

WAKE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

Recovery Plan

2022 REPORT

STATE &
LOCAL FISCAL
RECOVERY
FUNDS

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Wake County, North Carolina
2022 Recovery Plan

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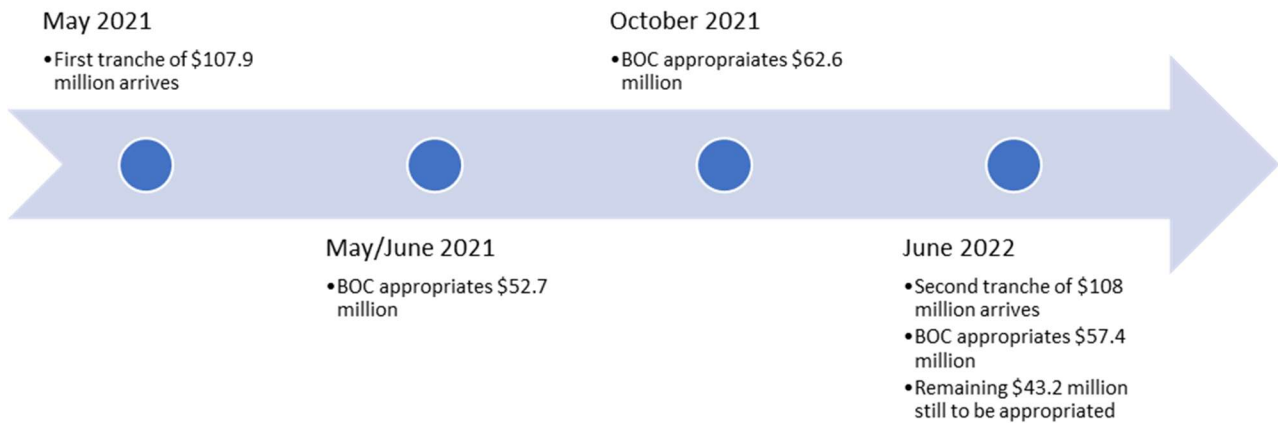
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GENERAL OVERVIEW

SLFRF Funding and Appropriations Timeline



Executive Summary

Wake County, NC (“The County”) was awarded \$216.0 million of State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and received its first tranche of \$107.9 million in May 2021. The second tranche of \$108.0 million was received in June 2022.

The County identified key immediate needs for utilization of these funds. These needs included continued Public Health Response and Food Security Programs through March 2023, Housing Insecurities, funding the remaining small business loans that could not be covered with the County’s Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF), hospitality support, as well as a broadband assessment.

In May and June of 2021, the Wake County Board of Commissioners appropriated \$52.7 million of the funding to meet these immediate needs. In October 2021, the Board appropriated \$62.6 million and an additional \$57.4 million in June 2022 in order to address further needs.

The County continues to work with departmental staff, the public and Community organizations to identify additional needs of the community and County as a whole.

The County has determined, using US Treasury’s formula calculation, that it has allowable revenue loss/revenue replacement of \$15.9 million. These funds will be utilized to offset public safety personnel salaries which will assist community funding projects such as ElevateWake.

Additional information on the County’s COVID-19 response can be found at <https://www.wakegov.com/covid-19-information>.

Uses of Funds

Public Health (EC1)

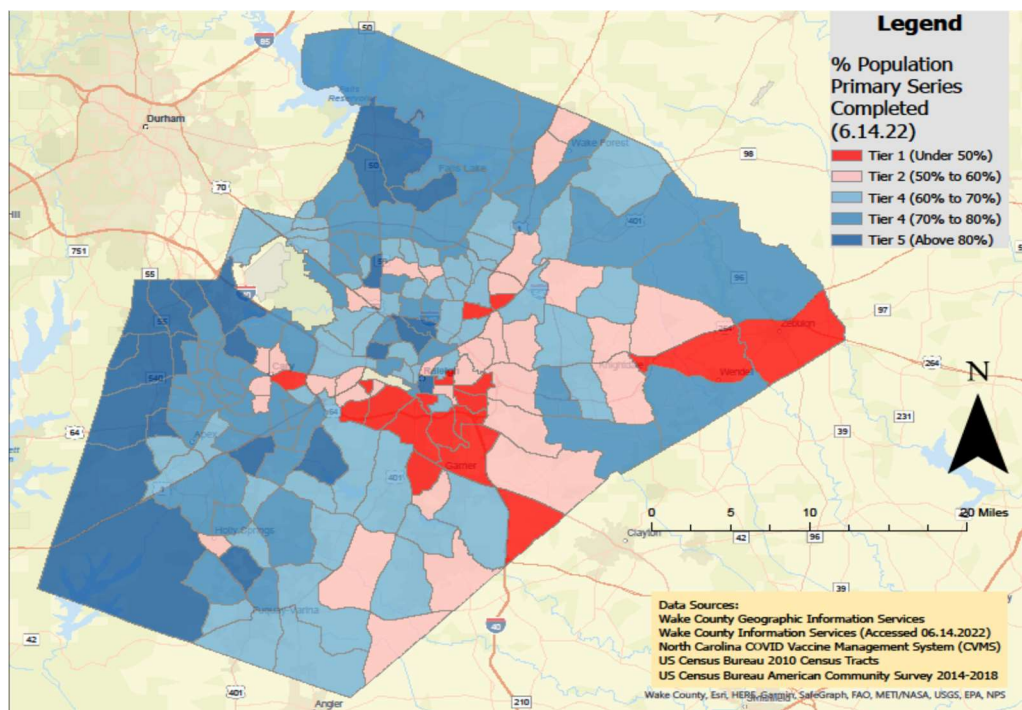
In North Carolina, it is required by State Statute that the local public health departments (operated and managed solely by NC counties) provide public health services to all citizens of its jurisdiction. Therefore, the priority of the County is to continue the public health response throughout the entire County. This includes vaccination (EC1.1), testing (EC1.2), other public health services (1.14), personal protective equipment (EC1.5), and other COVID-19 public health expenses (EC1.7). The focus includes ensuring the most vulnerable populations have adequate access to receive the vaccines as well as ensuring the County provides outreach and access to lagging census tracts.

