

Recovery Plan 2021 Report

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Version 2, November 22, 2021



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General Overview

Executive Summary

Gwinnett County has been awarded \$181,855,587 in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSLFRF) by the U.S. Department of the Treasury (Treasury) as authorized through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). These funds provide a substantial infusion of resources to help turn the tide on the pandemic, address its economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery.

Funding objectives of this program include:

- **Support urgent COVID-19 response efforts** to continue to decrease spread of the virus and bring the pandemic under control;
- **Replace lost public sector revenue** to strengthen support for vital public services and help retain jobs;
- **Support immediate economic stabilization** for households and businesses; and
- **Address systemic public health and economic challenges** that have contributed to the inequal impact of the pandemic.

Gwinnett County will utilize these dollars to enhance our [County values](#) ensuring that we advance our efforts to support equity and inclusivity in our community through innovative and impactful programming.

In compliance with reporting requirements, Gwinnett County prepared, submitted, and published its Recovery Plan by the August 31, 2021 deadline. However, at the time of initial submission, the County's plan for utilizing Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSLFRF) was still in development and had not yet been authorized by the Board of Commissioners. As defined in our initial report submission, we identified that within 60 days of the Board's approval, Gwinnett County would update and resubmit its Recovery Plan as authorized by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners acted on September 21, 2021 to approve a resolution to authorize the allocation of American Rescue Plan Act funding to reflect the needs of the County based on community engagement.

This revised report submission updates our 2021 Recovery Plan Report to reflect the innovative and impactful programming that the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners authorized to help support a strong and equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn.

Uses of Funds

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners acted on September 21, 2021 to approve a resolution to authorize the allocation of American Rescue Plan Act funding to reflect the needs of the County based on community engagement.

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Gwinnett County will utilize these dollars to enhance our [County values](#) ensuring that we advance our efforts to support equity and inclusivity in our community through innovative and impactful programming. To maximize our use of these Fiscal Recovery Funds we worked to focus our allocations within the priority program areas as defined by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

Our projects will include:

- **(\$17.2 M) Supporting Public Health Response to the Pandemic**
 - The County will utilize ARPA funds to continue to support the Gwinnett County Public Health Department and other partner agencies in our collective efforts to prevent, mitigate, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - In addition to the general support of COVID related public health activities, we also plan to support:
 - Vaccination site operational costs;
 - Vaccination Incentive Program;
 - Public Health Infrastructure and Equipment Enhancements;
 - Mobile Clinic Expansions; and
 - Behavioral Healthcare Services (including mental health or substance misuse treatment, crisis intervention, and related services).
- **(\$28 M) Replacement of Public Sector Revenue Loss**
 - The County is eligible to replace revenue lost in FY 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic.
- **(\$61.1 M) Equity-Focused Service Provision throughout the County**
 - Gwinnett County is committed to the ongoing development of quality service, programming, and resource support throughout the County. An allocation of \$61.1 million will allow the County to expand its current Health and Human Services model and enhance community resource support in targeted underserved areas.

- These funds will be used to **Expand the Centerville OneStop** (\$25M) and **Create a Gwinnett OneStop** (\$30M). The expansion of health and human services support will offer the County the opportunity to provide much needed services in public health, early learning, mental health, and family services that are necessary for sustaining the standard of Gwinnett excellence and creating a safe, livable, and healthy community.
- Additional funds will be used for:
 - Veteran Support Services;
 - Nonprofit service provisions for critical needs (individualized community-based needs);
 - Comprehensive Human Services Systems Needs Assessment/Study; and
 - Outreach & Training Services.
- **(\$38.9 M) Addressing the Negative Economic Impacts Exacerbated by the Pandemic**
 - ARPA funds will be utilized to address negative impacts on our community with funding available to support:
 - Rebuilding Tourism, Arts & Entertainment;
 - Small Business Recovery;
 - Workforce Development;
 - Nonprofit Capacity Building & Operating Support;
 - Childcare Services;
 - Food Insecurity;
 - Early Childhood Learning & Literacy;
 - Transportation Services; and
 - Other Gwinnett County Government Operational Needs.
- **(\$11.6 M) Compensation for Essential Workers**
 - Gwinnett County will utilize ARPA funds to cover hazard pay costs provided to essential County employees in FY 2021.
 - Additional funds will be utilized as recruitment incentives and premium pay for selected essential worker classifications (i.e., Public Safety) within the County and may be considered for pass through to vendors providing critical County services.
- **(\$14 M) Water, Sewer, and Stormwater Infrastructure Improvements**
 - ARPA funds will be utilized to address water, sewer, and stormwater improvements directed to underserved areas within the County. This includes improvements to infrastructure, such as:
 - Dam Rehabilitation projects in underserved areas;
 - Septic to Sewer Conversion Program assistance; and
 - Home Repairs Assistance program support (new financial assistance program to assist eligible households in completing necessary repairs to reduce water/sewer waste and overconsumption and reduce monthly usage costs to customers).
- **(\$5 M) Broadband Infrastructure Improvements in Low Income Areas**
 - An allocation of \$5 million will provide broadband infrastructure enhancements within qualified low income census tracts to address broadband deserts existing within the County.

