County of Ventura

Recovery Plan

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds 2021 Report



County of Ventura 2021 Recovery Plan

Table of Contents

General Overview	3
Executive Summary	3
Uses of Funds	3
Promoting Equitable Outcomes	4
Community Engagement	5
Labor Practices	5
Use of Evidence	5
Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category	6
Project Inventory	8
Example Project	9
Additional Projects	9
Ineligible Activities: Tax Offset Provision	10

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

In this section, 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. See Section C(1) on page 24 of the Reporting Guidance for additional information.

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act includes \$164.3 million under its State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) for the County of Ventura (County). The first half of the County's award has been received and totals \$82.16 million. The second half will arrive in 2022. The County's strategy for SLFRF presented in this report is conceptual in nature and subject to change pending finalization of guidelines in accordance with the pending Final Rule from the US Dept. of Treasury (Treasury), internal (which includes County Department Experts) and external (which includes the County Public Information Office, Office of Diversion, Equity, and Inclusion, Departmental Community Liaisons, Nonprofit Partners) community engagement, and guidance from the Board of Supervisors. Consistent with past federal awards, the County aims to budget and allocate funds to strategically address the pandemic's numerous health, social, and economic impacts, and to prioritize the region's most vulnerable communities to ensure equitable growth and recovery in future years. Given the temporary and changing nature of SLFRF rules, the County is following the lead of subject matter experts - the Government Finance Officers Association's (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 the areas of demographics, regionality, and socioeconomic status as part of its overall federal framework. This report provides a preview of the County process.

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, explain how the funds would support the communities, populations, or individuals in your jurisdiction. Address how you are promoting each of the following Expenditure Categories, to the extent they apply.

Where appropriate, 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 Emergency Rental Assistance, Housing Assistance, and so forth, to provide broader context on the overall approach for pandemic recovery.

This section provides a preliminary framework for County SLFRF priorities. The County will continue its philosophy of focusing on programmatic investments that benefit historically marginalized and disenfranchised communities. Our goal for pandemic recovery is to achieve equitable relief by eliminating disparities so our diverse populations also benefit from the positive transformational change into the fabric of our policies and way we serve our residents. Over the past 18 months, the County has shown strategic leadership in making an equitable and inclusive recovery a top priority. To date, the County has spent over \$180 million in federal recovery

revenues on various programs including homeless housing, senior nutrition, rental assistance, Farmworker Housing Assistance Program, small business grants, food assistance, farmworker mobile vaccine clinics, community pop-up test and vaccine clinics, waiving of COVID related fees to our clinics and urgent cares, and nonprofit hospitals and an estimated \$80 million for COVID-19 testing. Additionally, over \$50 million has been directed towards public hospitals, vaccine deployment, and disaster service workers. These investments reflect the County's historic practice of improving quality of life for the region's highest-needs families and communities.

It is important to note that the first round of federal investments was made possible by the County's commitment to external partnerships. County leadership, which included the Public Information Office, Office of Diversion, Equity, and Inclusion, and key Departmental Community Liaisons, partnered with the Ventura Census Complete Count Committee, a diverse coalition of over 100 nonprofit partners, to evaluate and empower community perspectives. This group worked to gather information from organizations about available and needed services that required cultural and language competency (Spanish, Mixtec, Purépecha and Zapotec) and equitable access. The County sought to understand community priorities, who was being served, and who had limited access to support. The County recognized that historically disadvantaged communities needed critical support in the areas of health, employment, nutrition, and housing, and made decisions that promoted the well-being of these groups. This partnership was designed to be meaningful, intentional, and respectful to the diverse makeup of the County, identify challenges, and uplift services that addressed the needs of people disproportionally impacted by the pandemic. As the County determines how to best utilize this round of federal funding, it will rely on its deeply rooted engagement framework and its robust COVID-19 Equity Rapid Response Guidebook distributed to county leadership ensuring an impactful and equitable process is at the front of all service and program discussions once again.

Looking ahead to the SLFRF, the County is in the initial stages of the evaluation process. It is important to note that these funds are heavily affected by fluctuating regulatory factors. Many of these factors are currently being debated – and it's expected that more tangible information about eligible uses will be made available by the end of the year. An analysis of these contingencies is outlined below:

Federal guidelines set by the Treasury in the areas of spending eligibility, financial reporting, target populations/regions, and performance data collection will impact County SLFRF priorities. As of this writing, Treasury, alongside GFOA and NACo, are in the process of finalizing several of the preceding aspects. Once this information is confirmed, the County will then be able to fully evaluate its overall approach to ensure it meets several multi-layered federal requirements. Additionally, at the federal level, the potential of new revenue outside of the SLFRF in the areas of infrastructure, emergency relief, and healthcare would require the County to rethink its approach. These new funds hold the potential of resourcing various programs, so understanding their flexibility and how they interface with SLFRF resources will be key to the County's historic practice of prioritizing disadvantaged communities. As of this writing, the White House and Congress are debating the structure of these new revenues. Given these legislative uncertainties, the County looks to take a measured and carefully evaluated approach for SLFRF priorities.

