



**COUNTY of VENTURA**

2022

COUNTY OF VENTURA  
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT  
RECOVERY PLAN





# VENTURA COUNTY 2022 RECOVERY PLAN

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

We are honored to provide an update on the County of Ventura’s (County) American Rescue Plan (ARPA), strategy, which offers an opportunity for continued equitable recovery from COVID-19, and builds on previous County investments to create more prosperous, responsive, and resilient communities. The current Board of Supervisors (Board) priorities/goals already provide evidence that the County is on a strong path to recovery. As the Board continues to turn the tide against COVID-19, the level of optimism is on the rise in all parts of the region. Reflecting on the past 2.5 years, the Board is proud of all we’ve accomplished alongside departments and community-based providers to support our most disadvantaged residents. Through December 2021, the County’s COVID-19 spending totaled \$400 million – this included the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and Provider Relief Fund (PRF). These resources prioritized key programs including homeless housing, rental assistance, business assistance, senior nutrition, farmworker assistance, COVID-19 testing, vaccine deployment, nonprofit hospitals, and nutrition. We regularly refined our approach during this process and ensured every decision was made through the lens of equity, cultural competency, and data-driven approaches.

We have already made historic investments with ARPA resources using the guiding principles mentioned above. Among these investments include \$4 million for the Piru Wastewater Treatment Facility, \$1.2 million for Project Homekey Ojai youth housing, and \$500,000 to administer the California Microbusiness COVID-19 Relief Grant Program. More recently, the Board conceptually approved the following projects: \$15 million for mental health, \$10 million for community parks/facilities, \$9 million for public health, \$3.5 million for early childhood support, and \$3 million for business programs, etc. with The County’s ARPA programs will serve as an opportunity to make much-needed investments in core services. It’s a chance for the Board to consider fresh ideas, work in partnership with community-based stakeholders, and fulfill our commitment to be responsible stewards of public funding. It is important to note that ARPA resources are meant for one-time projects – and that once funds are depleted there is no renewal process. Additionally, the US Treasury Department (Treasury) requires evidence-based logic, financial reporting, audit readiness, and data analysis for all expenditures. Consequently, the Board recognizes the need for a measured approach to ensure compliance with federal policy. This Recovery Plan Performance Report (Recovery Plan) outlines a vision for how the County lives into the spirit of ARPA. Lastly, we want to thank the hundreds of residents, businesses, departments, and nonprofits who provided feedback in during the robust community engagement process. We look forward to working with all of you to help Ventura County move forward and prosper. Any questions about the County’s ARPA approach can be guided to [arpa@ventura.org](mailto:arpa@ventura.org).

Sincerely,

County of Ventura Board of Supervisors

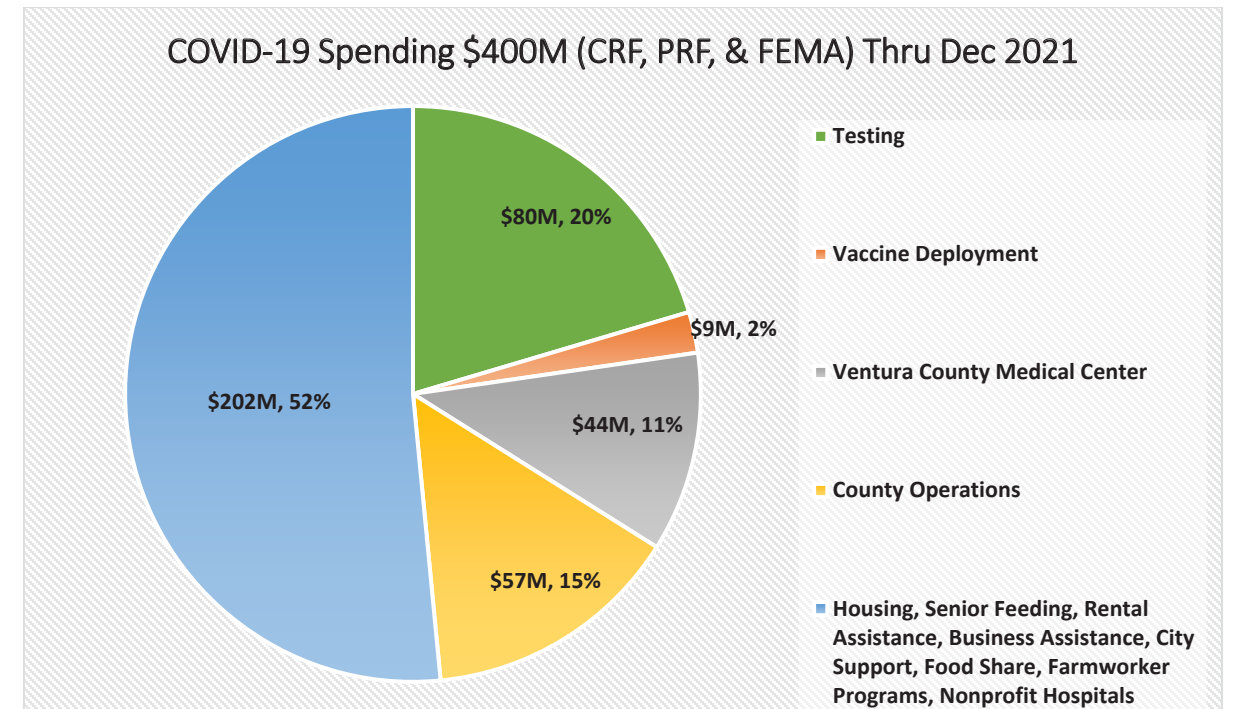


## INTRODUCTION

The American Rescue Plan Act includes \$164.3 million under its State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) for the County of Ventura. The first half of the County's award has been received and the second half will arrive this year. The County's strategy in this report is conceptual in nature and subject to change in accordance with policies set by the US Treasury Department. Consistent with past federal awards, the County aims to allocate funds strategically – including addressing the numerous health, social, and economic impacts COVID-19 has had on the region's most disadvantaged communities. Given the complexity and changing nature of federal policy, the County is following the lead of subject matter experts – the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) and National Association of Counties (NACo) – in terms of guiding principles. The County will employ a measured approach in utilizing SLFRF resources, and an equity lens in demographics, regionality, and socioeconomic status as part of its framework. Additionally, the County will follow Treasury's ARPA guidelines which require evidence-based approaches, standardized accounting, audit compliance, and measurable data for all projects. Funding must be obligated by December 2024 and spent by the end of the calendar year 2026.

To date, the County has spent \$400 million in federal recovery revenues on various COVID-19 programs (CARES Act and FEMA reimbursements). This spending includes: \$202 million for Project Roomkey/Homekey (housing), senior nutrition, rental assistance, business assistance, food programs, farmworker assistance, and nonprofit hospitals; \$80 million for COVID-19 testing; \$44 million for the Ventura County Medical Center, and \$9 million for vaccine deployment. Including ARPA, the county's total community investments will stand at \$570 million. These investments reflect the County's historic practice of improving quality of life for the region's underserved families and communities. An overview of the funding is provided below.

The following chart provides detail on the County's strategy for the previous rounds of federal COVID-19 funding – specifically CRF, FEMA, and PRF resources.



The County prioritized the region's most disadvantaged communities for the 2020 and 2021 federal funding cycles – see the above \$400 million figure. Looking ahead to ARPA implementation, the County will build upon its equity-induced commitments and continue to expand support for historically marginalized groups.

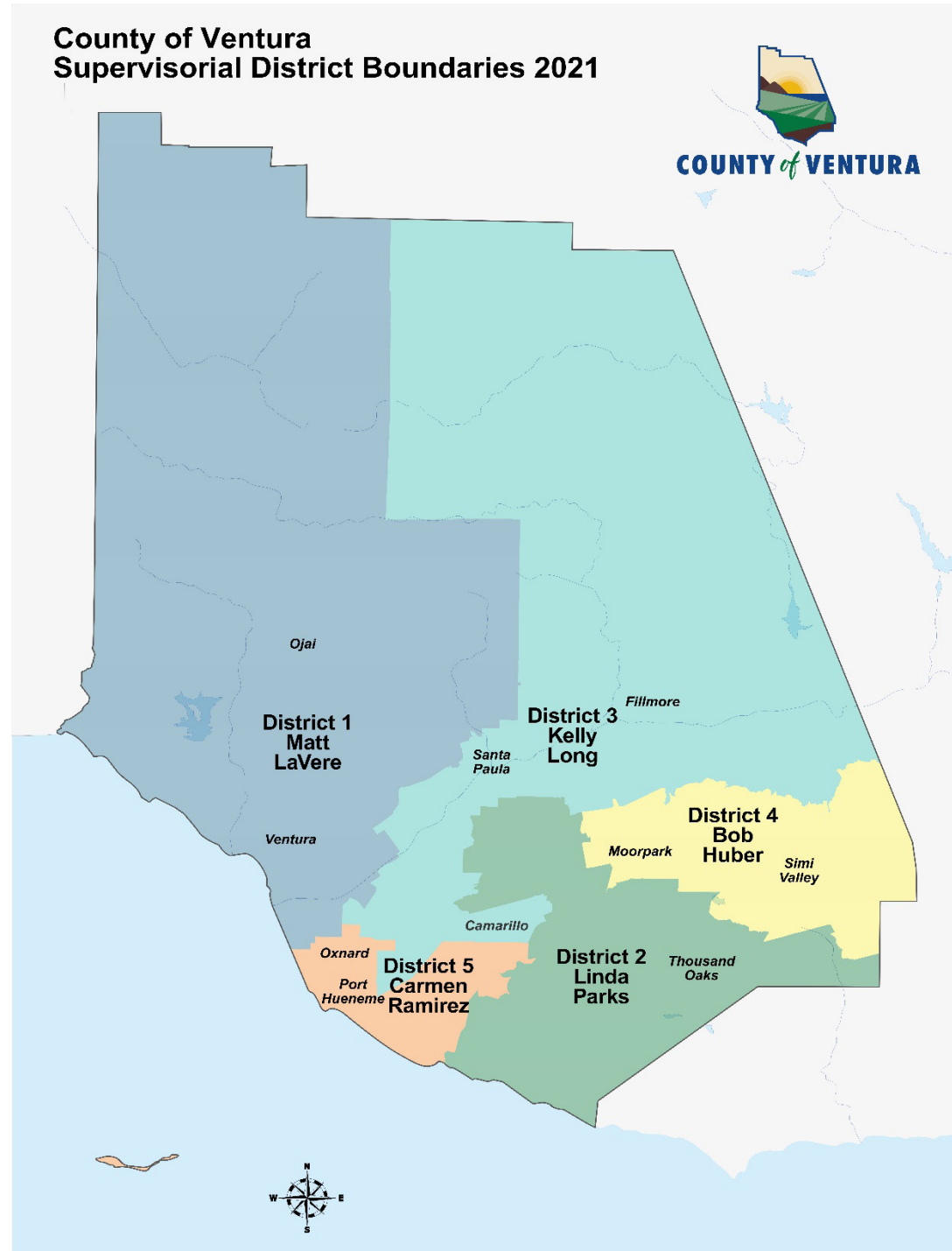
CARES Act Federal Grant March 2020	FEMA Reimbursement Ongoing Process	ARPA Federal Grant Ongoing Process
Coronavirus Relief Fund \$167M	Testing \$80M	SLFRF \$164.3M
Provider Relief Fund \$44M	Great Plates \$44M	Community Health Centers \$15M
CDBG, Aging, etc. \$12M	Project Roomkey \$17M	Homeless Assistance \$4.5M
Public Health \$8M	Other Expenses \$10M	Older Americans Act \$900K
	Vaccines \$6M	



## ABOUT VENTURA COUNTY

### County Map

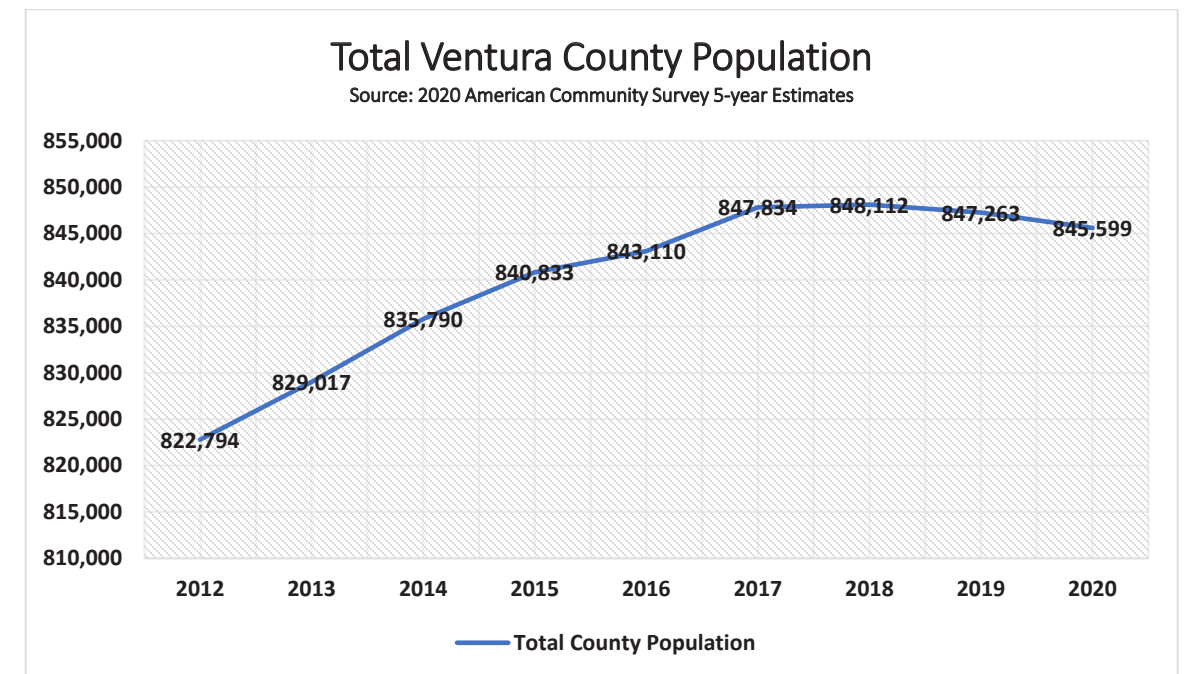
Ventura County has 1,843 square miles of land area and is the 26th largest county in California by total area. It is bordered by Los Angeles County, Kern County, and Santa Barbara County.



