the Interim Final Rule as of December 31, 2020. The growth adjustment used was 4.1 percent over 3 years prior to the pandemic. Major losses were felt across the board. Particularly hard-hit were revenues from the County Hospital Board of Pay Patients and Parks & Recreation. Using this initial analysis as the total amount available regarding Revenue Replacement Funds, the County has begun reviewing opportunities for use of American Recovery Act 2021 funds.

- In accordance with the Compliance and Reporting Guide: State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds issued by the United States Department of Treasury, the County has utilized the eligible costs identified as Revenue Replacement Funds to cover certain government services as reflected in the County of Union 2021 Budget. Replacement revenue was only utilized to offset costs incurred from March 3, 2021 through July 31, 2021. The governmental services were allocated in the following areas by the Revenue Replacement Fund for the reporting period.
 - Public Safety – Salaries & Wages
 - Public Safety – Operating Expenses
 - Capital Improvements
- In accordance with Treasury’s guidance, the County will **NOT** use Fiscal Recovery Funds for expenses associated with obligations under instruments evidencing financial indebtedness for borrowed money, including interest or principal on any outstanding debt instrument, including, i.e., short-term revenue or tax anticipation notes, or fees or issuance costs associated with the issuance of new debt; or for the satisfaction of any obligation arising under or pursuant to a settlement agreement, judgment, consent decree, or judicially confirmed debt restructuring in a judicial, administrative, or regulatory proceeding, except if the judgment or settlement required the provision of government services; or to replenish financial reserves (e.g., rainy day or other reserve funds)

E. Administrative Costs

- The County has also expended funds for the payment of professional services, financial tracking services, facilities management services, and assistance with its elections during COVID-19.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes

The County serves a diverse population, and aims to prioritize economic and racial equity. The County intends to allocate funds to projects that address system public health issues, provide economic stabilization to households, and building strong communities through investments in housing and neighborhoods. The County is considering the following:

- Providing services to address homelessness such as supportive housing, and to improve access to stable, affordable housing among unhoused individuals;
- Providing affordable housing development to increase supply of affordable and high-quality living units; and
- Providing housing vouchers, residential counseling, or housing navigation assistance to facilitate household moves to neighborhoods with high levels of economic opportunity and mobility for low-income residents, to help residents increase their economic opportunity and reduce concentrated areas of low economic opportunity;
- Creating new, expanded, or enhanced early learning services, including pre-kindergarten, Head Start, or partnerships between pre-kindergarten programs and local education authorities, or administration of those services;
- Aiding high-poverty school districts to advance equitable funding across districts and geographies;

- Creating new or expanded high-quality childcare to provide safe and supportive care for children;
- Creating home visiting programs to provide structured visits from health, parent educators, and social service professionals to pregnant women or families with young children to offer education and assistance navigating resources for economic support, health needs, or child development; and;
- Providing enhanced services for child welfare-involved families and foster youth to provide support and training on child development, positive parenting, coping skills, or recovery for mental health and substance use challenges.

Community Engagement

The County intends to make a survey available to all residents of the County. The survey will help the County gauge its residents' strongest needs as a result of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Further, over the next several months, the County will present draft plans and obtain community feedback regarding the use of funds.

Labor Practices

The County is in early stages. Labor and workforce practices on infrastructure projects being pursued will be forth coming in future reporting..

Use of Evidence

As the County is in early stages, program evaluations will be forthcoming in future reporting.

Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category

<u>Category Number</u>	<u>Expenditure Category</u>	<u>Cumulative Expenditure to Date</u>	<u>Amount Spent Since Last Recovery Plan</u>
<u>1: Public Health</u>			
1.1	Covid-19 Vaccination	768,060.76	768,060.76
1.2	Covid-19 Testing	1,072,850.41	1,072,850.41
1.3	Covid-19 Contact Tracing	406.75	406.75
1.4	Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, etc.)	8,215.10	8,215.10
1.8	Other Covid-19 Public Health Expenses	465,460.00	465,460.00
1.9	Payroll Costs for Public Health, Safety, and Other Public Sector Staff Responding to COVID-19	1,271,499.08	1,271,499.08
<u>2: Negative Economic Impacts</u>			
2.1	Household Assistance: Food Programs	1,837,020.68	1,837,020.68
<u>6: Revenue Replacement</u>			
6.1	Provision of Government Services	<u>2,907,700.00</u>	<u>2,907,700.00</u>
		Total: <u>\$ 8,331,212.78</u>	<u>\$ 8,331,212.78</u>

Project Inventory

- COVID-19 Vaccination
- COVID-19 Testing
- COVID-19 Contact Tracing
- Prevention in Congregate Settings
- Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses
- Payroll Costs for Public Health, Safety and Other Public Sector Staff Responding to COVID-19
- Household Assistance: Food Programs
- Provision for Government Services

Performance Indicators

As the County is in the early stages, Performance Indicators will be forth coming in future reporting.

Next Steps

At this time, the County expects to survey the County stakeholders and present upcoming plans to such stakeholders for their suggestions and input and intends on providing an updated report by December 31, 2021.