Feedback from department experts including Ambulatory Care, Behavioral Health, Public Health, Health Services, Public Works, etc., is key to County SLFRF strategy. Their guidance is critical because they hold subject matter expertise on programmatic capacity, project scope, impacted communities, data collection/reporting methods, legal parameters, etc. This pre-planning will provide a nexus between the managerial capacity required to activate a project and the elements needed to meet various federal requirements. The County will strive to strike the right balance between multiple agencies to achieve on-time, equitable, and audit-compliant delivery of programs. Ultimately, the goal of departmental conversations will emphasize investments that maximize benefit for disadvantaged communities. Given the time and research required for this work, the County seeks to take a measured approach for SLFRF priorities.

The County is committed to closing the many disparities that have emerged because of this pandemic. The influx of SLFRF resources provides a pathway to uphold this value. Nonetheless, the County will take a measured approach to evaluating and committing these funds. Currently, several fluid policy factors at the federal level are impacting the ability of the County to make concrete decisions. These factors have the potential to affect projects in a variety of ways, and if they are overlooked, they could jeopardize the chances of equitable recovery for communities. The County already has a broad framework and lessons it can refer to for SLFRF and will strive to guide funds into the equity column as more information about project eligibility is made available. Below is a high-level summary of this framework:

a. Public Health (EC 1)

 The County's role is to ensure that every person has the resources and opportunities needed for optimal health and well-being. Health outcome data, particularly by race, geography, and income level show significant pandemic-related disparities across several groups. The County's health divisions will continue their efforts to address these gaps and recognize that additional resources and support will be needed in the upcoming months and years. In the previous round of federal funding, the County focused on closing some of the biggest gaps in health outcomes. This led to unprecedented levels of investment in strategic COVID-19 testing, public and nonprofit hospitals, vaccine distribution, and outreach in hard-to-reach communities. Looking ahead, the County will reapply and reemphasize an equitable and inclusive approach and support programs and services that permit equitable distribution of opportunity and resources through SLFRF. Additionally, the County will evaluate other potential funding sources – separate from SLFRF revenues – for costs associated with public health mitigation efforts. As more information becomes available at the federal level, these funds may augment the County's public health commitment to disadvantaged groups as part of larger strategic narrative.

b. Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2)

The full magnitude of negative economic impacts to Ventura County is still being evaluated. Nonetheless, persistent disparities across race, region, and income levels show the significant impact COVID-19 has had on historically disadvantaged communities. It became apparent in the first round of federal funding that the County needed to commit to an intentional form of economic recovery that prioritized vulnerable people. In response, the County dedicated over \$100 million dollars in

assistance for nonprofit hospitals, rental support, small businesses, and food assistance for low-income families and individuals. Many of these programs were supported with community partnerships and disaster service workers who provided individualized care and guidance for people seeking services. Looking ahead to SLFRF resources, the County will evaluate and build on its already robust economic recovery framework. As of this writing, several aspects of new federal revenue are in flux. Consequently, the County will take a measured approach for its SLFRF strategy, while also considering those who are disproportionally bearing the economic brunt of this

c. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities (EC 3)

Over the last 18 months, the County has launched several programs to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in communities disproportionately impacted by the virus. Several programs were resourced with the first round of federal funding to provide a range of services including business assistance grants that prioritized women and people of color, farmworker support programs, and vaccine education in hard-to-reach communities and ensure language accessibility. These programs targeted people who lived in high-risk neighborhoods and looked to connect them to the appropriate health and social services. Notably, the County's high-volume testing and vaccination sites are in and near neighborhoods most impacted by COVID-19 and are staffed with disaster service workers, volunteers, and nonprofit partners who have the necessary language and cultural skills to clarify any questions people may have. As a result, nearly 70 percent of County residents ages 12 and over are now fully vaccinated. Furthermore, the County partnered with local restaurants and nonprofits to provide meals to low-income seniors and households and funded housing options for those atrisk or suffering from homelessness. Looking ahead to SLFRF, the County will strive to strategically maintain and expand services for vulnerable groups. Given various contingencies at the federal level, the County will evaluate programs as more information is made available through the end of year.

