



## **Proposed Investment of American Rescue Plan Act Funds**

**APPROVED 8/09/2021**

## **HAMILTON COUNTY TITLE VI NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

The County serves all people, including minority populations, low-income populations, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and those who traverse the County. The County recognizes its responsibility to provide fairness and equity in all of its programs, services, and activities, and that it must abide by and enforce federal and state civil rights legislation.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination based on race, color, or national origin, in any program, service or activity that receives federal assistance. Specifically, Title VI assures that, “No person in the United States shall, on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefit of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal assistance (42 U.S.C. Section 2000d).” The use of the word “person” is important, as the protections afforded under Title VI apply to anyone, regardless of whether the individual is lawfully present in the United States or a citizen of a state within the United States. In addition to Title VI, there are other non-discrimination statutes that afford legal protection, including:

- Section 162(a) of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1973 prohibits discrimination based on sex (23 USC324) and is the enabling legislation of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)
- Age Discrimination Act of 1975 prohibits discrimination based on age
- Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 prohibit discrimination based on disability

Taken together, these requirements define an over-arching Title VI/Non-Discrimination Program. It is important to also understand that Title VI and the additional non-discrimination requirements are applicable to federal programs in addition to programs receiving federal financial assistance due to the Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987. The Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 prohibits unfair and inequitable treatment of persons displaced or whose property has been acquired as a result of projects which are undertaken with federal financial assistance.

As a recipient of federal financial assistance, the County must provide access to individuals with limited ability to speak, write, or understand the English language. The County will not restrict an individual in any way from the enjoyment of any advantage or privilege enjoyed by others receiving any service, financial aid, or other benefit under its programs or projects. Individuals may not be subjected to criteria or methods of administration which cause adverse impact because of their race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability or have the effect of defeating or substantially impairing accomplishment of the objectives of the program because of race, color, age, sex, disability, or national origin.

The County shall also ensure that their sub-recipients adhere to state and federal law and include in all written agreements or contracts assurances that the sub-recipient must comply with Title VI and other related statutes. The County, as a sub-recipient who distributes federal funds, shall monitor their sub-recipients for voluntary compliance with Title VI. In the event that non-compliance is discovered, the County will make a good faith effort to ensure that the sub-recipient corrects any deficiencies arising out of complaints related to Title VI; and that sub-recipients will proactively gauge the impacts of any program or activity on minority populations and low-income populations, the elderly, persons with disabilities, all interested persons and affected Title VI populations.

## INTRODUCTION

With the passage of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which includes a \$65.5 million aid package for Hamilton County, we have an unprecedented opportunity to strengthen our local economy and communities through significant investment in one-time ARPA dollars.

Throughout the last decade, Hamilton County has been planning for the future of our cities and towns. These communities have tangible plans and shovel-ready projects designed to boost the local economy, help residents thrive, and attract new families to the area. Over the past few years, as elected officials have traveled the county to meet with local business, municipal leaders and community members, it was clear there were towns and communities that may need resources from the county to help their visions become reality. With \$65 million in direct funds from the federal government, we have tremendous opportunities to work with our communities to be strategic and spend this money in the most advantageous and transformative way.

Hamilton County communities need help to expand their economic foundation, with investments in water and sewer infrastructure, broadband deployment, and other economic aid. This will provide opportunities for workforce expansion, growth in all 8 communities and ultimately a more affordable and competitive county. Consequently, the funds allocated to Hamilton County via ARPA represent an incredible opportunity for this county to make transformative investments in equity to emerge from this pandemic an even better place to live, work and raise a family.

As a result, county officials developed five (5) key areas for these investments with a focus on equity:

1. Government Revenue Reduction Recovery
2. Water/Sewer Infrastructure
3. Broadband Deployment
4. Economic Development
5. Reserve for Contingencies

This funding proposal is about foundational and transformative change and resists the temptation to use one-time dollars to fund programs. Doing so is not sustainable and does not address the long-standing needs and challenges that have been holding our communities back. This approach is the most strategic and transparent way to appropriate the significant dollars available to Hamilton County.

