

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds - Early Reporting Highlights

Treasury started disbursing State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to state, local, territorial, and Tribal government recipients on May 10, 2021. A subset of these recipients were required to submit initial reports on August 31, 2021. Treasury is processing these reports and will make them publicly available soon. In the meantime, below are highlights from the Recovery Plan Performance Reports submitted by recipients,¹ which include both immediate and long-term plans across eligible use categories. Italicized portions are direct quotes from jurisdictions' Recovery Plans.²

COVID-19 Response

Since the earliest days of the pandemic, State, local and Tribal governments have helped lead efforts to prevent and address the spread of COVID-19, including testing, contact tracing, isolation and quarantine, public communications, enforcement of health orders and expansions to health system capacity. In recent months, their work has included a massive nationwide mobilization around vaccinations as well as a response to the highly contagious Delta variant.

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds recipients indicated their intention to use funds to continue their response to the COVID-19 pandemic, allocating funds to the full suite of COVID-19 response tactics including vaccinations, PPE, testing, contact tracing, treatment, and general public health supports.

Bergen County, New Jersey is planning to use funds for mobile vaccination clinics to remove barriers to vaccine access:

- *“The County plans to continue both its testing and mobile vaccination clinics, using federal funding to support such efforts, as Bergen leads the State in vaccination rates... The County has two mobile vaccination vehicles which are equipped to provide medical care anywhere in the County, allowing the Bergen County Department of Health to target the communities most in need. The County has found that many in underserved communities, particularly those who engage in shift work and/or are undocumented, are reluctant or unable to come to the larger vaccine megasites and using the mobile vans allows the County to remove some barriers to receiving vaccination. The vans will also allow the County to provide more basic health services simultaneously, such as flu vaccinations, as well as checkup and other supporting health services for COVID “long haulers”.”*

Broward County, Florida is planning on a vaccination incentive program that includes modest gift cards and prizes to reach its goal of at least 80% of eligible residents fully vaccinated:

¹ The examples included in this Highlights document are based on an initial review of recipient Recovery Plan reports and other information Recipients have provided, and their inclusion in this document does not constitute an explicit approval of these projects by Treasury.

² The requirements to submit Recovery Plans is limited to the largest jurisdictions--States, Territories, and Local governments with populations over 250,000 – that received funds by July 15th. Tribes are not required to submit Recovery Plans; most Tribal examples cited in this document come from other information gathering means.

- *“Broward County has programmed \$565,000 for incentives, including modest gift cards and prizes, to encourage vaccination in population groups and geographic areas that have proven more challenging to increase levels of vaccinations... The County has developed an aggressive Covid-19 Vaccination Outreach Plan and Campaign aimed at increasing the percentage of eligible residents who are fully vaccinated, particularly focused on our zip codes with the lowest vaccination rates. Part of the plan includes an incentive program whereby gift cards, bus passes, and professional sports game tickets are distributed after the first and/or second doses of vaccine. The local goal is to achieve at least 80% of residents eligible to receive the vaccine are fully vaccinated.”*

Polk County, Iowa has established cash and tuition incentives to encourage uptake of vaccinations:

- *“Polk County has initiated a cash and tuition scholarship incentive program to encourage all Polk County citizens to become vaccinated. From June 25 to August 27 a weekly drawing was held each Friday. Every Friday ten \$1,000 winners were randomly selected. In addition, every other Friday one \$50,000 winner and one \$5,000 scholarship winner were randomly selected. The vaccination lottery was an opt-in promotion that any Polk County resident who had received one J&J vaccination or both of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccinations.”*

The **Commonwealth of Puerto Rico** has also created a lottery along with “vaccinated only” events to support vaccination uptake:

- *“As of June 8, 2021, healthcare providers in Puerto Rico had administered over 2.8 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine representing just under 53% of its total population. To reward previously vaccinated individuals and promote the continuity of vaccination campaigns, the Government of Puerto Rico will provide lottery drawings, cultural experiences, vaccinated only events, and individual vaccination incentives exclusively for vaccinated individuals.”*

The **Commonwealth of Massachusetts** has created VaxMillions to award cash prizes to vaccinated adults and scholarships to vaccinated youth:

- *“The Commonwealth has allocated \$10 million from the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund to the VaxMillions Giveaway to increase awareness of the availability and efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccines and to encourage residents to get vaccinated. Funds will be used to award five \$1 million cash prizes to fully vaccinated adults and five \$300,000 scholarship grants to fully vaccinated residents between 12-17 years of age. The remainder of the funds will be used for program administration and outreach.”*

Leon County, Florida reports in its Recovery Plan that it plans to expand vaccine distribution access for high-risk and underserved populations:

- *“This category provides funding to support the Leon County Health Department (LCHD) in ensuring broad vaccine distribution across the community, including expanding vaccine distribution access for high-risk and underserved populations. The LCHD will utilize these funds to supplement state and federal funding allocations and support COVID-19 immunization expenses not otherwise supported by other funding sources. This allocation will also fund 8 additional staff positions at LCHD to provide oversight in*

ensuring the safe, equitable administration of vaccines and to expand the immunization capacity of the LCHD clinics. The LCHD also partners, plans, and implements vaccination activities with critical organizations across the community, including churches, businesses, and non-traditional providers that serve underserved populations. In addition, the LCHD will lead community engagement strategies to expand messaging to promote COVID-19 vaccinations, increase vaccine confidence, and provide details on how and where citizens can receive a vaccine."

