

2024

Daniel P. McCoy
County Executive

RECOVERY PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT

Albany County
New York



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction. The COVID-19 pandemic had a direct and devastating impact on many local governments, including Albany County, New York (the “County”). To battle back, and to build back better, stronger and smarter, it will take all of us working together in a partnership to accomplish this herculean task.

County of Albany Allocation. The \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (“ARPA”), signed into law on March 11, 2021, provides \$350 billion in emergency funding for state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to help mitigate the long-term effects of the pandemic and to remedy the disparity between rising costs and falling revenues. The County was allocated \$59.3 million in two equal tranches, creating a historic opportunity to achieve fiscally responsible objectives that will shape the County’s recovery and future.

Strategic Recovery and Resiliency Spending Plan. It is in the best interest of the County to identify best practices, procedures, and a strategic plan for ensuring that the County, its residents, businesses and stakeholders realize the maximum relief and benefits available under its allocation of ARPA aid. *This (2024) Recovery Plan is a living document and will continue to evolve as the County continues to engage stakeholders and monitor additional Federal actions and other funding sources that could shift the demands on its ARPA funding.*

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Key Goals. In order to best address the needs of the County, we must reflect upon what we learned from the pandemic. As we have navigated our way through this pandemic, we have:

- 1.Reimagined our operations and workforce;
- 2.Developed a better understanding of the health disparities in our communities and the need to address them;
- 3.Seen the progression of growth industries, the introduction of clean, green energy sources, and the necessity in fostering development of their technology and infrastructure;
- 4.Developed a deeper understanding that partnerships with governments, community organizations, and businesses are essential to achieving sustainable change;
- 5.Recognized the importance of the intersection of health, mental health and recreation for our youth and for the public as a whole, and the need to break down barriers to create broader opportunities for all citizens; and
- 6.Seen the internet/broadband challenges that exist in both rural and urban areas, and the significant hindrance this has had on our students.

Moving forward, key goals in the County's recovery include support for community members and organizations that have been impacted or disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. There will be a continued effort to achieve systematic changes that will provide the most strategic and sustainable long-term benefits for the County's stakeholders, rather than investing in short-term solutions, with an overarching vision of creating a more inclusive and sustainable economy in our County.

Two-Phased Approach. With the understanding of the above, the County has developed a two-phased approach.

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Phase I Update. Phase I focused on the direct fiscal impact to County government revenues as a result of the pandemic. In 2020, Albany County experienced significant revenue losses. Such a deficit in a single year could be absolutely crippling to the operations of a government. Fortunately, during the eight years preceding the COVID-19 pandemic, Albany County Executive Daniel P. McCoy set forth prudent fiscal policies that increased the County's fund balance. Further, during the pandemic, the County developed key strategies to curtail spending, including the implementation of a hiring freeze and a committee to examine the filling of vacancies, and the establishment of an Early Separation Payout ("ESP") program. All of these actions were necessary in our response to COVID-19.

ARPA provides the County the ability to recover \$29.5 million of qualifying revenue losses, or to use the funds for government services in a forward-looking way for costs incurred after March 3, 2021. Potential uses of funds that do not fit within the other three ARPA eligible use categories may be permissible as a government service. As an illustrative example, transportation infrastructure projects are generally ineligible as a response to the public health and negative economic impacts of the pandemic, however, the County could fund these projects as a government service up to its amount of revenue loss, provided that other restrictions on use do not apply. The County is contemplating using these funds to cover costs associated with the provision of essential government services, including but not limited to:

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- Salary and fringe for the continuation of routine services, e.g., public safety, public health, recreation, roads/highways, etc.;
- Salary and fringe for additional or enhanced services developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, e.g., contact tracing, vaccination, testing, public education, etc.; and
- Programmatic and contractual expenditures for the continuation of routine services as well as novel, just-in-time enhanced services developed in response to COVID-19.

Phase II Commencement. As of the date of this Report, the County is in the process of concluding its Phase II data-driven, decision-making processes to engage and assess community needs that will have meaningful impacts on our most vulnerable, underserved and impacted stakeholders.

Committees and Subcommittees. Funding requests, both internal and external, are carefully evaluated to ensure prospective projects maximize the County's allocation of ARPA aid, promote the long-term fiscal health of the County and comply with U.S. Treasury guidelines and requirements. To facilitate this process, the County established a multipoint decision-making framework. Prospective projects are reviewed internally, by subject matter specific Subcommittees and by an ARPA Executive Committee. Upon comprehensive review, the Subcommittees make recommendations to the Executive Committee, who in turn make recommendations to the County Legislature. Approvals, in the form of resolutions, are made by the County Legislature.