d. Premium Pay (EC 4)

The County will continue to evaluate opportunities for premium pay allowance using federal funds. This could include the possibility of a one-time payment to in-home support service providers. As of this writing, the White House and Congress are debating the structure of new SLFRF revenues and potentially additional funding sources. The County will track and study these legislative updates as they are finalized.

e. Water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure (EC 5)

As the County continues to navigate the pandemic, it is imperative that residents have access to quality water, sewer, and internet services. The County recognizes the necessity for clean drinking water – both for its low-income and hard-to-reach communities, and its agricultural marketplace. Sewer and pipeline maintenance has been on the County agenda – a need that could be resourced with new federal funds. The County also acknowledges the potential of regional broadband as an opportunity to close the digital divide that impacts disadvantaged households and people. The Board of Supervisors have taken steps to advance countywide broadband and are

collaborating with the Southern California Association of Governments and intergovernmental partners to identify strategies, regulations, and funding. For all these projects, it is imperative for the County to research and evaluate agency partnerships, federal requirements, legal parameters, and revenue sources. As of this writing, the White House, Congress, and State Legislature are debating the structure of the preceding investments. As a result, the County looks to take a measured approach in identifying and assessing projects. Once these projects are prioritized, they will be considered in conjunction with other potential infrastructure revenue.

f. Revenue Replacement (EC 6)

As of this writing, the Treasury's Interim Final Rule provides local government entities broad latitude to use SLFRF for revenue loss replacement for the provision of government services. The calculation of lost revenue begins with the County's revenue in the last full fiscal year prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency and includes the 12-month period ending December 31, 2020; use of funds for government services must be forward-looking for costs incurred by the recipient after March 3, 2021. As of this writing, the County is in the process of exploring the full impact of potential revenue loss. Any submission for revenue replacement will be calculated once revenues are finalized and guidance from the federal government is confirmed. This calculation requirement may need to be included in the Interim report even if the County does not have any SLFRF expenditures/obligations; given the uncertainty around this Treasury calculation, the County will take a measured approach.

Promoting equitable outcomes

In this section, describe efforts to date and intended outcomes to promote equity. Each annual report to follow 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.

Describe efforts to promote equitable outcomes, including how programs were designed with equity in mind. Include 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?
 - The County has made it its goal to address the disparities and service barriers COVID-19 has brought on historically underserved, marginalized, or adversely affected groups. As listed in the sections above, the County made equity-driven investments a priority during the first round of federal funding. This included over \$180 million in federal aid on for homeless housing, low-income senior nutrition, rental assistance, small business grants, food assistance, farmworker assistance, and nonprofit hospitals, indigenous populations and an estimated \$80 million for COVID-19 testing. Additionally, over \$50 million has been directed towards public hospitals, vaccine deployment, and disaster service workers. The County recognized the diversity of its communities and focused

on ensuring language access and cultural competency for several programs. This included both individualized casework and partnerships between the County (Public Information Office, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and Departmental Community Liaisons) and external organizations who work with hard-to-reach communities. Looking ahead to SLFRF, the County will strive to build upon its already robust framework for community investments. Nonetheless, the federal Treasury is finalizing various eligibility requirements for these funds. As a result, the County will take a measured approach to spending while keeping a focus on demographic, regional, and economic equity.

- b. Awareness: How equal and practical is the ability for residents or businesses to become aware of the services funded by the SLFRF?
 - o Awareness about federal recovery services is a core function of all County departments, and we are increasingly exploring new ways to broaden support for key programs, respond to communities' needs, and demonstrate accountability. The County's engagement team, which includes the Public Information Office, Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and key Departmental Community Liaisons, have prioritized community awareness of services since the start of the pandemic. The County's internal philosophy and broad external network has led to greater trust at the community level and, with that trust, a higher level of awareness about the earlier rounds of programs funded through federal resources. This programmatic information has been communicated through diverse forms of outreach (online, radio, bus ads, print materials, advertisements, what's app video messaging, press conferences, social media, digital communication toolkits, live streamed community meetings etc.) and partnerships with nonprofit organizations who work with disadvantaged communities. There have been more than 4.1 million people reached on County social media in the past 28 days. More than 38 communitybased organizations are currently conducting outreach with regards to vaccines. This work has played a significant role in bolstering clear lines of communications between departments and the communities they serve. The County has a dedicated Public Information Office providing multi-lingual updates about testing, vaccines, senior meals, farmworker programs, rental assistance, homeless housing, business grants etc., and has communicated how to best access these services. The State of California Department of Public Health has replicated local County driven outreach efforts in their state-wide communication toolkit. As a result of these and other efforts, more than 80 percent of federal funds have been expended on community programs. Looking ahead to SLFRF, the County will continue to raise awareness about these services in funds. Additional information will be communicated to residents and confirmed. businesses as federal guidelines are
- 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?
 - The County has made a broad effort to remove barriers to access for disadvantaged groups. This includes administrative, access and