In late Spring 2021, the County transitioned to a regional approach for testing and vaccinations. The County currently operates several Health & Human Services Regional Centers that already provide other Public Health services to the County's more underserved census tracts. By utilizing existing regional centers and the main Public Health facilities, more of the County's underserved populations have access to COVID-19 testing and vaccines as well as social services (including, but not limited to Medicaid, childcare, and energy funded assistance programs). The County also provides outreach events and pop-up testing and vaccination events in areas where cases have spiked, or data shows that vaccination rates are lower than average in the County. The County also uses wastewater monitoring as part of its surveillance system.

The County's Vaccine Objectives include:

- Protect and increase vaccination rates among those most vulnerable
- Ensure equitable access for historically marginalized populations and at-risk groups
- Increase vaccination in communities that have lagging rates of vaccination
- Continued outreach and engagement events in prioritized census tracts
- Maintaining surge capacity to provide booster and child vaccinations

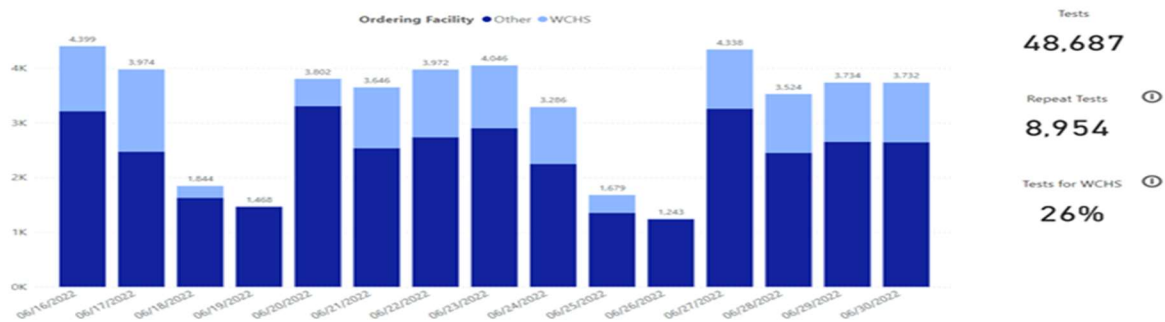
Vaccine Coverage by Census Tract:



The County's Surveillance and Testing Objectives include:

- Screening for surveillance and situation awareness
- Expanding test sites to regional centers
- Monitoring community testing capacity to ensure adequate data to inform intervention and treatment
- Identifying cases for public health and social measures
- Ensuring equitable access for historically marginalized populations
- Maintaining surge capacity to provide timely results

Wake County Testing 6/16-6/30



Negative Economic Impacts (EC2)

EC 2.1 Household Assistance: Food Programs

The County has continued its enhanced food security program which began in March 2020 utilizing CRF funding. A total of \$4.2 has been allocated to this program through September 30, 2023. The program includes contracts with partners to distribute food at hub sites, through meal delivery to college students, and providing food services to diverse populations and populations with special dietary needs. The program continues to coordinate with the Wake County Public School System to ensure school-aged children have access to meals outside of school.

EC 2.10 Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers

The County appropriated approximately \$3.4 million dollars of its SLFRF funds to support small business workforce development, provide education and employment stipends for post incarcerated individuals, build out a more robust entrepreneurship program, and to provide Wake County youth with the tools and resources to explore different careers.

EC 2.16 Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons

The County appropriated \$10.5 million dollars of its SLFRF funds to increase support of homeless service providers, increased sheltering of individuals and families, as well as providing permanent housing solutions.

EC 2.18 Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance

The County utilized approximately \$2.2 million dollars of its SLFRF funds to bridge the gap between housing service agencies assisting residents with rental searches and Wake County landlords who are interested in providing permanent affordable housing. ARPA funding was used to hire a team of six employees to work with service agency partners and landlords.

EC 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services

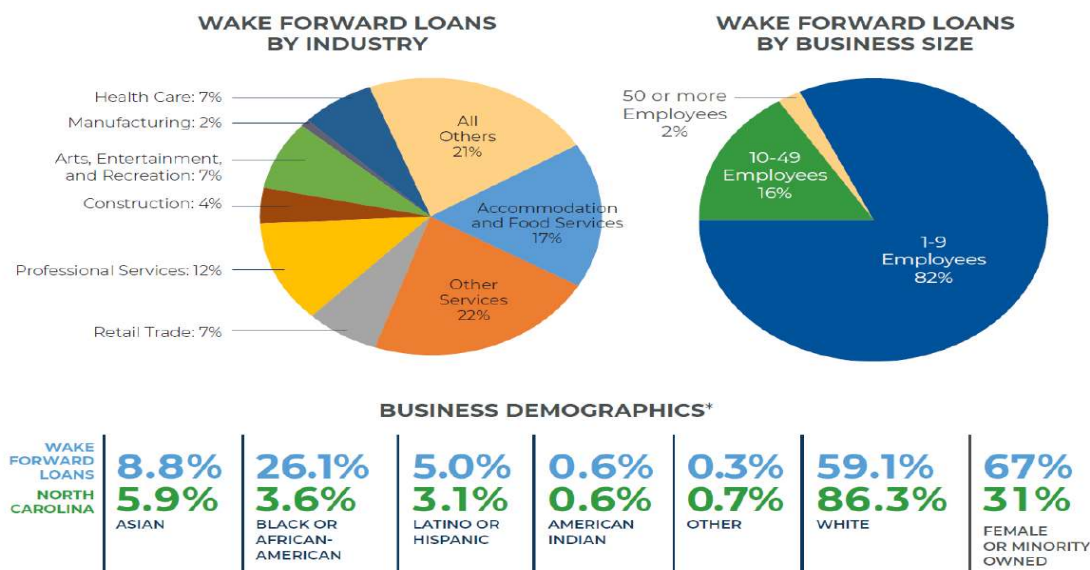
The County appropriated \$2.2 million dollars of its CRF funds to utilize for Student Engagement teams and Juniper Level after school programs. The Student Engagement program is a collaborative and holistic approach that is built on a tiered and family-centered System of Care support structure. The program recognizes the role of the school, community, and family in a young person's engagement and thriving; and saturates the community with messages that point to increased access and reduced barriers.

