

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
2022 Recovery Plan**

Weber County, Utah
July 31, 2022

Weber County Utah 2022 Recovery Plan

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allocated \$50,543,325 in State/Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) in direct local recovery assistance to Weber County Government. The first half of the County's award was received on June 7, 2021 with the second half received on July 14, 2022. In order to provide equitable, sustainable and generational benefits to the citizens of Weber County, the County Commission has adopted the following set of guiding principles as they allocate and spend SLFRF funds. These guiding principles include:

- Project must meet the minimum eligibility requirements set forth in Treasury's Final Rule
- Project must be physically located within Weber County; or primarily serve Weber County residents
- Project must be self-sustaining after it is completed
- Preference may be given for projects where there is an opportunity to coordinate funding with other entities
- Intended outcomes should be clearly identified and reportable by programming/project department, division, or entity
- Priority will be given to broadband, water, and sewer Infrastructure projects
- Priority will be given to projects that will benefit future generations

Key outcome goals will be measured and reported on an individual basis as appropriate once projects are approved and funds are allocated.

A legal/financial/performance working group was created to review all spending plans to ensure legal compliance. This Committee is responsible to interpret the SLFRF Final Rule and the Compliance and Performance Reporting Guidance, create an application process, determine accountability, and collect and report required performance measures to the Department of Treasury and the public.

Weber County established an application process intended to gain public input on potential projects requesting funding. Applications were accepted from the community, including other local governments and not for profit organizations. All applications were reviewed and ranked by the committee and the Weber County Commissioners. The County Commissioners then selected projects for funding they felt would have the greatest impact on the County.

These awards will follow state, local, and federally designated processes, including budgeting, contracting, and procurement. As future annual recovery plans are created, they will reflect any new projects and goals concerning the allocation of Weber County's SLFRF funds. Approval of such allocations will be made by the Weber County Commission in accordance with Treasury's Final Rule and Guidance.

As Weber County continues to respond to the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, it reserves the right to move forward with timely and appropriate responses that may or may not have been considered or addressed in this annual report. This flexibility is not only necessary, but critical as the County continues to navigate the changing COVID-19 landscape. Any such projects will be reported in subsequent annual reports.

Uses of Funds

Weber County has developed a SLFRF Recovery Plan for allocating funds. It includes Water, Sewer and Broadband infrastructure projects along with projects that address Negative Economic Impacts in our community. These projects will aid Weber County residents for generations. All projects fit in the allowable categories as defined in the Final Rule and US Treasury guidance.

The County recognizes that the Weber County Recovery Plan does not propose funding allocations in all eligible expense categories. This decision was made strategically after considering the long-term needs of the County as well as the sustainability of social services programming. It should not be construed that the County has ignored the categories not addressed in the plan. Rather, in order to provide the most efficient and effective use of funds, the County has chosen to focus mainly on infrastructure improvements to help address our imminent water and broadband needs. The County has also chosen to provide capital improvement funding to community partners that have a proven record of administering programs to underserved populations.

At this time, the County's strategies will promote each designated expenditure category, in the following ways:

Public Health (EC 1) - The County will promote Public Health by providing services for children affected by physical and sexual abuse.

Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2) – The County will address the long-term need for quality public housing by funding a project that provides an affordable housing option for disproportionately impacted groups. It will also provide funding to Nonprofit Organizations for improving their facilities used for helping at-risk youth with mental health and education needs.

Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity (EC 3) – The County has not approved any projects in this category at this time.

Premium Pay (EC4) – The County is not considering premium pay for employees.

Water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure (EC 5) - The County will partner with local government/entities to invest in critical water, sewer and broadband infrastructure projects. These include funding new water tanks, replacing culinary water pipelines and last-mile internet connections.

Revenue Replacement (EC 6) – The County plans to recoup the lost revenue experienced due to the pandemic. Revenue sources for Parks and Recreation, the Golden Spike Events Center, and the Ogden Eccles Conference Center were especially impacted by the precautions put into place.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes

Weber County has initially approved several projects intended to address the needs of those citizens disproportionately affected by the pandemic. This group includes the most vulnerable in our community suffering from the effects of low-income, homelessness, mental health issues and lack of education. These projects will provide stabilizing services needed to supply them with the assistance and help needed to address the negative economic impacts they have experienced. These groups include, the homeless, the unemployed, disconnected youth, and minorities. There is no qualitative and quantitative data to report at this time since none of the approved projects have started.

Community Engagement

Treasury's Final rule encourages recipients to consider input from the community in determining where to invest ARPA funds. Weber County elected to receive community input in the form of applications requesting funding for eligible projects. The County Commissioners have also reached out to different groups and organizations requesting their input in determining the most critical needs in our community.