- The program will be looking at the quality of the current infrastructure’s capacity to provide reliable service (100 megabits per second for download and upload speeds), focusing on supporting improvements within underserved areas.
- **Currently \$5.8 M is Reserved for Future Needs**

County staff is utilizing the 4th quarter of 2021 and 1st quarter of 2022 for continued community engagement, project and program development, and marketing plan development. We look forward to reporting our strategies employed to maximize programmatic impact and effective, efficient, and equitable outcomes in our 2022 Recovery Plan Report.

It is important to note that Gwinnett County is also a recipient of Emergency Rental Assistance Program funds. Gwinnett County, in partnership with the Gwinnett County Magistrate Court, United Way of Greater Atlanta, and HomeFirst Gwinnett, built on the success of the Project RESET program by enhancing its offerings to include the administration of a new rental and utility assistance program – [Project RESET 2.0](#).

Project RESET 2.0 (PR2.0) is an eviction intervention program that provides rental, utility, and internet service relief for eligible renter households who have becoming housing insecure as a direct result of the impacts of COVID-19. Financial assistance is being made available through this program to eligible tenants, their landlords, and utility providers to cover activities including rent arrears, current and future rent payments, and utility arrears payments.

The U.S. Treasury has named Gwinnett a top performer for Project RESET 2.0 due to the program’s adherence to low barrier programming, capacity to implement multiple income source qualifications to quickly process applications, and its successful partnership with the Magistrate Court.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes

Gwinnett County is building grant funded programs that promote strong, equitable growth, including racial equity. We are preparing qualitative and quantitative outcomes to drive our programs. We look forward to reporting our strategies employed to maximize programmatic impact and effective, efficient, and equitable outcomes in our 2022 Recovery Plan Report.

Community Engagement

To ensure that Gwinnett County is being strategic and impactful with CSLFRF, we conducted the following efforts to guide our approach to allocating funds.

- A Needs Assessment engaged community stakeholders in defining critical services and ongoing needs of residents due to the public health emergency;
- An Internal Assessment of County needs and COVID-19 expenses, to include an analysis of allowable revenue recovery, was conducted to ensure the County is retaining necessary funds to ensure effective response to COVID-19 which does not disrupt Gwinnett’s standard in service provision;

- A Funding Analysis was initiated to measure the impact and effectiveness of federal funds that have already been received to handle the pandemic, define what funding remains through 2021 and beyond, identify what additional resources will be allocated to Gwinnett through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and determine what additional State and Federal resources will be deployed to address the various needs defined;
- An Infrastructure Analysis review of planned County projects examined eligibility for ARPA funding and assessed their impact in meeting community needs; and
- An Analysis of Underserved Areas/Service Gaps was conducted to help us focus our ARPA funds on inequities and underserved areas.

The Grants Management Division within the Department of Financial Services has been engaged with department directors, community partners, neighboring local governments serving the region, and other county stakeholders to stay informed of community-wide needs and to work collaboratively to define funding solutions for our leadership’s consideration.

We will continue our community engagement efforts through the 1st quarter of 2022 and look forward to reporting our increased efforts in our 2022 Recovery Plan Report.

Labor Practices

Gwinnett County knows that a community is at a better advantage when they encourage competition that builds productivity and opportunity for high-skilled, higher wage labor workers. To that end, the County will ensure that workforce practices for CSLFRF infrastructure projects include the prevailing wage requirements.

We look forward to highlighting relevant projects implementing labor practices in our 2022 Recovery Plan Report.

Use of Evidence

County staff is evaluating its CSLFRF programming to determine which projects will be using evidence-based interventions and which will be evaluated through rigorous program evaluations that will be designed to build evidence. We look forward to reporting our strategies employed to maximize programmatic impact and effective, efficient, and equitable outcomes in our 2022 Recovery Plan Report.

Table of Expense by Expenditure Category

Gwinnett County did not incur any grant expenses during the reporting period (May 17, 2021 – July 31, 2021). The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners took action on September 21, 2021 to approve a resolution to authorize the allocation of American Rescue Plan Act funding to reflect the needs of the County based on community engagement.