With these additional resources, the county has the ability to invest in people and projects simultaneously. In the near term, continued assistance to our residents who are struggling can be offered. The county can provide support for essential workers who have been on the front lines of combating this pandemic and ensuring the continuity of crucial services. What county officials are proposing is a comprehensive investment program aimed at equity and lifting up communities in our county that not only were most adversely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, but have faced inequities in the areas of health, opportunity and education. This is a unique moment for our great county and by maximizing the utility of these resources, Hamilton County can continue its growth and be in a great position for the balance of the pandemic and for the recovery.

## **PROVISIONS OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES IMPACTED BY REVENUE REDUCTION**

The COVID-19 public health emergency has created a significant economic disturbance, impacting the revenues of Hamilton County government. The ARPA acknowledges that local governments have suffered revenue loss and enables use of funds to ensure that important government services can be maintained. Guidance from the U.S. Department of the Treasury outlines how loss revenue is to be calculated and what recovered revenue can be used for. Hamilton County officials will determine how any such revenue recovered will be utilized, based on the final guidance established by Treasury.

## **WATER/SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE**

Water infrastructure is the backbone of our lives and livelihoods. From turning on the shower in the morning, to preparing the food we eat, to the proper drainage of our roads, to having sufficient clean water and wastewater treatment capacity to support homes, business and industry – water infrastructure touches every level. The challenge is water infrastructure is often out of sight and therefore out of mind. As a result, the pace of investment in these assets has not kept pace with the need. This proposed investment seeks to address current unmet needs and reduce future costs through strategic investment in new and existing infrastructure at the residential, commercial and community-level. This proposed plan seeks to use funds for water and sewer infrastructure needs and recognizes the critical role that clean drinking water and services for the collection and treatment of wastewater and stormwater, play in protecting public health, the environment and spurring the county's economic growth. The proposed plan shall provide the county with a wide latitude to identify and execute projects and investments in water and sewer infrastructure. The proposed plan's flexibility is provided by incorporating projects and language that would be eligible to receive financial assistance through the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) or Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF). Through a combination of technical assistance, grant awards and contracted projects, these funds have the ability to support investments in infrastructure essential to high quality waters, vital to Hamilton County's economy and economic recovery. Specifically, this plan suggests several areas of targeted investment.

### Water Studies

Water and wastewater management are vital to our county's health, both for the residents and the environment. Whether in preparation for future disaster events or in response to common issues, Hamilton County must meet its mandated water quality and system requirements. Healthy water systems are crucial to the well-being of families and businesses and it is critical to protect Hamilton County's water supply for future generations.

To do this, we need to understand water quality to protect our health and also the health of the ecosystems, the funds could be used to conduct various studies on the county's water supply, wastewater service capacities, stormwater capacities and general water utility concerns.

### Implementation of Stormwater Retrofit Projects

In response to the federal Clean Water Act, Hamilton County has made numerous commitments to improve management of stormwater runoff. These projects can include new construction of existing stormwater developments and facilities and retrofitting and/or reconstructing existing stormwater facilities and developments. Many of the most challenging projects are related to retrofitting existing development that

was built before the advent of modern stormwater treatment, projects which are essential to meeting our clean water goals and obligations.

### Town Water/Wastewater

Some towns and unincorporated areas of Hamilton County lack community drinking water and/or sewer systems, hampering revitalization and recovery. Projects can range in size from serving a small number of properties to connecting whole areas of the county that are underserved. Besides maintaining the value of area properties and providing important public health and water quality benefits, water and wastewater solutions promote business expansion, redevelopment of underused or abandoned properties, housing options and community gathering places. All of these can spur the economic recovery of areas in question. The funds could be used to support engineering design, professional services that assist in the creation of any entity that provides authority or control over any permitted project and construction/reconstruction of community-scale water/wastewater projects.

### Abatement/Elimination

There are areas within the county that have a high incidence of sewer overflows, which occur during rainfall or snowmelt events when the wastewater system is overwhelmed by storm runoff. This funding could be used to implement projects needed to reduce the frequency of sewer overflow events while refurbishing related water infrastructure.