The **Pasqua Yaqui Tribe** used Fiscal Recovery funds to support COVID-19 vaccinations and combat the high-rates of COVID-19 in Arizona Tribal communities. The Tribe was one of the first governments to create a \$100 vaccine incentive for Tribal citizens who receive the vaccine.

The **State of Utah** has appropriated funds for vaccine operations to prepare and provide for vaccine booster shots.

- *"These funds will be used to prepare for and to provide COVID-19 vaccine booster shots (if recommended) and/or to prepare for and to provide the COVID-19 vaccine to those under 12 (if recommended). The Utah Department of Health needs to be prepared for either of those recommendations by October 1, 2021. Local health department and state contractor capacities such as staffing, mobile units, and other resources to deliver the vaccine across the state if needed as quickly as possible. The immunization program staffing is ready to coordinate all operations of vaccine ordering, delivery, logistics in coordination with partners, data quality, vaccine monitoring, and communications."*

Buncombe County, North Carolina indicates in its Recovery Plan a broad plan for using funds for COVID-19 response, including for fixed and mobile vaccination sites:

- *"Buncombe County Emergency Services (ES) will ... Employ grant-funded staff positions to include: COVID Operations Paramedics; and Emergency Management Specialists; Provide medical support, to include: vaccine preparation; and direct medical monitoring of patients after receiving their vaccines; Provide logistical support for both fixed and mobile vaccination sites (pop-ups), to include: transporting supplies between the warehouse and vaccination sites; towing and setting up the vaccination trailer; restocking the trailer between events; inventorying vaccination supplies and personal protective equipment at warehouse; and maintaining generators and other equipment; Provide planning support, to include: developing a readiness checklist for long-term care facilities; and assisting with outreach and evaluation for mobile (pop-up) sites; and Provide other direct COVID response support as needed, such as: assisting with homebound vaccination and testing efforts."*

Jackson County, Missouri is planning to use Fiscal Recovery Funds to broadly support its COVID-19 response.

- *"Approximately \$16.5 million will be used by Jackson County to continue our expanded operations of the Jackson County Health Department. This will employ supplemental staff to continue our daily testing, contact tracing, and vaccination efforts for Jackson County residents. This funding will support these expanded operations through the end of 2023. ...Approximately \$5 million will be used by Jackson County to perform health outreach to disadvantaged communities who are seeing lower than average vaccination*

participation and higher than average rates of COVID-19 infections. Funding for this effort will allow this outreach to continue into mid-2023.”

The **Northampton County, Pennsylvania** is using State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds for a drive-through vaccination and testing site:

- *"The Covid-19 Drive-through Vaccination/Testing center is a collaboration between the Northampton County Department of Community and Economic Development, Emergency Management Services and Lehigh Valley Hospital-Coordinated Health Allentown Hospital (LVHCHA)... The site began administering vaccinations on June 3, 2021 and has served 556 residents as of August 10, 2021."*

Kansas City, Missouri has obligated funds toward its COVID-19 response, including funds to support contact tracing:

- *"Contact tracing is critical to containing the spread of coronavirus. Containment, the key strategy in quickly halting an epidemic, requires rapid identification and quarantine of the infected individuals, determination of whom they have had close contact within the previous days and weeks, and decontamination of locations the infected individual has visited. These costs include the salaries and contracts of personnel."*

New York City, New York has dedicated funds to a broad set of projects to prevent and mitigate COVID-19 including testing, tracing, vaccine operations, prevention in congregate settings, and paid sick leave to obtain the vaccine, including:

- *"NYC's Test & Trace Corps is an unprecedented initiative to stop COVID-19 infections in NYC and help the city reopen. The Test & Trace Corps will be led by NYC Health + Hospitals (H+H), in coordination with the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications (DoITT), the Mayor's Office, Economic Development Corporation, and others. The NYC Test & Trace Corps works with community groups all across the City who provide advice and support to help deliver effective, culturally, and linguistically appropriate services, and respond to the needs of communities that have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19. The Corps is a group of doctors, public health professionals, and community advocates working to reverse the COVID-19 outbreak and protect NYC."*

Lake County, Illinois plans to continue to fund distribution of PPE with SLFRF funds now that CARES funds have been exhausted.