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The Executive Committee comprised of key County officials, including the County Executive, bipartisan representation from the County Legislature, the County Comptroller, and the Office of Management and Budget, as well as focused subcommittees comprised of County representatives and public stakeholders. Each of the four (4) Subcommittees are comprised of members with specific subject matter expertise. Funding requests, both internal and external, are carefully evaluated to ensure prospective projects maximize the County's allocation of ARPA aid, promote the long-term fiscal health of the County and comply with U.S. Treasury guidelines and requirements. As of the date of this Report, the County is in the process of both evaluating applications for key focus areas, while concurrently developing comprehensive applications for other areas.

2023 Investment Plan. In March 2023, the County released its ARPA Investment Plan. The Executive Committee and each of the Subcommittees worked collaboratively to establish priority areas of investments based on member expertise and community input. Their recommendations were the basis for the County 2023 Investment Plan, which was published for community feedback, and remains available on the County's ARPA Portal (<https://albanycountyarpa.org>). In addition, a full copy of the 2023 Investment Plan is attached as Appendix A of this Report.

The 2023 Investment Plan outlines the 'rules of the road' set by the Treasury Department, explains the County's process, establishes a timeline for next steps, and provides information on how we propose to invest these funds into our County and community. The focus areas of the Plan are divided into three categories: Economic Recovery and Growth; Community Development and Public Health; and County Infrastructure and Workforce.

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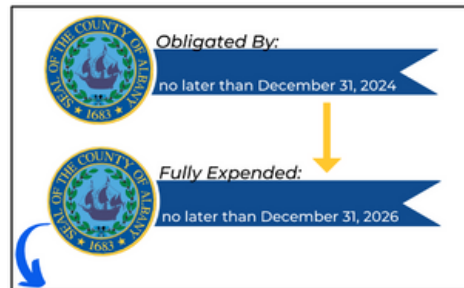


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As of the date of this Report, the County is nearly complete in its effort to evaluate applications in most key focus areas. Certain applications, such as for the Small Business Grant Program are actively under development and expect to be released later in 2024.

USE OF FUNDS

Spending Requirements. ARPA funds must be “obligated” by State and Local Governments no later than December 31, 2024, and fully expended by December 31, 2026. According to the Final Rule, the U.S. Treasury adopted “a definition of ‘obligation’ that is based on the definition used for purposes of the Uniform Guidance (2 CFR part 200), which will allow for uniform administration of this requirement and is a definition with which most recipients will be familiar.”



Eligibility. Funding is subject to the requirements specified in the Final Rule, which was adopted by the U.S. Treasury in January 2022. As detailed in the Final Rule, subject to possible future change and/or amendment, recipients may use funds to:

- *Support Public Health Expenditures:* For example: mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health and safety staff;
- *Address Negative Economic Impacts:* Including economic harm to workers, households, small businesses, impacted industries and the public sector;

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- *Replace Lost Revenue*: This is a formula driven calculation;
- *Provide Premium Pay to Essential Workers*: Offering additional support to those who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors, and;
- *Invest in Certain Types of Infrastructure*: Such as Water, Sewer, and Broadband.

Other Funding Sources. The County is aware there are other potential funding sources that may help finance programs and other ARPA requests. To that end, the County shall investigate alternative funding sources to be used in addition to, or in conjunction with, ARPA funds.

Comprehensive Analysis. As Phase II continues, the County is continuing its comprehensive review of proposed uses of ARPA aid for eligibility. Funding requests, both internal and external, are carefully evaluated to ensure prospective projects maximize the County's allocation of ARPA aid, promote the long-term structural fiscal health of the County and comply with U.S. Treasury guidelines and requirements.

In conducting its review of prospective uses of ARPA funding, the County shall:

- Frame and prioritize issues;
- Conduct internal analyses, which may include the ARPA Sub-Committee(s), the ARPA Executive Committee or the County;
- Provide recommendations to the County Legislature, which, by resolution, will formally approve such uses, and;
- Provide implementation support as deemed appropriate and necessary.

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County Strategic Investment Categories. Using community input and an internal review of the County's highest priorities, Albany County has developed a Strategic Investment Plan to ensure ARPA funds are used to meet the County's immediate needs as well as to provide long-term, transformative investments for tomorrow. The Investment Plan, which was publicly released in March 2023, remains available on the County's ARPA Portal (<https://albanycountyarpa.org>). In addition, a full copy of the Investment Plan is attached as Appendix A of this Report.