The County also began working with Juniper Level After School Program in January of 2022. The services at the center include tutoring, childcare, food distribution, cooking classes, snacks for youth participants and travel that is provided when appropriate. This contract is currently in place from January 2022 through December 2022, with an option to extend the contract until June 2023.

EC 2.29 Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship

During Fall of 2020, the County began the WakeForward program which provided small business loans to businesses in the community. The County leveraged \$5 million dollars of its CRF with the State's small business loan program (run by the NC Rural Center) to award 349 loans totaling \$19.2 million. County staff partnered with Wake County Economic Development and the Wake County Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity Alliance to promote the program throughout the entire County. The County stopped accepting applications on November 16, 2020, and the funds from both the State and County loans were exhausted. Forty-seven businesses were approved for loans after the exhaustion of these funds. Of these loans 43% were owned by persons of color. The County utilized \$4.8 million of SLFRF to fund the remainder of these loans and to continue to assess the future needs of small businesses throughout the County. The County is beginning to receive repayment of these small business loans. Most are to be paid over 48 months. As the principal and interest is repaid, the funds will be added back to our total award as program income and utilized for additional allowable programs.

WakeForward Loan Demographics – Phase 1



EC 2.35 Aid to Tourism, Travel and Hospitality

Revenues from hospitality taxes were significantly impacted due to closure from COVID-19. Combined revenue losses for FY20 and FY21 for county-wide Food & Beverage and Occupancy Tax was approximately \$24.0 million. These dollars help support tourism, sports, and leisure activities of the County's partners both in operating and capital investments through State laws and Interlocal Agreements. The County awarded SLFRF totaling \$4.054 million to the Greater Raleigh Convention and Visitors Bureau (GRCVB) and the Centennial Authority. The funding to the GRCVB will be used for targeted marketing and advertising campaigns showing Wake County has safety protocols in place to resume tourism, sport, and leisure activities and recruit conventions back to facilities in Wake County. Continued investments to the Centennial Authority allow the arena to remain competitive with other facilities and funds additional health and safety requirements for opening the arena.

Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity (EC3)

EC 3.1 Public Sector Workforce: Payroll and Benefits for Public Health, Public Safety, or Human Services Workers

The County utilized approximately \$8.2 million dollars of its SLFRF funds for salaries and benefits related to COVID-19 ARPA PH Operations as well as ARPA H&HS Support positions.

EC 3.3 Public Sector Workforce: Other

The County appropriated approximately \$20.5 million dollars of its SLFRF funds for retention incentive bonuses to eligible County employees and contracted fire departments to remain competitive in the global workforce as well to incentivize the workforce to remain employed with Wake County.

Water, Sewer and Broadband Infrastructure (EC5)

EC 5.21 Broadband: Other Projects

The County anticipates utilizing approximately \$7.5 million dollars of its SLFRF funds for access to broadband and internet service throughout the County. Rural areas typically have less providers and slower speeds, and underinvested communities lack technical assistance needed. Additionally, fiber optic and broadband connections typically have a higher monthly subscription cost, making the financial accessibility of such services too costly for certain households.

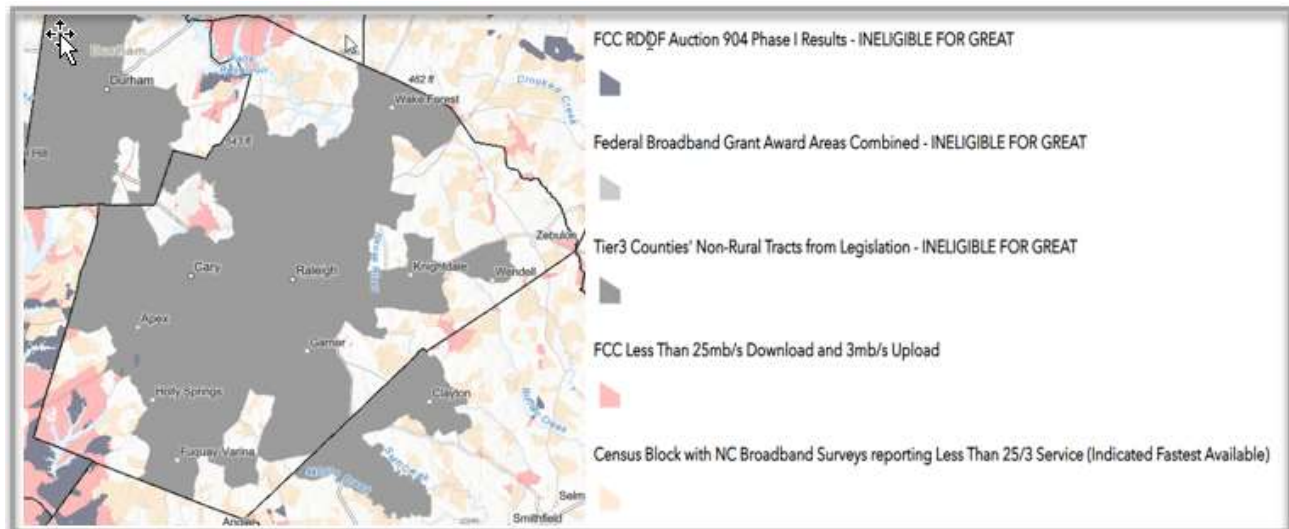
North Carolina law is very prescriptive of the role of local governments regarding telecommunications:

- Local governments are prohibited from serving as internet providers
- Local governments are prohibited from owning or installing and telecommunication infrastructure

North Carolina Session Law 2021-181 (the 2021 Appropriations Act) codified the Growing Rural Economic with Access to Technology (GREAT) Grant program. The program, managed by the NC Department of Information Technology, offers ARPA funding on a competitive basis to internet service providers (ISPs) for projects deploying broadband infrastructure to unserved areas of North Carolina. As part of the GREAT Grant program the County can partner with these ISPs to provide additional funding for these projects within Wake County.