- *"The goal of this project is to distribute Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and supplies to partners in need in the community in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and to ensure the storage of a stockpile of PPE and supplies in preparation for potential increased community spread. The current allocation was provided to ensure that the program, started with CARES Act funds, is able to continue and be supported with ARPA funds due to exhaustion of CARES Funds. Current funding is for the storage of the PPE stockpile that the County purchased and assembled in the height of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. The current intention is to ensure this program is supported and continues with the use of ARPA funds, which may require additional allocations of*

funding due to the rapidly changing environment with the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency as it relates to shifts in transmission rates due to variants.”

The City of **Phoenix, Arizona** has approved investments in PPE:

- *"Funds will be used [to ensure] staff have access to necessary PPE, cleaning and sanitizing materials. Funds will also be used to ensure that workstations and common areas are appropriately cleaned. Additionally, funds will be used to offset any additional expense incurred to ensure that all city staff, family members and contractors have access to both vaccines and COVID testing."*

El Paso County, Texas plans to invest as County employees return to in-person work:

- *"Purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE), to include but not limited to gloves, masks, hand sanitizer, disinfectant, plexi-glass barriers, signs, thermometers, etc. for all County personnel and facilities. As County employees begin to transition back into public buildings, there is an ongoing need for PPE to mitigate the ongoing pandemic and protect employees and the public from infection."*

Lexington-Fayette County, Kentucky has budgeted for an investment in PPE in part to ensure these items are available to the community during public meetings:

- *"These funds will be used to purchase Personal Protective Equipment, including but not limited to masks and gloves, for use in LFUCG [Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government] facilities, during LFUCG functions, or by LFUCG employees. These items will be provided to the public, as needed, during public meetings, and will be available to public safety employees or those within our public safety facilities, including police, fire protection, emergency services, and community corrections functions. Prior to the pandemic, a limited number of LFUCG employees used PPE during the course of providing public services. The need for PPE has increased drastically during 2020 and 2021, as items like masks and gloves are now commonplace. As our need for these items has increased, the cost has increased likewise."*

Job Assistance

To support unemployed and underemployed workers, some jurisdictions are implementing workforce development and job assistance programs. These programs described by recipients are intended to provide a range of services to remove barriers to work and support education and training for new job opportunities, for both youth and adults.

The **City of Saint Paul, Minnesota** is planning to invest in youth jobs programs as well as programs targeted to people of all ages to develop skills to maintain stable employment:

- *"In June the City allocated the first \$575,000 to expand the Right Track youth jobs program. Through this program, the City is partnering with Ramsey County to provide unemployed and underemployed young adults ages 18-24 with internships and professional development opportunities from August through November 2021 at an array of local businesses, community-based organizations and within local government... [The Jobs and Career Readiness Programs] are targeted investments ensuring people of all ages, backgrounds, and skills can access, secure, and maintain stable employment opportunities with living wages, professional development opportunities, and career*

pathways to leverage the prosperity our city has to offer. Investments in this priority will include a focus on an array of sectors including infrastructure, youth jobs, business supports, arts, digital equity, and green energy.”

Snohomish County, Washington is planning to fund programs to provide dislocated workers with job training to enter high-demand occupations:

- *"Snohomish County to provide \$5,250,000 of skill development training to dislocated workers and those who have left the job market for high-demand occupations in growing industries such as aerospace, life sciences, space, software, and maritime.*

The **Nassau County, New York** plans to develop workforce training programs through partnerships with businesses and universities:

- *"...[T]he County has appropriated \$10 million to support workforce training and development in Nassau County. By developing partnerships with businesses, local economic development organizations and colleges and universities, the County seeks to remove long-standing barriers to success by connecting underemployed and unemployed individuals impacted by the pandemic with workforce training opportunities..."*

The **State of California** has identified funding priorities and plans to invest in youth jobs programming:

- *"The Youth Jobs Program will help provide crucial economic support to these youth by giving cities and counties an opportunity to employ youth who have suffered financial hardship as a result of the pandemic in jobs that have been identified by counties and cities and other local stakeholders as critical priorities in their jurisdiction and in alignment with the needs of the community."*

The **Cherokee Nation** has dedicated \$100 million of its funds for job training and small business support. They plan to provide assistance to enable citizens affected by the pandemic to enter employment or improve training for those who are underemployed or incumbent workers. Programming will include assistance getting a GED, skills training, opportunities for workforce re-entry through short term placements, and career readiness training to address the negative economic impacts of COVID.

Support for Small Businesses

To support small businesses in weathering the effects of the pandemic, recipients reported plans to provide assistance targeted specifically to small businesses impacted by the pandemic. The programs include grants to support small businesses in recovering revenue losses or technical assistance to support small businesses with needs like strategic planning and digital upgrades. Examples include:

North Las Vegas, Nevada has allocated funds to provide technical supports to low-moderate income, women, and minority entrepreneurs:

- *"North Las Vegas will be creating a Small Business Support Hub on the ground floor of City Hall... [including] a partnership between the City and the UNLV Small Business Development Center, the mission of the UNLV Small Business Development*

Center is to promote entrepreneurship, small business growth and the North Las Vegas economy by providing guidance to small business owners through 1:1 advisory sessions, workshops and facilitating connections to resources, including capital. This developmental programming will support low-moderate income, women and minority entrepreneurs across the City with individual counseling from expert consultants, workshops tailored to new and experienced business owners, and technical assistance for completing loan applications and accessing affordable products for their businesses... The SBDC also makes special efforts to reach minority members of socially and economically disadvantaged groups, veterans, women and the disabled. Assistance is provided to both current and potential small business owners... The agency also offers specialized programs for women business owners, minorities, veterans, international trade and rural development.”