The Investment Plan is broken into three funding categories:

1. Economic Growth and Recovery;
2. Community Development and Public Health; and
3. County Infrastructure and Workforce.

Within each of the above categories, key focus areas have been ranked in current order of funding priority. This ranking was based on subcommittee and public input, and County need.

Inclusive of minor updates, the Proposed Implementation Timeline of the Investment Plan is included on the following page

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<p>March 2023</p>	<p>Investment Plan Public Comment and Meetings</p>
<p>April 2023</p>	<p>Economic Development Funding Application Launches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small Business Grants • Workforce Development Grants • Tourism, Arts, and Culture Grants • Blighted Property Demolition/Rehabilitation Grants
<p>Fall 2023</p>	<p>Economic Development Awards Announced</p>
<p>Fall / Winter 2023</p>	<p>Community Development & Public Health Application Launches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Behavioral Health, Substance Abuse & Telehealth Grants • Affordable Housing & Housing Support Grants • Community Improvement Capital Grants • Food Access Grants • Non-Profit Recovery Grants (Other) • Preventing and Responding to Violence Grants • Youth Services Grants • Senior Services Grants
<p>Spring / Summer 2024</p>	<p>Community Development & Public Health Application Awards</p>

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PROMOTING EQUITABLE OUTCOMES

The County is invested in ensuring any programs enacted using ARPA funding are conducted equitably, and in funding programs that specifically address existing inequities.

Economic Impacts. The COVID-19 pandemic brought more than just health concerns. The economic impact of COVID-19 continues to come into sharper focus, and governmental entities across the United States remain in the direct line of fire. Due to the dynamic nature of the COVID-19 outbreak, the degree of any continuing impact on the County's operations and finances is extremely difficult to predict. There are many uncertainties relating to the pandemic's duration and severity, as well as with regard to what actions may be taken by Federal or State governments and other health care authorities to contain or mitigate its impact. As such, it will be important for the County to:

- Continually monitor how revenues have been and will continue to be affected by the pandemic-induced economic downturn;
- Use such proactive measures as may be required to maintain its operations and meet its obligations; and
- Plan for the best and most strategic long-term use of its ARPA allocation.

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Local Impacts. Throughout the economic shutdown and fiscal uncertainty, the County led its residents through the uncertainty they faced while managing the crisis to the best of its ability. County staff remained on the frontlines, working throughout the crisis to assist residents and stakeholders every step of the way, whether with food deliveries, quarantine information and guidance, rental assistance and direction, and information and feedback; the County remained operational throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, the pandemic has demonstrated how poverty fosters disparities in negative public health and safety outcomes for residents living in low-income or segregated neighborhoods. Albany County is not unique in that “social determinants of health” – the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age – affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks. And because everything is interrelated, factors like socioeconomic status, education, neighborhood and physical environment, employment, and social support networks, as well as access to health care, impact the whole health of our community and her residents. Therefore, the County’s recovery efforts aim to address not only the systemic roots of poverty but its symptoms.

Albany County “Stat” and Data-Driven Government & Services. The County government is the largest provider of social services in the county and delivers key social safety net programs to thousands of county residents each year. These programs are federally-, state-, and locally-funded through a variety of sources. Ultimately, these programs are intended to aid residents in need and move them to self-sustainability and economic mobility. Because Albany County recognizes that a large part of providing equitable services to our communities is centered on utilizing the data we collect to better inform and steer those services, the County is restructuring its underlying data infrastructure across various departments and programs.

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The key objectives of this work are to:

- Provide senior leadership at the organization with better business intelligence regarding the populations being served by the County's programs;
- Better target specific programs at appropriate recipients;
- Better understand the impact of programs, and;
- Enable the County to innovate higher-intensity programming for residents who need additional support who are currently high-utilizers of county programming for long periods of time.

Over time, the County will create a Data Analytics Division within its Department of Management and Budget. This unit will focus not only on the reactive effort to examine existing programs and services with the goal of improving effectiveness and efficiency, but also the proactive goal of using data to develop new programs. Constant evaluation through the development of performance indicators will provide the County with feedback on how effective our efforts and resources are towards effectuating change on their intended targets. Coordination and management of this initiative will be centralized within the Department of Management and Budget, and additional personnel will be embedded within departments according to the Comprehensive Workforce Development Plan. This structure will allow expertise and specialization within each department while also preserving the overarching county-wide goals that frequently cut across departmental responsibilities.