communication barriers. From an administrative and access perspective, the County intentionally moved operations directly into disadvantaged neighborhoods. This was done through partnerships with non-profit organizations, community advocates and disaster service workers who worked on the frontlines to remove barriers to access for several programs. These programs included testing, vaccination, farmworker services, nutrition assistance, homeless housing, small business grants, rental assistance, etc. This on-the-ground strategy removed barriers for tens of thousands of disadvantaged people and ensured cultural and language competency. As a result, more than \$100 million has been directly invested back into County communities. Looking ahead at SLFRF, the County will consult with department experts to better understand if any administrative requirements impacted community access to federally funded programs. This information alongside additional County research will be used to remove unnecessary and arduous administrative requirements.

- 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?
 - O The County is focused on closing gaps across race, region, and income status. Ventura's diversity is a major economic asset, but like many communities, inequities and disparities persist. Historically disadvantaged groups disproportionately bore the brunt of the pandemic and were ineligible for federal COVID support programs. The County recognized this trend and invested federal funds to address inequities tied to housing/households, healthcare, and economic mobility that existed and worsened due to COVID-19. This resulted in hundreds of millions of dollars into programs and services that focused on closing gaps across race, ethnicity, and other equity dimensions. Looking ahead at SLFRF, the County will consult with its Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and CEO Community Liaison to employ its COVID-19 Equity Rapid Response Guidebook when evaluating programs. Additionally, a measured approach will be taken to ensure compliance with federal eligibility and reporting requirements.

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. 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 (EC 2): 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.

- The negative economic impact of COVID-19 to Ventura County is still being evaluated. Nonetheless, disparities in the areas of race, region, and income levels show the disproportionate impact the pandemic has had on historically underprivileged communities. Historically, the County has focused its efforts on closing these gaps by investing in programs through an equity lens. As the pandemic unfolded, the County deepened its commitment to disadvantaged groups by prioritizing the first round of federal funds for programs that addressed high-need groups. The County dedicated over \$100 million dollars to the community including nonprofit hospitals, rental assistance for lowincome households, small business grants, and food assistance for high-need families and individuals. These programs targeted underserved communities and were implemented with key external partnerships. Given the successes of these programs, the County will review its framework as a baseline for SLFRF projects. Additionally, the County will consult with its Office of Diversion, Equity, and Inclusion and refer to its robust COVID-19 Equity Rapid Response Guidebook as part of the review process. Lastly, for future reporting, a more concrete plan will be available once federal eligibility and reporting guidelines confirmed. are
- b. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities (EC 3): 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).
 - o Since the start of the COVID-19 public health emergency, the County has resourced several programs to slow the spread of the virus in high-risk communities. During earlier rounds of federal funding, the County prioritized a range of services including outreach, contact tracing, testing, and vaccination. These programs targeted people who lived in disadvantaged regions and guided them to the necessary social and health programs. Notably, the County's testing and vaccination sites are in and near communities most impacted by COVID-19 and are staffed with specialists who have the necessary language and cultural skills to clarify any questions people may have. Accordingly, nearly 70 percent of County residents ages 12 and over are now fully vaccinated. Furthermore, the County partnered with local restaurants and nonprofits to provide meals to low-income seniors and households, increased outreach and investment in farmworker programs, and funded housing for those suffering from homelessness. Looking ahead to SLFRF, the County will strive to strategically maintain and expand services for vulnerable groups. Given various contingencies at the federal level, the County will evaluate programs as more information about eligibility and reporting is made available through the end of the year.

Describe your jurisdiction's efforts to date and intended outcomes to promote equity using qualitative and quantitative data on how the jurisdiction's approach achieved or promoted equitable outcomes or progressed against equity goals. Describe any constraints or challenges that impacted project success in terms of increasing equity.

