

Brevard County, FL

Board of County Commissioners

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

2023 Recovery Plan and Performance Report

Executive Summary

The American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) was passed by Congress on March 10, 2021, and signed into law on March 11, 2021. It augments programs started by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) in 2020 and the Consolidated Appropriations Act in 2021 and created new programs to address the continuing pandemic-related crises, and fund recovery efforts. Brevard County received ARPA funding in the amount of \$116,920,177 from United States Department of the Treasury (Treasury). The initial tranche of \$58,460,088 was received on May 19, 2021, and the second tranche in the amount of \$58,460,088 was received on June 9, 2022.

The Final Rule provides that these funds may be used for (a) to respond to the public health emergency with respect to Coronavirus Disease or its negative economic impacts, (b) to respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers, (c) revenue replacement for the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue of the county due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, or (d) to make necessary investments in water, sewer, stormwater or broadband infrastructure.

Brevard County's ARPA Recovery Plan built on the consideration the Board of County Commissioners allocation of, and expenditures related to CARES funding Brevard County received on April 23, 2020, for Public Health and Safety programs. The County has been able to address many different aspects of the economic recovery while ensuring that public health and other community needs remained a key focus.

Uses of Funds

Brevard County Board of County Commissioners initially approved their ARPA Recovery Plan on July 20, 2021. Complying with Treasury's guidelines, this plan was practical and effective in protecting the public health and the region's economy. With the receipt of the 2nd tranche, the County revised their plan and funded additional projects that maintained the practicality and mission of the original funding on October 25, 2022.

The outline below provides the broad categories of Brevard County's allocation of ARPA funding. The total amount of funds allocated to 94 projects stands at \$114,391,703.

Brevard County ARPA Recovery Plan Funding Categories

1. Investment in Water, Sewer Infrastructure, and Stormwater

This plan invests \$63,727,793 of ARPA funds for water, wastewater, and stormwater projects, which are designed to improve water quality and address water pollution, enabling the County to address and prioritize the needs of the citizens. Projects include constructing, improving, and repairing wastewater treatment plants, controlling non-point sources of pollution, improving resilience of infrastructure to severe weather events, and protecting the County's waterbodies from pollution.

Categories of eligible projects include treatment, transmission and distribution, source rehabilitation and decontamination, storage, consolidation, and new systems development. Eligible projects also include: construction of publicly owned treatment works, nonpoint source pollution management, national estuary program projects, decentralized wastewater treatment systems, stormwater systems, water conservation, efficiency and reuse measures, watershed pilot projects, energy efficiency measures for publicly-owned treatment works, water reuse projects, security measures at publicly-owned treatment works, and technical assistance to ensure compliance with the Clean Water Act.

A total of \$12,874,783 has been expended by projects in these categories.

2. Public Health

In order to provide for the health and safety to the community served by Brevard County, an allocation of \$1,997,086 for an employee vaccine incentive program was established. This program incentivizes fully vaccinated County employees who are providing essential services during the COVID-19 public health emergency. This allocation has been expended.

Additionally, Brevard County utilized a further \$3,596,298 to reimburse costs that had been incurred by County Employees due to COVID 19. These costs included medications, sick leave, hospital stays, and all other costs incurred by those infected with the disease. These funds were fully expended.

Brevard County has also invested \$1,200,000 into enhancing the services provided to Brevard County residents through the E-911 services provided by the County's First responders to respond to calls related to COVID-19. The project is intended to move the County's Radio Transmission tower backbone to the P25 standard, which is a federal requirement. This project will ensure that the first responders of Brevard County are utilizing the most up to date technology and equipment to provide life-saving services to the County. Procurement is underway.

3. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

Brevard County's Board of County Commissioners approved \$2,000,000 in funding to be utilized to provide affordable housing to the residents of Brevard County.

4. Revenue Replacement Opportunities

The County has allocated \$41,867,612 for use in revenue replacement projects. As provided by Treasury guidance, this revenue loss can be used for maintenance of infrastructure including roads, modernization of cybersecurity, protection of critical infrastructure, health services, environmental remediation, school or educational services, and the provision of police, fire, and other public safety services.

In the first tranche of ARPA funding, \$8.5 million was allocated to the Fire Rescue program to support the County's public safety operations. The funding has been used to offset a shortfall in funding due to COVID-19.