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As of July 2024, the County has taken measurable steps to modernize its data capabilities, with a particular focus on creating internal structure, competence, and culture that promotes using and sharing data to make programmatic decisions and improvements. The County's Department of Management and Budget has hired a Data Analytics and Performance Management Coordinator. Additionally, the County Executive has tasked the Department of Management and Budget with the development of a County Data Strategy to function as a roadmap for implementing the County's data vision and mission.

Concurrently, the County Executive, the Department of Management and Budget, and the Division of Information Services have engaged a consultant and are working with the County's Department of Aging; Department of Children, Youth and Families; Department of Health; Department of Mental Health; Department of Probation; and Department of Social Services to map their data systems. This process includes reviewing databases, processes, reports, key performance indicators, required reporting, common data fields, and other data infrastructure components. Using the information gleaned from data mapping, the consultant will develop a data infrastructure plan to best meet the county's needs. Part of this plan will include a technical recommendation regarding the IT solution needed to execute the County's Data Strategy. By providing this access, we believe we can provide easily obtained wrap-around services to constituents, develop new, targeted, services to constituents historically excluded from government services, and internally achieve economies of scale for these services, providing a more efficient use of taxpayer dollars. The rollout of the County's Data Strategy, including staffing and program development, will be iterative over the coming years.

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Equity in Application Evaluation. Equity continues to be central in the screening criteria for each project being considered for ARPA funding. This is woven into both the application process and the evaluation process. Subject matter experts in the County's ARPA Committees have assisted with the development of funding applications and, generally, participate in the initial review and scoring of project applications. Proposals are collaboratively scored on a uniform scale on whether the proposal 1) aligned with a socio-economic outcome that advance equity, 2) serve impacted populations, or those adversely affected by COVID-19, and 3) would support equitable recovery from COVID-19. As such, each proposed initiative is evaluated on a level basis against its peer applications. As appropriate, approved projects are required to track equity-centric metrics (such as demographic information) to facilitate impact evaluation.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Strategic Community Engagement. The County is committed to ensuring that ARPA investments directly respond to the needs of County residents and that they address the inequities exposed by the pandemic. As such, the County developed a four-pronged community engagement strategy to shape its ARPA decision-making. These steps include:

- *Inform.* Stakeholder engagement and making information available to the public was the critical first step in the County's engagement process; it was equally important to ensure that information is clear, simple, and accessible so that stakeholders were provided with the necessary tools to appropriately understand the parameters of ARPA.

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- *Consult.* Obtaining stakeholder feedback was an important second step in the County's engagement process. The County listened to stakeholders, which aided in the ability to develop a better understanding of their views, values and needs. This step aided and helped to set the foundation for the development of ARPA Investment Plan. Pandemic-related impacts and common themes were identified and further discussed with the ARPA Subcommittees and Executive Committee.
- *Collaborate.* Working in partnership with the ARPA Subcommittees, with the aid of stakeholder input, the development of prospective strategic ARPA initiatives became the third step. The County identified a set of tentative prioritized solutions focused on remediating the identified negative COVID-19 impacts.
- *Decide.* The final step of the engagement process was the formal approval of ARPA initiatives by the ARPA Executive Committee. This was done through the formal adoption of the ARPA Investment Plan. In a transparent fashion, the County will continue to take responsibility for recommending to the Legislature and the County Executive the best, most impactful uses of ARPA funds.

Some of the community engagement tools which were employed by the County are included on the following page.