## DEMOGRAPHIC ANALYSIS

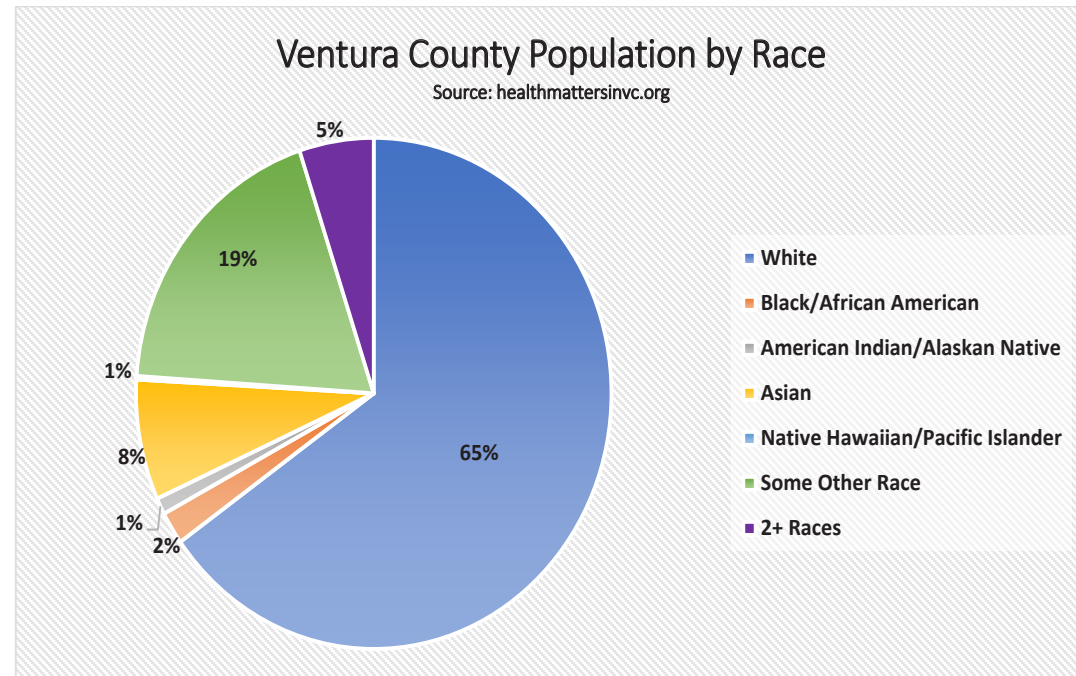
Ventura County is a culturally and racially diverse community. This section provides an overview of several community indicators including population, race/ethnicity, household income, age, homelessness/housing, poverty, health access, and mental health. The purpose of this data is to inform the County's ARPA decision-making process. Following Board direction, the County will prioritize ARPA funding for programs and projects that serve disadvantaged groups, hard-to-reach communities, and racial minorities. The County's robust community engagement framework will also advise this process. The County has followed its practice of partnering with nonprofits to connect with hard-to-reach and marginalized groups such as People of Color, people with low incomes, limited English proficiency populations, and other traditionally underserved groups for ARPA input. The County's ARPA community engagement strategy has included: 600+ overall survey respondents, 113 nonprofit survey responses, 250 community project ideas via survey response and email submittal, engagement with 49 nonprofits through the Ventura County Complete Count Committee, engagement with 21 nonprofits through the Ventura Economic Vitality committee, outreach to 140,000+ people via material distribution in both English and Spanish, a dedicated multilingual website, and regularly scheduled Board hearings with reports, analysis, and public comment sessions. Additionally, County departments involved with ARPA implementation have been directed to provide racial equity metrics for their projects and initiatives. As ARPA is implemented, the County will follow Treasury's guidelines and report on the impacts of its investments. An analysis of Ventura's demographic information is provided below.

## POPULATION





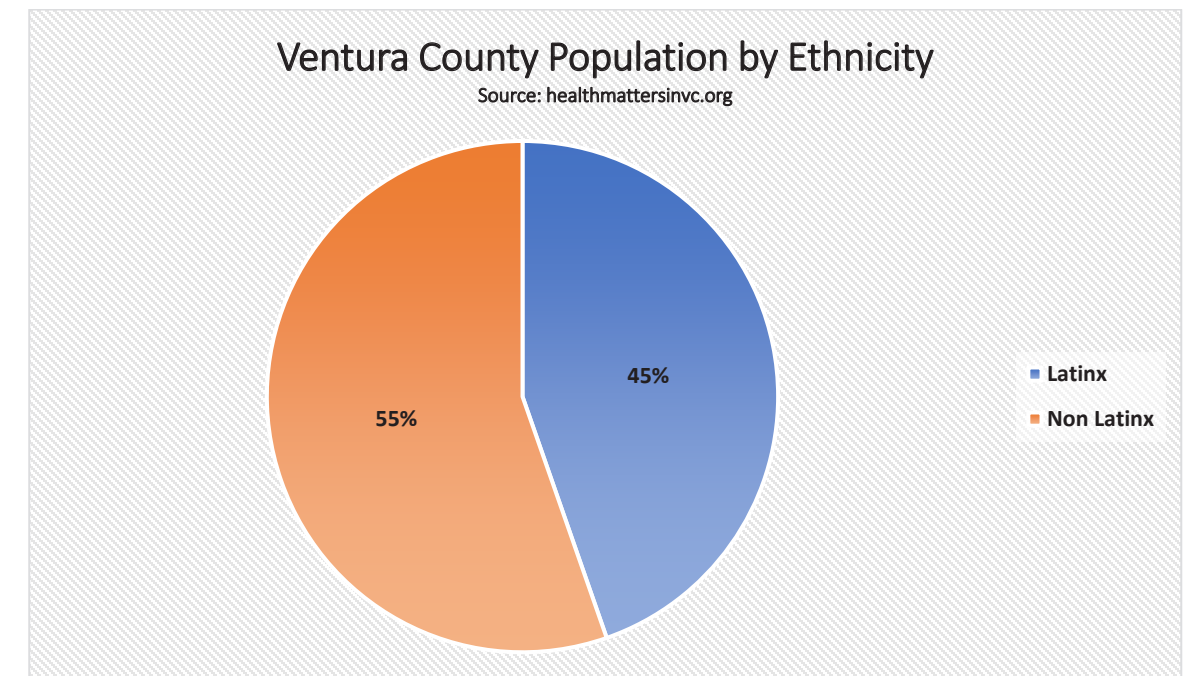
## RACE



Race	Population
White	548,709
Black/African American	17,426
American Indian/Alaskan Native	8,821
Asian	64,213
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1,830
Some Other Race	158,889
2+ Races	42,577
Total	842,465