### Healthy Homes

Drinking water and wastewater treatment systems are protective of public health and a number of the most vulnerable communities lack the resources to make necessary repairs or improvements to their water and wastewater systems. Potentially funding these initiatives would provide for the following types of much-needed projects:

- Improve water/wastewater systems throughout the county
- Replace failed on-site wastewater and water supplies
- Update leaking service lines

## **BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT**

Broadband internet access has proved to be an essential utility service during the COVID-19 Pandemic as it facilitates remote healthcare, education and work, as well as citizen participation in civic life and communication with government.

Currently, there are locations in Hamilton County without broadband. These locations are defined as either unserved (no broadband service at all) or underserved (service is available at less than 25/3 Mbps. i.e., dial-up or DSL). Of these locations, many do not have plans for any existing carrier to deploy wired service via the FCC's Rural Digital Opportunity Fund or otherwise. The funding could bring fiber-to-the-home internet access at 100/100 Mbps to all underserved and unserved locations in Hamilton County, specifically locations that today lack access to service at 25/3 Mbps. The funds potentially could be used to deploy fiber service at 100/100 Mbps to all eligible locations in these areas. The county will look to deploy service beyond just the underserve areas, so long as the underserved areas are covered with 100/100 Mbps service.

This proposal is an essential first step toward addressing digital inequities present in our communities. It serves to help bridge the digital divide by making the infrastructure available in underserved areas. However, the step of building the infrastructure alone does not address income inequality and digital literacy barriers to using the Internet. This program could be bolstered by requiring the providers to offer a low-income program or offer broadband lifeline service.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

The COVID-19 pandemic and the ARPA have given Hamilton County the unique opportunity to build upon the strengths of our communities. ARPA dollars could be extended to assist small businesses, reemploy the people of our county, reinvest in communities, and recover and expand from the pandemic. Investing dollars now, and in the next few years, will secure a stronger foundation for the Hamilton County of the future, making the county a more desirable place to live, work, play and grow, taking care of all those who call it home, especially the most vulnerable. This plan could allow the county to build a better, stronger foundation in the wake of COVID-19 by addressing acute economic needs with direct relief for businesses. As well, this plan proposes long-term strategic investments that incentivize business growth and productivity through business relief grants.

### Business Relief Grants

This funding is necessary for the acute needs of businesses and not-for-profits to survive until we can safely reopen and operate at full capacity. At the end of 2020 there was still a lot of unmet needs for the businesses that applied to our Small Business Stabilization Grant program. We also know that there were many newly established businesses that were unable to access funds. We will prioritize those businesses who did not receive prior assistance as well as those prioritized by Treasury and then help as many of those who still need help to stay solvent throughout the end of the crisis.

Similar to our Small Business Stabilization Grant program, business and not-for profits will apply online through the county's website. In order for small businesses and non-profits to receive Business Relief Grants each will be required to show negative, economic impact due directly to the COVID-19 pandemic. Recipients will also be required to follow established Treasury reporting requirements and provide the county with all requested data and information. Recipients may also be subject to subrecipient management by the county as outlined in 2 CFR 200 of the Uniform Guidance.

## **PREMIUM PAY FOR ESSENTIAL COUNTY EMPLOYEES**

County officials have already allocated \$3,757,137.29 dollars from the ARPA funding, for premium pay to essential county employees. The funding provided financial recognition for all the essential workers who provided continuity of services and gave us security during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **RESERVES FOR CONTINGENCIES AND PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

One of the lessons learned over the last year, is that the county's response to the public health emergency needs to be flexible and able to adapt to conditions "on the ground" as they evolve. The need to be able to adapt to the evolution of the county's pandemic response is crucial, and as a result, county officials recommend holding a portion of the ARPA funding back as a flexible funding source to respond to contingencies.

Administering a program of this magnitude takes a lot of time and effort. One percent (1%) of the ARPA funding may potentially be retained to support and administer the projects and ensure successful deployment of funds.

## PROGRAM REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

As a **direct-recipient county**, Hamilton County will be required to provide periodic reports, with specific reporting requirements aligned to the population size of our county and the size of our SLFRF award. All reports are due 30 days after the close of the relevant expenditure period.