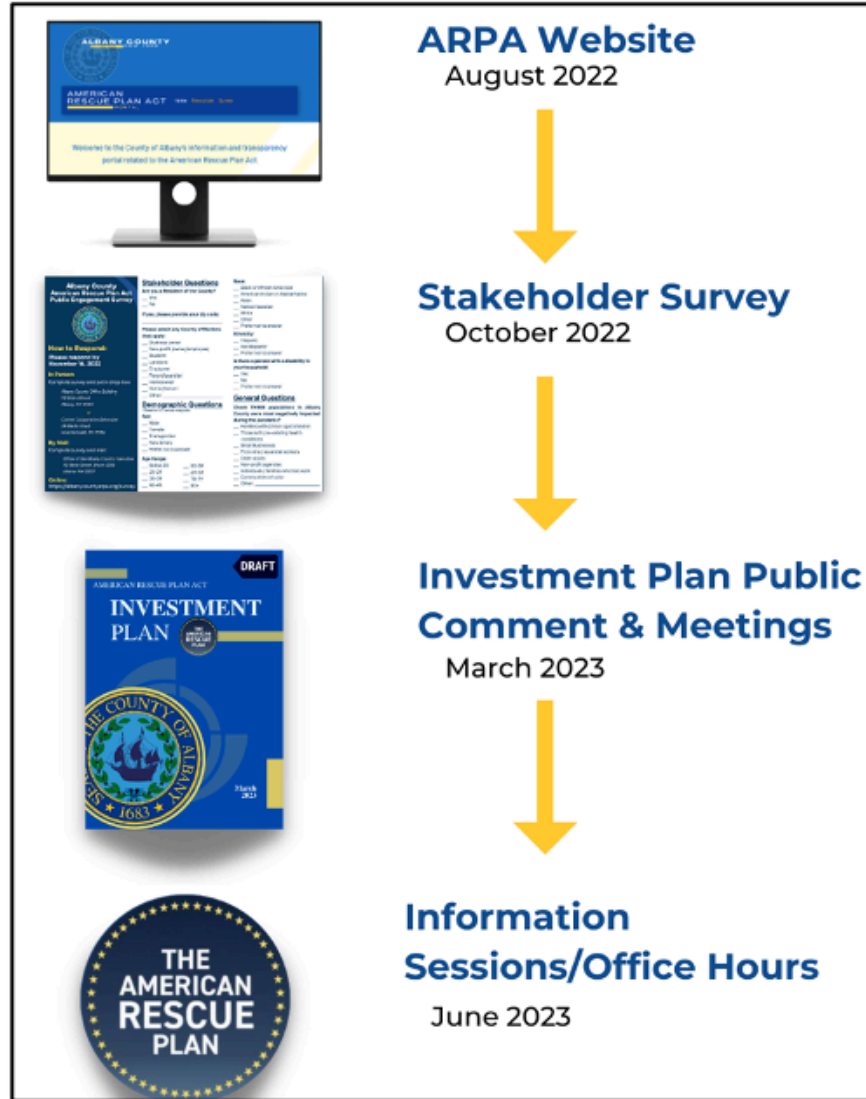
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Identifying Stakeholders. For its engagement efforts, the County included a wide range of stakeholders with various sets of interests that have been negatively impacted by COVID-19. These stakeholders included, but were not limited to:

- Residents
- Businesses
- Nonprofits
- Employees
- Students

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Public Engagement Survey Results. On October 17, 2022, the County launched a website and interactive survey for the community to provide input on needs and priorities for ARPA funding. Response highlights from the public engagement survey are provided below.

Total Responses: 1,591

Key Demographics: Below are a series of demographic highlights from the respondents:

Respondent Age: Youth and young adults ages 39 or younger accounted for 34.9% of respondents, adults between the ages of 40 to 59 accounted for 39.7%, while the remaining 25.4% were 60 or older.

Respondent Sex: Female respondents accounted for 55.4% of responses, male respondents accounted for 39.8% of responses, non-binary respondents accounted for 1.1% of responses, transgender respondents accounted for 0.6% of responses, while the remaining 3.1% of respondents indicated they preferred not to answer.

Respondent Race: Approximately 74.9% of respondents identified their race as White, 10.8% were Black or African American, 9.0% preferred not to answer, 0.9% were Asian, 0.3% were Indian or Alaska Native, 0.1% were native Hawaiian and the remaining 3.9% identified their race as other.

Respondent Ethnicity: Approximately 5.1% of respondents identified their ethnicity as Hispanic, while the remaining 94.9% were either not Hispanic or preferred not to answer.

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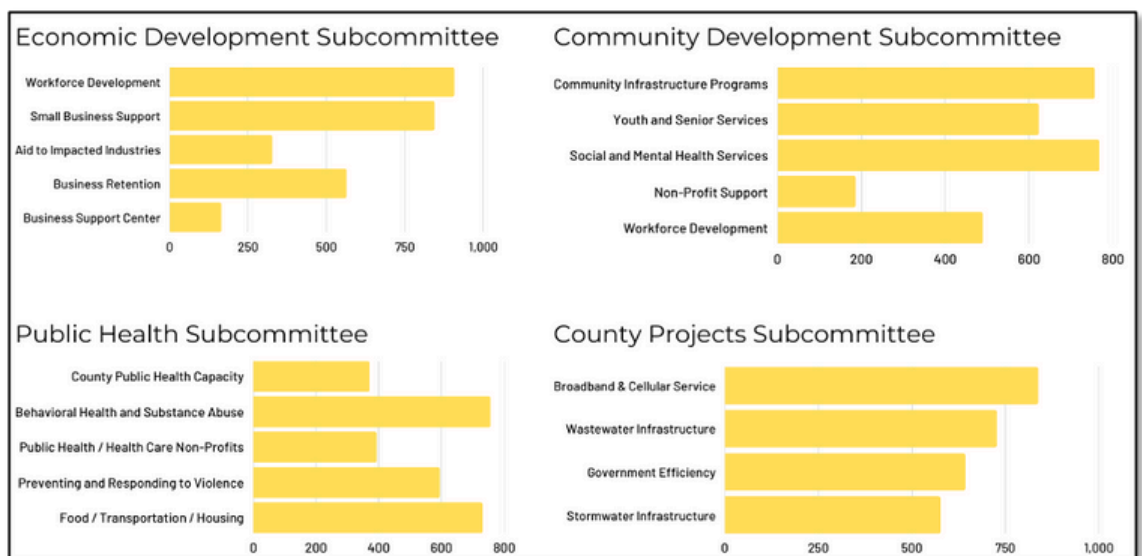
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Most Impacted County Populations. When asked to identify the most negatively impacted populations in the County, the top three (3) identified populations, in order, were the:

1. Front-line and/or essential workers
2. Families with school-aged children
3. Small businesses

Overall Funding Priorities. When asked about the importance of eight (8) different ARPA eligible funding priorities, respondents gave the highest votes of importance to community health and wellness, homeless and housing services and public infrastructure.

Subcommittee Specific Funding Priorities: Respondents were asked to rank funding priorities specific to each of the County's four (4) ARPA subcommittees. On the following page is a summary of the results.



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Shared Services Opportunities. There are numerous laws authorizing collaboration between jurisdictions and this is generally considered to be a best practice by most industry associations. To meet these best practices, for Phase II, the County will consider regional initiatives, including, as applicable, partnering agencies with other ARPA recipients.

LABOR PRACTICES

Albany County firmly believes that strong labor standards promote effective and efficient delivery of high-quality infrastructure projects while also supporting economic recovery through strong employment opportunities for workers. The County has an extensive “Minority Business Utilization and Contract Compliance” policy as part of its “Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Plan.” The purpose of this policy is to promote and ensure equal opportunity for socially and economically disadvantaged businesses who would like to contract with Albany County. For all contracts exceeding \$100,000.00 in value for goods, services or construction, contractors are required to make good faith efforts to utilize at least seven percent for Minority Business Enterprises (MBE’s) and five percent (5%) for Women Business Enterprises (WBE’s) of the dollar value of the prime contract for subsequent subcontracts awarded to small businesses certified as disadvantaged business enterprise. Albany County’s Division of Affirmative Action monitors subcontracting and labor participation for contracts let by agencies and authorities of Albany County.

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Separately, as stipulated in all awards and contracts, any laborers providing services under a contract with Albany County will not be paid less than the current prevailing rate of wages and shall be provided supplements not less than the prevailing supplements as established by the New York State Department of Labor, per the New York State Prevailing Schedule of Wages. Any project labor agreements are project-specific and are authorized by the County Legislature.

USE OF EVIDENCE

Under Phase I, the County is using revenue replacement funds to maintain and expand the provision of essential government services. For Phase II, the County evaluated economic data, reviewed County department and capital needs, completed a comprehensive stakeholder engagement effort and publicly released a formal Investment Plan. A copy of the Investment Plan is included on the County's ARPA Portal (<https://albanycountyarpa.org/investment>) and is also attached as Appendix A of this Report.

The Investment Plan outlined the 'rules of the road' set by the Treasury Department, explains the County's process, establishes a timeline for next steps, and provides information on how we propose to invest these funds into our County and community. The \$29.4 million in ARPA funds included in the Investment Plan are divided into three categories:

1. Economic Recovery and Growth;
2. Community Development and Public Health; and
3. County Infrastructure and Workforce.

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In June 2023, the County began soliciting applications for certain projects included in the Economic Recovery and Growth category. Additional solicitations occurred in early 2024, while a few minor solicitations are expected in the second half of 2024.

The Investment Plan is a living document and will continue to evolve as the County engages stakeholders and monitors additional Federal actions and other funding sources that could shift the demands on its ARPA funding.

Moving forward, key goals in the County's recovery include support for community members and organizations that have been impacted or disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. There will be a continued effort to achieve systematic changes that will provide the most strategic and sustainable long-term benefits for the County's stakeholders, rather than investing in short-term solutions, with an overarching vision of creating a more inclusive and sustainable economy in our County.