Pierce County, Washington has allocated funds to develop a technical assistance program with a focus on underserved communities that includes financial assistance for those that complete the program:

- *"[The] Entrepreneurship and Technical Assistance programs with a focus on BIPOC communities (Ordinance 2021-71). Pierce County Business Accelerator Program includes a training on relevant business topics (finance, profitability, marketing, business branding, etc.), and limited financial assistance to those who graduate from the program. Graduates may be eligible to receive up to \$500 per month over a 12-month period for rent to support businesses, along with funding to assist with certain professional services... Promoting Equitable Outcomes: Supporting businesses in the micro or start-up stage with revenue of less than \$325,000 annually, residing within Pierce County. The Pierce County Economic Development Team is actively engaging and seeking partnerships with representatives from underserved communities, such as the Tacoma Urban League, tribal and indigenous groups, the Pierce County Black Collective, and Asian Pacific Cultural Center to promote this program. Pierce County will continue to work with these communities to ensure valuable feedback is included in the development and future of the program."*

The **Lummi Nation** is providing Small Business Interruption Grants to Tribal member businesses impacted by the pandemic and established a \$1.5 million Education and Retraining Grant program to support higher education and retraining for Tribal members to better prepare them for a post-pandemic economy.³

Louisville-Jefferson County Metro, Kentucky has expended funds toward public health programs and is also planning for additional projects such as a program targeted to immigrant-owned businesses:

- *"The Office for Globalization will be contracting with the New American Business Association to identify community members who will serve as “navigators” – individuals to provide technical assistance to small businesses through a “train the trainer” model. The Office for Globalization has had a higher level of interaction*

³ https://www.lummi-nsn.gov/userfiles/445_LERG2.0SurveyMonkey2021.pdf

with immigrant-owned businesses during the pandemic, and through that interaction learned that even though immigrant-owned businesses who managed to apply and in most cases, received relief awards, were unable to effectively invest the financial relief that directly addressed immediate business needs in a sustainable way. This train the trainer model will assist businesses to ramp up safe operations as the community continues opening and prepare them for potential issues that might arise in the future.”

The **City of Tulsa, Oklahoma** has approved a robust set of projects including a partnership with a nonprofit to provide small business development supports for Latinx business owners.

- *"According to a recent study of Growing Together's work over the past decade, Kendall-Whittier [KW] has been the only inclusively grown neighborhood in the city of Tulsa thus far. Due in large part to drastic improvements in the areas of mixed-income housing and educational outcomes in KW public schools, there has been a surge of interest in the neighborhood's economic development opportunities. However, these opportunities have been taken advantage of by largely external groups and less by the community members themselves. For example, in the KW business district, previously only 35% occupied, is now 100% occupied, but only four of the businesses are Latinx-owned and only one of those owns their storefront property. The economic challenges posed by the pandemic have highlighted what we have observed for years--that black and brown business-owners and families are far less likely to gain meaningful access to financial resources being provided by various public and financial institutions, even in the context of COVID-19 relief initiatives. In response, Growing Together raised \$450k in funds to provide 0% interest loans to Latinx business owners and private contractors who were excluded from the Federal Payroll Protection Program, resulting in 74 supportive loans to help their businesses and families stay afloat during this difficult time. Throughout the process, it became exceedingly clear that there is a dire lack of access to financing products and educational supports to keep these small businesses sustainable and successful long-term. Growing Together met extensively with Latinx business leaders and it was concluded that Tulsa needed an entity focused solely on Latinx community development, for which they have committed \$50k in matching funds."*

Rehiring Public Sector Staff

State, local, and Tribal governments continue to see pandemic impacts in overall staffing levels. In April 2021, State, local, and Tribal government employment had fallen by more than 1 million jobs compared to pre-pandemic levels, and as of September 2021 public sector employment is still approximately 800,000 jobs lower than prior to the pandemic.⁴ Employment losses decrease a state or local government's ability to effectively administer services. Jurisdictions that have already obligated funds toward rehiring public sector staff (or have indicated that they are considering this eligible use category as part of their planning process), include:

⁴ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, All Employees, State Government [CES9092000001] and All Employees, Local Government [CES9093000001], retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/CES9092000001> and <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/CES9093000001> (last visited October 13, 2021).

The **City of Wichita, Kansas** plans to use funds to fill vacant government positions and has already begun recruitment efforts.

