



Oklahoma County, Oklahoma
Recovery Plan

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

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was signed into law and established the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) program. This program is intended to provide support to State, territorial, local, and Tribal governments in responding to the economic and public health impacts of COVID-19 and in their efforts to contain and mitigate its impact on our communities, residents, and businesses.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, SLFRF provided half of the allocated funds in June 2021, amounting to \$77,146,103.00. The County received the remaining funds in June 2022.

In accordance with Treasury guidance, this 2022 Recovery Plan Performance Report has been created to keep the public and Treasury informed of the projects being considered and possibly undertaken to ensure program outcomes are achieved in an effective, efficient, and equitable manner. The Recovery Plan Performance Report will be updated on an interim basis to reflect the most current information.

To provide maximum transparency and continual real-time information, the county will be uploading all required reports to the American Rescue Plan Act to the following URL:

<https://www.oklahomacounty.org/county-information/recovery-plan>.

These reports will include project commitments, budgets, obligations, and expenditures but most importantly, the criteria under which the projects qualify, and the populations impacted by funding.

Uses of Funds

The County is committed to investing SLFRF funds in a manner that ensures growth and equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic for those residents affected. While a portion of the funding has not yet been obligated as of the end of the reporting period, July 31, 2022, the Board of County Commissioners is taking deliberate and intentional steps to engage with and assess the needs of Oklahoma County communities and County Departments to optimize the use of funds within the guidelines provided by US Treasury.

Additionally, the County commissioners hired a consultant to assist in this process as well as processes for administering County SLFRF grants, reporting, and compliance. The Board of County Commissioners are currently engaging with their constituent communities and County departments to identify opportunities which will mitigate the impact of COVID-19 and future pandemics and result in positive outcomes related to public health, public safety, and economic recovery. The County intends to develop and deploy consistent methodology to adhere to eligible uses of funds including the evaluation of impacts of the pandemic on the County and its impacted residents. This strategic approach will be outlined in future performance reports and made available on the County's same public ARPA webpage referenced above.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes

The County and its consultant continue to determine a consistent process to evaluate how spending proposals stand to benefit those historically underserved, vulnerable, and disproportionately impacted populations, communities, and industries. There are several ways in

which the U.S. Treasury Final Rule encourages SLFRF recipients to fund strategies that address the disparate impacts of the pandemic on vulnerable populations.

For example, Treasury will presume certain types of services and programs are eligible uses when provided to populations living in Qualified Census Tracts (QCT). There are approximately 69 QCTs in Oklahoma County. The County continues to examine how spending proposals may impact these areas and populations, with a prioritization of economic and racial equity as a goal and the intention of proposal initiatives to produce meaningful equity results at scale.

Community Engagement

ARPA will allow Oklahoma County to invest an unprecedented amount of funding into the community. As the County moves ahead in developing a strategy and process for evaluating and executing spending proposals, it will be of utmost importance to continue to leverage partnerships to collect input from populations, communities, and industries most impacted by the pandemic and develop evaluation criteria that consider and underscore the needs of these groups.

The County is reviewing its approach to CARES funding and its efforts in managing outreach and communications to seek input from various stakeholders and deliver information about CARES to the public. To date, the County has begun to solicit and hear constituent ideas via the County Commissioners. Community engagement initiatives will continue through Fall 2022. Projects from the public will be considered and prioritized by the County Commissioners.

To get a better sense of how other jurisdictions are using their ARPA allocations, the Policy and Governance Committee developed a report examining ARPA trending allocations by state, comparable counties, and cities. This will inform the County's spending priorities along with continued community engagement currently underway through monthly Policy and Governance meetings where community members are encouraged to share their personal evaluations of prospective funding initiatives. Public engagement and community outreach will continue into Fall of 2022 in the form of issue-specific listening sessions and focus-groups in an effort to capture diverse feedback from the community as spending programs are under evaluation.

Report Summary

To assist Oklahoma County in assessing the potential use and transformational impact of ARPA and SLFRF, this brief provides an overview of state, comparable county, and city ARPA allocation trends, and prospective ARPA funding opportunities for Oklahoma County's \$154M allocation. This analysis aims to provide comprehensive insight as to how ARPA funds are being allocated and to provide a deeper understanding of ARPA funding opportunities for Oklahoma County.