- **Interim Report**- Due by August 31, 2021, the Interim Report requires recipient to report programmatic data for spending between March 3 and July 31, 2021. The Interim Report is required for all Metropolitan cities and Counties.
- **Project and Expenditure Report**- These reports require project and expenditure data for awards and sub-awards, demographic information for each project, and other programmatic data. The first Project and Expenditure Report is due October 31, 2021. For Metropolitan cities and counties with SLFRF awards above \$5 million, project and expenditure reports are due quarterly. For Metropolitan cities and counties with SLFRF awards under \$5 million, project and expenditure reports are due annually.
- **Recovery Plan Performance Report**- The Recovery Plan Performance Report is only required for Metropolitan cities and counties with populations over 250,000 residents. Required to be published annually on your website and provided to Treasury, the Recovery Plan Performance Report will contain detailed project performance data, including information on efforts to improve equity and engage communities. The first Recovery Plan Performance Report is due August 31, 2021.

### Reporting

All recipients of federal funds must complete financial, performance, and compliance reporting as required and outlined in Part 2 of the Treasury guidance. Expenditures may be reported on a cash or accrual basis, as long as the methodology is disclosed and consistently applied. Reporting must be consistent with the definition of expenditures pursuant to 2 CFR 200.1. Hamilton County must appropriately maintain accounting records for compiling and reporting accurate, compliant financial data, in accordance with appropriate accounting standards and principles. In addition, where appropriate, the county needs to establish controls to ensure completion and timely submission of all mandatory performance and/or compliance reporting. See Part 2 of this guidance for a full overview of recipient reporting responsibilities.

### Reporting Guidance

There are three types of reporting requirements for the SLFRF program:

- **Interim Report**: Provide initial overview of status and uses of funding. This is a one-time report.
- **Project and Expenditure Report**: Report on projects funded, expenditures, and contracts and subawards over \$50,000, and other information. See Section B, page 15.
- **Recovery Plan Performance Report**: The Recovery Plan Performance Report (the “Recovery Plan”) will provide information on the projects that large recipients are undertaking with program funding and

how they plan to ensure program outcomes are achieved in an effective, efficient, and equitable manner. It will include key performance indicators identified by the recipient and some mandatory indicators identified by Treasury. The Recovery Plan will be posted on the county website as well as provided to Treasury.

### **Interim Report**

Hamilton County is required to submit a one-time interim report with expenditures by Expenditure Category from the date of award to July 31, 2021. The recipient will be required to enter obligations and expenditures and, for each, select the specific expenditure category from the available options. See Appendix 1 for Expenditure Categories (EC).

#### **1. Required Programmatic Data**

Recipients will also be required to provide the following information if they have or plan to have expenditures in the following Expenditure Categories:

- a. Revenue replacement (EC 6.114): Key inputs into the revenue replacement formula in the Interim Final Rule and estimated revenue loss due to the Covid-19 public health emergency calculated using the formula in the Interim Final Rule as of December 31, 2020.
  - o Base year general revenue (e.g., revenue in the last full fiscal year prior to the public health emergency)
  - o Fiscal year end date
  - o Growth adjustment used (either 4.1 percent or average annual general revenue growth over 3 years prior to pandemic)
  - o Actual general revenue as of the twelve months ended December 31, 2020
  - o Estimated revenue loss due to the Covid-19 public health emergency as of December 31, 2020
  - o An explanation of how revenue replacement funds were allocated to government services

In calculating general revenue and the other items discussed above, recipients should use audited data if it is available. When audited data is not available, recipients are not required to obtain audited data if substantially accurate figures can be produced on an unaudited basis. Recipients should use their own data sources to calculate general revenue, and do not need to rely on revenue data published by the Census Bureau. Treasury acknowledges that due to differences in timing, data sources, and definitions, recipients' self-reported general revenue figures may differ from those published by the Census Bureau. Recipients may provide data on a cash, accrual, or modified accrual basis, provided that recipients are consistent in their choice of methodology throughout the covered period and until reporting is no longer required. Recipients' reporting should align with their own financial reporting.

In calculating general revenue, recipients should exclude all intergovernmental transfers from the federal government. This includes, but is not limited to, federal transfers made via a State to a locality pursuant to the CRF or SLFRF. To the extent federal funds are passed through States or other entities or intermingled with other funds, recipients should attempt to identify and exclude the federal portion of those funds from the calculation of general revenue on a best-efforts basis.