## ETHNICITY

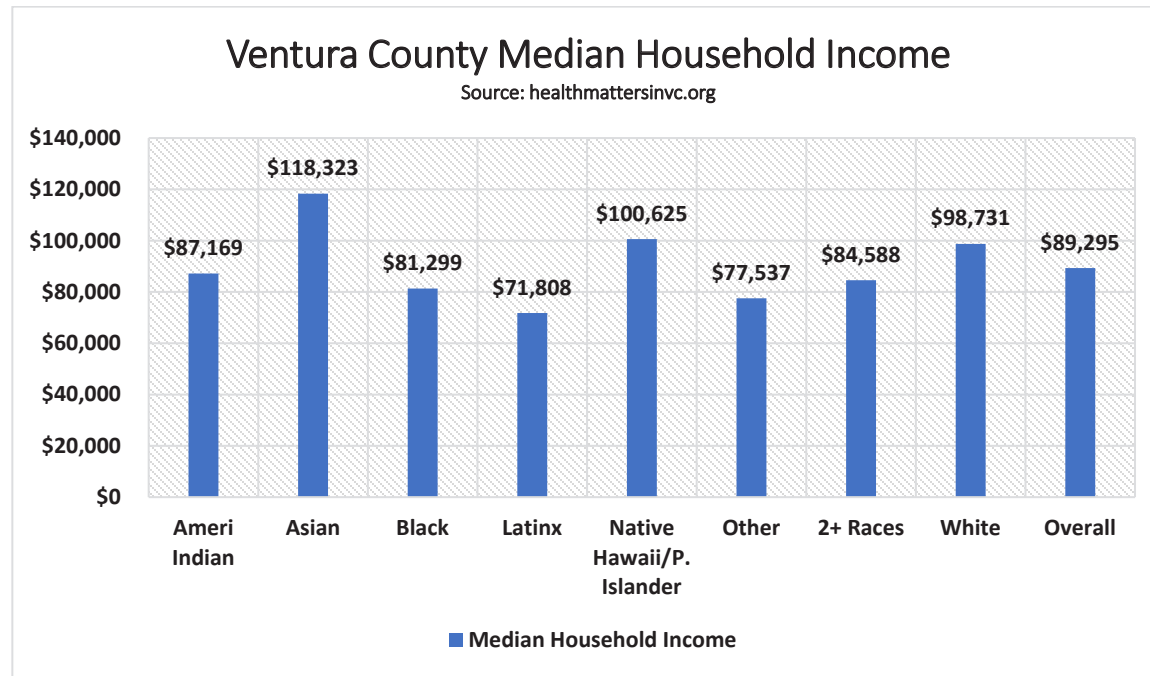


Category	Population by Ethnicity
Latinx	376,230
Non Latinx	466,235
Total	842,465

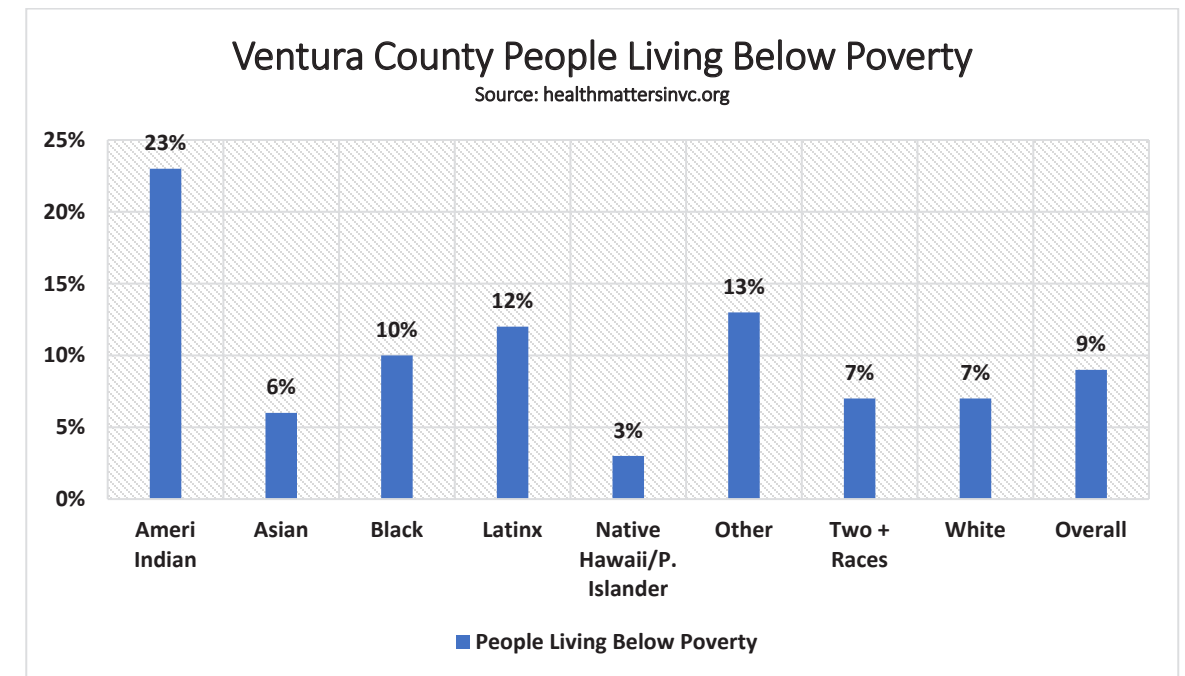




## HOUSEHOLD INCOME



## POVERTY



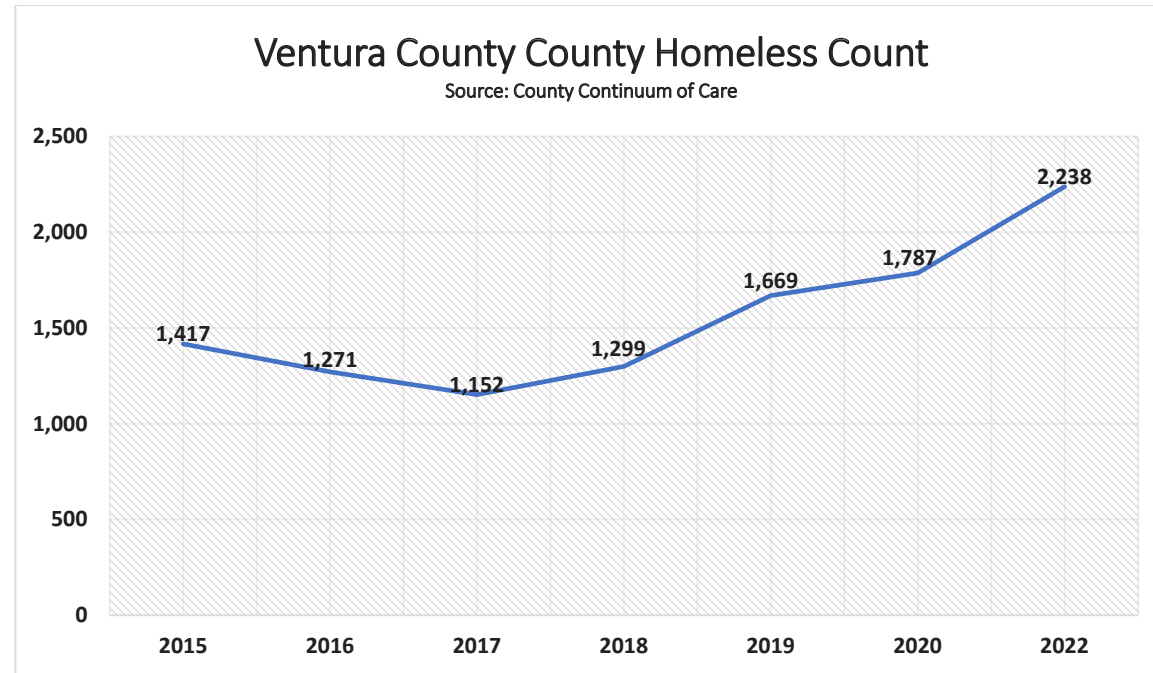
Category	Median Household Income
American Indian/Native Alaskan	\$87,169
Asian	\$118,323
Black	\$81,299
Latinx	\$71,808
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	\$100,625
Other	\$77,537
2+ Races	\$84,588
White	\$98,731
Overall	\$89,295



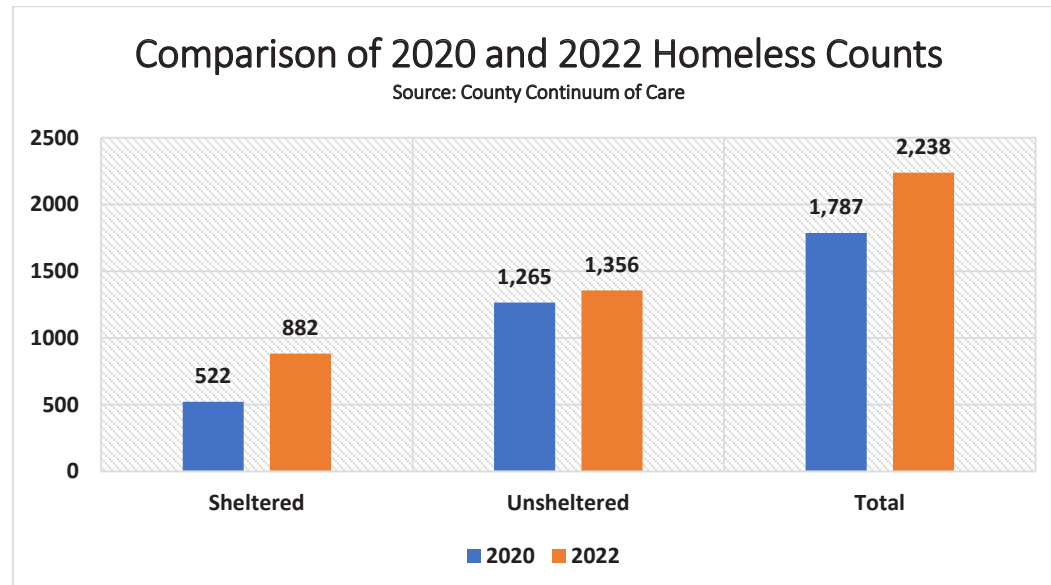


## HOMELESSNESS

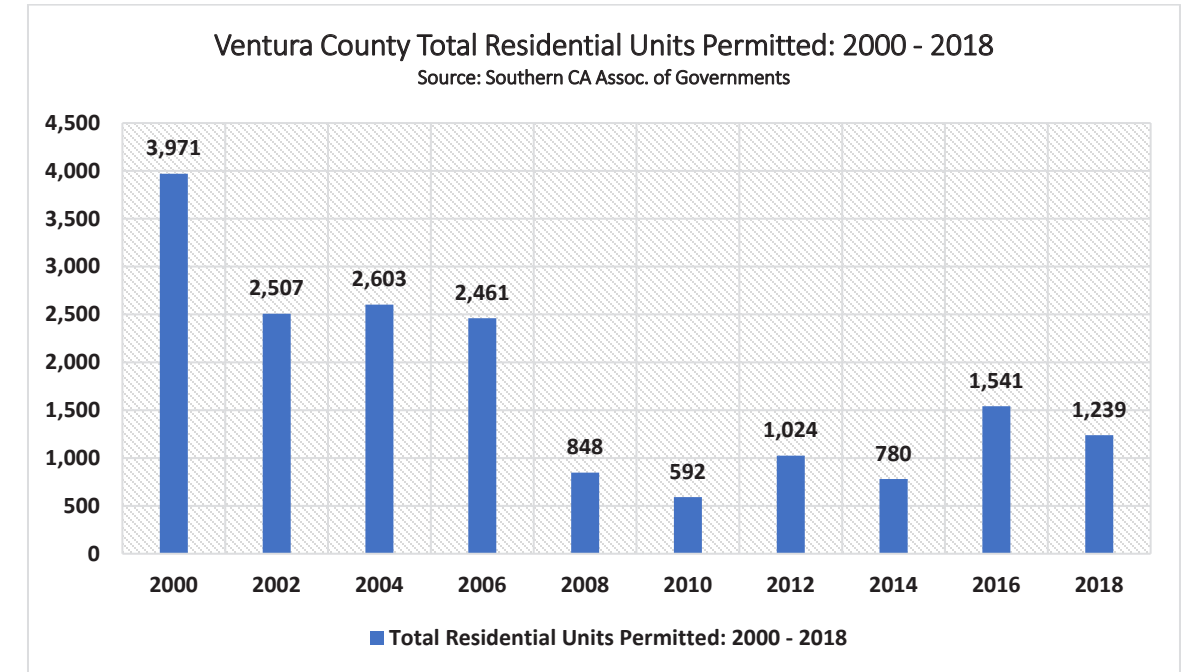
Per the latest homeless count, the County's unhoused community increased by 25 percent through the COVID-19 emergency. Since 2020, the population of unhoused individuals has increased by 451 adults and children to 2,238 people. Accordingly, the County, regional nonprofits and interested stakeholders have identified homeless housing as the leading priority for ARPA funding. Data is not available for 2021.



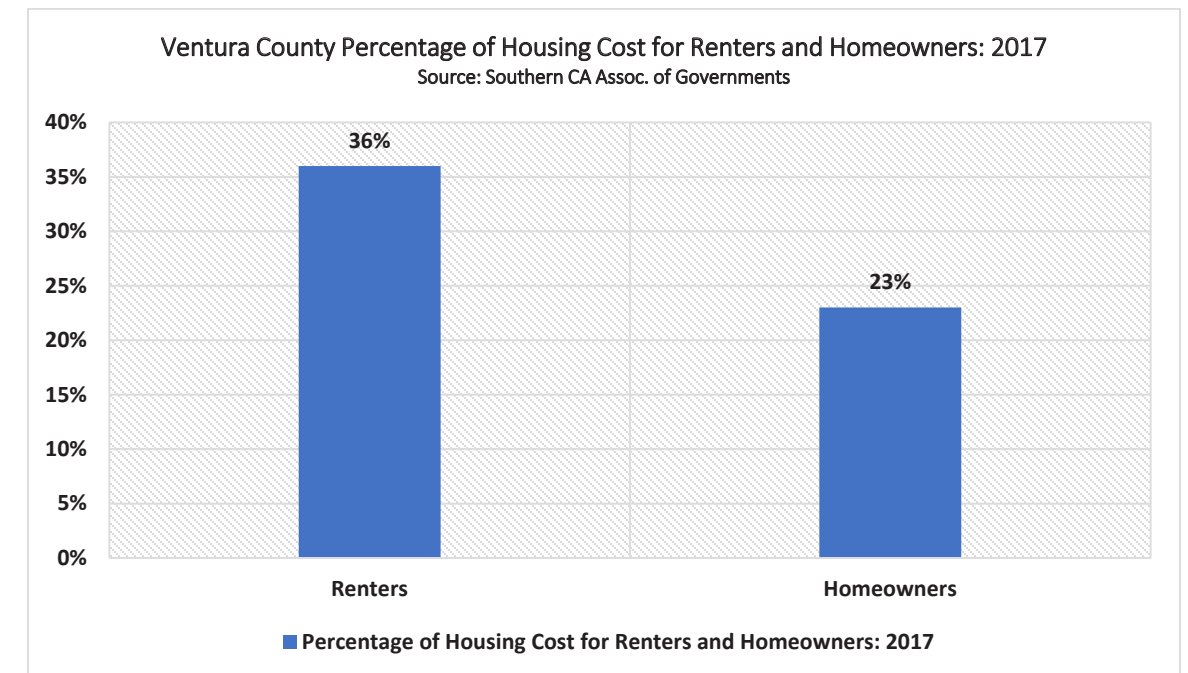
There were 2,238 adults and children who were counted as homeless during the point-in-time count according to the Ventura County 2022 Homeless Count. This figure represents an increase of 451 persons or 25.2 percent compared to the 1,787 homeless persons who were counted in 2020.