A. State ARPA Allocation Trends

The research shares the following most prevailing trends in state allocations. To date, at least 42 states have allocated a portion of their ARPA funding to the following categories:

- Broadband
- Water infrastructure
- Public health services
- State operations and administration

B. County ARPA Allocation Trends

The research highlights the following most prevailing trends in ARPA funding allocation categories for counties comparable to Oklahoma County. Counties' top three investment categories include funding allocated to bolstering our nation's local health programs, strengthening our infrastructure system, and ensuring that crucial human services are available to residents.

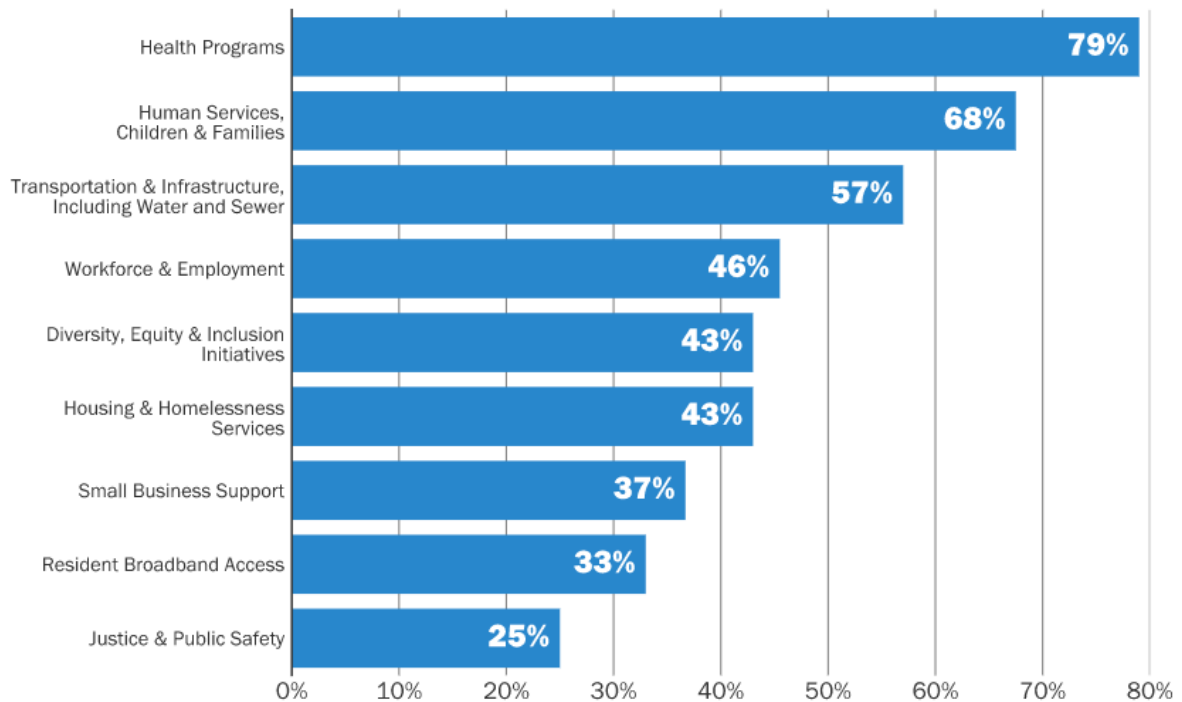
- Public health; Behavioral health
- Human services; Families, children, education
- Community and economic development; Infrastructure

Additional categories of note for county allocations include:

- Workforce and employment
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives
- Housing and homelessness services
- Small business support
- Justice and public safety

HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE ARE THE TOP THREE INVESTMENT CATEGORIES FOR COUNTY RECOVERY FUNDS