In March 2022, the Board of Commissioners authorized the County to enter into a Memorandum of Understandings with three ISPs which will provide matching funds of 500,000 for the GREAT grant program.

Wake County GREAT Grant Eligibility:



Revenue Replacement (EC6)

The County has calculated \$15.9 million in lost revenues to claim under SLFRF. The County staff provided recommendations on how to utilize that funding source to the County Board of Commissioners and was approved on April 18, 2022. The funds will be used to cover additional public safety salaries as well as specific community projects impacted due to the COVID pandemic.

Administrative (EC7)

EC 7.1 Administrative Expenses

The County is utilizing approximately \$.25 million dollars of its SLFRF funds for temporary services personnel and associated materials and supplies to assist with ARPA county support as a result of the COVID-19 backlog.

Promoting equitable outcomes

Wake County's programs are designed to ensure equity across the County.

Public Health:

It is the goal of Wake County to provide COVID-19 testing and vaccine resources across the entire population of the County. Wake County Health and Human Services provides equitable COVID-19 testing and vaccine resources and access to all communities to include those identified as historically underserved, such as the African American and Hispanic populations. Public Health offers direct vaccination and testing services to all eligible individuals via walk-in or drive-through clinics in five locations in the county. Additionally, targeted vaccination strike teams are deployed to vaccinate individuals in vulnerable communities and high-risk settings such as long-term care facilities that are unable to benefit from walk-up or curb-side service.

Together, a dedicated communications representative, outreach and canvassing team, community partners, a devoted call center, and internal efforts partner to inform residents and businesses of the COVID-19 services available through Wake County Health and Human Services to include:

- Canvassing efforts in communities identified as historically marginalized
- Internal referrals from existing Wake County Health Clinics clients and/or staff
- Mobile vaccine clinics that travel to hard-to-reach communities
- Standard presence of drive-through or curbside vaccination clinics at various locations in the community
- Pop-up clinics at various community settings, such as COVID-19 testing sites, school nutrition sites, construction sites, migrant farm worksites, processing plants, churches, parking lots
- Immunization clinics to reach jails, homeless shelters, or other community organizations
- Wake County Public Health has teamed up with Wake County Economic Services to send insert informational COVID-19 vaccine flyers into more than 4,000 mailings to current recipients of food stamps, Medicaid, and other income assistance programs, putting vital health information directing into the homes of some of the County's most vulnerable residents.
- Wake County Public Health partnered with County and municipal housing and homeless services departments to bring regular and repeating vaccine clinic events to men's and women's homeless shelters.
- Wake County Public Health partnered with Wake County Cooperative Extension to provide vaccines at community food distribution sites. Other resources provided at these events included: mental health outreach from Alliance, science kits for school-aged youth from 4-H youth development, personal hygiene kits for families, and kits with washable, reusable masks and hand sanitizer.
- Wake County Public Health partnered with Wake County Cooperative Extension to provide vaccines to recently arrived farmworkers and farms were provided with large quantities of masks and hand sanitizers to maintain worker safety.

Access to COVID-19 vaccine and testing resources among groups remains equitable across Wake County. All services are at no cost to the client, no identification is required, and services are available in multiple languages. Mobile, curbside and at-home services are also available for clients. Electronic registration may be completed by the client prior to arrival to a vaccine or testing clinic but concierge staff are available to complete this task for clients presenting onsite in need of assistance.

Intended outcomes for Wake County's COVID-19 response include ensuring equitable access to vaccine and testing services by all community members, including historically marginalized populations and as necessary, deploy strategies to close identified gaps in service access based on demographics (race, ethnicity, age, etc.).

Household Assistance: Food Programs

It is the goal of Wake County to provide access to food to underserved communities. The Wake County Cooperative Extension division has prioritized resources for Hispanic populations and service several neighborhoods/regions that are on the outskirts of the County and lack reliable transportation to services. These neighborhoods are primarily BIPOC (black, indigenous, and people of color) communities. The County also utilize funding to purchase produce from black farmers and to build food boxes and are funding boxes specially built for Hispanic populations.

Wake County partners with a wide net of faith communities and not for profit organizations and utilizes door to door canvassing methods to share information about available resources. Outreach materials are produced in Spanish and English. The County will be piloting a new app, Tangelo, to provide free on-line grocery orders and will be working with El Centro to do outreach with Hispanic communities. This app also will collect demographic data of participants, to help the County gauge the level of participation of historically marginalized populations in its food security programs.

Access to Wake County's COVID-19 food security programs are available to anyone who is food insecure. Analysis has been conducted to identify areas that are transportation limited and have worked with partners to get service to those neighborhoods when possible. Many of the County's food outreach programs help fill gaps in food support, as the County can provide resources to those who may not qualify for SNAP, WIC, and other federal/state assistance resources or lack appropriate documentation to receive those services.

Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance

It is the goal of Wake County's Housing Affordability & Community Revitalization (HACR) department to help residents gain and maintain safe and affordable housing. The House!Wake Strategic Plan addresses the COVID-19 crisis within the County's homeless and precariously housed population and aims to move the maximum number of individuals possible to housing stability. HACR's programs target historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affect groups. By regulation as well as policy, HACR's programs target residents whose incomes are at or well below 80% AMI; with priority given to 50% AMI or less. The projects both proposed and approved for funding through ARPA target homeless populations, people needing permanent supportive housing, and creating housing opportunities for low to moderate income residents who historically have the fewest resources available for decent, affordable housing.

HACR and its many community partners work diligently to promote awareness of the program through numerous channels and venues. HACR staff attend many community meetings, disseminating information, which is also available on the County's Website. The Communications Department also works closely with HACR staff to develop communications strategies that will reach the broadest market possible. Together, HACR and Communications issue press releases, twitter feeds, PSAs, print and radio advertisements as well as live news interviews. The County's Board of Commissioner also strongly supports these programs and regularly contribute to disseminating information to the public.