## HOUSING PRODUCTION

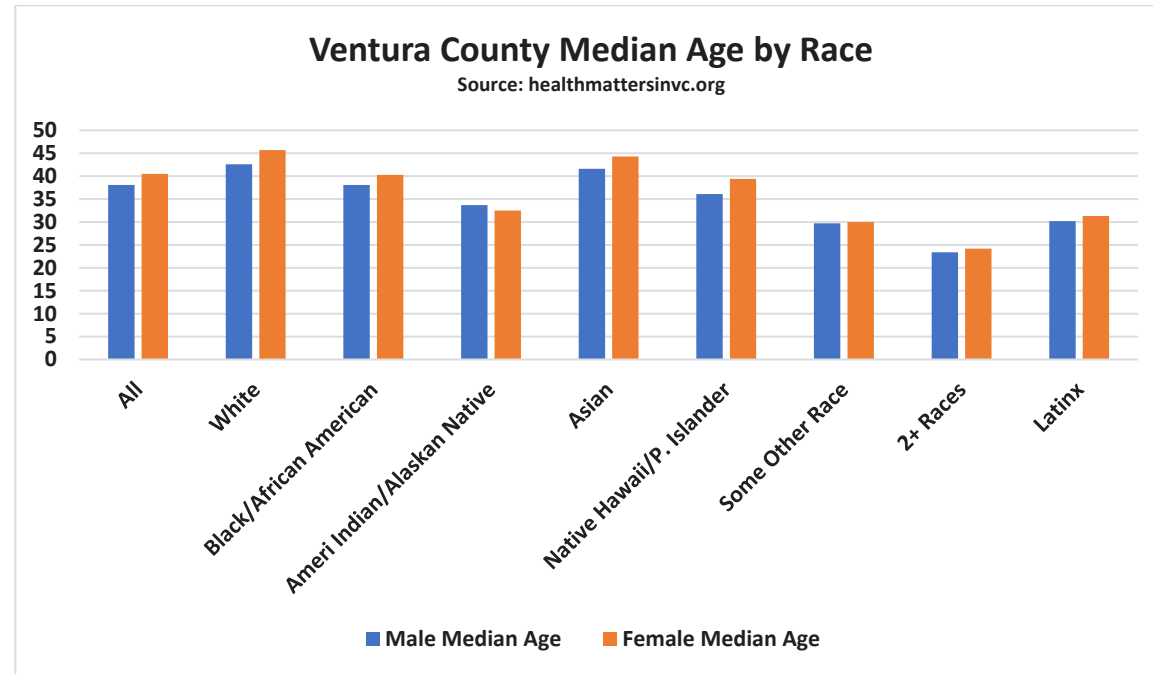


## HOUSING COSTS

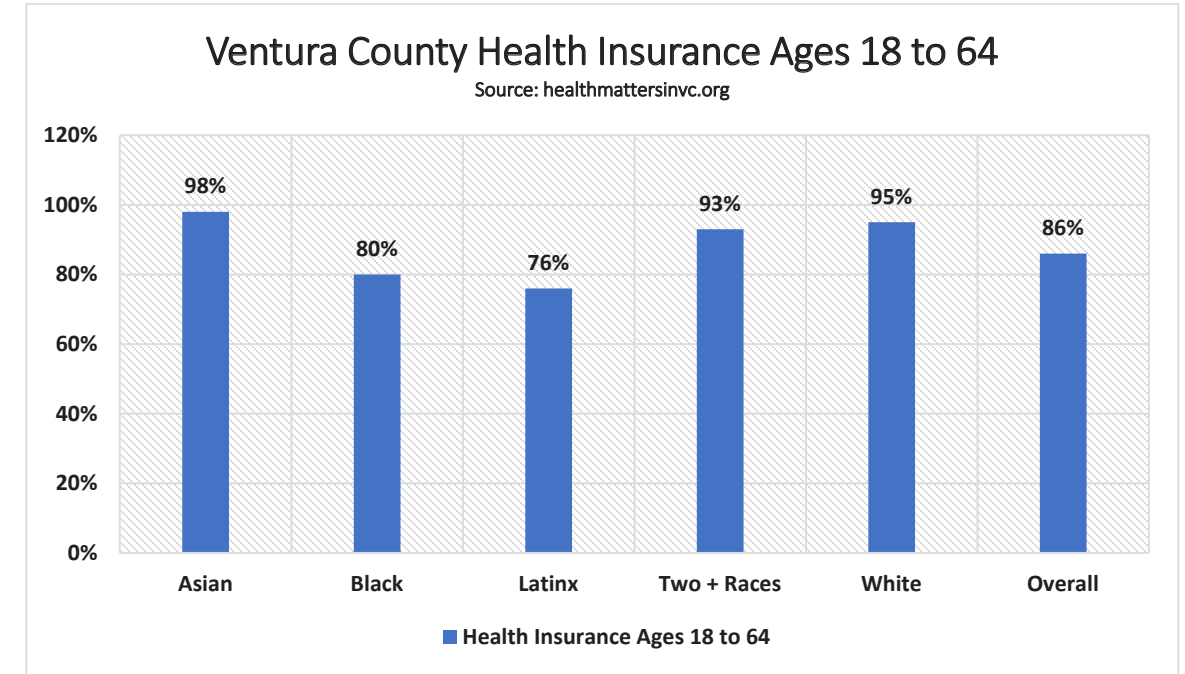




## AGE



## HEALTH ACCESS



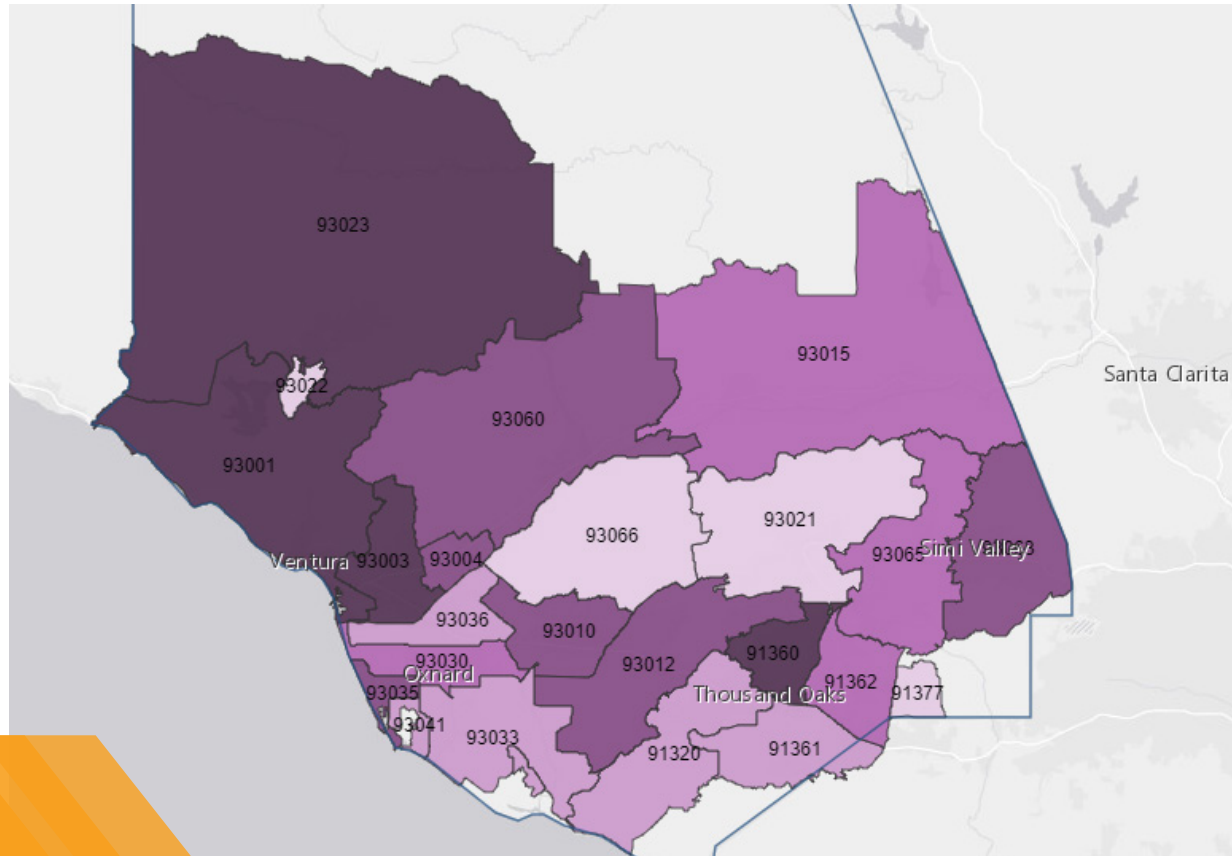
Category	Male Median Age	Female Median Age
All	38.1	40.5
White	42.6	45.7
Black/African American	38.1	40.3
Ameri Indian/Alaskan Native	33.7	32.5
Asian	41.6	44.3
Native Hawaii/P. Islander	36.1	39.4
Some Other Race	29.7	30
2+ Races	23.4	24.2
Latinx	30.2	31.3





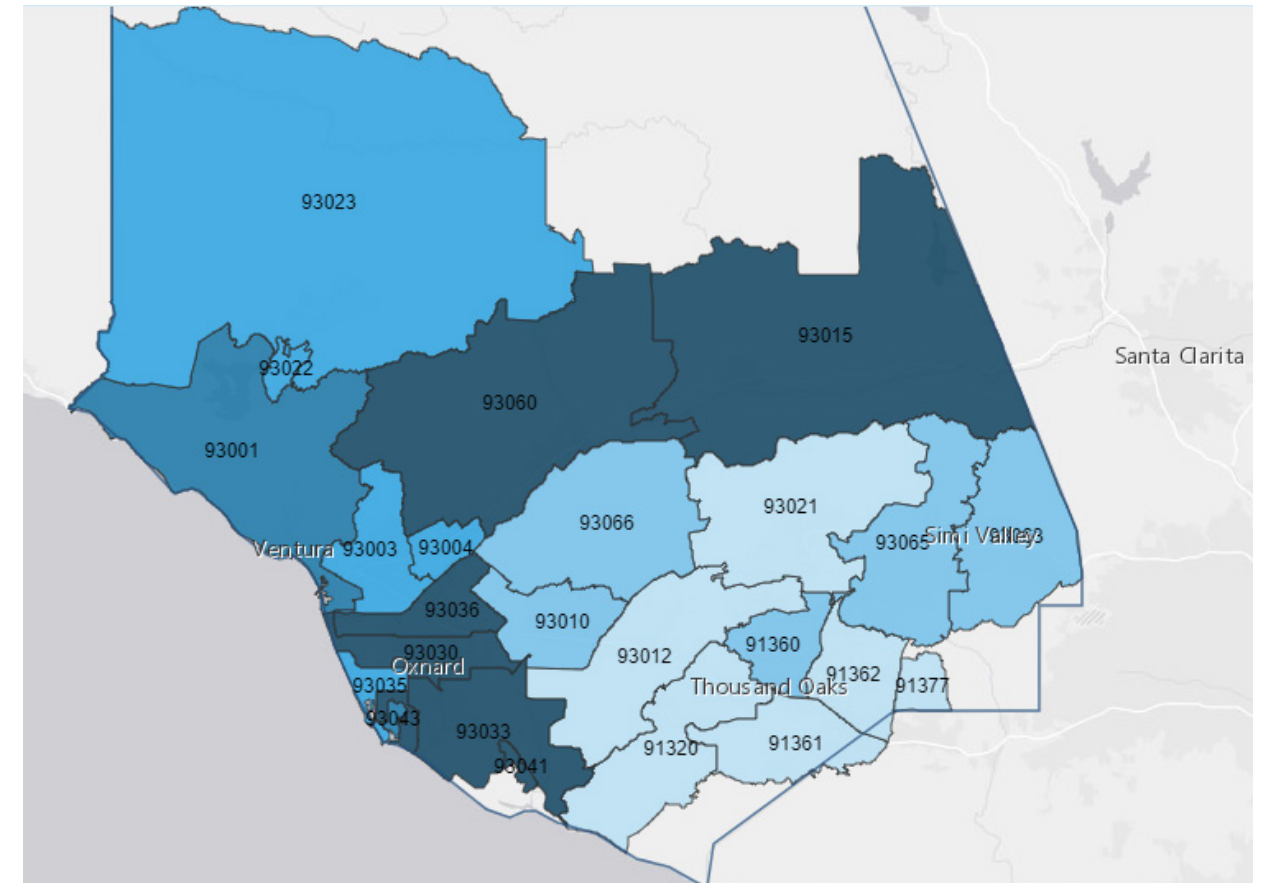
## MENTAL HEALTH INDEX

Darker shading represents higher mental health needs. The County will consider this data into account to ensure ARPA resources reach those with serious mental health issues. Source: [healthmattersinvc.org](https://healthmattersinvc.org).



## HEALTH EQUITY INDEX

Darker shading represents higher socioeconomic needs/poor health outcomes. The County will consider this data into account to prioritize ARPA resources in reaching underserved and disadvantaged groups (low-income, communities of color, farmworkers, etc.). Source: [healthmattersinvc.org](https://healthmattersinvc.org).





## PROMOTING EQUITABLE OUTCOMES

The County's ARPA methodology promotes equity through several guidelines, including addressing the disparities in the previous section. This method covers requirements set by the US Dept. of Treasury, Board of Supervisors priorities and goal setting, internal department subject matter expertise, and diverse community engagement (hard-to-reach communities, racial minorities, and low-income regions). Treasury's guidelines include racial and economic equity – the project inventory section of this report outlines this for each project. Board priorities cover several community needs – these priorities match both Treasury expenditure categories and community survey results. Lastly, the County's engagement framework targets outreach and education in disadvantaged neighborhoods – by fostering awareness of programs and gaining input on program design is emphasized and communicated in multiple languages. Ventura County is committed to meeting the requirements of all the listed methods. Outlined below is an overview of the inputs in the County's process.

Treasury Guidelines	Eligible Uses, Financial Reporting, 2 CFR Audit Readiness, Data Analysis, Use of Evidence, Equity – Race, Poverty, etc., One-time Projects, & Measured Approach
Board Priorities	Housing & Homelessness, Mental Health, Public Health: COVID-19, Sustainability, Infrastructure, Farmworkers, Economic Recovery, Early Childhood, Park & Recreation, Arts Community, & Emergency Preparedness
External Engagement	600+ Survey Responses, 113 Nonprofit Surveys, 250+ Project Ideas, 49 Nonprofits via Ventura Community Foundation Complete Count Committee, 21 Nonprofits via Economic Vitality Committee, 140,000+ Contacts in English & Spanish, 3 + Board Hearings & Counting, Quarterly Board Hearings and Public Comment, Regular Communication With Nonprofits Working with Communities of Color Regarding County Programs/Outreach , Tri-lingual Translation and Interpretation Available in Spanish, English and Indigenous Languages



## COUNTY ARPA METHODOLOGY

The County's ARPA methodology follows several guidelines. Including the requirements set by the US Dept. of Treasury, Board of Supervisors priorities and public meetings, internal department subject matter expertise, and diverse community engagement. Ventura County is committed to meeting the requirements of all the previously listed methods. Below is an overview of the of inputs involved in the County's ARPA project selection process.

<b>US Dept. of Treasury's Rules</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eligible Uses</li> <li>Financial Reporting</li> <li>2 CFR Audit Readiness</li> <li>Data Analysis</li> <li>Use of Evidence</li> <li>Equity Considerations</li> </ul>	<b>Board of Supervisors</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board Priorities/Goal Setting</li> <li>Board Meetings</li> <li>Board Inquiries</li> </ul>
<b>Internal Engagement Team</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Behavioral Health</li> <li>Public Health</li> <li>Human Services Agency</li> <li>General Services Agency</li> <li>County Executive Office</li> <li>County Counsel</li> <li>Auditor-Controller</li> <li>County COVID-19 Consultant</li> </ul>	<b>Community Engagement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of a comprehensive website</li> <li>Development and distribution of an English and Spanish Survey with 600 + response and opportunities for community project ideas</li> <li>Dedicated email and phone line set up</li> <li>Digital + in-person multilingual community outreach</li> <li>Email communication in English &amp; Spanish to 140,000 community members</li> <li>Nonprofit engagement with one-on-one meetings</li> </ul>

## TREASURY REQUIREMENTS

**Eligible Uses:** Treasury provides a well-defined framework for eligible ARPA uses. The County is required to follow this technical approach. Eligible uses include: revenue replacement for the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the COVID-19 public health emergency; COVID-19 expenditures or negative economic impacts of COVID-19, including assistance to small businesses, households, and hard-hit industries, and economic recovery; premium pay for essential workers; and lastly investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure. Restrictions on ARPA uses include: funds cannot be used to directly or indirectly to offset tax reductions or delay a tax or tax increase; and funds cannot be deposited into any pension fund. The County is working directly with the Board, federal policy consultants, and nonprofit organizations to ensure that all projects in consideration for ARPA funding meet Treasury's definition of eligible uses. Any expenditures outside of eligible categories increases the County's risk of losing its ARPA allocation.