The County generally followed the following process to gather information and consider program or project proposals:

- A list of prospective projects and proposals that meet the County's goals and objectives for its ARPA allocation was developed and is maintained by the County.
- All prospective projects and proposals underwent a comprehensive vetting process by the County to ensure that proposals met regulations defined by U.S. Treasury i.e., projects shall conform to one of the following categories:

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1. Replace lost public sector revenue to strengthen support for vital public services and to develop long-term structurally sound financial operations.
 2. Support the County's response effort to the COVID-19 pandemic to continue to decrease the spread of the virus and bring the pandemic under control.
 3. Provide support and immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses.
 4. Address systemic public health and economic challenges that have contributed to the unequal impacts of the pandemic.
- The County prioritized projects and proposals and determined whether such projects and proposals were feasible for further consideration. Such projects were further considered by the most appropriate ARPA subcommittee and then the Executive Committee.

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As indicated, the County is near completion but still in the process of implementing the Investment Plan which was publicly released in March 2023. The Investment Plan is publicly available on the County's ARPA portal (<https://albanycountyarpa.org/investment>) and includes additional info on the anticipated use of funds. In addition, a full copy of the Investment Plan is attached as Appendix A of this Report. Under Phase I, the County is using revenue replacement funds to maintain and expand the provision of essential government services. Additional projects which have been obligated by the County are also included in the below summary:

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Priority	Key Programs and Focus Areas ("Buckets")	Total Funding Amount by Bucket	Amount Awarded	Balance	
County Revenue Loss	County Revenue Loss	\$ 29,515,879.50	N/A	N/A	
Economic Recovery and Growth	Small Business Grants Fund	\$1,000,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$0.00	
	Workforce Development Grant Fund	\$2,201,500.00	\$2,201,500.00	\$0.00	
	On-the-Job Training Fund	\$1,000,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$0.00	
	Tourism, Arts, and Culture Grant Fund	1,425,000.00	1,425,000.00	-	
	Building Tourism and Economic Development Capacity	\$900,000.00	\$600,000.00	\$300,000.00	
	Blighted Property Demolition and Rehabilitation Fund	\$1,000,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$0.00	
	Commercial Office Conversion and Re-invention Program	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	
	Total	\$7,526,500.00	\$7,226,500.00	\$300,000.00	
	Community Development and Public Health	Behavioral Health, Substance Abuse, Telehealth	\$1,800,000.00	\$ 1,600,000.00	\$ 200,000.00
		Affordable Housing/ Housing Support	\$1,800,000.00	\$ 1,800,000.00	\$ -
Recreation and Outdoor Infrastructure		\$1,300,000.00	\$ 1,300,000.00	\$ -	
Food Access		\$1,300,000.00	\$ 1,300,000.00	\$ -	
Preventing and Responding to Violence		\$800,000.00	\$ -	\$ 233,000.00	
Youth Services		\$700,000.00	\$ 700,000.00	\$ -	
Transportation Services		\$0.00	\$ -	\$ -	
Senior Services		\$400,000.00	\$ 400,000.00	\$ -	
Non-Profit Support Grants		\$610,000.00	\$ 530,000.00	\$ 80,000.00	
Frontline Worker Support Program		\$0.00	\$ -	\$ -	
Total	\$8,710,000.00	\$8,197,000.00	\$513,000.00		
County Infrastructure and Workforce	Government Efficiency Investments	\$950,000.00	770,293.00	179,707.00	
	Wastewater and Stormwater Infrastructure	\$4,150,000.00	\$ 3,500,000.00	\$650,000.00	
	County IT Infrastructure *		\$ 312,000.00	\$ 336,000.00	
	Broadband Infrastructure	\$1,400,000.00	\$ 205,000.00	\$547,000.00	
	Parks and Open Space *	\$500,000.00	\$ 250,000.00	\$250,000.00	
	County Workforce Retention/Attraction	\$0.00	\$ -	\$0.00	
	County Public and Mental Health Initiatives *	\$750,000.00	\$ 420,000.00	\$330,000.00	
	To be allocated as needed	13,500.00	-	13,500.00	
	Central Warehouse Demolition Matching Grant	\$3,000,000.00	\$ 3,000,000.00	\$0.00	
	Total	\$13,163,500.00	\$ 8,793,293.00	\$ 4,370,207.00	
Total	\$29,409,000.00	\$24,216,793.00	\$5,182,207.00		

(1) Expenditures as of July 30, 2024.

Plan Progression. This Recovery Plan, the aforementioned Investment Plan and the County's performance measuring efforts will be a living document and process. It will continue to evolve as the County monitors the ongoing use of ARPA funds and as additional Federal actions or other possible funding sources that could shift the demands on ARPA funding come into focus. The County intends to reassess, amend, and pivot plans in case of unanticipated needs, unforeseen setbacks, or weak outcomes.