Consistent with the broad latitude provided to recipients to use funds for government services to the extent of reduction in revenue, recipients will be required to submit a description of services provided. This description may be in narrative or in another form, and recipients are encouraged to report based on their existing budget

processes and to minimize administrative burden. For example, a recipient with \$100 in revenue replacement funds available could indicate that \$50 were used for law enforcement operating expenses and \$50 were used for pay-go building of sidewalk infrastructure. As discussed in the Interim Final Rule, these services can include a broad range of services but may not be used directly for pension deposits or debt service.

Reporting requirements will not require tracking the indirect effects of Fiscal Recovery Funds, apart from the restrictions on use of Fiscal Recovery Funds to offset a reduction in net tax revenue. In addition, recipients must indicate that Fiscal Recovery Funds were not used to make a deposit in a pension fund.

### **Project and Expenditure Report**

All recipients are required to submit Project and Expenditure Reports.

**Quarterly Reporting:** The following recipients are required to submit quarterly Project and Expenditure Reports:

- States, U.S. territories, and Tribal governments
- Metropolitan cities and counties that received more than \$5 million in SLFRF funding

For these recipients, the initial quarterly Project and Expenditure Report will cover two calendar quarters from the date of award to September 30, 2021 and must be submitted to Treasury by October 31, 2021. The subsequent quarterly reports will cover one calendar quarter and must be submitted to Treasury within 30 calendar days after the end of each calendar quarter. Quarterly reports are not due concurrently with applicable annual reports.

### **Recovery Plan Performance Report**

States, territories, metropolitan cities, and counties with a population that exceeds 250,000 residents will also be required to publish and submit to Treasury a Recovery Plan performance report (“Recovery Plan”). Each Recovery Plan must be posted on the public-facing website of the recipient by the same date the recipient submits the report to Treasury. This reporting requirement includes uploading a link to the publicly available document report along with providing data in the Treasury reporting portal.

The Recovery Plan will provide the public and Treasury information on the projects recipients are undertaking with program funding and how they are planning to ensure program outcomes are achieved in an effective, efficient, and equitable manner. While this guidance outlines some minimum requirements for the Recovery Plan, each recipient is encouraged to add information to the plan they feel is appropriate to provide information to their constituents on efforts they are taking to respond to the pandemic and promote economic recovery. Each jurisdiction may determine the general form and content of the Recovery Plan, as long as it includes the minimum information determined by Treasury. Treasury will provide a recommended template but recipients may modify this template as appropriate for their jurisdiction. The Recovery Plan will include key performance indicators identified by the recipient and some mandatory indicators identified by Treasury.

The initial Recovery Plan will cover the period from the date of award to July 31, 2021 and must be submitted to Treasury by August 31, 2021. Thereafter, the Recovery Plan will cover a 12-month period and recipients will be required to submit the report to Treasury within 30 days after the end of the 12-month period (by July 31).

The Recovery Plan will include, at a minimum, the following information:

**1. Executive Summary**

Provide a high-level overview of the jurisdiction’s intended and actual uses of funding including, but not limited to: the jurisdiction’s plan for use of funds to promote a response to the pandemic and economic recovery, key outcome goals, progress to date on those outcomes, and any noteworthy challenges or opportunities identified during the reporting period.

**2. Uses of Funds**

Describe in further detail your jurisdiction’s intended and actual uses of the funds, such as how your jurisdiction’s approach would help support a strong and equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn. Describe any strategies employed to maximize programmatic impact and effective, efficient, and equitable outcomes. Given the broad eligible uses of funds and the specific needs of the jurisdiction, please also explain how the funds would support the communities, populations, or individuals in your jurisdiction. Your description should address how you are promoting each of the following, to the extent they apply:

- a. Public Health: As relevant, describe how funds are being used to respond to COVID-19 and the broader health impacts of COVID-19 and the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- b. Negative Economic Impacts: As relevant, describe how funds are being used to respond to negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency, including to households and small businesses.
- c. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities: As relevant, describe how funds are being used to provide services to communities disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- d. Premium Pay: As relevant, describe the approach, goals, and sectors or occupations served in any premium pay program. Describe how your approach prioritizes low-income workers.
- e. Water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure: Describe the approach, goals, and types of projects being pursued, if pursuing.
- f. Revenue Replacement: Describe the loss in revenue due to the COVID-19 public health emergency and how funds have been used to provide government services.