- *“Due to revenue and operational uncertainties, the City of Wichita hiring from March 2020-March 2021 was limited to critical positions, such as police and fire recruits. Due to the ARPA award, the City of Wichita intends to hire for positions that were held vacant, such as animal control officers, security screeners, street maintenance equipment operators, and park and tree maintenance workers. A total of 161 positions have been approved to be filled. Of these positions, 62% are in jobs that are with labor union representation (mostly SEIU). All new permanent full-time hires will start at an hourly rate of \$15 or higher..”*

Santa Cruz County, California is planning to use Revenue Replacement funds to bring back the workers it furloughed due to reduced revenue.

- *“The use of the replaced revenues has been allocated to assist the County in eliminating a 5 to 10 percent staffing furlough at a cost of \$18.9 million over three years, enacted in response to the economic crisis brought on by the pandemic, which limited the availability of government services to the public.”*

The **City of Tulsa, Oklahoma** plans to use funds toward rehiring public employees.

- *“[The city W]orked on recruitment stipends for the City of Tulsa to address consistent short falls in critical and hard to fill positions across the organization like court reporters, parking inspectors, water lab techs and 911 operators. We are also implementing retention bonuses. Both will allow the city to operate at full capacity and make us more marketable as a desirable employer.”*

New York City, New York has already reported spending over \$14 million to rehire city workers.

- *“The COVID-19 pandemic created a major financial strain and forced a reduction in spending across NYC agencies. To restore the economy and reduce financial strain, SLFRF funds will be used to fund 536 personnel across 27 agencies or offices associated with a hiring and attrition management policy change from 3-to-1 to 2-to-1.”*

Crime and Violence Prevention

The Fiscal Recovery Funds provide communities funds to support their work to reduce and respond to violence. A number of recipients are making investments in community violence interventions through tools other than incarceration. The examples that follow highlight a range of reported plans as jurisdictions work closely with partners to develop community-based interventions strategies. Examples include:

The **Town of Gilbert, Arizona** plans to fund the establishment of an advocacy center where multiple entities can work together to reduce trauma from violence:

- *“The family advocacy center aligns with expenditure categories A (Public Health) and C (Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities). In 2019, the Town of Gilbert conducted a Community Needs Assessment, which contained three*

recommendations involving the needs for an Advocacy Center. [The first recommendation suggested] develop a transitional, seamless model for immediate connection with services and resources, in addition to linkage to follow-up at periodic intervals appropriate to individual and family needs. The assessment recommended Gilbert: Establish the Gilbert Advocacy Center currently under study (modeled after the Chandler and Mesa centers) – where police, social workers/counselors, human services providers, prosecuting attorneys, and on-site physicians work together to reduce the trauma of domestic violence, child and adult sexual assault and abuse, and human trafficking. The center would provide on-scene crisis intervention from trained victim services personnel to avoid re-traumatizing victims by allowing them to tell their stories one time."

St. Louis, Missouri has appropriated funds for violence interruption:

- *"Community Violence Intervention Program. These funds will support multiple RFPs with third party agencies to operate community programs designed to interrupt cycles of violence. The arrest and incarcerate model have failed, but a clear alternative has yet to emerge, making this an ideal moment to test and explore new solutions. RFPs will prioritize data driven public health solutions such as cure violence, as well as efforts to reduce recidivism rates by transferring individuals from a carceral environment which compounds violence and trauma, to an ecosystem of community support designed for restorative justice, which provides them with the resources - housing, addiction treatment, behavioral health services, etc. - they need to re-integrate into the community."*

Madison, Wisconsin has adopted a funding plan that includes a community-driven violence prevention initiative:

- *"Violence Prevention Initiatives: Violence prevention strategies that provide a holistic response to community needs are imperative for a safe and resilient community. Building on the work of the Madison and Dane County Violence Prevention Roadmap and the Madison and Dane County Violence Prevention Coalition, CSLFRF funds will be used to support community-driven violence prevention initiatives. This coalition includes broad representation from individuals and organizations."*

Housing

The economic impacts of COVID-19 – particularly on housing insecurity – have amplified the need for a range of programs and services to support secure housing for low- and moderate-income individuals. Many jurisdictions reported planned investments in housing, including building and maintaining affordable housing units, rapid re-housing programs, and services to support unhoused populations transitioning to permanent supportive housing programs.

Examples include:

Austin, Texas plans to invest in a comprehensive program to support unhoused persons in securing housing:

- *"The City will utilize \$95.3M of ARPA - SLFRF funding as part of a comprehensive, community-wide effort to reduce levels of unsheltered homelessness. Expenditures will*

begin in August of 2021 and are anticipated through at least April of 2024. Primary service types within the broader project include: Emergency Shelter, Street Outreach, Diversion/Rapid Exit, Rapid Rehousing, Permanent Supportive Housing, Targeted Prevention, Landlord Outreach & Incentives, Mental Health/Substance Use Disorder Services, Supported Employment/Workforce Services, Service Provider Capacity Building, Planning, Management, and Administration, [and] Housing Development – Capital Subsidy.”

