



Wayne County, Michigan **Recovery Plan**

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

2021 Report

Wayne County, Michigan
2021 Recovery Plan

Table of Contents

General Overview.....2

 Executive Summary.....2

 Uses of Funds2

 Promoting Equitable Outcomes5

 Community Engagement8

 Labor Practices9

 Use of Evidence9

 Expenses by Expenditure Category.....9



GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

Wayne County, Michigan (the “County”) acknowledges the severe impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on our community and is dedicated to utilizing the historic State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds in a way that ensures an equitable recovery. On May 24, 2021, the County received its first tranche of the allocation, amounting to \$169,894,684. To date, the County has not obligated or expended any of its State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund allocation. The County has been utilizing this time to review the guidance and generate a plan that is in compliance with Federal regulations. In developing programming, the County is focused on addressing needs created or exacerbated through the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the County is prioritizing equity, feasibility, the ability to leverage funding with collaborators, and the return on investment, meaning that the projects are sustainable and promote better outcomes moving forward. The County is currently in the planning phase and is focused on outreach to gain a better understanding of the needs in the community. Information gathered from local municipalities and community organizations is helping to shape the larger strategy, which includes assistance through additional funding sources, like Emergency Rental Assistance and the HOME-ARP allocations.

Uses of Funds

As of July 31, 2021, none of the State and Local Fiscal Recover Funds have been obligated or spent. The County has worked diligently to reach out to the leadership in all the 43 communities within the County to understand their priorities and needs. Based on those ongoing conversations, the County has developed the framework below to categorize and prioritize potential State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds projects.

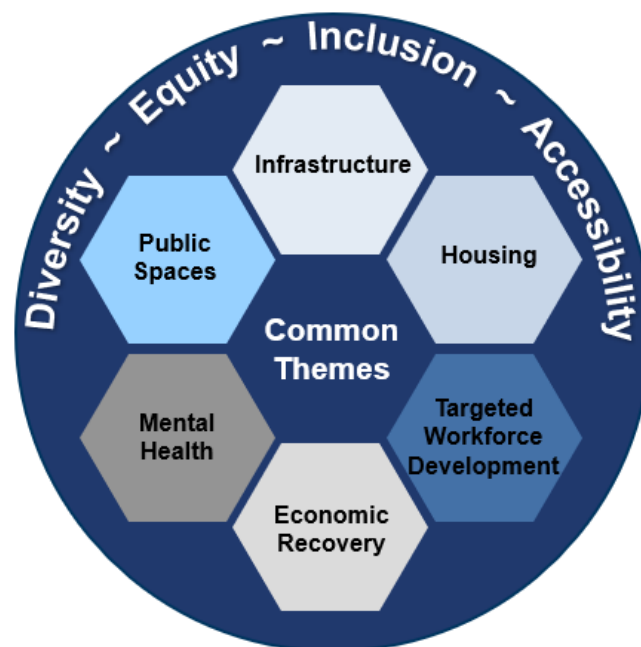


Figure 1



Potential plans categorized by eligible uses are documented below.

a. Public Health

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the need for medical services of our residents and strained the capabilities of the Health, Human and Veteran Services Department. To better serve the residents of the County, the following list of potential public health projects has been developed:

- Countywide Health Study to determine what areas of public health are most urgent in the County and address them efficiently. This study will provide data that can be used to target the most vulnerable populations in the County and provide them with the resources they need.
- A mobile vaccination clinic to reach the homebound and residents who lack transportation.
- Improvements to the Health, Human and Veteran Services Department's Health Administration Building to allow staff to provide care more efficiently and residents the ability to safely receive care.
- A permanent COVID PCR and Antibody testing laboratory in Wayne County, for testing of County sheriffs and inmates, as well as other County staff and the general public.

b. Negative Economic Impacts

Due to the public safety measures put in place to contain the spread of COVID-19, the County businesses have suffered significant financial losses. The resiliency the business community has shown to adapt to a frequently changing landscape has been immense and commendable. The County plans to support those small businesses who were hardest hit by COVID-19 and provide programming that will allow them to make it through these difficult times and come out stronger than ever. Some of the programs the County is considering include:

- Small business support to those most impacted by COVID-19.
- Main Street and façade improvement programs to create a welcoming and safe environment for residents to shop and businesses to thrive.
- Microbusiness lending to support entrepreneurs.
- Last dollar grants for developments stalled during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As part of addressing the negative economic impacts, the County also recognizes the need to support residents with housing. The County has accepted and is managing Emergency Rental Assistance 2 (ERA2) funding. This funding is meant to help individuals who are lower income and need assistance in securing their rent. The County is also waiting on guidance for the HOME-ARP dollars to further build upon the housing strategy. Additionally, the County has applied for the Small Business Administration (SBA) Community Navigator grant program with hopes to further support small businesses that were negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.



c. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

The County has several communities which have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. After speaking with leaders of these communities, the County is proposing the following projects:

- The replacement of lead water service lines into resident homes. Many Wayne County communities are faced with the burden of aging infrastructure. One of those legacy burdens is the use of lead service lines providing water to homes. The residents of many of the communities with lead service line water hookups are not able to privately afford to replace them and the municipalities do not have the means to subsidize line replacement. The County is considering a program to help alleviate some of the costs to homeowners and municipalities in the replacement of these lead lines.
- Improvement of the parks and trail systems to allow the County residents better access to outdoor spaces. The County communities made clear their desire for improved access to quality parks and public spaces. This need is exacerbated in economically challenged areas which feature less recreation space and less funding for park programming and maintenance. The County would like to make public park space available to all residents and is considering allocating funding to allow for greater access and improved maintenance and infrastructure in our parks.

As mentioned previously, the County has applied for the SBA Community Navigator grant program. If awarded, the County would target assistance toward groups that were disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. For example, the County would target assistance to minority owned small businesses, many of whom were less able to access support in 2020. Within the ERA2 program, the County also plans to focus outreach in our lower socioeconomic status and high minority population communities. The County understands that these populations often face more barriers to accessing funding and is working to reduce these barriers.

d. Premium (Hazard) Pay

The County is considering a single premium (hazard) pay program for County employees who worked in person and in public facing positions during the COVID-19 pandemic.

e. Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure

Upgrading the County's aging infrastructure is a top priority of many of our communities. Even before the flooding events experienced in the summer of 2021, it was clear that the County's water, sewer, drainage, and pump systems were in dire need of improvement. The County is exploring any water infrastructure project which helps create a system which is resilient to the pressures of climate change and will serve the residents of the County for decades to come.



f. Revenue Replacement EC 6)

The County is exploring a variety of options to fund essential County services within the allowable uses outlined by the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Interim Final Rule.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes

As illustrated in Figure 1, equity is at the core of the County's plan for its allocation of the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. The Sections below illustrate the different aspects through which the County is focusing on equity and equitable outcomes.

a. Goals

The County is the most diverse County in the state of Michigan and would like programming to reflect that. The population includes 38% Black or African American, 6% Hispanic or Latino, and 3% Asian. Additionally, there are 79,330 veterans. We also have over 70,000 women-owned firms and minority-owned firms each inside the County. We are also focusing on those qualified census tracts inside of the County. The figure below illustrates the qualified census tracts inside the County.