Where appropriate, recipients should also include information on your jurisdiction’s use (or planned use) of other federal recovery funds including other programs under the American Rescue Plan such as the Emergency Rental Assistance, Housing Assistance, and so forth, to provide broader context on the overall approach for pandemic recovery.

**3. Promoting equitable outcomes**

Describe efforts to promote equitable outcomes, including how programs were designed with equity in mind. Please include in your description how your jurisdiction will consider and measure equity at the various stages of the program, including:

- a. Goals: Are there particular historically underserved, marginalized, or adversely affected groups that you intend to serve within your jurisdiction?
- b. Awareness: How equal and practical is the ability for residents or businesses to become aware of the services funded by the SLFRF?
- c. Access and Distribution: Are there differences in levels of access to benefits and services across groups? Are there administrative requirements that result in disparities in ability to complete applications or meet eligibility criteria?

d. Outcomes: Are intended outcomes focused on closing gaps, reaching universal levels of service, or disaggregating progress by race, ethnicity, and other equity dimensions where relevant for the policy objective?

Treasury encourages uses of funds that promote strong, equitable growth, including racial equity. Please describe how your jurisdiction's planned or current use of funds prioritizes economic and racial equity as a goal, names specific targets intended to produce meaningful equity results at scale, and articulates the strategies to achieve those targets. In addition, please explain how your jurisdiction's overall equity strategy translates into the specific services or programs offered by your jurisdiction in the following Expenditure Categories:

a. Negative Economic Impacts: assistance to households, small businesses, and non-profits to address impacts of the pandemic, which have been most severe among low-income populations. This includes assistance with food, housing, and other needs; employment programs for people with barriers to employment who faced negative economic impacts from the pandemic (such as residents of low-income neighborhoods, minorities, disconnected youth, the unemployed, formerly incarcerated people, veterans, and people with disabilities); and other strategies that provide disadvantaged groups with access to education, jobs, and opportunity.

b. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities: services to address health disparities and the social determinants of health, build stronger neighborhoods and communities (e.g., affordable housing), address educational disparities (e.g., evidence-based tutoring, community schools, and academic, social-emotional, and mental health supports for high poverty schools), and promote healthy childhood environments (e.g., home visiting, childcare).

The initial report must describe efforts to date and intended outcomes to promote equity. Each annual report thereafter must provide an update, using qualitative and quantitative data, on how the recipients' approach achieved or promoted equitable outcomes or progressed against equity goals during the performance period. Please also describe any constraints or challenges that impacted project success in terms of increasing equity. In particular, this section must describe the geographic and demographic distribution of funding, including whether it is targeted toward traditionally marginalized communities.

For the purposes of the SLFRF, equity is defined in the *Executive Order 13985 On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government*, as issued on January 20, 2021.

#### **4. Community Engagement**

We will need to describe how the county's planned or current use of funds incorporates written, oral, and other forms of input that capture diverse feedback from constituents, community-based organizations, and the communities themselves. Where relevant, this description must include how funds will build the capacity of community organizations to serve people with significant barriers to services, including people of color, people with low incomes, limited English proficient populations, and other traditionally underserved groups.

#### **5. Labor Practices**

Describe workforce practices on any infrastructure projects being pursued. How are projects using strong labor standards to promote effective and efficient delivery of high-quality infrastructure projects while also supporting the economic recovery through strong employment opportunities for

workers? For example, report whether any of the following practices are being utilized: project labor agreements, community benefits agreements, prevailing wage requirements, and local hiring.

## **6. Use of Evidence**

The Recovery Plan should identify whether SLFRF funds are being used for evidence-based interventions and/or if projects are being evaluated through rigorous program evaluations that are designed to build evidence. Recipients must briefly describe the goals of the project, and the evidence base for the interventions funded by the project. Recipients must specifically identify the dollar amount of the total project spending that is allocated towards evidence-based interventions for each project in the Public Health, Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2), and Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities Expenditure Categories.