Brevard County allocated \$12.2 million towards the construction of a new Emergency Operation Center (EOC). The current Brevard County EOC is the most frequently activated EOC in the state of Florida, and one of the most frequently activated in the United States due to the number of space launches and launch attempts. While Brevard has storm surge, flooding, and wildfire threats that most coastal counties in Florida face, it is also home to the second busiest cruise port in the world, multiple military facilities, and a robust defense industrial base. Brevard is also susceptible to a nuclear power plant incident, as the County is within the 50-mile ingestion pathway for the St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant.

The EOC has been the primary location for staff to gather and disseminated information about COVID-19 to residents of Brevard County. Staff were present to ensure a consistent rollout of the testing kits and vaccines the County received, as well as coordinating with the County Sheriff's office and local municipalities police staffs to ensure proper protection and supplies were available for public safety staff. The EOC also coordinated with the County's Transit system to ensure travel was available for those in need to get access to testing and vaccines.

The current EOC is over 55 years old, undersized, and carries a variety of facility and technology issues. When an EOC activation occurs, it houses over 200 people from cross-functional teams including: County staff, Brevard County Sheriff's Office (BCSO), Florida Health Department, municipal representatives, Federal partners (NASA, Department of Defense, Coast Guard), Brevard County Schools, National Weather Service, State of Florida Emergency Management, and several private partners to include communications and energy providers. There is very little space available in this building to provide for all the needed staff to adequately respond to emergencies. There are also issues with flooding during storm events, which can lead to technology outages.

The new Brevard County EOC will be located on a plot of land owned by the County, and in a less flood prone location. Additionally, the building will be significantly larger than the current facility, which will allow for enhanced social distancing and safety measures for staff. The building will also include a consolidated emergency call center that will better be able to respond during the disaster events and provide the appropriate level of responses for the current COVID-19 response and all future emergencies.

Additionally, the County has allocated the following Revenue Replacement funds:

\$300,000 in funding to the Mosquito Control division for equipment purchases.

\$1,866,000 has been allocated to the Property Appraiser to update the GIS Tax Map, which will enhance the E-911 services offered through Brevard County First Responders.

\$737,000 has been allocated to the Florida Coast to Coast Parrish Park Trailhead, which will help improve access to public recreation spaces for Brevard County Residents.

\$3,500,000 has been allocated to Capital Improvements for Parks in the Southern Area of Brevard County, to improve access to public recreation spaces and help improve health in Brevard County.

\$1,533,193 has been allocated to Capital Improvements for Parks in the Northern Area of Brevard County, to improve access to public recreation spaces and help improve health in Brevard County.

\$750,000 has been allocated for Maintenance Facility Feasibility and Concept Plans for Titusville, Cocoa, and Merritt Island.

\$1,705,540 has been allocated for Community Agencies in District 5 in Southern Brevard to help assist those residents harshly affected by COVID-19.

\$2,847,000 has been allocated for a new Road & Bridge / Fleet Maintenance Building to replace a building that has outlived its useful life.

\$40,000 has been allocated for a feasibility study to determine if Merritt Island should incorporate into a City or remain unincorporated.

\$1,000,000 has been allocated for a new County Run Animal Hospital.

\$6,442,628 has been allocated for Beach Renourishment to help offset the damages suffered by Brevard County from Hurricane Ian and Hurricane Nicole. These funds will cover the County's costs that are not reimbursable under FEMA / Stafford Act funding.

Currently, there has been \$14,923,539 expended under Revenue Replacement costs.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes

As Brevard County moves forward with implementing the ARPA Recovery Plan, initiatives are being established to measure equity including developing goals to provide benefits across various groups, awareness for residents and businesses, and equitable access and distribution of programs and services.

This initial plan invested the majority of ARPA funds in water and wastewater projects has now been expanded to include stormwater projects. These are community projects that will provide citizens with clean water, additional capacity, and resiliency to climate change. While developing this plan, careful consideration was given to ensure that projects are completed timely to benefit the community.

Developing a vaccination incentive program has encouraged essential employees to get vaccinated in order to provide a safe working environment, as well as reduce public health risk to the community. Research shows that vaccinated employees are less likely to transmit the COVID-19 virus, and therefore are less likely to infect their families, coworkers, and the general public that they serve. This program protects employees and citizens while mitigating the risk of reduced public services that could result from excessive sick leave of essential workers.

The initial ARPA Recovery Plan allocated a portion of revenue replacement funds to support the operational needs of the Fire Rescue Department, ensuring that public health and safety needs were well served. These resources allowed for key investments in personnel, capital equipment, and infrastructure to effectively respond to our community.