Labor Practices

For all large infrastructure and capital projects, the inter-local agreement or project request for proposal will include the requirement that all workforce practices outlined in the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Compliance and Reporting Guidance, Section 3.h. be complied with. When appropriate, sub-grantees or contractors will be required to maintain sufficient records to substantiate the required information.

The County regularly conducts market studies to ensure fair and competitive wages for its workforce. It also awards contracts for goods or services through a fair and open competitive procurement process.

Use of Evidence

Currently, Weber County has no completed projects that would merit or require the reporting of evidence-based interventions. Weber County intends to support community organizations that provide evidence-base programs through funding capital projects rather than programing costs.

PROJECT INVENTORY

PROJECT NAME: Ogden Nature Center – Broadband upgrade

FUNDING AMOUNT: \$25,000

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY: Broadband: “Last Mile” projects 5.19

Project Overview

The Greater Ogden Community Nature Center (Ogden Nature Center) requested help upgrading to high speed broadband. This project would serve schoolchildren and others across the State of Utah. The pandemic created a need for the Ogden Nature Center to provide its science education programs via the internet to classrooms and homeschooled students. They have struggled to provide educational programming via virtual means since its internet service is slow and weak. With high-speed broadband services, their programs and staff will be easily and quickly accessible to schools, students, and to those who must stay home due to the pandemic. It will also increase their ability to serve the public at their facility.

High-Speed internet had not been an option because of the Ogden Nature Center’s location. Recently, broadband lines have been installed nearby. To bring a broadband connection into the Ogden Nature Center and its facilities, is expensive and difficult to accomplish without assistance. This project would complete the “last mile” internet connection for the Nature Center.

Investing in this project will solve the issues associated with their internet access.

Performance Indicators

- Allow more efficient and faster virtual programming
- Update software to latest formats
- Trouble-free credit card processing
- Use of security cameras
- Cell phone access on premises

Outcome Goals

- Increase the programs available to schoolchildren
- Increase the amount of people served by their programs

PROJECT NAME: Bona Vista Water Improvement District – Hot spring Tank

FUNDING AMOUNT: \$1,500,000

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY: Water and Sewer: Drinking Water Storage 5.14

Project Overview

Bona Vista requested funds to help construct a three (3) million-gallon culinary water storage tank. In the face of Utah’s unprecedented drought continuing into 2022, Weber County remains in an “extreme drought” classification by the State of Utah. This project is a water infrastructure project that will have a lasting and beneficial impact on Weber County residents and future generations. These funds will provide a direct benefit to approximately 29,000 Weber County residents. Additional storage will ensure meeting peak day demands during normal conditions and also guarantee critical access to additional stored culinary water in times of emergency.

The tank will be located adjacent to Highway 89 on the border of Weber and Box Elder counties. The tank will be placed at a lower elevation than the current storage tank reducing the need to pump water uphill. This will result in energy savings. Using their SCADA system, Bona Vista will be able to monitor and control the tank and pump house’s critical systems, immediately react to emergency or security threats by shutting down impacted portions of the system, divert stored water to other parts of the system when needed and gather valuable data to make needed adjustments to maximize long-term use and efficiency.

Performance Indicators

- Increase storage of culinary water
- Reduce energy costs
- Allow more flexibility in water delivery

Outcome Goals

- Make the county more drought resistant

PROJECT NAME: Uintah City – Bybee Water Tank

FUNDING AMOUNT: \$1,750,000

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY: Water and Sewer: Drinking Water Storage 5.14

Project Overview

This is a culinary water tank replacement and expansion project. The existing concrete tank has structural deficiencies and is undersized. Replacement of the tank will allow Uintah City to correct the sizing and structural deficiencies and improve water supply to the entire City.

The existing 250,000-gallon tank will be replaced with two 375,000-gallon tanks to provide a total of 750,000 gallons of water storage. This will provide sufficient water storage for all future growth on the eastern side of Uintah City. The new tanks will connect to transmission lines that were constructed and sized in anticipation of the larger tank in 2000. The property, which is adjacent to residential development, will be fenced and improved. New supervisory controls and data acquisition equipment will be installed to provide the water wholesale provider, Weber Basin Water Conservancy District, additional flexibility to monitor and supply water to the City and balance their supply with other neighboring communities they serve.