**Project & Expenditure Reporting:** To ensure ARPA funds are used properly, the Treasury requires the County, alongside any subrecipients (other government entities and/or nonprofits) to file quarterly financial status reports through the entirety of the project lifecycle. This means that all expenditures through December 2026 will need to be communicated to the Treasury Department four times per year. The County has established internal accounting controls to track this data and is contractually requiring all subrecipients to regularly submit information and data relating to their designated projects.

**Audit Readiness:** Between the \$400 million in previous rounds of federal funding, to the \$164.3 million in ARPA resources, Ventura County is subject to a federal audit compliance, also known as a single audit. As a result, the County's project selection process has involved reviewing the audit standards of all projects, project managers, departmental requests, nonprofit requests, and Board priorities/goals. The County is requiring all ARPA recipients to confirm their capacity including knowledge of 2 CFR federal audit requirements, eligible uses, contract compliance, risk documentation, financial statements, etc.

**Data Analysis:** Per the US Treasury's guidelines, the County and any subrecipients of ARPA funding must provide data drivers and outcomes to justify their expenses. The County's data framework for ARPA involves identifying the most disadvantaged communities and industries, evaluating the outcomes created via ARPA throughout the year, measuring the benefits of ARPA investments in underprivileged communities, and lastly reporting data metrics in both Board updates and in Treasury's annual performance reports. Given the complexity of data analytics, the County is taking a measured approach for ARPA project selection.

**Use of Evidence:** Treasury requires the County to identify how ARPA resources are being used for evidenced-based interventions, and whether projects are being designed through that lens. The County will follow its practice of investing in disadvantaged communities – and is committed to producing measurable information on how ARPA funds improve the quality of life for the region's disadvantaged areas.

**Promoting Equitable Outcomes:** Treasury guidelines promote an equity lens in deciding how to spend the funds. The funding has the potential to produce a significant change in the County, especially when it comes to addressing the needs of disadvantaged communities. Federal guidelines also require that funds promote equitable outcomes. Accordingly, the County has collected ARPA input via 600+ surveys, 113 nonprofit respondents, 250+ community project ideas, 49 community organizations via the Ventura Community Foundation Complete Count Committee, and lastly 21 community organizations via the Ventura Economic Vitality Committee. The County will use information from all resources to ensure an equitable distribution of ARPA resources – specifically targeting programs and services for disadvantaged and underserved communities. Previous equity-induced initiatives (CRF, FEMA, & PRF) lead to \$400 million in federal investments for Ventura County communities.



## *Board of Supervisors*

**Board Priorities/Goals:** The Board of Supervisors priorities and goals are intended to provide a foundation upon which departments and nonprofit partners can base their individual, strategic, business, and operational plans. The Board has intentionally identified areas and funding priorities/goals that improve the quality of life for the region's most disadvantaged communities. The County's ARPA framework considers these key priorities/priorities for the project selection process. It is important to note that Board priorities and goals align with Treasury's eligible ARPA rules. Since this funding is nonrenewable, the Board placed an emphasis on taking a measured approach and focusing on one-time projects. A snapshot of the priorities/goals is listed below.

### Public Health: COVID-19 Programs

Mental Health

Housing & Homelessness

Sustainability

### Infrastructure: Water, Broadband, & Sewer

Farmworker Programs

Stimulate Economic Recovery

Early Childhood Initiatives

Park & Recreation Capital Improvements

Arts Community

Emergency Preparedness

**Board Approval:** All County ARPA projects are subject to Board approval. The Board's decisions are informed by several inputs including: (a) strategic community engagement (600+ overall survey respondents, 113 nonprofit survey responses, 250+ community project ideas via survey response and email submittal, engagement with 49 nonprofits via the Ventura County Complete Count Committee, engagement with 21 nonprofits via the Ventura Economic Vitality committee, outreach to 140,000+ people via material distribution in both Spanish and English, a dedicated multilingual website, and regularly scheduled Board hearings with reports, analysis, and public comment sessions dedicated to ARPA); (b) internal engagement (Behavioral Health, Public Health, Human Services Agency, General Services Agency, Executive Office, Counsel, Auditor-Controller, and the COVID-19 Consultant); and lastly (c) US Treasury's rules (eligible uses, financial reporting, 2 CFR audit readiness, data analysis, use of evidence, and equity). The previously listed inputs provide the Board with the foundation for impactful and equitable ARPA implementation.



## Community Engagement

**Overall:** The County's community engagement for ARPA implementation is comprehensive and considers the diverse cultural and linguistic needs of the community. The effort aims to inform the community about funding opportunities and captures diverse feedback from stakeholders, community-based organizations, and the region's hard-to-reach and underserved communities. The County leveraged community partnerships that were strengthened during the COVID-19 pandemic with community-based organizations, agencies, and nonprofits to help reach hard-to-reach groups including people of color, people with low incomes, limited English proficient populations, indigenous communities, and other traditionally underserved groups. The County's community engagement framework includes:

### Website, Survey, and Community Projects

- » 600 + community surveys submitted in Spanish & English
- » 250 + project ideas submitted via email, survey, and in-person meetings
- » Dedicated website with reports, spending plans, videos, and presentations
- » Dedicated email account [arpa@ventura.org](mailto:arpa@ventura.org) and phone number to encourage community engagement with populations with limited digital access

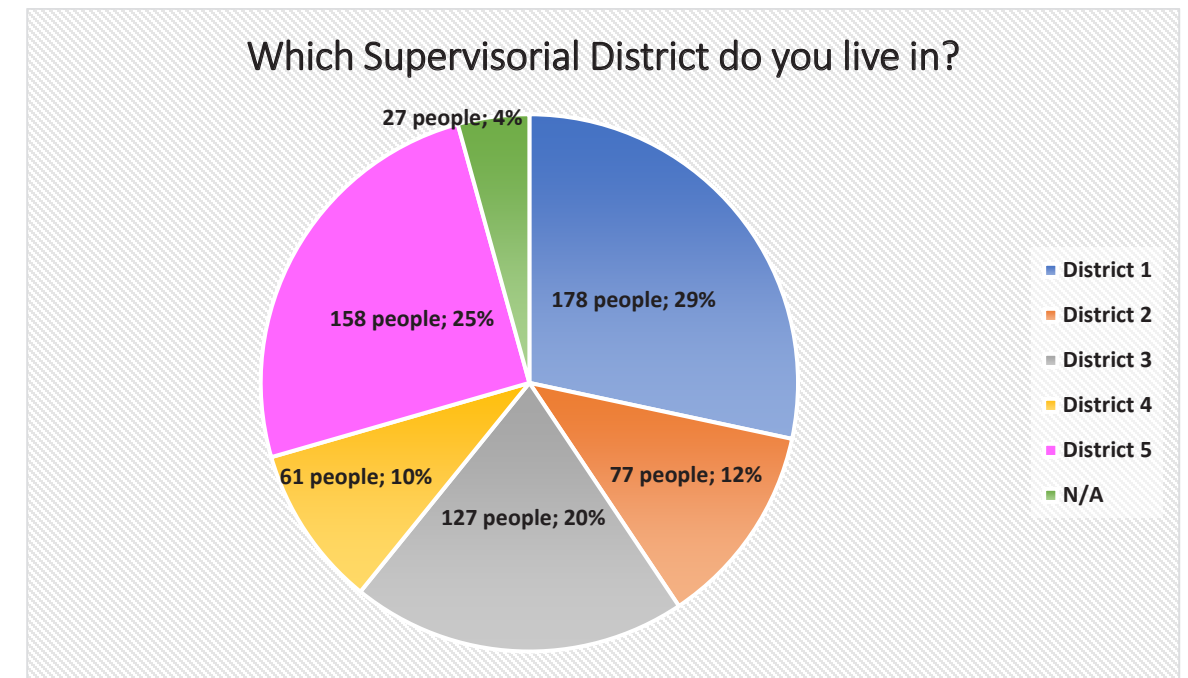
### Digital and In-person Multilingual Community Outreach

- » Presentation to and listening session with 30+ community organizations through the Ventura County Community Foundation provided in English and Spanish
- » One-on-one meetings with community-based organizations and non-profits by request
- » 113 nonprofit survey respondents
- » 49 nonprofits engaged via Ventura Community Foundation Complete Count Committee
- » 38 nonprofits receive funding for multilingual outreach and join weekly information sessions
- » 21 nonprofits engaged via Ventura Economic Vitality Committee
- » E-newsletter with ARPA information sent to 140,000 community members in English & Spanish
- » 3 + Board hearings / Quarterly Board hearing scheduled with opportunities for public comment
- » Information print materials and paper surveys were available at county libraries (English and Spanish). Training provided to all County library staff about the overall effort and survey.
- » Quarterly Board hearings with reports, analysis, and public comment sessions
- » Tri-lingual interpretation in Spanish, English and the indigenous language of Mixteco for Board meetings

The result of the community engagement detailed above is comprehensive multilingual connections with community members, and community-based organizations, agencies, and non-profits representing traditionally underserved populations. Public awareness about County programs, including ARPA, is fostered through partnerships with nonprofits, social media, online news, and regularly scheduled updates. Looking ahead, the County will continue to build upon successes in the two-way community engagement framework and consider community feedback to inform its ARPA implementation process.

## Survey Results

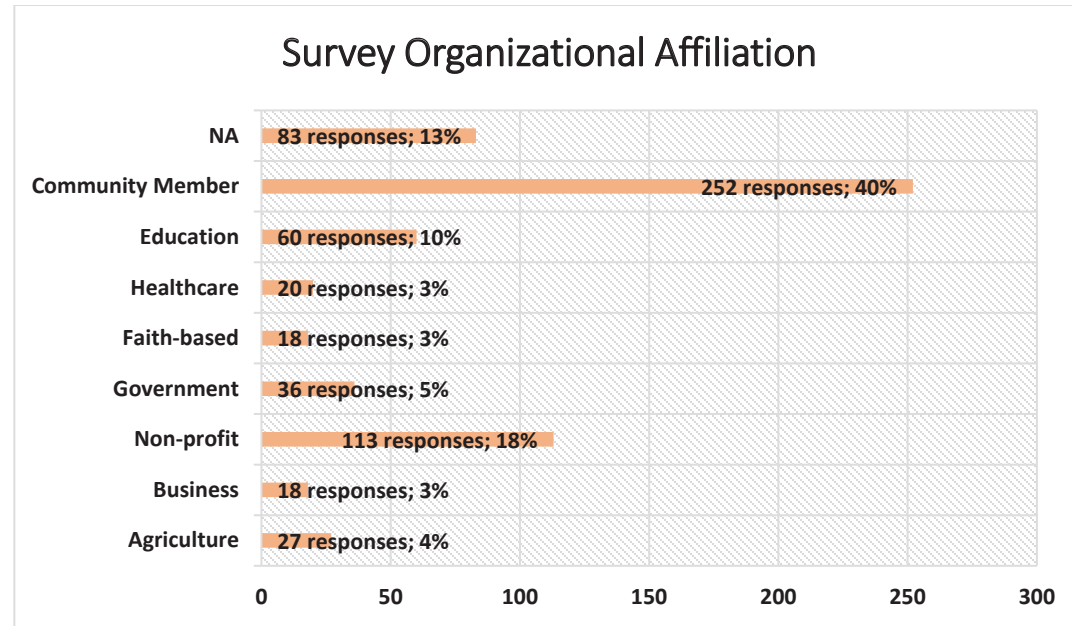
The County's ARPA digital and print survey received 600+ responses in English and Spanish. The respondents included a mix of residents, nonprofit affiliates, faith-based groups, health professionals, etc. The charts below summarize the results of the survey. The County received a total of 628 survey responses in English and Spanish. A total of 178 (29 percent) were from District 1; District 2 comprised 77 (12 percent); District 3 included 127 (21 percent); District 4, 61 (10 percent); District 5, 158 (25 percent); and lastly 27 respondents (4 percent) did not specify their geography.