The County will continue efforts with agencies to ensure an equity-driven framework for SLFRF. In the previous round of federal funding, the County prioritized equity by targeting funds to programs that benefitted disadvantaged groups. This included outreach, testing, and vaccination in hard-to-reach communities, meals for seniors and low-income households, farmworker programs, small business grants, etc. The goal of these programs was to offset economic and public health challenges that disadvantaged groups were facing. As a result, hundreds of millions of dollars were made available for community programs. Looking ahead to SLFRF, the County will consult with departmental experts to provide insight into additional qualitative and quantitative factors – this information will be used as part of a larger framework to prioritize future federally funded projects in disadvantaged communities. The County will document project constraints and challenges as they are communicated by stakeholders.

Describe the geographic and demographic distribution of funding, including whether it is targeted toward traditionally marginalized communities.

The County plans to work with internal departments to evaluate how SLFRF programmatic spending will target the needs of disadvantaged groups and regions. Over the last 18 months, the County has placed high-need communities at the top of its agenda. For example, it's high-volume outreach, testing and vaccination program is in and near neighborhoods most impacted by COVID-19 and is staffed with professionals who have the necessary language and cultural skills to clarify any questions people may have. Other successful County programs have included small business grants, senior nutrition, family meals, rental assistance, homeless housing, etc. The County could explore the geographic and demographic distribution of these services as a potential guide for SLFRF. Additional indicators may also include poverty, income, COVID-19 hotspots, etc. The County will review performance metrics from the previously listed programs and other data for **SLFRF** sources its process.

Community Engagement

Describe how your jurisdiction'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 proficiency populations, and other traditionally underserved groups.

See Section C(4) on page 25 of the Reporting Guidance for additional information.

As mentioned in previous sections of this report, the successes of past federal rewards was made possible by the County's commitment to internal and external partnerships. The upcoming SLFRF process will evaluate some these approaches in conjunction with compliance and reporting guidelines. Internal engagement could include gathering perspectives from subject matter experts

within County departments. These discussions will help inform policy and how funds can be most impactful to underserved and vulnerable communities. Additional insights into departmental capacity, gaps in services, legal parameters, and technical procedures will also be considered. These engagements could provide a blueprint for a strategic countywide approach.

External engagement could include learning sessions with the Ventura County Complete Count Committee, an online survey, Board of Supervisors meetings, and a dedicated web page. This involves the County's Public Information Office, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, and key Departmental Community Liaisons. The survey would provide insights into the priorities of various demographic, regional, and community groups. Board meetings would provide constituents background knowledge on federal spending rules. Lastly, the dedicated web page would serve as an informational clearinghouse for stakeholders. The County will also ensure all relevant materials related to SLFRF programs are available in multiple languages.

Labor Practices

Describe workforce practices on any infrastructure projects being pursued (EC 5). 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.

See Section C(5) on page 25 of the Reporting Guidance for additional information.

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 deliverv of 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 SLFRF-resourced projects.

Use of Evidence

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. Specifically, in this section, **recipients should describe their overall approach for using evidence and evaluation**, including how a Learning Agenda (either narrowly focused on SLFRF or broadly focused on the recipient's broader policy agenda) could support their overarching evaluation efforts in order to create an evidence-building strategy for their jurisdiction. However,

detailed evidence information for each project should be included in the Project Inventory (see details in the Project Inventory section below).

As noted earlier in this report, the County is increasingly using an evidence-based approach to identify services that improve the quality of life for disadvantaged communities. This not only ensures that funds are targeting vulnerable groups but also highlights what works in public programming across multiple areas. Notably, the County's social service divisions – Health Services, Behavioral Health, Public Health, etc., – provide evidence-based interventions for vulnerable populations. Additionally, the County has already applied a need-based approach to testing, contact tracing, and vaccination during previous rounds of federal funding. Looking ahead to SLFRF implementation, the County will strive to apply these and other evidence-based principles for programs and services.

Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category

The County will complete the table of expenses by expenditure category once projects are thoroughly evaluated and obligated. This evaluation process will include several factors including equity targets, federal compliance, departmental capacity, legal parameters, data metrics, etc.

	Category	Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
1	Expenditure Category: Public Health	\$0	\$0
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	\$0	\$0

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 jobtraining, 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		
3	Expenditure Category: Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities	\$0	\$0
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	\$0	\$0
4.1	Public Sector Employees		
4.2	Private Sector: Grants to other employers		
5	Expenditure Category: Infrastructure	\$0	\$0
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		
6	Expenditure Category: Revenue Replacement	\$0	\$0
6.1	Provision of Government Services		
7	Administrative and Other	\$0	\$0
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)		