One of the many detrimental effects of COVID-19 is cost increases caused by a general shortage of building materials. It is apparent that the increase in construction costs will place a heavy burden on a community with a small population of 1,439 people. With a smaller customer base, it takes time to accumulate sufficient funds for a major project like this. Due to issues related to inadequate water storage, a six-month moratorium on all construction was put in place, beginning March 17, 2021. The moratorium cannot be reasonably lifted until the additional storage is constructed or underway.

Performance Indicators

- Increase storage of culinary water
- Remove moratorium on building in Uintah City
- Allow more flexibility in water delivery

Outcome Goals

- Make the county more drought resistant

PROJECT NAME: Green Hills Water and Sewer - Maple Well Pump

FUNDING AMOUNT: \$20,000

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY: Water and Sewer: Other 5.13

Project Overview

Green Hills Water & Sewer requested funds for an Engineering Study with a subsequent construction project to address the quality of the water pumped from the Maple Well. The water issues include water discoloration and sediment pumped into the distribution system.

Performance Indicators

- Water quality tests

Outcome Goals

- Improve the water quality being distributed to residents

PROJECT NAME: Liberty Pipeline Company – Willow Creek Well

FUNDING AMOUNT: \$100,000

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY: Water and Sewer: Storage 5.14

Project Overview

Liberty Pipeline Company placed the Willow Creek Well (previously used to supply Willow Creek Sub Division with water), in an Inactive Status when the homes in that area were connected to Liberty Pipeline Company. At the time, the well water was not needed. Due to the drought and Liberty Pipeline Company's short supply of water resources for over 600 homes currently being served by the company, the Willow Creek Well source is needed.

Due to COVID-19 many residents who utilize LPC water sources are working from home. Many more are moving into the area and creating a shortage of available water resources that the company can access. Trying to obtain maintenance work has been an issue due to the labor shortage brought on by COVID-19. As a result, inflation has impacted the company through high labor rates, supplies for repairs, and equipment. They are not able to fund this project without help.

Performance Indicators

- Bring the Willow Creek Well back into active service
- Increase the water supply to residents

Outcome Goals

- Make the County more drought resistant

PROJECT NAME: Youth Impact’s Opportunity Center

FUNDING AMOUNT: \$100,000

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY: Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations
2.34

Project Overview

Youth Impact requested funds for an infrastructure project to renovate its facility. This project includes building a commercial teaching kitchen, family food pantry, and High-Tech Teen Center. They also need funds to repair the critically damaged roof on its original building.

Youth Impact is a nonprofit organization that connects residents with health care resources and public assistance programs. This project would provide the resources to build a dedicated food pantry. It would also build an area for its Community Outreach Coordinator to meet with families and connect them with the services they need. These needs have been exasperated due to the COVID pandemic. This includes Food assistance, and education support through internet access and digital literacy assistance.

State and local governments are encouraged to use payments from the Fiscal Recovery Funds to respond to the direct and immediate needs of the pandemic and its negative economic impacts. In particular, address the needs of households and businesses that were disproportionately and negatively impacted by the public health emergency. Low-income communities, workers and people of color have faced more severe health and economic outcomes during the pandemic. More than 50% of Youth Impact’s clients are people of color, and 100% qualify for free/reduced lunch.

Due to the COVID pandemic, school closures and the transition to remote learning has been particular challenging for lower-income students. It exacerbates the educational disparities, while increases economic hardship among the families served by Youth Impact. This project would support youth by providing a dedicated space for students, ages 12-18, to receive educational support. This includes a credit recovery lab and a private room for social workers providing mental health services.

Performance Indicators

- Increase number of citizens served

Outcome Goals

- Provide more services for negatively impacted groups

PROJECT NAME: Taylor West Weber Improvement Dist. – 3300 South

FUNDING AMOUNT: \$350,000

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY: Drinking Water: Transmission & Distribution
5.11

Project Overview

This project will replace a 52-year-old water line under a section of 3300 South Street that is slated for reconstruction. These ARPA funds will be combined with West Haven’s local, regional and State monies. Leveraging these funds from all sources will provide a high return on investment for county residents by protecting the longevity of the roadway project as well as increase the distribution of culinary water.

Treasury’s Final rule identifies projects that improve access to clean drinking water as an eligible use for funds. Investment in this project is unlikely to be made using private sources of funding and would help Taylor West Weber Improvement District maintain a level of service that, at least, meets applicable health-based standards to existing and future users. It is important that necessary investments in water infrastructure be carried out in ways that produce high-quality infrastructure, avert disruptive and costly delays, and promote efficiency. This project accomplishes these objectives.