Recipients are exempt from reporting on evidence-based interventions in cases where a program evaluation is being conducted. Recipients are encouraged to use relevant evidence Clearinghouses, among other sources, to assess the level of evidence for their interventions and identify evidence-based models that could be applied in their jurisdiction; such evidence clearinghouses include the U.S. Department of Education's What Works Clearinghouse, the U.S. Department of Labor's CLEAR, and the Childcare & Early Education Research Connections and the Home Visiting Evidence of Effectiveness clearinghouses from Administration for Children and Families, as well as other clearinghouses relevant to particular projects conducted by the recipient. In such cases where a recipient is conducting a program evaluation in lieu of reporting the amount of spending on evidence-based interventions, they must describe the evaluation design including whether it is a randomized or quasi-experimental design; the key research questions being evaluated; whether the study has sufficient statistical power to disaggregate outcomes by demographics; and the timeframe for the completion of the evaluation (including a link to completed evaluation if relevant). Once the evaluation has been completed, recipients must post the evaluation publicly and link to the completed evaluation in the Recovery Plan. Once an evaluation has been completed (or has sufficient interim findings to determine the efficacy of the intervention), recipients should determine whether the spending for the evaluated interventions should be counted towards the dollar amount categorized as evidence-based for the relevant project.

## **7. Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category**

Please include a table listing the amount of funds used in each Expenditure Category. The table should include cumulative expenses to date within each category, and the additional amount spent within each category since the last annual Recovery Plan.

## **8. Project Inventory**

List the name and provide a brief description of all SLFRF funded projects. Projects are new or existing eligible government services or investments funded in whole or in part by SLFRF funding. For each project, include the project name, funding amount, identification number (created by the recipient and used thereafter in the quarterly Program and Expenditure Report), project Expenditure Category, and a description of the project which includes an overview of the main activities of the project, the approximate timeline, primary delivery mechanisms and partners, if applicable, and intended outcomes. Include a link to the website of the project if available. This information will provide context and additional detail for the information reported quarterly in the Project and Expenditure Report.

For infrastructure investment projects, project-level reporting will be more detailed, as described for the Project and Expenditure Report above. Projects in this area may be grouped by Expenditure

Category if needed, with further detail (such as the specific project name and identification number) provided in the Project and Expenditure Report. For infrastructure projects, descriptions should note how the project contributes to addressing climate change.

## **9. Performance Report**

The Recovery Plan must include key performance indicators for the major SLFRF funded projects undertaken by the recipient. The recipient has flexibility in terms of how this information is presented in the Recovery Plan, and may report key performance indicators for each project, or may group projects with substantially similar goals and the same outcome measures. In some cases, the recipient may choose to include some indicators for each individual project as well as crosscutting indicators.

Performance indicators should include both output and outcome measures. Output measures, such as number of students enrolled in an early learning program, provide valuable information about the early implementation stages of a project. Outcome measures, such as the percent of students reading on grade level, provide information about whether a project is achieving its overall goals. Recipients are encouraged to use logic models to identify their output and outcome measures. While the initial report will focus heavily on early output goals, recipients must include the related outcome goal for each project and provide updated information on achieving these outcome goals in annual reports. In cases where recipients are conducting a program evaluation for a project (as described above), the outcome measures in the performance report should be aligned with those being evaluated in the program. To support their performance measurement and program improvement efforts, recipients are permitted to use funds to make improvements to data or technology infrastructure and data analytics, as well as program evaluations.

## **10. Required Performance Indicators and Programmatic Data**

While recipients have discretion on the full suite of performance indicators to include, a number of mandatory performance indicators and programmatic data must be included. These are necessary to allow Treasury to conduct oversight as well as understand and aggregate program outcomes across recipients. This section provides an overview of the mandatory performance indicators and programmatic data. This information may be included in each recipient's Recovery Plan as they determine most appropriate, including combining with the section above, but this data will also need to be entered directly into the Treasury reporting portal.

To the extent possible, Treasury also encourages recipients to provide data disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gender, income, and other relevant factors.



## Appendix 1: Expenditure Categories

The Expenditure Categories (EC) listed below must be used to categorize each project as noted in Part 2 above. The term "Expenditure Category" refers to the detailed level (e.g., 1.1 COVID-10 Vaccination). When referred to as a category (e.g., EC 1) it includes all Expenditure Categories within that level.