Priority is given to the most disadvantaged populations, namely those at or below 50% AMI, who have historically demonstrated that the lack of resources has hindered their ability to compete for and obtain affordable housing in Wake County. Regarding administrative requirements, all programs place the administrative burden on program staff, be they County employee or funded subrecipient agencies acting on the County's behalf. Staff work closely with all eligible populations to ensure accurate and timely documentation satisfying programmatic requirements while expediting services provided.

Community Engagement

The County will be utilizing approximately \$17.9 million to supplement or initiate programs that will continue to address economic disparities exacerbated by the pandemic, mitigate social determinants of health in low-income and predominantly minority communities, and promote

diversity, equity, and inclusion in local government. The County will continue to assess additional projects, initiatives, and programs to use the funds in accordance with US Treasury guidance.

Use of Evidence

Wake County utilizes systematic data collection and analysis in order to evaluate effectiveness and efficiency of perspective ARPA funded programs. Below you will find specific data related to “Evidence-based Intervention” affected programs:

CV31 – 4-H Youth Development

The Youth Development program includes evidence-based models and frameworks for both positive youth development and family life coaching. The evidence-based coaching approach for families is grounded in the family life science model and draws from research, theoretical knowledge, coaching standards, and best practices. Our leadership and training team will include staff who have been trained by the Aspen Family Wellness Center under the Center for Credentialing & Education Board Certified Coach track. A Data Analyst will be part of the Student Engagement Team. They will assist in setting up the process to collect demographic information and measure progress of participants. They will use the evidence-based frameworks to help select the methods and tools and to establish outcome measures.

CV61 – Enhance Food Security

The Food Security program is being utilized to address equitable access to healthy foods and to develop a more resilient and equitable local food supply chain by partnering with trusted community champions to provide these services. By engaging with communities in the planning and implementation, we are building a more resilient food system (Sanderson Bellamy et al., 2021). Additionally, we are currently wrapping up a Food Hub Feasibility Study that is investigating supply chain shortfalls and opportunities to develop a more equitable, resilient local food supply chain. To track outcomes and to assess if our programs meet intended impact, we gather data that highlights dietary improvements or participants. Additionally, we can assess how much in SNAP/WIC dollars go towards fresh produce. All our hubs track the pounds of produce purchased, many of which come from local farms and farm product aggregators.

CV63 – Landlord Engagement

The Landlord Engagement program seeks to create partnerships with housing providers to increase the supply of affordable housing through an incentive program. The incentive program will provide financial support to participating housing providers in Wake County to assist in making their rental homes affordable. We have created a technology application that matches and tracks tenants to landlords. This program is based on a “Housing First” model.

CV64 – CAWF Small Business Workforce Development

This project funds three areas supporting small business workforce development: On-The-Job (OJT) Training, Work-Based Learning, and Incumbent Worker Training with a priority focus on small businesses owned by minorities, women, and individuals with disabilities. These programs help individuals secure employment in positions that require more training and experience than the individual initially possesses. To determine the goals of this grant, historical data was utilized to determine average dollars per agreement for each of the three program elements (OJT, WEX, IWT). This is an ongoing process and is utilized to broaden access through addressing the barriers to small businesses in participating in these programs, such as minimum requirements on the number of employees or wages.

CV65 – CAWF Re-Entry Program

The Re-Entry Program focuses on providing small grants to community-based organizations that serve returning citizens previously incarcerated. The initial programmatic element of this program is designed to help individuals get their immediate needs met and create a stable environment. The second programmatic element is to build on the stability by helping individuals build more skills, find well-paying work, and have the tools to be successful in work and life. Systems are in place to track and evaluate each element of the program such as individuals served, employment rate, housing, as well as participants referred to partner agencies for supportive services.

CV67 – Homeless Services

The Homeless Services program seeks to provide a full array of services at the shelter level to increase exits to permanent housing. This program uses “Housing First” evidence-based model that provides data to measure performance. Also interested, participating agencies must demonstrate that their services meet certain criteria in order to become a “Low-Barrier: model.

CV68 – CAWF Micro Business Development Entrepreneurship

This program is designed to help aspiring entrepreneurs with the major barriers to business success: navigating resources, understanding government regulations and documentation, developing a business plan, and creating a financial plan. Based on the evidence of similar programs and services, this targeted effort should lead to the creation of more small businesses within underserved communities and these businesses will be more likely to succeed. Systems are in place to track and evaluate each element of the program such as number of individuals attending workshops, percent of workshop attendees completing business plans, number of businesses started, and percent of micro-businesses open after 1 year.

CV69 – NextGen Youth Career Exploration

This program is designed to provide young adults guidance and counseling, career exploration, occupational skills training, and work experience in the IT sector. There is preliminary evidence that this model will meet its goals. Our staff has researched successful programs, both in North Carolina and nationwide and found examples of pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs successfully preparing young adults for well-paying, high growth careers. Also, systems are in place to track and evaluate each element of the program such as total number of individuals served (including men, women, minorities, disabled, as well as number living in poverty areas), total number in IT pre-apprenticeship training, number completing the program, and number who moved on to apprenticeship, employment, or education.

CV71 – H&HS Support

This program is designed to provide Energy Assistance to eligible households. This assistance is provide through three separate entities: 1) Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) which provides a one-time annual vendor payment to help eligible families pay their heating expense, 2) Crisis Intervention Program (CIP) which serves individuals and families who are experiencing or in danger of experiencing a heating or cooling related crisis, and 3) Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) which is a federal funded program providing emergency assistance to low income households to prevent disconnection or provide assistance with reconnection of drinking and wastewater services. Systems are in place to track and evaluate each element of the program such as number of energy applications processed against number of applications approved.

PROJECT INVENTORY – WITH ACTIVITY AS OF JUNE 30, 2022

The County has set up several units in its American Rescue Plan Fund to track each project.

CV31 – ARPA 4-H Youth Development

Funding amount: \$2,182,430

Project Expenditure Category: 2.25 – Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services

The ARPA 4-H Youth Development project is in response to youth engagement and well-being challenges created or exacerbated by the Covid-19 Pandemic. WCPSS, Alliance Health, and Wake County Cooperative Extension are piloting a strategy that will help school system staff lift the load through a plan that will last beyond the pandemic that is community-informed, data driven and seeks to identify and track the (re)engagement of youth in positive youth development and educational systems.