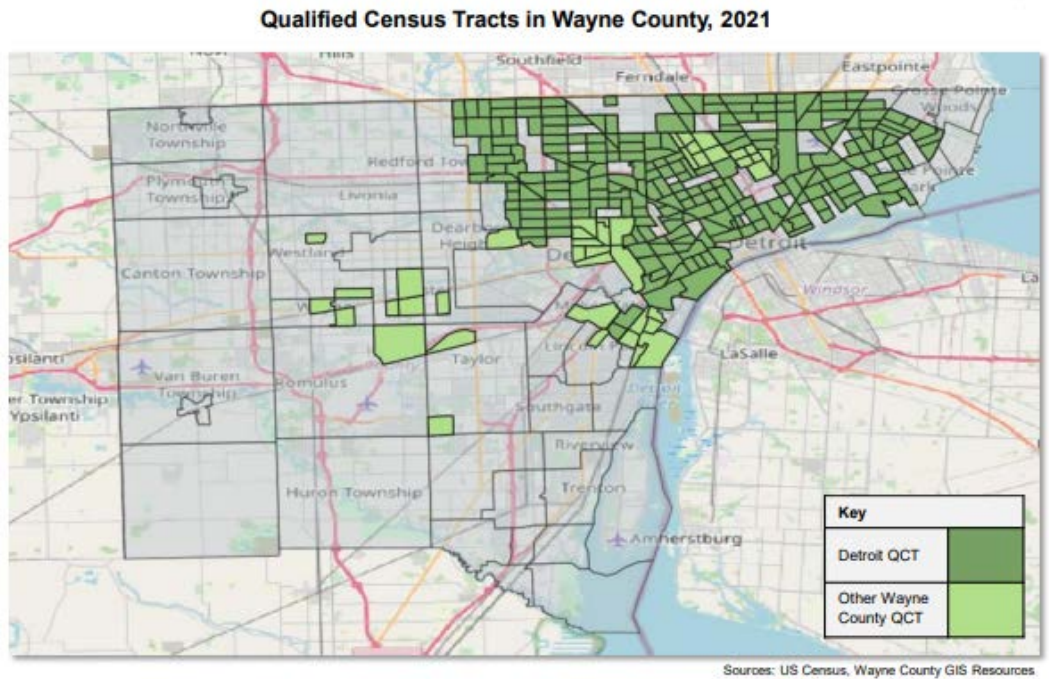
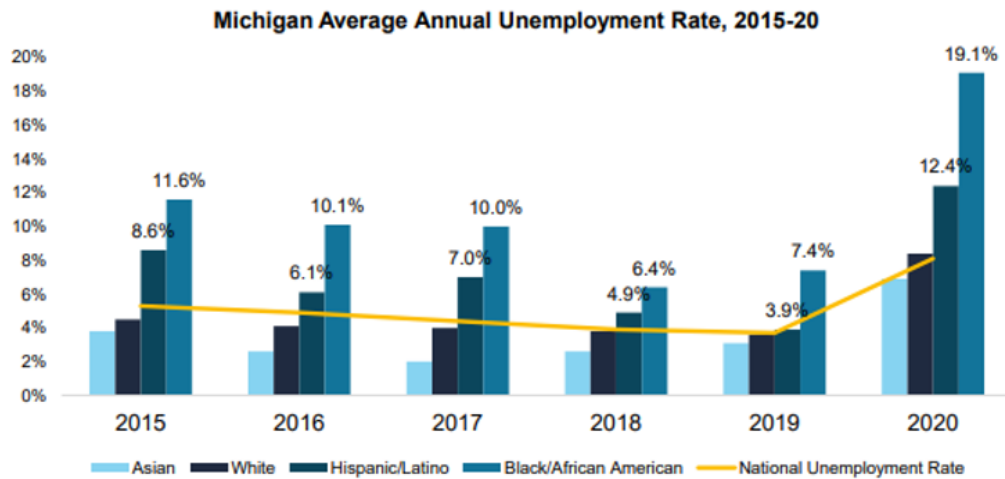


Figure 2

Along with those minority populations, the County intends to serve those who are recently unemployed and returning citizens. As you can see from the figure below, there is a correlation between minority status, specifically Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino, and experiences of unemployment. The County is working with its 43 communities and several community partners to address these disparities and best serve these populations.





THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC EXACERBATED RACIAL DISPARITIES IN UNEMPLOYMENT
 Average annual unemployment rates for Black and Hispanic individuals in Michigan were higher than those of White and Asian individuals prior to the pandemic. From 2019 to 2020, this gap widened, as unemployment rates rose by 158% for Black/African American populations and 218% for Hispanic/Latino populations, outpacing unemployment growth among White and Asian populations.

Unemployment Data Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
 Employment by Wage Data Source: Opportunity Insights Economic Tracker

Figure 3

b. Awareness in Disproportionately Impacted or Underserved Communities

The County understands that different communities require different levels of effort in order to access resources they require. Over the last year, the County has pursued several techniques to reach diverse populations based on the specific challenges they face. Outreach efforts have included:

- Door knocking campaigns, to reach those with limited to no broadband and internet access.
- Accessibility through mobile phone, to reach those with limited to no broadband and internet access.
- Language Translation, to reach the significant population of residents who speak English as a second language inside the County.

c. Access and Distribution

The County prides itself on its ability to meet residents where they are. This includes thoughtful consideration of the challenges facing different populations by discussing the existing barriers with partner organizations that serve different populations. The County is developing a list of organizations through community conversations that it intends to leverage in order to help all groups successfully apply and receive benefits.



d. Equitable Outcomes

The County understands that its outcomes should be closely connected to the intentions of the programs it creates. Along those lines, the County will pursue outcomes that align to the purpose of the program and the availability of data related to the program. For example, the County may pursue to reach universal levels of service for vaccinations due to the urgency its communities are facing to get the population vaccinated. Some programs may need to focus on intended outcomes, such as closing gaps. For example, water infrastructure projects may reduce the incidence of flooding for lower median income households.

