

American Rescue Plan Act: State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

**2021 Recovery Plan Performance Report** 

Prince William County, VA

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## **General Overview**

## **Executive Summary**

Prince William County, VA, intends to utilize the allocated State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) authorized under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) to continue to respond to and mitigate against the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency; support those negatively impacted by the virus by providing programming to support households, small businesses, non-profits/community partners, and impacted industries, such as tourism and hospitality; invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure through critical projects; and utilize the provision to provide government services to the extent of any revenue reduction resulting from COVID-19.

Prince William County has gathered proposals from its departments and agencies which had been previously identified, but unfunded, through the Six-Year Capital Improvement Plan, Strategic Plan, and budgetary processes, and also added to the list those programs and projects which were exacerbated by COVID-19 or newly necessary as a result of the novel coronavirus. Once the U.S. Treasury Department issued its Interim Final Rule and subsequent Frequently Asked Questions, departments and agencies reviewed related criteria and provided additional information, when available, to identify how the program or project may support individuals who were unserved or underserved or living within a Qualified Census Tract or supporting statistics of concern and need. County staff will conduct a public work session with the Board of County Supervisors on September 14, 2021, during the Board's regularly scheduled meeting, wherein proposals will be discussed. Community input is encouraged to be submitted through the County's ARPA web page.

As of August 31, 2021, there are no projects which have been approved or authorized for release by the Board of County Supervisors. Funds have been provisionally allocated (\$5 million) to the County's Emergency Response Program; however, no costs have been incurred or expended at this time. An updated Recovery Plan will be submitted within 60 days after approval by the Board of County Supervisors, pursuant to Treasury Guidance.

Projects under consideration include economic recovery initiatives such as the small business relief and hospitality/tourism grant programs to provide direct financial assistance to reimburse the costs of business and service interruption caused by the COVID-19 public health emergency; a small business resource center with revolving loan fund; a small business and entrepreneurship barriers to success study; the Elevate Workforce Program to help unemployed and underemployed residents get back to work; the HUB Zone Redevelopment Program; the Ignite 2.0 grant program to assist high growth start-ups; infrastructure to support innovative life sciences; and support for the VA Bio Connect Virtual Entrepreneurship Residence Network (VERN) Program. Also under consideration are the community feeding program, support for the County's Emergency Response Program/Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and grants to community partners/not-forprofits to support much needed services for individuals and families, particularly the most vulnerable. The community feeding program supports the Community Feeding Task Force, which enables the County's compliance with COVID-19-related public health measures by providing meal delivery to shut-in senior residents and homebound families. The Emergency Response Program continues to support the EOC as the nexus of coordinated response to

the pandemic, with Emergency Management serving as the primary lead coordinating response activities with County departments/agencies, the Virginia Department of Health, local hospitals, businesses, and not-for-profit organizations, including the faith-based community. Additional projects may also be identified during the Board of County Supervisors' work session and the Recovery Plan will be amended accordingly.

# **Recovery Plan Performance Report**

## **Uses of Funds**

As of August 31, 2021, there are no projects which have been approved or authorized for release by the Board of County Supervisors. Funds have been provisionally allocated to the Emergency Response Program; however, no costs have been incurred or expended at this time. An updated Recovery Plan will be submitted within 60 days after approval by the Board of County Supervisors, pursuant to Treasury Guidance.

## **Promoting Equitable Outcomes**

For background, Prince William County has 482,204 residents as of the 2020 Census. According to the American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates (2015-2019), the median age of the population is 35.2 years, with approximately 9.5% of the population being 65 years and over. Approximately 25.2% of Prince William County residents identify as Hispanic or Latino. For residents who are not Hispanic of Latino, 38.4% identify as white alone and 19.7% identify as black or African American alone. About 33.7% of the County's population speaks a language other than English at home. Approximately 6.6% of the population lives in poverty, and 7.8% of County residents report having a disability.

Prince William County is dedicated to promoting equitable outcomes by increasing services to individuals negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the funds already allocated, yet not expended, for the Emergency Response Program, the County will be able to continue testing and/or vaccination efforts, as deemed needed. The County has taken several steps to promote equitable vaccine administration through working with local community leaders and faith-based organizations, utilizing the Center for Disease Control (CDC) Social Vulnerability Index, increasing outreach to areas with low-income housing and high rates of poverty and through multilingual communication efforts.

Projects under consideration are utilizing available statistics to show need and impact, to include identifying areas within the Qualified Census Tracts or other income-based variable which the project may provide for a positive impact.

As of August 31, 2021, there are no projects which have been approved or authorized for release by the Board of County Supervisors. Funds have been provisionally allocated to the Emergency Response Program; however, no costs have been incurred or expended at this time. An updated Recovery Plan will be submitted within 60 days after approval by the Board of County Supervisors, pursuant to Treasury Guidance.

#### **Community Engagement**

Projects under consideration will utilize organizations that already assist residents accessing Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, tax credits, or other forms of

support to connect individuals and households to a broader set of resources. Prince William County will utilize more destinations and platforms where residents can learn more about the full range of services and how to access them. Projects under consideration consider organizations that are well positioned to reach people with particularly significant barriers to support, including immigrants, people of color with low incomes, and individuals experiencing homelessness. Community action agencies, faith-based organizations, and religious institutions with the trust of targeted communities can inform residents of resources available and how to apply for additional assistance.

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#### **Labor Practices**

As of August 31, 2021, there are no projects which have been approved or authorized for release by the Board of County Supervisors. Funds have been provisionally allocated to the Emergency Response Program; however, no costs have been incurred or expended at this time. An updated Recovery Plan will be submitted within 60 days after approval by the Board of County Supervisors, pursuant to Treasury Guidance.

#### Use of Evidence

Projects under consideration are utilizing available statistics to show need and impact, to include identifying areas within the Qualified Census Tracts, the Social Vulnerability Index, or other income-based variable which the project may provide for a positive impact.

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#### Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category

As of August 31, 2021, there are no projects which have been approved or authorized for release by the Board of County Supervisors. Funds have been provisionally allocated to the Emergency Response Program; however, no costs have been incurred or expended at this time. An updated Recovery Plan will be submitted within 60 days after approval by the Board of County Supervisors, pursuant to Treasury Guidance.