Share of ARPA Recovery Plans, By Spend Category



C. City ARPA Allocation Trends

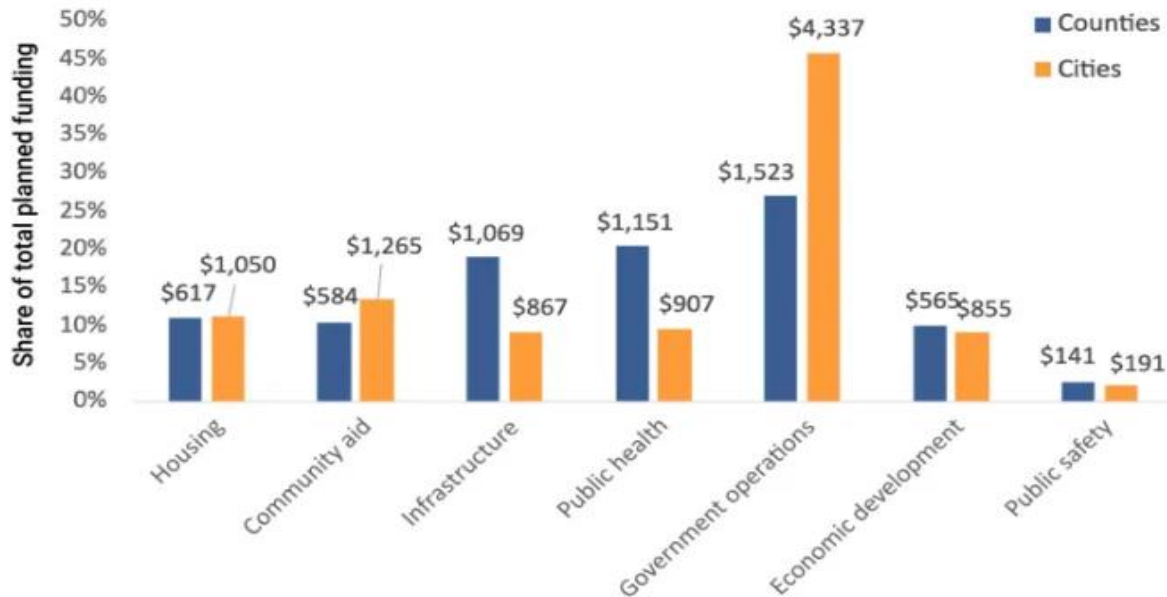
Our research shares the following most prevailing trends in city allocations:

- Budget stabilization
- Public health

- Improvements to failing infrastructure
- Efforts to keep residents housed
- Inclusive support for local entrepreneurs and a bolstering of local economies

Figure 2: Planned uses of SLFRF (\$millions)

Large cities and counties



Note: "Tracked" cities and counties are those whose Recovery Plan Performance Report's Project Inventory includes at least one project. 41 cities and 104 counties are tracked.
Source: Analysis of SLFRF Recovery Plan Performance Reports to Treasury



D. Prospective Funding Opportunities

At the outset, we stress that these categories of allocations and prospective project ideas are purposefully broad. Ultimately, projects will be individually assessed for eligibility pursuant to the Final Rule issued by the U.S. Department of Treasury. The categories listed below (in no particular order) are to provide guidance for specific Oklahoma County funding opportunities in accordance with promoting equitable outcomes and the Oklahoma County Community Engagement Plan for ARPA funding proposals.

- **Public Health**
- **Housing and Homelessness**
- **Public Safety and Justice**
- **Broadband and General Infrastructure**
- **Arts, Culture, and Tourism**
- **Education**
- **Workforce Development**

- **Economic Relief and Development**

References

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- National Conference of State Legislatures. ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Fund Allocations. <https://www.ncsl.org/research/fiscal-policy/arpa-state-fiscal-recovery-fund-allocations.aspx>
- National League of Cities. 5 key ways cities have spent pandemic relief funds. <https://www.smartcitiesdive.com/news/how-cities-spent-pandemic-relief-funds-arpa-nlc/620173/>

Labor Practices

During this reporting period, Oklahoma County does not have any active infrastructure projects. The County intends to explore and utilize strong and appropriate labor standards. Any infrastructure projects will comply with the employment and workplace laws for the state of Oklahoma.

Use of Evidence

Oklahoma County will continue to utilize evidence-based practices and metrics where appropriate to track performance of SLFRF investments against their proposed outcomes. Rigorous program evaluations are currently being performed as spending proposals are being examined.

Performance Report

At this time, Oklahoma County has not approved any projects as project proposals are currently under evaluation. Oklahoma County is currently in the process of preparing to measure and report key performance indicators in adherence to the U.S. Treasury Final Rule compliance standards. Reporting measures for future reports will include an evaluation of the alignment of the overarching jurisdictional goals, SLFRF spending principles, and an analysis of individual project goals and community impact.

PROJECT INVENTORY

During this reporting period, Oklahoma County has not approved any projects as spending proposals are currently under evaluation. In adherence to the U.S. Treasury Final Rule compliance standards, the County is prepared to track project performance and maintain a comprehensive project inventory. Future reports will include project-specific details and performance metrics.