Washington, D.C. has allocated funds toward investments in creating and preserving affordable housing along with a program specifically focused on providing housing and services for victims and survivors of domestic violence:

- *“Affordable Housing: A key priority in the Recovery Plan is the production and preservation of affordable housing. Specifically, the Plan includes investments of \$323 million for affordable housing production and \$27 million for affordable housing preservation. The funding in the Recovery Plan will keep the District on track to meet the Mayor’s goals of adding 12,000 net new affordable housing units by the end of CY 2025, within a total of 36,000 net new housing units overall and preserving 1,000 units of existing affordable housing that would otherwise cease to be available... Domestic Violence Housing and Services: In light of the increase in domestic violence incidents during the COVID-19 pandemic, the District’s Recovery Plan includes funding to significantly expand available housing and services for victims and survivors. \$17 million will support community-based organizations in acquiring, expanding, and operating dedicated housing units for victims of domestic violence, as well as temporarily increasing services to meet higher levels of need. Another \$700,000 will be used to provide targeted services and dedicated emergency shelter housing for LGBTQ+ victims and survivors of domestic violence.”*

Clark County, Nevada reported in its Recovery Plan that has allocated funds to support development of permanent affordable housing, including secure housing options for youth and young adults:

- *“The County received requests totaling \$817 million for programs assisting communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, almost double the amount of Fiscal Recovery Funds allocated to Clark County. Through the prioritization process, \$190 million has been allocated towards programs aimed at recovery for those individuals, households and communities which have been disproportionately impacted. This funding will go to programs and projects designed to increase permanent affordable housing for those most in need ...fund emergency housing shelter and transitional housing for homeless individuals and provide community violence intervention... Key Outcome Goals: Increase the availability of quality affordable housing, particularly for households in COVID-19 high-risk groups such as seniors, disabled, and homeless through emergency repair, acquisition, rehabilitation, and new construction. Expand access to housing and supportive services for homeless who are defined as high risk for poor outcomes from COVID-19 through street outreach, post-hospitalization housing, non-congregate shelter, medical supports, rapid rehousing, transitional housing, and a variety of supportive*

services... Increase the number of youth and young adults exiting the child welfare and juvenile justice system with secure housing options.”

New York City, New York plans to include rental assistance to support unhoused and low-income individuals in securing stable housing:

- *“Economic impacts due to COVID-19 left many New York City residents unable to pay rent obligations they previously could afford prior to the pandemic. The NYC Department of Social Services (DSS), which includes both the Department of Homeless Services (DHS) and the Human Resources Administration (HRA) administers rental assistance programs such as CityFHEPS, and many other programs available through the State and Federal Government to support these New York City residents. DSS helps low-income individuals remain in their homes and placement into permanent housing when a household is already homeless. By providing housing subsidies to households who are already homeless and living in a shelter, DSS is distributing scarce resources to those most impacted by systemic inequality. Through this work, DSS measures the number of households who have left homelessness and found stable and secure housing.”*

Broadband Infrastructure

The COVID–19 public health emergency has underscored the importance of universally available, high-speed, reliable, and affordable broadband coverage. Millions of Americans rely on the internet to participate in critical activities such as schooling, healthcare, and work. Communities or households facing economic insecurity before the pandemic were less able to participate in remote work or education due to the inequities in access to reliable and affordable broadband infrastructure.⁵ Recognizing the need for such connectivity, some jurisdictions reported plans to invest in broadband infrastructure to expand service to currently unserved or underserved populations. Examples include

The **State of Delaware** is investing in universal broadband access:

- *“Delaware intends to invest at least \$80 million to achieve universal broadband access, becoming the first state to close every last mile of connectivity statewide.”*

The **State of Colorado** has appropriated funds toward expanding broadband:

- *“Through the recently appropriated funds, Colorado will be able to connect communities and fuel economic growth in unserved areas across Colorado... HB21-1289 appropriated funds to the Colorado Broadband Office to award grants that support broadband infrastructure development throughout Colorado. The bill includes: the Digital Inclusion Grant Program to increase broadband access, speeds, reliability, and affordability to one or more Indian tribes or nations for deploying infrastructure and devices and to one or more providers of telehealth services; the Interconnectivity Grant Program to award funding to local governments for projects focused on regional broadband infrastructure needs; and the Broadband Stimulus*

⁵ Emily Vogles et al., 53% of Americans Say the internet Has Been Essential During the COVID–19 Outbreak (Apr. 30, 2020), <https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2020/04/30/53-of-americans-say-the-internet-has-been-essential-during-the-covid-19-outbreak/>

Grant Program to make grants for the deployment of broadband service in unserved areas of the state."