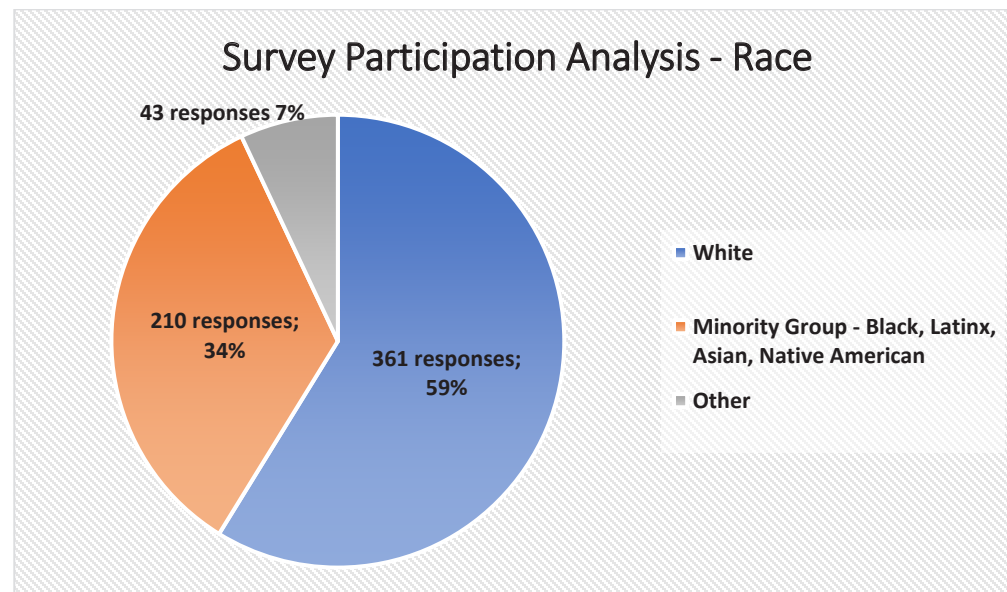
The County's robust survey outreach reached a diverse set of organizations across the region. The largest share were respondents identifying themselves as Community Members (252, 40 percent); Nonprofit respondents totaled to 113 (18 percent); No Response comprised 83 (13 percent); Educational groups equaled to 60 (10 percent); Government (36, 5 percent); Health Provider (20, 3 percent); and lastly Faith-based and Business groups (18 each, 3 percent each). Additional outreach was completed with 49 nonprofits via the Ventura Community Foundation Complete Count Committee, 21 nonprofits via the Ventura Economic Vitality Committee, and over 250+ nonprofit/community project submissions via the survey and email account.







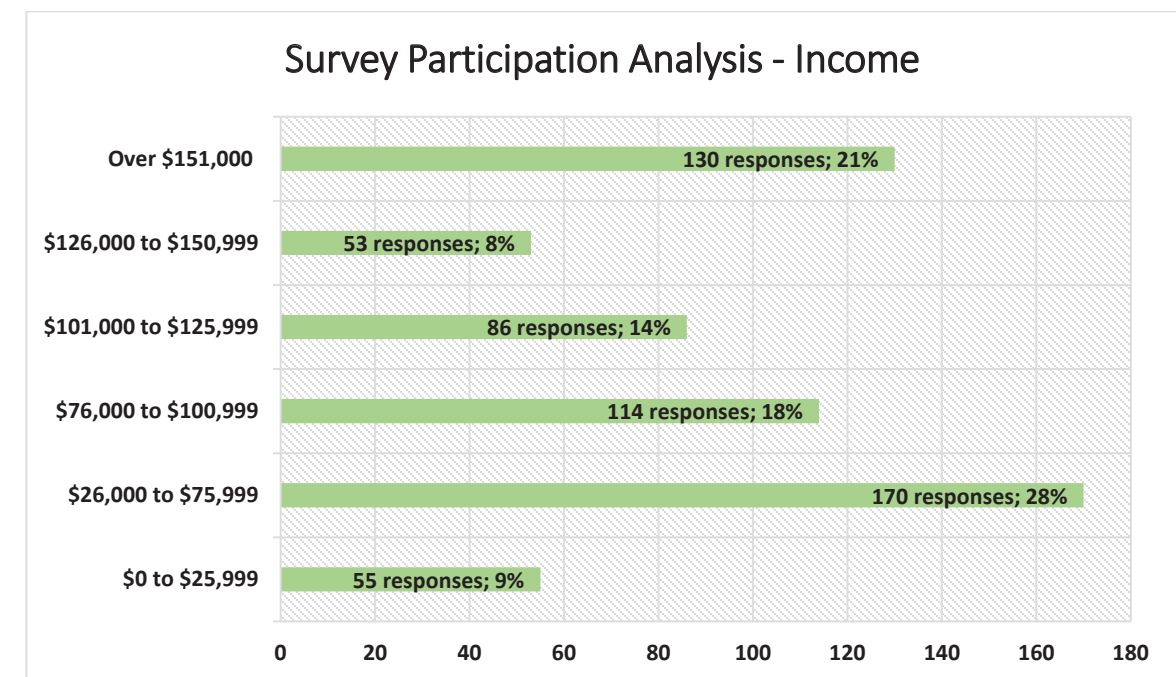
The County's survey participation is reflective of its diverse communities. Communities of Color (Black, Latinx, Asian, and Native American) represented more than 1 out of 3 responses – or 34 percent (210 people). White responses totaled to 59 percent (361 people). An estimated 7 percent (43 people) identified as other. Moreover, 14 participants skipped this voluntary question. The County's efforts ensured that the survey was available in both English and Spanish. Additionally, the County partnered with nonprofits via the Ventura Community Foundation Complete Count Committee and the Ventura Economic Vitality Committee to ensure hard to reach groups had access to the survey. Lastly, the County made available paper surveys and fact sheets at local libraries for those who do not have internet access – this ensured participation from a variety of groups in the community.



The County recognizes that persons who identify as women and those in the LGBTQ+ community are historically underrepresented groups. Consequently, it has made a robust effort to connect with community groups via the Ventura County Community Foundation Complete Count Committee to ensure a diverse pool of respondents approximately representative of the County's population. Community members were also provided with the opportunity to respond to the survey in person at County libraries or contact the county by email or phone in addition to the online survey. A breakdown of these figures is provided below.

Survey Participation Analysis - Gender	Total Responses	Percent
Woman	425	68 percent
Man	164	26 percent
Transgender, Non-Binary, Genderqueer, & Other Gender Identity	13	2 percent
Decline to State	20	3 percent

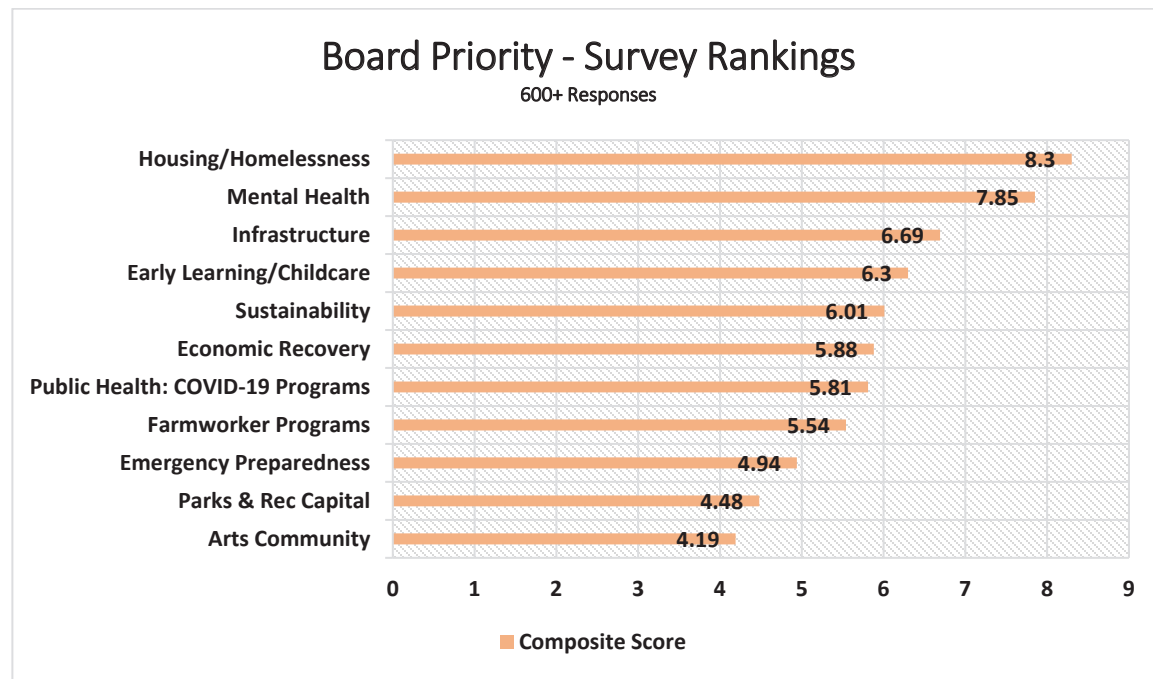
The County's survey captured feedback from various income categories. The goal of this data is to ensure that the perspectives of the region's most disadvantaged communities are accounted for in the ARPA implementation process. This aligns with Treasury's directions to prioritize those who bore a disproportionate economic impact from COVID-19. The largest share of respondents earned between \$26,000 to \$75,999 (170 responses, 28 percent). Participants with incomes above \$151,000 totaled to 21 percent (130 responses). An estimated 114 people earned between \$76,000 to \$100,999 (18 percent). Incomes between \$101,000 and \$125,999 cumulated to 14 percent (86 responses); the range of \$126,000 to \$150,000 ranked at 8 percent (53 responses). Lastly, income levels between \$0 to \$25,999 comprised an estimated 10 percent of responses (55 people). A visualization of this information is available below.





The County’s goal for the survey process was to understand priority areas for its communities. The County worked in partnership with over 70 nonprofit groups via the Ventura Community Foundation Complete Count Committee and Ventura Economic Vitality Committee to seek the input of historically underserved groups, low-income households, people whose second language is English (Spanish, Mixtec, etc.), Communities of Color (Black, Latinx, Asian, and Native Americans), women, etc. Survey participants were asked to rank each priority with a ranking of 1 being the highest priority and 11 the lowest. Approximately 600 people participated in this process which was available in English and Spanish, in both digital format and in paper format at county libraries.

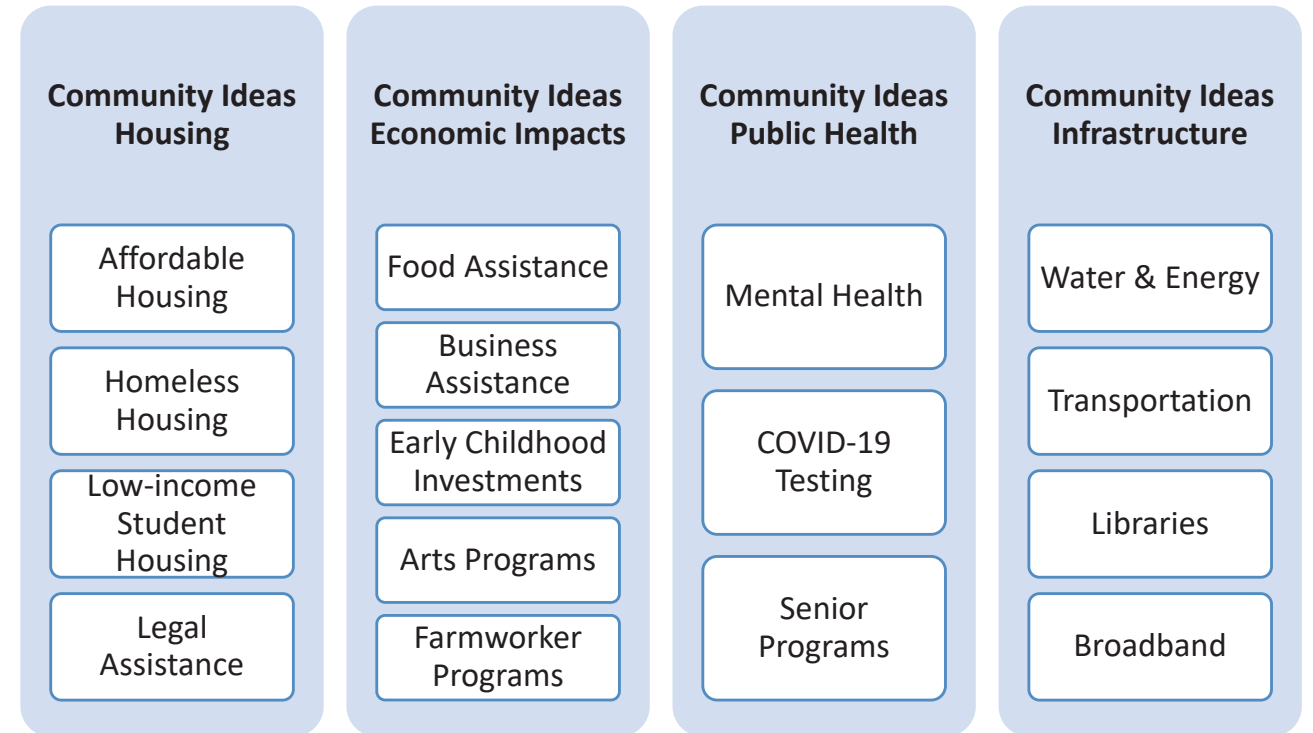
The County used a weighted metric to rank priorities/goals – categories that ranked high were more likely to be selected as priorities/goals by survey participants. This analysis is based on nearly 630 responses. Housing/homelessness is ranked first by 23 percent of respondents (145 people). The category ranked second by 20 percent (127 people). Mental Health is ranked first by 14 percent (88 people); and second by 20 percent (130 people). Infrastructure is ranked first by 11 percent (73 people); and second by 9 percent (58 people). Early learning/childcare is ranked first by 10 percent (68 people); and second by 7 percent (45 people). Public health/COVID-19 is ranked first by 9 percent (61 people); and second by 8 percent (55 people). Economic recovery is ranked first by 9 percent (57 people) and second by 7 percent (47 people). A complete ranking and composite score for all categories is presented below.



The chart above shows composite survey scores for Board priorities/goals. Community members ranked each priority from 1 through 11, and the County applied software tools for ranking purposes. This exercise, alongside nonprofit/community input, equity considerations, and Treasury guidelines will drive the County ARPA implementation process. It is important to note that a low ranking does not mean disqualification, and a high ranking doesn’t necessarily translate to project selection. Based upon this ranking, the County will evaluate projects to identify programs for disproportionately affected and hard-to-reach communities. The County will partner with departments and nonprofit organizations implementing Board priorities/ goals to ensure that equity is infused in their programming and funding proposals.