One elementary and three middle schools will participate in this pilot project. Each school will have access to a Youth and Family Engagement Coach, a System of Care Liaison, a Family Engagement Specialist (Licensed Clinician), a Program Manager, and a Data Analyst. The engagement team will provide focused direct service to a minimum case load of 25 families at each school at any given time. All students and families from each school will benefit from school and community information and access to resources.

This pilot will launch in Summer 2022 and is funded by the American Rescue Plan through June 2025.

CV50 – Public Health Operations

Funding amount: \$20,169,122

Project Expenditure Categories: 1.2 – COVID-19 Testing; 1.5 – Personal Protective Equipment; 1.7 – Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenditures; 3.1 Payroll Costs for Public Health, Safety and Other Public Sector Staff Responding to COVID-19

The Public Health Operations encompasses all aspects of the Public Health emergency except for the COVID-19 vaccinations. This project includes contracting for mass testing, contact tracing and monitoring, procuring PPE for County departments, payroll for employees working the response and contracts with partner agencies for continued outreach and communication. During FY 21–22, Wake County funded several programs within Covid operations including case investigation, contact tracing, epidemiology, logistics, and mass testing. Each programmatic area adjusted throughout the year to keep up with the evolving guidance provided from the Federal and State level. Within the epidemiology team, case investigators and contact tracers adhered to the guidance to investigate and follow up on positive cases as prioritized by the State. Clusters and outbreaks were investigated, reported, and tracked to help mitigate the spread of the disease within Wake County and within our most vulnerable populations.

CV51 – Public Health Vaccinations

Funding amount: \$5,600,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.1 – COVID-19 Vaccination

The Public Health Vaccination project includes the communication and outreach for the COVID-19 vaccination as well as contracts with vendors to assist with administering the vaccine at County sites. During FY 21–22, Wake County established five vaccine locations mirroring the testing locations to align services and increase access to Wake County residents. Each vaccine site was staffed, trained, equipped, and prepared to provide all brands and doses as approved by the CDC five days a week with weekend and evening availability. The covid community outreach team partnered with community groups and organizations to bring vaccines to specific populations in need, including historically marginalized populations with high positivity and low vaccination rates.

CV60 – Economic Recovery

Funding amount: \$8,954,000

Project Expenditure Categories: 2.29 – Small Business Economic Assistance; 2.35 – Aid to Tourism, Travel and Hospitality

The Economic Recovery project includes funding the remaining small business loans initiated in the WakeForward program as well as assisting key tourism partners, GRCVB and the Centennial Authority. All small business loan distributions were completed in 2021 and repayment began in early 2022. The repayments of principal and interest will be added back into our total ARPA award.

CV61 – Enhanced Food Security

Funding amount: \$4,184,100

Project Expenditure Category: 2.1 – Household Assistance: Food Programs

The Enhanced Food Security project funding addresses food security through community food hubs that provide families with fresh produce, meat, eggs, dairy, and some shelf stable products. Additionally, this project supports access to fresh produce through collaboration with various Farmer's Markets and Food Banks. We are also conducting a food hub feasibility study to assess best ways to strengthen our local food supply chain. Contracts currently in place through March 2023. The program to date has served approximately \$3.9 million meals.

CV63 – ARPA Landlord Engagement

Funding amount: \$2,159,800

Project Expenditure Category: 2.18 – Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance

The ARPA Landlord Engagement project bridges the gap between housing service agencies assisting residents with rental searches and Wake County landlords who are interested in providing permanent affordable housing. ARPA funding was used to hire a team of six employees to work with service agency partners and landlords. Staff were hired beginning in November 2021, and there is currently one staff position vacancy. In addition, rather than purchasing software, Housing staff worked with IS to build an application to track available units in comparison to referred clients and created a dashboard of metrics. This program is anticipated to extend to 2025. To date, 29 families have been assisted through this program.

CV64 – CAWF – Small Business Workforce

Funding amount: \$347,046

Project Expenditure Category: 2.10 – Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers

The CAWF – This project funds three areas supporting small business workforce development: On-The-Job (OJT) training, Workforce Learning, and Incumbent Worker Training with a priority focus on small businesses owned by minorities, women, and individuals with disabilities. To date, 2 businesses have been awarded, with 36 total participants from each area.

CV65 – CAWF – Re-Entry Program Extension

Funding amount: \$2,759,175

Project Expenditure Category: 2.10 – Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers

The CAWF – Re-Entry Program Extension project funds provide expanded capacity to support education, employment, technology, and living expense stipends for post-incarcerated individuals. This includes more staff, access to basic needs such as food and housing, career support, mentoring, and community support. To date, 82 individuals have been served; however, since many clients receive multiple services through various programs such as housing support, emergency support, employment and education, there has been 316 approved applications of assistance.

CV67 – ARPA Homeless Services

Funding amount: \$10,500,000

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

The ARPA Homeless Services project allocated \$10.5 million for homeless service providers to improve successful permanent housing outcomes and reduce the length of time households experience homelessness in Wake County. In February 2022, the Board of Commissioners awarded \$4.7 million to eight providers. Eligible services consist of comprehensive case management, flexible financial assistance, access to benefits, transportation, healthcare connection, housing navigation, and home furnishings. Current contracts run through June 2023. The Housing Department anticipates releasing another RFP in the Fall of 2022 to seek a second cohort of providers to participate in the program. Existing providers will also be encouraged to continue their efforts. Outcomes are reported and analyzed monthly. Findings will influence future community investments. To date, there were 19 households receiving “eviction prevention services” and eventual placement.

CV68 – CAWF – Micro Business Entrepreneurship

Funding amount: \$395,890

Project Expenditure Category: 2.10 – Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers

The CAWF – Micro Business Entrepreneurship project seeks to build out a more robust entrepreneurship program by developing in-person support at the NCWorks Career Center, a referral network of entrepreneurship partners, and a website that supports all stages of entrepreneurs. To date, 28 individuals have attended the various entrepreneurship workshops.