<b>1: Public Health</b>	
1.1	COVID-19 Vaccination ^
1.2	COVID-19 Testing ^
1.3	COVID-19 Contact Tracing
1.4	Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, etc.)*
1.5	Personal Protective Equipment
1.6	Medical Expenses (including Alternative Care Facilities)
1.7	Capital Investments or Physical Plant Changes to Public Facilities that respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency
1.8	Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)
1.9	Payroll Costs for Public Health, Safety, and Other Public Sector Staff Responding to COVID-19
1.10	Mental Health Services*
1.11	Substance Use Services*
1.12	Other Public Health Services
<b>2: Negative Economic Impacts</b>	
2.1	Household Assistance: Food Programs* ^
2.2	Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid* ^
2.3	Household Assistance: Cash Transfers* ^
2.4	Household Assistance: Internet Access Programs* ^
2.5	Household Assistance: Eviction Prevention* ^
2.6	Unemployment Benefits or Cash Assistance to Unemployed Workers*
2.7	Job Training Assistance (e.g., Sectoral job-training, Subsidized Employment, Employment Supports or Incentives)* ^
2.8	Contributions to UI Trust Funds
2.9	Small Business Economic Assistance (General)* ^
2.10	Aid to Nonprofit Organizations*
2.11	Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality
2.12	Aid to Other Impacted Industries
2.13	Other Economic Support* ^
2.14	Rehiring Public Sector Staff
<b>3: Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities</b>	
3.1	Education Assistance: Early Learning* ^
3.2	Education Assistance: Aid to High-Poverty Districts ^
3.3	Education Assistance: Academic Services* ^
3.4	Education Assistance: Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Services* ^
3.5	Education Assistance: Other* ^
3.6	Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care* ^

3.7	Healthy Childhood Environments: Home Visiting* ^
3.8	Healthy Childhood Environments: Services to Foster Youth or Families Involved in Child Welfare System* ^
3.9	Healthy Childhood Environments: Other* ^
3.10	Housing Support: Affordable Housing* ^
3.11	Housing Support: Services for Unhoused Persons* ^
3.12	Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance* ^
3.13	Social Determinants of Health: Other* ^
3.14	Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators* ^
3.15	Social Determinants of Health: Lead Remediation ^
3.16	Social Determinants of Health: Community Violence Interventions* ^
<b>4: Premium Pay</b>	
4.1	Public Sector Employees
4.2	Private Sector: Grants to Other Employers
<b>5: Infrastructure<sup>27</sup></b>	
5.1	Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Treatment
5.2	Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Collection and Conveyance
5.3	Clean Water: Decentralized Wastewater
5.4	Clean Water: Combined Sewer Overflows
5.5	Clean Water: Other Sewer Infrastructure
5.6	Clean Water: Stormwater
5.7	Clean Water: Energy Conservation
5.8	Clean Water: Water Conservation
5.9	Clean Water: Nonpoint Source
5.10	Drinking water: Treatment
5.11	Drinking water: Transmission & Distribution
5.12	Drinking water: Transmission & Distribution: Lead Remediation
5.13	Drinking water: Source
5.14	Drinking water: Storage
5.15	Drinking water: Other water infrastructure
5.16	Broadband: "Last Mile" projects
5.17	Broadband: Other projects
<b>6: Revenue Replacement</b>	
6.1	Provision of Government Services
<b>7: Administrative</b>	
7.1	Administrative Expenses
7.2	Evaluation and Data Analysis
7.3	Transfers to Other Units of Government
7.4	Transfers to Non-entitlement Units (States and territories only)

\*Denotes areas where recipients must identify the amount of the total funds that are allocated to evidence-based interventions (see Use of Evidence section above for details)

^Denotes areas where recipients must report on whether projects are primarily serving disadvantaged communities (see Project Demographic Distribution section above for details)

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<sup>27</sup> Definitions for water and sewer Expenditure Categories can be found in the EPA's handbooks. For "clean water" expenditure category definitions, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-03/documents/cwdefinitions.pdf>. For "drinking water" expenditure category definitions, please see: <https://www.epa.gov/dwsrf/drinking-water-state-revolving-fund-national-information-management-system-reports>.