**Website, Materials, & County Meetings:** In accordance with Treasury guidelines, the County has set-up a dedicated ARPA website ([ventura.org/americanrescueplan](http://ventura.org/americanrescueplan)). The site allows community members, nonprofits, and interested stakeholders to access the survey, watch Board hearings, download reports, contact the county ARPA team, and submit project ideas. ARPA materials – including the annual Recovery Plan, fact sheet, and survey - are available in English and Spanish. The County also provides links to Board hearings relating to ARPA (four + and counting) – this includes materials, presentations, and slides. Additional meetings include engagement with 49 nonprofits via the Ventura Community Foundation Complete Count Committee, 21 nonprofits via the Economic Vitality Committee; and sessions with First Five, Taxpayers Association, etc. The County will continue to regularly schedule ARPA updates during Board meetings and engage with community-based organizations, agencies, and non-profits as needed.

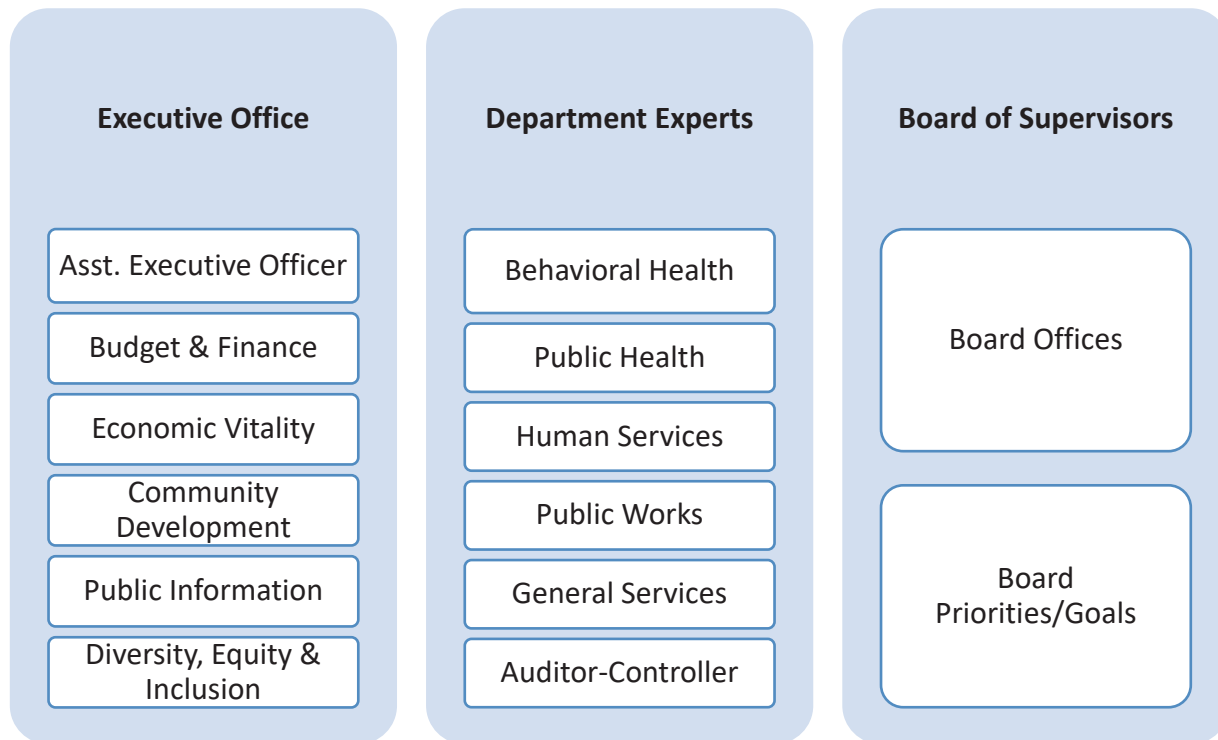
**Project Ideas - Email & Survey:** The County regularly reviews project submittals from nonprofits and community members, and thoroughly assesses submissions to ensure compliance with Treasury’s equity, accounting, data, and operational guidelines. Community-based groups and members of the public could send project ideas directly to the dedicated email account ([arpa@ventura.org](mailto:arpa@ventura.org)) or during the survey process. In total, the County received 250 + projects ideas from nonprofits and community members. A sample of submitted community ideas is listed below:





## Internal Engagement

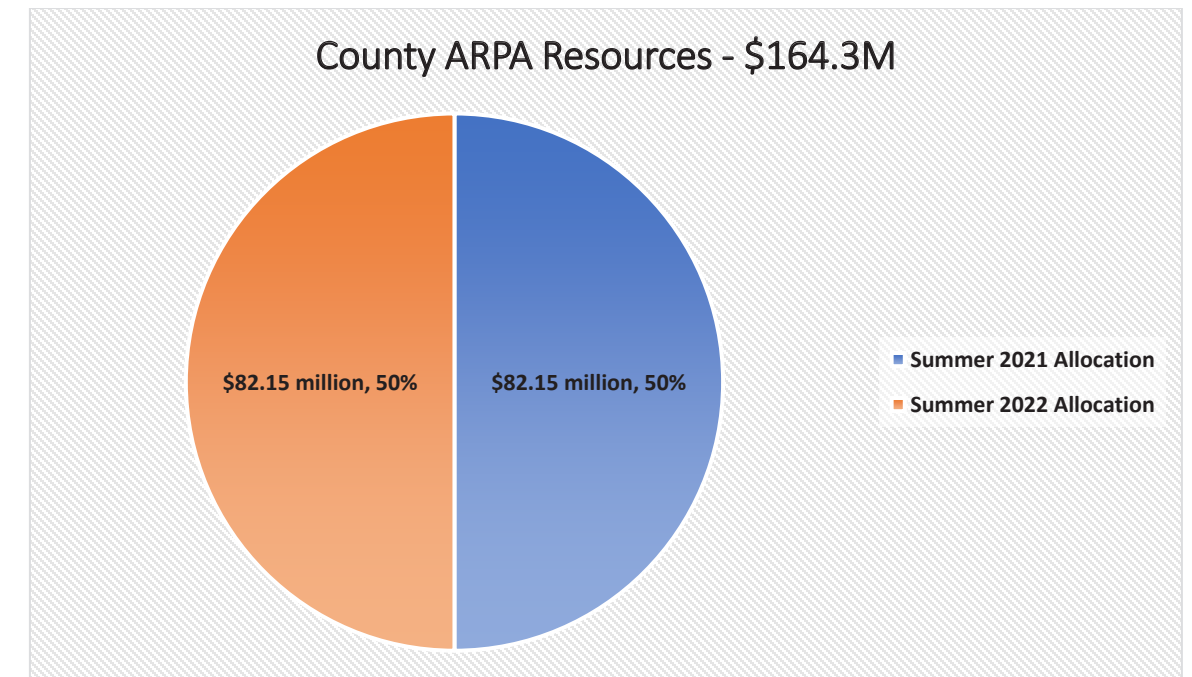
**ARPA Advisory Departments:** The County's internal ARPA Advisory Team is a structured and collaborative method to engage with subject matter experts. This team acts as a sounding board to evaluate the impact, completeness, and compliance of ARPA projects. This group is useful in scaling projects as well as larger ARPA like accounting, audit compliance, program eligibility, etc. Members of this team include Behavioral Health, Public Health, Human Services Agency, General Services Agency, Executive Office, Counsel, Auditor-Controller, and the COVID-19 Consultant. The goal of this team is to evaluate external community input via surveys, nonprofit ideas, online project submittals, and to and test the logic beyond ARPA expenditures. Lastly, the County set up an internal survey for departments to submit potential project ideas. The Advisory Team reviews projects to ensure compliance with Treasury's equity, accounting, data, and operational guidelines.



## ARPA FISCAL ANALYSIS

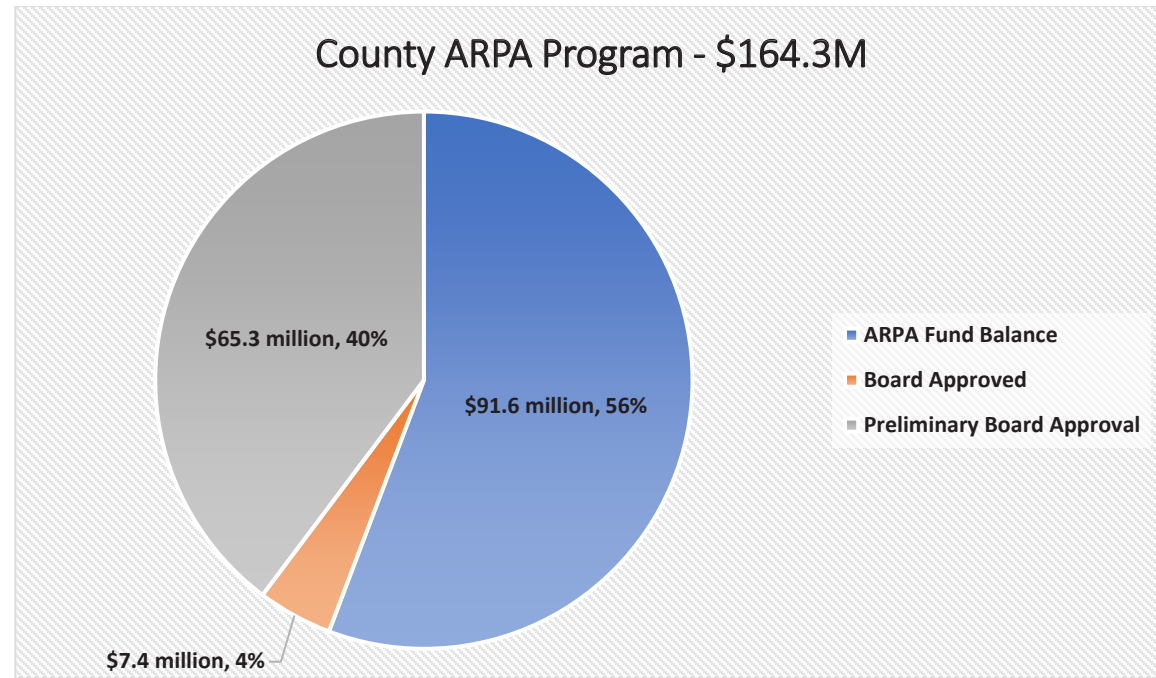
The Board's decision-making process included the following (a) Treasury's guidelines (category eligibility, financial reporting, audit readiness, data collection, use of evidence, and equity considerations); (b) community engagement (data from 600+ surveys, data from 113+ nonprofit surveys, information from 250+ community ideas via survey and email, engagement with 70+ nonprofits via the Ventura Community Foundation Complete Count Committee/Ventura Economic Vitality Committee, and 4+ Board hearings; and lastly (c) consultation with the County's internal department experts.

**County ARPA Resources:** The County's ARPA share totals to \$164.3 million. Treasury phased in funding – the first allocation was received in 2021 and second was received in 2022.

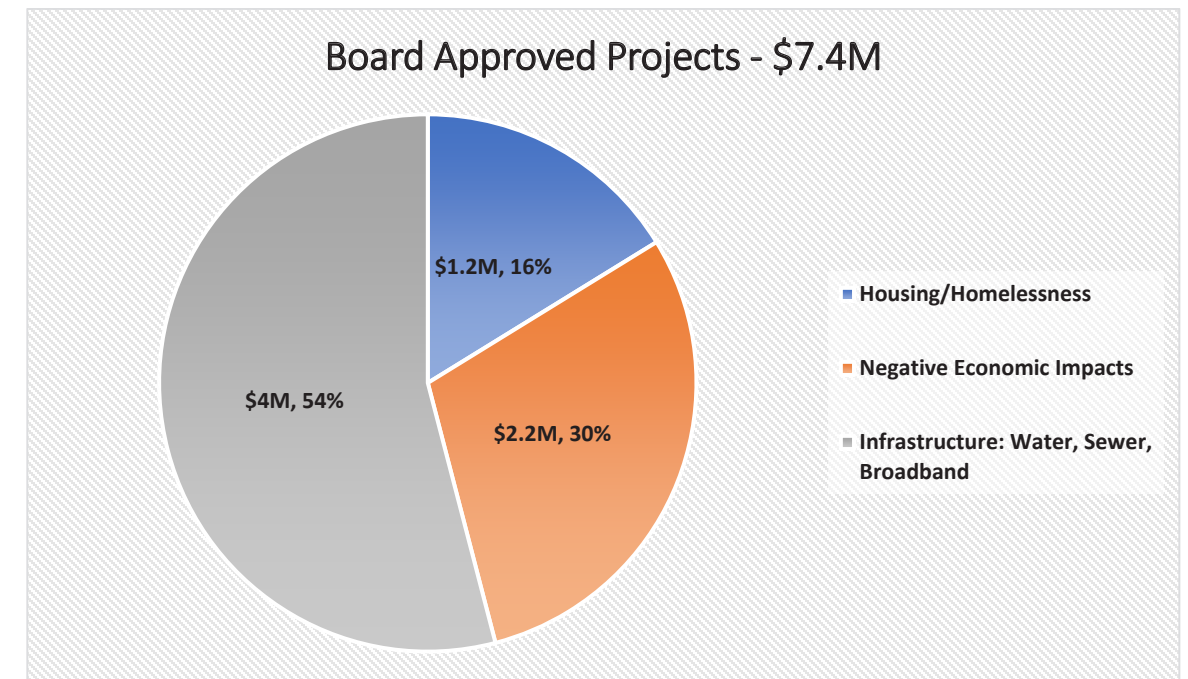




**County ARPA Fund Balance:** As of May 2022, the Board has approved \$7.4 million in ARPA-related funding. An additional \$65.3 in conceptual funding has been approved by the Board – these projects will return for final approval in the second half of the year. Consequently, an estimated \$91.6 million is available in the County’s ARPA fund balance.