CV69 – CAWF – NextGen Youth Career Exploration

Funding amount: \$257,889

Project Expenditure Category: 2.10 – Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers

The CAWF – NextGen Youth Career Exploration project will provide disconnected youth in Wake County the tools and resources to explore different careers, including pre-apprenticeships. To date, 67 individuals/students have been served.

CV70 – ARPA County Support

Funding amount: \$1,706,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.5 – PPE; 1.7 – Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses; 7.1 – Administrative Expenses

The ARPA County Support project was approved for additional non-public health and safety positions that will assist the County-wide COVID-19 response. It includes PPE and positions in Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology and Facilities.

CV71 – ARPA H&HS Support

Funding amount: \$2,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.4 – Prevention in Congregate Settings; 3.1 – Public Sector Workforce: Payroll and benefits for Public Health, Public Safety, or Human Services Workers

The ARPA H&HS Support project was approved for additional time-limited H&HS positions for Energy program to assist with backlog. This program provides emergency energy assistance to low-income households to prevent disconnection. Emergency assistance applications have increased 64.2% from 2020 to 2022. To assist with processing the increase in volume, one additional Energy Supervisor and nine additional Energy Caseworkers were hired. As of June 30, 2022, H&HS has processed 27,190 applications for energy assistance through the various energy relief programs. 14,814 have been approved.

CV73 – ARPA Retention Incentives

Funding amount: \$20,592,578

Project Expenditure Category: 3.3 – Public Sector Workforce: Other

The ARPA Retentive Incentives were approved to provide retention incentive bonuses to eligible County employees in order to maintain workforce. The retention incentives are provided to County eligible employees in three increments (March, August, and December 2022). The County evaluated the turn-over rate and set the incentive at a tiered rate. Employees earning under \$60,000 received a \$4,000 incentive, those earning between \$60,000 and \$99,999 received a \$3,750 incentive and those earning \$100,000 and more received a \$3,000 incentive.

CV83 – ARPA Community Engagement

Funding amount: \$4,940,064

Project Expenditure Category: Multiple

The ARPA Community Engagement project was approved by the Board for various community engagements and community funding opportunities. The total amount of the funding to agencies

is \$20 million. Through an on-line application process, the County identified 71 agencies to partner with to provide support throughout the County. The County partnered with Triangle J Council of Government to administer this program. To ease administrative burden for the smaller agencies, the County used savings from Public Safety salaries that were posted against the County's revenue loss projections. \$15.9 million of this program will be funded through the County's general fund with the remaining \$4.1 million plus administrative expenses funded through the ARPA fund. In June 2022, the first wave of funding was paid out to selected agencies.

CV90 – ARPA Vaccine Incentive

Funding amount: \$1,143,500

Project Expenditure Category: 1.1 – COVID-19 Vaccination

The ARPA Vaccine Incentive project was approved to encourage County employees as well as fire departments for vaccinations. This program is set to expire on June 30, 2022.

PROJECT INVENTORY – WITH NO ACTIVITY AS OF JUNE 30, 2022

CV30 – Behavioral Health Pilot Programs – Coming Home

Funding amount: \$600,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.12 – Mental Health Services

The Behavioral Health Pilot Programs – Coming Home project was a pilot program approved to provide services for justice involved individuals with behavioral health challenges. Initial meetings with partners have been held to refine scope of project. Working to launch program this summer. Funding will provide housing for two years once the program begins.

CV32 – ARPA Social & Economic Vitality

Funding amount: \$508,470

Project Expenditure Category: 2.37 – Economic Impact Assistance: Other

The ARPA Social & Economic Vitality project was approved for coaching conversations and capacity building for those negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Through Community Capacity Building, Community Coaching and Community Canvassing, Wake County, in collaboration with various local non-profits, seek to re-vitalize the social and economic vitality of the surrounding communities. This project began with kick-off meetings in June 2022 to plan the development and execution with community partners and will be ongoing through December 2022.

CV53 – EMS Nurse Navigation Line

Funding amount: \$1,675,000

Project Expenditure Category: 3.4 – Public Service Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

The EMS Nurse Navigation Line project conducted a pilot program to provide telehealth primary and urgent care for low acuity calls with the County's CRF funds. The program proved to be successful and will be formally adopted and funded through ARPA. The program is expected to continue to evolve resulting in an increase to the numbers of 911 callers who will benefit from

the nurse navigation services. The program is expected to be absorbed into the County's general fund after December 2024.

CV54 – COOP Update

Funding amount: \$300,000

Project Expenditure Category: 3.4 – Public Service Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

The COOP Update project was approved to update the County's continuity of operations plan. The project is slightly behind schedule due to additional items being added to the original project scope. Project completion anticipated no later than September 30, 2023.

CV62 – ARPA Broadband Infrastructure

Funding amount: \$7,500,000

Project Expenditure Category: 5.21 – Broadband: Other Projects

The County will partner with Internet Service Providers to provide matching funds for the GREAT Grant Program, administered through the NC Department of Information Technology. This program deploys broadband infrastructure to unserved areas of the County.

CV66 – Behavioral Health Pilot Programs – Supportive Housing

Funding amount: \$310,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.13 – Substance Use Services

The Behavioral Health Pilot Programs – Supportive Housing project was a pilot program approved to provide services for post-incarcerated mothers with perinatal substance abuse disorders. The project scope has been finalized and a contract is ready for execution. The contract was entered into the system in early June and program launch is intended to begin July 2022 and is expected to run until December 2024.

CV72 – ARPA Fire Services Recruitment

Funding amount: \$3,300,000

Project Expenditure Category: 3.2 – Public Sector Workforce: Rehiring Public Sector Staff

The ARPA Fire Services Recruitment project funds are used to increase minority workforce in fire services and rural fire departments. On June 2, 2022, there will be a 45-day open enrollment kickoff to fill 30 positions in the various County fire departments. Temporary HR positions will be brought in for four months in June to assist with applications, recruitment, background screening and the interview process. Project funds should be fully expended by December 2024.