Loudoun County, Virginia is investing in partnerships to expand broadband infrastructure:

- *"The impact of COVID-19 on the County highlighted the urgent need to deploy broadband to underserved and unserved areas in Western Loudoun County due to the increase of teleworking and the adoption of 100% distance learning by the Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) requiring synchronous learning for classes from home. Approximately 21% of LCPS students attending elementary, middle, and high schools in the Western LCPS Planning District and in part of the Central Loudoun LCPS Planning District are potentially impacted by inadequate broadband connectivity or lack of broadband altogether. To address this situation, a board member initiative was brought forward to expedite the deployment of broadband through an emergency broadband implementation plan... Based on fit and opportunity, the County selected the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Virginia Telecommunications Initiative (VATI) grant as the vehicle for last mile broadband deployment to unserved areas."*

Childcare

The pandemic amplified the need for expanded childcare services. To support childcare needs, recipients have plans to expand childcare services, particularly to communities disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, including:

The **City of Seattle, Washington** Recovery Plan includes investments in expanding childcare facilities and providing premium pay for childcare workers:

- *"Childcare is essential to reopening. Childcare workers, predominantly women, were hit hard during the pandemic and many childcare centers remained open in the face of uncertainty and declining enrollment. Seattle is investing in our children's future by creating more childcare facilities and providing premium pay to our essential childcare workers... [Funds for childcare facilities] will support the expansion or development of childcare facilities in qualified Census tracts. Although the physical space is not "evidence-based," it will allow for the implementation of evidence-based childcare facilities in these neighborhoods. Evidence-based childcare programs are demonstrated to have lifelong positive impacts for children starting with increased reading ability in kindergarten up through a higher likelihood of graduating from high school and improved economic mobility."*

Orange County, Florida is planning to focus childcare funding on high-poverty areas:

- *"Provide child care funding for families not eligible for current School Readiness vouchers and focusing on areas in high-poverty districts. Funding will expand access to child care assistance by broadening the income eligibility threshold qualifying more families to receive enriching high-quality, low-cost child care, and equitably distribute the funding so that the families and programs who most need it get the support. In addition, the majority of child care owners and providers are women of color operating child care programs in Orange County's most overburdened and under-resourced*

communities, ensuring that Orange County's working poor families are able to access child care in their community."

The **State of New Jersey** passed a broad plan for their State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, including a broad childcare program to assist both low-income families and childcare workers:

- *"The \$100 million Child Care Revitalization Program takes a three-fold approach in addressing inequities. First, this initiative ensures that child care providers serving low-income families can sustain and provide for the continuity of quality services for children... Secondly, this initiative provides financial assistance to child care workers earning \$50,000 or less annually. Child care workers have historically been placed among the lowest paying occupations, making minimum wage or slightly above minimum wage, in an industry comprised overwhelmingly of women and drawing significantly from underserved communities... Lastly, this child care initiative makes critical changes to the way child care is regulated and governed to ensure that the industry emerges from this crisis better situated both to meet the needs of future crises, and to encourage greater equity and compensation for child care providers and workers."*

The **County of San Diego, California** has appropriated funds toward training for new childcare workers:

- *"Funding will create a pilot program in partnership with public universities, community colleges, San Diego Workforce Partnership, large family child care providers, centers, and school districts to provide job training for new early educators joining the field in a model that compensates interns and mentors, scholarships for continuing education in child development for existing workforce and support a pilot increasing hourly wages for child care staff as demonstration of quality retention and impact."*

Education

To support student needs across age ranges, some jurisdictions included proposals for education programs in their Recovery Plans. Recipient plans contained a range of education programs, including early childhood literacy programs, summer youth programs, and adult basic education programs. Examples include:

The **State of Minnesota** indicated in its Recovery Plan a broad set of education programs targeting all age groups and disproportionately impacted communities:

- Summer Preschool: *"The goal of the Summer Preschool program is to provide access to a high-quality early learning program that helps children develop their social-emotional skills before they begin kindergarten. Funds are specifically intended to serve historically underserved communities and children who have one or more risk factors or who may not have been able to attend a high-quality early education program due to COVID-19."*
- Academic and mental health supports for schools and districts: *"The primary goal of these funds is to support summer programming that will support academic enrichment and mental health starting in summer 2021 for students, families, educators, communities, and schools across Minnesota. Unspent funds from these initial allocations will be carried forward to support the implementation of these goals into summer programming for 2022."*

- Strengthening Adult Basic Education (ABE) Programming: *“This specific project adds funds to the Adult Education system to enhance current programming and services. These funds will help adult education students work towards the outcome of improved English proficiency, obtaining an adult high school diploma or high school equivalency diploma (such as the GED®), pursuing a career pathway, or enrolling into college. The funds will be distributed among 39 Adult Education consortia, which together cover the entire state of Minnesota and provide services to individuals at more than 300 sites across the state.”*

The **State of Maryland** has appropriated funds toward a broad set of projects including a program to mitigate learning loss:

- *“Each county board of education, including Baltimore City, shall: provide tutoring and supplemental instruction for public school students in grades 4 through 12 to address learning loss from the effects of the COVID–19 pandemic on education; establish and implement a summer school program for public school students, including students who will be in kindergarten in the upcoming school year and were eligible to attend a publicly funded prekindergarten program, to address the effects of the COVID–19 pandemic on education; address trauma and behavioral health issues exacerbated by the COVID–19 pandemic on students and their families and to identify and provide necessary supports and services for students; providing grants to help schools safely reopen for in-person instruction; and provide transitional supplemental instruction to prioritize students with the greatest learning losses, including students in special education and English learners programs.”*

Collier County, Florida plans to dedicate funds toward education services including the following program:

- *“The COLE Project will provide educational sessions at the Golden Gate and Immokalee libraries, both serving QCT populations. They will offer three sessions per week to support literacy and improved educational outcomes of local students. A COLE coordinator will serve at each branch, overseeing community outreach, homework & tutoring for ESOL students, and teen life skills programs. The project will be implemented through a memorandum of understanding with Collier County Library. Outcomes include increased literacy, improved school grades for participants, and better school-career (such as college enrollment) for teen life skills participants.”*

Columbus, Ohio has begun expending funds on education programming focused on supporting youth disproportionately impacted by the pandemic:

- *“Since March 3, 2021 Columbus has encumbered \$9,092,767 to be used as part of the Youth Programming Initiative, which addresses educational setbacks due to COVID19, provides social and recreational opportunities, and offers job training and professional development for Columbus youth.”*

Mental and Behavioral Health

Recipients reported in their Recovery Plans investments in expansion of mental and behavioral health services including mental health treatment, substance misuse treatment, and other

behavioral health services. Recipients indicated plans to create or expand mental and behavioral services across age groups, including programs for children, youth, and adults. Example projects include:

Westchester County, New York is completing its community-wide planning process and intends to fund Mobile Crisis Responses Teams, a police-mental health collaboration:

- *“The County has identified police-mental health collaboration, in the form of Mobile Crisis Response Teams (MCRT) (also known as mobile crisis teams), as a priority mental health intervention to be one aspect of its ARPA funded public health response....The team is charged with addressing a wide range of mental health related crisis including conflict resolution, suicide threats, wellness checks, substance misuse, and more, relying on a trauma-informed de-escalation and harm reduction techniques. The primary role of MCRT is to support law enforcement in addressing mental health crisis by rapid engagement, assessment of needs, and providing short-term support and linkage to necessary services.”*

Bernalillo County, New Mexico plans to invest in evidence-based services that support behavioral health needs:

- *“Bernalillo County has assessed a significant jump in behavioral health service needs and those most impacted by the pandemic... A total of \$2.25 million will be committed to the Outpatient Clinic (OPC) which incorporates two evidence-based best practices: 1. Integrated treatment of co-occurring disorders, addressing issues simultaneously in recognition of how they interact with each other. 2. Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorders, an established best practice for treatment of such disorders. Clinic staffing will include peer recovery specialists who can support the recovery process, and Case Managers who can assist with meeting the basic needs necessary for maintaining recovery. The Living Room model is an emerging best practice, whereby individuals in distress or crisis can access care without a formal intake into a large-scale, clinical program, which may for many be too intimidating. Peer recovery specialists will assist such individuals in determining what supports or services they might need in an informal, supportive environment.”*

The **State of Connecticut** plans to provide universal home visiting to support the mental and physical health needs of new mothers:

- *“Giving birth during the pandemic has been an exceptionally challenging experience. Currently, more than 1 in 3 women have perinatal depression, compared to less than 1 in 5 (15-20%) prior to the pandemic. To support these women, Connecticut is introducing universal home visiting in certain areas of the state that suffered disproportionate impact, stress and child trauma during the pandemic. Universal home visiting program will be piloted through Family Connects, an evidence-based home visiting model that pairs new mothers with registered nurses to provide up to 3 home visits for needs assessments and knowledge sharing. Nurses will also help families gain access to critical community programs and resources to support. Home visiting has been shown to improve mental and physical health outcomes and prevent child maltreatment, resulting in a 50% reduction of emergency medical care use (years 0-1) and a 28% reduction in mothers’ clinical anxiety.”*

The **State of Ohio** has appropriated funds toward expanding mental health services for children:

- *“The third largest appropriation responds to the impact of the pandemic on children’s mental health with \$84 million to expand capacity to serve children in crisis at Ohio’s pediatric behavioral health hospitals. By expanding access to vital care in areas of high demand and in areas with limited access to care today these funds will assist Ohio households of all types to access care closer to home. Ohio children’s hospitals serve as a safety net for Ohio youth. Located in Cleveland, Akron, Toledo, Dayton, and Cincinnati, children’s hospitals care for a diverse array of children with serious emotional disorders in both in-patient and out-patient settings.”*

The examples cited above are based on an initial review of recipient reports, and their inclusion in this blog does not constitute an explicit approval of these projects by Treasury.