e. Equity in Addressing Negative Economic Impacts

At this point in the process the County is developing and sourcing program and project ideas from municipalities and other organizations. The County is utilizing a scoring rubric that documents the number of qualified census tracts that will be impacted by the program or project. As the County progresses into program design it will directly look for opportunities to serve these communities with the consultation of community organizations.

f. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

At this point in the process, the County is sourcing project ideas. The application includes questions around the potential project's impacts and ability to support the County's disproportionately impacted communities. The County has put together a scoring rubric that provides additional points for those projects and programs that prioritize these communities.

g. Data Driven Solutions

The County intends to track the dollars it spends and the intended impact on the prioritized communities. At this point, the County is still collecting ideas and working with municipalities, non-profits, and private organizations to increase the impact of the funds spent.

Geographic and demographic data is also considered in determining which projects to pursue. While no funding has been obligated or distributed, the County has ensured that the preliminary application from all municipalities includes questions about qualified census tracts and other community demographics. The County is prioritizing those projects that have higher numbers of traditionally marginalized communities.



Community Engagement

Stakeholder	Number of Meetings
Commissioners (Committee of the Whole and Ways and Means)	2
The County Departments	24
Municipalities	13
Friday Roundtables	10
Community Colleges	3
Wayne Regional Educational Service Agencies (RESA)	2
Business Stakeholders	7
Non-Profit and Philanthropic Partners	11
Total	72

Figure 4

To date, the County has held 72 stakeholder meetings with over one hundred individuals to strategize and optimize spending to meet its communities' needs. The County's goals and proposed programming have developed out of discussions and ideas brought forth by stakeholders. The County has gathered input internally through documentation of County Commission and departmental priorities. The County has also sought external input through meetings with various community representatives, such as local municipality leaders, business stakeholders, community colleges, and non-profit and philanthropic entities. These meeting have all contributed to the guiding framework discussed at the beginning and illustrated in Figure 1.

Wayne County is made up of 43 different communities. As mentioned above, the County has met with representatives of all the local municipalities to understand needs and identify ways to leverage State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund allocations. In addition to holding meetings to discuss and document municipality priorities, the County also created an application process and collected written proposals from its communities and community organizations wherein funding for joint projects can be requested. The County is using a scoring methodology, which includes factors like feasibility and addressing equity in order to determine which projects to pursue. Working together towards common goals will result in programs that are successful and meet the needs of community members.

The Friday Roundtable series consists of bi-weekly meetings to bring together members of the community, including but not limited to municipality leaders, chambers of commerce, and business representatives. While these meetings provide a variety of resources, ten of the meetings were specifically focused on discussing the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, and the American Rescue Plan more broadly. These virtual meetings utilized breakout sessions to solicit input on helping businesses overcome the negative economic impact due to COVID-19 and develop ideas to build stronger communities.



The County is also invested in promoting workforce development for underserved populations. Due to the pandemic, many people have delayed their education or can no longer afford education. Other residents, whose jobs were severely impacted by the pandemic, are looking to “skill-up” and gain employment that is more secure. The County is meeting to collaborate with community colleges to leverage funding and develop support for these individuals.

The County has also had meetings with several non-profit and Philanthropic partners to obtain a better understanding of the needs experienced by residents. In particular, the County has met with organizations that specifically service survivors of domestic violence, returning citizens, and non-native English speakers in hopes to build out programming that best serves these populations.

Labor Practices

No infrastructure projects have been approved as of July 31, 2021. The County intends on using strong labor standards on any future infrastructure projects and will document any labor practices provided in the reporting guidance. This includes enforcing the County’s current wage standards for federal infrastructure projects, which state that rates of wages to be paid to any laborers by any Contractors or subcontractors shall not be less than the wage rates issued by the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs and wages rates of the locality in which the project construction is occurring.

Use of Evidence

The U.S. Treasury is encouraging the adoption of evidence-based interventions. While there are no definitive programs as of July 31, 2021, the County intends on using the evidence-based interventions from the U.S. Treasury provided Clearinghouses for all applicable projects. All other projects will plan on implementing rigorous program evaluation standards.

Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category

There are no expenses as of July 31, 2021.