The County is currently evaluating the community's needs and further COVID-19 impacts to determine how remaining funds will be expended. Opportunities include but are not limited to: investing in the community; long term needs for drinking water projects; long term needs for wastewater and stormwater projects; addressing negative economic impacts of disproportionately impacted communities and economically disadvantaged; addressing educational disparities exacerbated by COVID-19, including educational services and workforce training; promoting

healthy childhood environments; and additional provisions of government services to benefit and serve the community through revenue replacement opportunities.

Community Engagement

All programs were approved by the Board of County Commissioners at a public meeting where the community has an opportunity to provide input in a public forum. Commissioners engage with the citizens on a daily basis to understand the local needs, priorities, and pressures facing the County.

Prior to advertising and solicitation of projects, Brevard County will look for opportunities to engage local contractors and workforce through community outreach. All projects undertaken with the second tranche of funds will follow the same community engagement plan.

Labor Practices

The County will ensure that as projects are selected to utilize SLFRF funds, that all procurement contracts using such funds are consistent with the procurement standards set forth in the Uniform Guidance at 2 CFR 200.317 through 2 CFR 200.327, as applicable, as well as local procurement policies. The Uniform Guidance requires competitive bidding and contractor oversight and maintaining written standards of conduct and prohibitions on dealing with suspended or debarred parties.

Brevard County will strongly encourage the use of local workforce to promote efficient delivery of high-quality infrastructure projects while also supporting the economic recovery efforts. The County will report on community benefits agreements, workforce wages and local hiring achieved through these agreements.

Use of Evidence

The County is not currently incorporating evidence-based interventions or program evaluations into its use of the SLFRF funding. The bulk of the funding is being used to address critical areas of need in the community with respects to drinking water and water pollution control. If the Board, in conjunction with the community, decides funds should be used to address the types of projects that require these evaluations, the County will fully comply with all Federal guidelines.

Performance Report

The infrastructure projects planned below were divided across all five of Brevard County's Districts to ensure assistance to residents across the County. See Projected Outcomes in the Project Inventory below. \$114,391,703 has been budgeted for specific programs out the above mentioned \$116,920,177. \$33,391,706 has been expended out of the obligated funds.

Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category

Category		Cumulative Allocations to date (\$)	Cumulative Expenditures to date (\$)
1	Expenditure Category: Public Health		
1.1	COVID-19 Vaccination	\$1,997,086.00	\$1,997,086.00
1.8	Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (Including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation / Quarantine)	\$1,200,000.00	\$0.00
1.9	Payroll Costs for Public Health, Safety, and Other Public Sector Staff Responding to COVID-19	\$3,596,298.00	\$3,596,298.00
2	Expenditure Category: Negative Economic Impacts		
2.1	Household Assistance: Food Programs	\$0.00	\$0.00
Category		Cumulative Allocations to date (\$)	Cumulative Expenditures to date (\$)
3	Expenditure Category: Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities		
3.10	Housing Support: Affordable Housing	\$2,000,000.00	\$0.00
4	Expenditure Category: Premium Pay		
5	Expenditure Category: Infrastructure		
5.1	Clean Water: Centralized wastewater treatment	\$0.00	\$0.00
5.2	Clean Water: Centralized wastewater collection and conveyance	\$6,857,056.00	\$0.00
5.3	Clean Water: Decentralized wastewater	\$0.00	\$0.00
5.4	Clean Water: Combined sewer overflows	\$0.00	\$0.00
5.5	Clean Water: Other sewer infrastructure	\$23,062,000.00	\$3,028,396.00
5.6	Clean Water: Stormwater	\$28,324,737.00	\$9,388,596.00
5.7	Clean Water: Energy conservation	\$0.00	\$0.00
5.8	Clean Water: Water conservation	\$0.00	\$0.00
5.9	Clean Water: Nonpoint source	\$750,000.00	\$0.00
5.10	Drinking water: Treatment	\$0.00	\$0.00
5.11	Drinking water: Transmission & distribution	\$4,734,000.00	\$457,791.00
Category		Cumulative Allocations to date (\$)	Cumulative Expenditures to date (\$)
6	Expenditure Category: Revenue Replacement		
6.1	Provision of Government Services	\$41,867,612.00	\$14,923,539.00
7	Administrative and Other		
7.1	Administrative Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00