CV81 – ARPA Outreach & Engagement

Funding amount: \$1,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.7 – Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses

The ARPA Outreach & Engagement project was approved to align strategies with Board goals of community engagement and coordinate outreach on COVID-19 programs. This project examines both the tax revenues generated by different land uses and the costs to local

government of providing services to those same uses. They help people understand the fiscal consequences of keeping land in agriculture or as open space versus developing land for other purposes. Through this project, the County will be able to update the Farmland Protection Plan that was last completed in 2016, before the pandemic. Farmland Protection Plans help local governments inventory important farmland, set goals for its protection, and identify strategies for implementation.

CV82 – ARPA Social Determinant of Health Network

Funding amount: \$12,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.37 – Economic Impact Assistance: Other

The ARPA Social Determinant of Health Network project was approved to develop a community partner network to address social barriers that negatively impact health in targeted census tracts. In working with other County leaders, we have been working to determine the path forward for this initiative. The project has been delayed as we evaluate scope and determine the procurement process that would be appropriate to achieve the goals of the funding. We'll re-evaluate this summer with potential movement in the Fall.

CV91 – ARPA Wake Tech Assistance

Funding amount: \$4,200,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.37 – Economic Impact Assistance: Other

The ARPA Wake Tech Assistance project was approved to provide funding for laptops and financial aid for eligible students and expansion of programs that support college readiness. ARPA funds are provided to households and populations living in a qualified census tracts or provided to other households, businesses, or populations impacted or disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency, such as educational programs that mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. All eligible expenditures will be encumbered by December 2024.

CV92 – ARPA Tree Canopy Assessment

Funding amount: \$300,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.37 – Economic Impact Assistance: Other

The ARPA Tree Canopy Assessment project was approved to provide GIS tools to create a Land Cover Analysis with supporting Tree Canopy baseline assessment for future projects. The project will encompass the total 857 square miles of Wake County, including and segmenting the totality of the 12 core municipalities. This project is currently slated to be completed by the end of 2022 calendar year.

CV93 – ARPA Ponderosa Wastewater Upgrade

Funding amount: \$500,000

Project Expenditure Category: 5.5 – Clean Water: Other Sewer Infrastructure

The ARPA Ponderosa Wastewater Upgrade project was approved to upgrade equipment and repair drainage issues in the Ponderosa subdivision. The Ponderosa wastewater treatment facility provides service for a neighborhood consisting of 67 homes. The modifications proposed

would correct drainage issues, reconfigure the piping, and replace equipment at lifecycle and setup the facility for long-term maintainability. The schematic design phase is scheduled to be complete in fall 2022. Construction could begin in spring 2023 and be completed within a year from the notice to proceed.

CV94 – ARPA Affordable Housing Database (GIS)

Funding amount: \$350,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.15 – Long-Term Housing Security: Affordable Housing

The ARPA Affordable Housing Database (GIS) project was approved to provide GIS tools to create enhanced database of existing affordable housing. This project provides the Housing Affordability and Community Revitalization Department with GIS solutions that will aggregate, visualize, and analyze housing data to inform data-driven decisions. These data-driven decisions will impact programs and services provided by the Housing department and support efforts to end homelessness. GIS is working with Housing to review data and define the RFP scope, in order to post and select a GIS services consultant for this project engagement. Estimated completion scheduled for December 2023.

Proposed New Projects

The County will be utilizing the second tranche of SLFRF funding, approximately \$108.0 million, to supplement or initiate programs that will continue to address economic disparities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. The proposed uses are as follows:

CIP Eligible Projects

Funding amount: \$26,800,000

- **Public Health:** \$5.8m for Public Health Building
- **Technology:** \$6.9m for Public Safety Data Terminals, SPEX Software, and Child Welfare Case Management System
- **Water Quality/Stormwater:** \$.9m for various wastewater system upgrades (ex. Crowder Lake Riser, Lake Crabtree, and Willow Springs)
- **Emergency Operations:** \$13.2m for Emergency Operations Center, Emergency Shelter Generator Review, Radio Tower Replacement, and 800MHz Radio upgrade

Continued COVID-19 Response Activities

Funding amount: \$18,900,000

- **Public Health:** \$8.7m for call center, testing, and logistics staff. Also, wastewater surveillance and scheduling system through June 2023.
- **Food Security:** \$1.8m to continue food security partnerships, HUBs and Tangelo program through September 2023.
- **Rental Assistance:** \$5.0m to complete payments for emergency rental assistance program.
- **Landlord Engagement:** \$1.6m to continue funding landlord engagement team (time-limited positions) through December 2024.
- **Fire Services DEI:** \$1.0m to continue support of Fire Services DEI program (salaries, training, and recruitment) through December 2024.
- **TJCOG:** \$.8m to administer and manage all community funding contracts to ensure receiving organizations remain in compliance with contracts.

New Expanded Initiatives

Funding amount: \$9,070,000

- **CAWD Hospitality Worker Program:** \$.82m to assist the Hospitality Industry in recruiting candidates, preparing current workers for new roles, as well as putting job seekers and working individuals on a path that leads to upward mobility. Upon approval by the City and County, CAWD will work with the Hospitality Industry to further define needs, program design, and outcomes.
- **Neighborhood Networks Pilot Program:** \$1.25m to address five protective factors for children and their families: 1) Resilience, 2) Relationships, 3) Knowledge, 4) Communications, and 4) Support. This program is in collaboration with WCHHS and WCPSS. The costs of the program would include four Prevention Social Workers, one Prevention & Placement Services Supervisor. Positions would be time-limited and includes technology and office needs.
- **Broadband Projects:** \$7.0m to build broadband infrastructure in areas of the County still without access. This will promote digital equity and affordability.

FY23 Operating One-Time Uses

Funding amount: \$2,600,000

The ARPA funding for this project would include:

- \$.6m for Nurse Navigation Line to redirect callers with non-threatening issues to non-emergency providers.
- \$1.1m for One Water Phase 2 study to develop a 50-year sustainable water supply plan.
- \$.2m for Well and Septic Financial Assistance Pilot program to support low-income, disabled and elderly individuals afford costly well and septic repairs.
- \$.7m to support continued MERV-13 air filtration in County facilities in response to COVID-19.

The remaining \$43.3m of ARPA funds are to be allocated and encumbered by December 31, 2024.