Performance Indicators

- Replace aging water lines

Outcome Goals

- Increase ability to distribute larger quantity of water efficiently
- Remove the need to tear up new road for water line replacement

PROJECT NAME: Weber Basin Water – 12th Street Pipeline

FUNDING AMOUNT: \$823,000

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY: Drinking Water: Transmission & Distribution
5.11

Project Overview

This project will replace a 16-inch concrete culinary pipeline with a new 24-inch PVC pipeline that transports water along the 12th Street Corridor. Weber County has designed the demolition, widening and reconstruction of 12th Street from approximately 4700 W to Little Mountain. Weber Basin Water District is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the water pipeline that runs along this 12th Street Corridor. The District has coordinated with the County for the incorporation of the new pipeline as part of the roadway project.

This project has specific ties to drinking water services provided to communities located in northern Utah and will ensure the resiliency, and high level of service the community needs.

Performance Indicators

- Replace aging water lines

Outcome Goals

- Increase ability to distribute larger quantity of water efficiently
- Remove the need to tear up the new road for water line replacement

PROJECT NAME: Weber Housing Authority – Residence at 9th and Wall

FUNDING AMOUNT: \$1,000,000

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY: Long-term Housing Security: Affordable Housing 2.15

Project Overview

The Weber Housing Authority (WHA) is building a 60-unit complex for low-income individuals (below 50% AMI). The plan will subsidize twenty-five units through WHA with Project-Based Vouchers for chronically homeless, disabled individuals. The project will provide decent, safe, and affordable housing. Linking case management with rental assistance has proven beneficial to maintaining long-term housing success for the homeless population. Weber Human Services (WHS) will provide case management services to assist participants as they progress toward self-sufficiency. Case management teams will offer counseling in substance use, mental health treatment, medication management, and life skills training. Team members will also assist participants in identifying triggers that have contributed to their homelessness in the past. Group self-sufficiency classes will be offered onsite, and private office space will be available for case managers and therapists to provide services. Onsite amenities will include laundry, community and, computer rooms, and offices for WHS staff.

This new construction project will be one self-contained building on a 1.5-acre lot. This project will increase housing stability and improve the quality of life for the low-income/homeless individuals in our community. This project is the result of years of community collaboration. The WHA has been administering a scattered site Permanent Supportive Housing Project since 2012. Since that time, the WHA has been housing Weber County’s hardest to serve chronically homeless, disabled individuals. With the tightening of the housing market, low vacancies and high rent, it has become increasingly difficult to find decent, safe and affordable housing units for this population. WHS is deeply committed to the safety of those they serve. This population is often taken advantage of and have been banned from accessing emergency shelter services. They are left to wander the streets and often times compromise their personal rights in an effort to remain safe.

WHS and the WHA feel strongly that it is their responsibility to protect this incredibly vulnerable population. Identified chronically homeless individuals will remain in this temporary homeless shelter until the project is complete, at which time they will be moved to the housing project. The Residences at 9th and Wall will have a live-in house manager that will oversee the nightly operations of the project and a WHA staff member will provide security during the day.

Performance Indicators

- Number of affordable housing units preserved or developed
- Number of households receiving eviction prevention services (including legal representation)

Outcome Goals

- Decrease homelessness
- House the most vulnerable individuals living on the streets of Weber County

PROJECT NAME: Children’s Justice Center Building

FUNDING AMOUNT: \$1,000,000

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY: Other Public Health Services 1.14

Project Overview

Funds were requested to help build a new Children’s Justice Center (CJC). The CJC provides space and services to children that are victims of sexual and physical abuse. They provide resources to local and federal law enforcement agencies as well as Division of Child & Family Services (DCFS) that are essential to their investigation of crimes against children.

Their current location lacks sufficient space for families that use the center. As a result, they are unable to provide privacy and a comfortable setting for their clients. They also lack the space to hold multi-disciplinary team meetings, which are critical to the successful conclusion of these types of cases. Child abuse cases are very specialized. They require trained and competent workers. CJC’s current building has little to no soundproofing, making it impossible to conduct forensic interviews with victims without interference from outside noise.

Without moving to a new location, the CJC is at a critical point of either discontinuing certain services or dividing services between two locations. Their model is designed to eliminate stress and trauma to these children and families. In their current situation, they are not able to provide the needed services to child victims of crime.

Weber County greatly values the services provided by the CJC and sees it as a necessary partner with law enforcement.

Performance Indicators

- Services provided to victims of abuse

Outcome Goals

- CJC will be able to offer all services required for families suffering from the effects of child abuse.

PERFORMANCE REPORTING

As of June 30, 2022, Weber County has not funded any programs that require program specific performance reporting.

If in the future the County expends funds to projects in expense categories that require reporting required measures, Weber County will include those indicators in future reports.