**Board Approved Projects:** Of the \$164.3 million in ARPA resources available to the County, \$7.4 million in investments have been approved by the Board. The chart below shows how the \$7.4 million figure aligns with Treasury’s eligible categories. An estimated \$4 million was directed toward Infrastructure (54 percent), \$2.2 million for Negative Economic Impacts (30 percent), and lastly \$1.2 million for Housing/Homelessness (16 percent).



A summary of the Board’s \$7.4 million figure is listed below.

Category	Project Name (Board Approved)	Funding
Housing/Homelessness	Mesa Transitional Housing Supplement State Homekey Funding	\$1.2 million
Negative Economic Impacts	In-home Support Services Provider Payments One-time Payment of \$250 to Providers	\$1.7 million
Negative Economic Impacts	State Microbusiness Grant Program Grant Administration	\$500,000
Infrastructure	Piru Wastewater Desalinization Project Supplement State Grant in Low-Income Community	\$4 million
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$7.4 million</b>

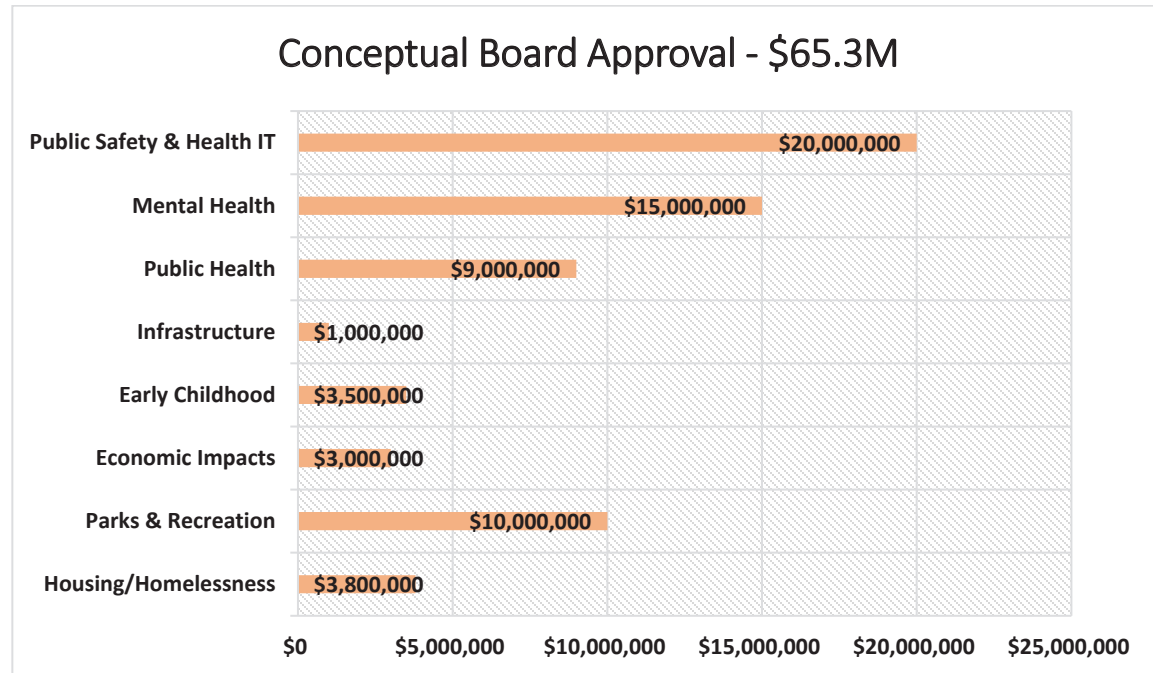
**Conceptual Board Approval:** Of the \$164.3 million in ARPA resources available to the County, \$65.3 million in investments have been granted conceptual approval by the Board. All projects under this figure are being reviewed for completeness (category eligibility, financial reporting, audit readiness, data capacity, use of evidence, and equity considerations) and will return to the Board for a secondary vote. The chart below shows how the \$65.3 million figure aligns with Treasury’s eligible categories. An estimated

*Continued on next page*





\$20 million is conceptually directed toward Public Safety Infrastructure (30 percent), \$15 million for Mental Health (24 percent), \$10 million for Community Parks (15 percent), \$9 million for Public Health (14 percent), \$3.8 million for Housing/Homelessness (6 percent), \$3 million for Negative Economic Impacts (5 percent), \$3.5 million for Early Childhood (5 percent), and lastly \$1 million (2 percent) for Infrastructure.



A summary of the Board’s \$65.3 million in conceptual ARPA funding is listed below. Again, these programs are conceptual in nature and will be reviewed for Treasury compliance and Board approval.

Category	Project Name (Conceptual Board Approval)	Funding
Housing/Homelessness	Transitional & Other Supportive Housing Site Acquisition & Construction	\$3.8 million
Parks & Recreation	Community Park Improvements Nyeland Acres Community Center & Saticoy Park	\$10 million
Negative Economic Impacts	Economic Vitality Business Programming, Training, & Support	\$3 million
Early Childhood	Health Childhood Environments Early Childhood Learning & Support	\$3.5 million
Infrastructure	Water Purveyor Needs Assessment Small Community Purveyors Needs/Risk Analysis	\$1 million
Public Health	East County Crisis Stabilization Unit Site Acquisition & Construction	\$7 million
Public Health	Oxnard Family Justice Center Match City of Oxnard Commitment	\$2 million
Mental Health	Lewis Road Campus Development Multiple Site & Facility Improvements	\$15 million
Public Safety-Health Infrastructure	Integrated Public Safety-Health Information System	\$20 million
<b>Total</b>	--	<b>\$65.3 million</b>

**Labor Practices:**

For all publicly funded construction projects the County is required by the California Labor Code to pay prevailing wage as determined by the California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR), and to have apprentices employed on the project at set minimum ratios to journeymen – all to provide strong employment opportunities for workers. Contractors who bid on County projects are required to be properly licensed by the State, registered with the DIR, and not be present on any debarment lists. These are all processes and procedures that Ventura County implements before awarding a construction contract which helps ensure a qualified contractor that promotes strong labor standards and efficient delivery of a project are engaged. Additionally, as directed by our Board of Supervisors, the County is currently working with local unions to draft a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) on select projects as a pilot. The goal of this initiative is to provide quality employment and training opportunities to the local workforce. The County will review how the PLA framework fits with federal policy and explore pathways to implement this policy when delivering ARPA-resourced projects.

**Next Steps:**

Ventura County has established an ARPA framework that is responsive to the region’s racial, cultural, and linguistic diversity, and builds upon the goals and priorities of the Board of Supervisors. This framework followed the County’s historic practice of investing in underserved communities – specifically \$400 million through Coronavirus Relief Funding and FEMA in 2020 and 2021. As demonstrated in this report, the County’s ARPA framework prioritizes equity and outcome-based programs that meet the needs of disadvantaged community members. This framework also includes input from nonprofit partners, residents, and businesses, and takes into consideration the US Treasury Department’s requirements including financial reporting, audit compliance, and data management. The Board has already approved \$7.4 million for housing/homelessness, infrastructure, and economic recovery; and has conceptually approved \$65.3 million for transitional/supportive housing, community centers/park improvements, small business services, early childhood programs, water purveyor assessments, crisis stabilization facilities, family justice sites, and mental health programs. The Board’s goal is to use the remaining funds most effectively by targeting programs and services for low-income communities and racial minorities. Many of these investments will be part of broader initiatives that will be made from a variety of funding sources. Looking ahead, the County will focus on fiscal responsibility while prioritizing ARPA funds based on data analysis and community need.





# Housing & Homelessness

Expenditure Category	Name	Description & Goal	Entity	Funding	Equity - Race and/or Poverty	Outcomes/ Performance	Evidence - Race and/or Poverty
2.16	Project Homekey	<p>Description: Purchase and development of property in Ojai – for homeless housing</p> <p>Goal: Secure new housing for residents impacted by homelessness, to minimize risk of long-term homelessness</p>	<p>CEO Community Development Mesa Independent Living</p> <p>Peoples Self Help Housing Crop</p>	\$1.2 million	The project exclusively provides housing for homeless and at-risk youth	15 units for homeless youth ages 18 to 24	<p>Evidence I: <a href="#">According to Harvard University's Teamcore Group, youth housing systems are ideal for provider-driven decisions. Housing enhances vulnerability screenings and matching the right social services</a></p> <p>Evidence II: <a href="#">According to the US Dept. of Health &amp; Human Services, homeless youth are 5 times more likely to become homeless adults. Early intervention is a key prevention strategy</a></p>

# Infrastructure

Expenditure Category	Name	Description & Goal	Entity	Funding	Equity - Race and/or Poverty	Outcomes/ Performance	Evidence - Race and/or Poverty
5.1	Piru Wastewater Treatment Facility	<p>Description: ARPA funding compliments an ongoing state grant to complete a water treatment facility in Piru</p> <p>Goal: Address infrastructure and water quality issues in disadvantaged communities</p>	Public Works	\$4 million	Piru has been identified as a disadvantaged community by the State of California. According to the US Census, Piru's median household income is \$30,000 less than the countywide average	Low-income residents of Piru save \$4 million – ARPA covers the cost of a new wastewater facility	<p>Evidence I: <a href="#">According to the IOP Institute of Physics, low-income areas lack access to safe water. A major barrier is low technical, managerial, and financial (TMF) capacity. An investment in TMF can induce legal pathways to safe water, including funding access. The County has engaged with the Piru community regarding this project</a></p> <p>Evidence II: <a href="#">According to the Environmental Working Group, a research organization, low-income communities are more likely to have poorer quality drinking water with more toxic contaminants than their wealthier counterparts</a></p>



# Negative Economic Impacts

Expenditure Category	Name	Description & Goal	Entity	Funding	Equity - Race and/or Poverty	Outcomes/ Performance	Evidence - Race and/or Poverty
7.1	Microbusiness COVID 19 Relief Grant Program	<p>Description: Support the administration of a state grant for small businesses</p> <p>Goal: Expand the County's economic recovery model by aiding small business support programs, with in emphasis on racial minorities and women</p>	CEO Economic Vitality	\$500,000	<p>This program provides assistance for small businesses disproportionately impacted by the pandemic</p> <p>The county's approach to business grants (\$70 million) already focuses on racial minorities, and women</p>	The County is in the process of following its historic practice of prioritizing minority and female-owned business for this program. More data will be available once the program is operational	<p>Evidence I: <a href="#">According to the National Bureau of Economic Research, there is evidence the first round of PPP loans were disproportionately disbursed to non-minority communities. The County's program looks fill the gap and target racial minorities and women</a></p> <p>Evidence II: <a href="#">According to McKinsey &amp; Company, the pandemic disproportionately affects minority-owned small businesses because they are more likely to be concentrated in industries impacted by COVID 19.</a></p>
4.1	In-home Support Services Provider Payments	<p>Description: One-time Payment of \$250 to home health aide providers</p> <p>Goal: Support the wellbeing of health workers – especially low-income workers and racial minorities who provided services throughout the pandemic</p>	Human Services Agency	\$1.7 million	<p>Health care providers are doing critical work on the frontlines of the fight against COVID-19</p> <p>These providers support low-income seniors and people with disabilities (including children) stay in their own homes instead of moving to residential care facilities.</p>	Transfer of funds in process	<p>Evidence I: <a href="#">According to the Brookings Institute, most of these workers are women, and they are disproportionately people of color. Median pay is just \$13.48 an hour. The County's action meets ARPA's framework for essential workers; and its commitment to communities of color</a></p> <p>Evidence II: <a href="#">According to the Center for American Progress, women of color represent much of the home health aid workforce. An increase in wages can address wealth disparities for these key workers.</a></p>





**PROJECT INVENTORY - INITIAL BOARD APPROVAL**

Details on Equity (Race & Poverty), Outcomes/Performance, and Evidence will be confirmed after the Board’s initial review of programs

Total: \$65.3 million

Category	Project Name (Initial Board Approval)	Description	Funding
Housing/ Homelessness	Transitional & Other Supportive Housing	Site Acquisition & Construction	\$3.8 million
Parks & Recreation	Community Park Improvements	Nyeland Acres Community Center & Saticoy Park	\$10 million
Early Childhood	Health Childhood Environments	Early Childhood Learning & Support	\$3.5 million
Negative Economic Impacts	Economic Vitality	Business Programming, Training, & Support	\$3 million
Infrastructure	Water Purveyor Needs Assessment	Small Community Purveyors Needs/Risk Analysis	\$1 million
Public Health	East County Crisis Stabilization Unit	Site Acquisition & Construction	\$7 million
Public Health	Oxnard Family Justice Center	Match City of Oxnard Commitment	\$2 million
Mental Health	Lewis Road Campus Development	Multiple Site & Facility Improvements	\$15 million
Public Safety-Health Infrastructure	Integrated Public Safety-Health Information System	Technology Upgrades	\$20 million
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$65.3 million</b>







COUNTY *of* VENTURA