Grant expenditures will be defined in the table below in the 2022 Recovery Plan Report submission.

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
1	Expenditure Category: Public Health		
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		
2	Expenditure Category: Negative Economic Impacts		
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		

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
2.12	Aid to Other Impacted Industries		
2.13	Other Economic Support		
2.14	Rehiring Public Sector Staff		
3	Expenditure Category: Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities		
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		
4	Expenditure Category: Premium Pay		
4.1	Public Sector Employees		
4.2	Private Sector: Grants to other employers		
5	Expenditure Category: Infrastructure		
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		

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
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		
6	Expenditure Category: Revenue Replacement		
6.1	Provision of Government Services		
7	Administrative and Other		
7.1	Administrative Expenses		
7.2	Evaluation and data analysis		
7.3	Transfers to Other Units of Government		
7.4	Transfers to Nonentitlement Units (States and Territories only)		

Project Inventory

The Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners acted on September 21, 2021 to approve a resolution to authorize the allocation of American Rescue Plan Act funding to reflect the needs of the County based on community engagement. These funds provide a substantial infusion of resources to help turn the tide on the pandemic, address its economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery.

Projects

Although County staff is still preparing for project implementation, the chart provided on the following page provides a high level summary of the allocated funds.



**American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds**

	Amount
Project	\$181,855,587
Support Public Health Response	\$17,269,288
COVID-19 Public Health Response	
<i>Vaccination, COVID Testing/Tracing, etc.</i>	\$4,837,500
<i>Vaccine Education & Outreach</i>	\$500,000
<i>Mass Vaccination Site Facility Maintenance & Operations (through 12.31.2022)</i>	\$476,000
<i>Eastside Vaccination Site Operations (through 12.31.2022)</i>	\$6,105,788
<i>Vaccination Incentive Program (\$100 gift cards, est. 2,500 served)</i>	\$250,000
<i>Gwinnett County Medical Costs</i>	\$1,050,000
Public Health Infrastructure & Equipment Enhancements	\$2,050,000
Mobile Clinic Expansion Project	\$1,000,000
Mental Health & Substance Abuse Crisis Services	\$1,000,000
Replace Public Sector Revenue Loss	\$28,000,000
Government Services Affected by Revenue Reduction	\$28,000,000
Equity-Focused Services	\$61,160,800
Facility & Service Provisions	
<i>Centerville One Stop</i>	\$25,000,000
<i>Gwinnett One Stop</i>	\$30,000,000
<i>Veteran Support Services</i>	\$435,800
<i>Nonprofit Services - Target Areas</i>	\$5,000,000
Comprehensive Human Services Systems Needs Assessment	\$350,000
Outreach & Training Services	\$375,000
Address Negative Economic Impacts	\$38,947,500
Rebuilding Tourism, Arts & Entertainment	\$2,000,000
Small Business Recovery & Restart Program	\$5,000,000
Workforce Development	
<i>Youth Engagement</i>	\$500,000
<i>Job Training & Development</i>	\$500,000
Nonprofit Capacity Building & Operating Support	\$5,000,000
Childcare Services	\$500,000
Food Insecurity	\$1,216,000
Early Childhood Learning & Literacy	\$500,000
Transportation Services	\$500,000
Other Gwinnett County Government Operational Needs	
<i>Technology Enhancements</i>	\$20,000,000
<i>Tax Commissioner Convenience Fees Waiver Program</i>	\$1,850,000
<i>Community Navigator Program</i>	\$800,000
<i>Enhanced Cleaning Services</i>	\$300,000
<i>Public Facility Enhancements</i>	\$100,000
<i>Equipment - Titan Modems for Cardiac Monitors</i>	\$76,500
<i>Equipment - Forklift for PPE Distribution</i>	\$40,000
<i>Branch Security Costs - Tax Commissioner</i>	\$65,000

**American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds**

	Amount
Project	\$181,855,587
Premium Pay for Essential Workers	\$11,659,964
Premium Pay & Recruitment Incentives for Essential County Workers	\$300,000
Pass-through Incentives to Vendors Providing Critical County Services	\$150,000
Hazard Pay (Paid out to County employees 1.1.2021 - 6.11.2021)	\$11,209,964
Water, Sewer & Stormwater Infrastructure	\$14,000,000
Septic to Sewer Conversion Program	\$2,000,000
Dam Rehabilitation Projects	\$10,000,000
Home Repairs Assistance Program	\$2,000,000
Broadband Infrastructure	\$5,000,000
Broadband Enhancements (QCT Areas)	\$5,000,000
Reserved for Future Needs	\$5,818,035
Future Need	\$5,818,035