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1. REVENUE REPLACEMENT

Project Identification Number: 1.0

Project Expenditure Category: 6 - Revenue Replacement

Project Sub-Category: 6.1 - Provision of Government Services

Budgeted or Obligated Funding: \$29,515,879.50

Funds Spent to Date: \$-0- (1)

(1) *As of July 16, 2024*

Project Overview: Based on a year-over-year analysis and using the growth factors allowable per Treasury guidelines, the County's calculated revenue loss is \$29,515,879.50. Such funds will be utilized by the County to ensure continuity of vital government services, including but not limited to:

- Salary and fringe for the continuation of routine services, e.g., public safety, public health, recreation, roads/highways, etc.;
- Salary and fringe for additional or enhanced services developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, e.g., contact tracing, vaccination, testing, public education, etc.; and
- Programmatic and contractual expenditures for the continuation of routine services as well as novel, just-in-time enhanced services developed in response to COVID-19.

Use of Evidence: No ARPA funds are being used for evidence-based interventions. The Category/Sub-Category above referenced does not require the Use of Evidence.

Performance Report:

Output: The County continues to provide residents with vital governmental services without interruption.

Outcome: Ensure the health and wellbeing of all County stakeholders is preserved and safeguarded.



2. CONNECT ALBANY BROADBAND INITIATIVE FEASIBILITY STUDY

Project Identification Number: ED-BB-Study (21-506)

Project Expenditure Category: 7-Administrative

Project Sub-Category: 7.1-Administrative Expenses

Obligated Funding: \$154,600.00

Funds Spent to Date: \$154,600.00 (As of July 16, 2024)

The County originally obligated \$175,00.00 in connection with the Connect Albany Broadband Initiative Feasibility Study. However, actual expenditures were only \$154,600. The \$20,400 difference between the original obligation and actual expenditures was returned to revenue replacement to ensure continuity of vital government services.

Project Overview: After a thorough RFP process, the County contracted with Insight Public Sector and Tilson Technology to complete the study. The County commissioned a gap analysis and feasibility study to expand high speed internet in the County. Access to high-speed broadband internet is a necessity for the County's economy and quality of life, as has been made even more apparent by the COVID-19 pandemic. The intent of the County's efforts relative to broadband are to:

1. Increase access to high-speed broadband internet for all residents; and
2. Increase competition within the residential and commercial broadband industry.

The County, as well as the Insight and Tilson teams, worked closely with New York State and their contractor to ensure that all work is complementary (and not duplicative) of the work that is being done at the State level. Although disparate from the feasibility study, Albany County is hopeful that construction on "last mile" projects will commence in 2023 and will be operable by 2024.

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Upon completing the study, the County will have an actionable solution or suite of solutions and/or policies that the County can apply for State and Federal funding to implement.

Use of Evidence: No ARPA funds are being used for evidence-based interventions. The Category/Sub-Category above referenced does not require the Use of Evidence.

Performance Report:

Output: The County procured the services of a qualified firm to conduct a feasibility study assessing the "Connect Albany" Broadband Initiative.

Outcome: The County will be able to address planning for Broadband Projects to be funded with ARPA funds.

3. ARPA CONSULTANT

Project Identification Number: ED-ARPA-Consultant (22-512)

Project Expenditure Category: 7-Administrative

Project Sub-Category: 7.1-Administrative Expenses

Obligated Funding: \$180,000.00

Funds Spent to Date: \$173,737.97 (As of July 16, 2024)

Project Overview: Through a competitive process, the County engaged the professional services of an advisor to provide outside consulting services and technical assistance with respect to ARPA plan development, public engagement, reporting and grant compliance and management.

Use of Evidence: No ARPA funds are being used for evidence-based interventions. The Category/Sub-Category above referenced does not require the Use of Evidence.

Performance Report:

Output: The County will competitively procure the services of an external ARPA consultant.

Outcome: The external ARPA advisor will help the County to identify the best and most strategic use of its ARPA allocation and to comply with all future reporting requirements.



4. SMALL BUSINESS GRANT PROGRAM & ADMIN.

Project Identification Number (Legislative Resolution Number): 23-244

Project Expenditure Category: 2 - Negative Economic Impacts

Project Sub-Category: 2.29 Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship

Obligated Funding: \$1,000,000.00

Funds Spent to Date: \$0.00 (As of July 16, 2024)

Project Overview: As part of the County's ARPA Investment Plan, the County dedicated \$1.0 million to help economically impacted small businesses in the County recover and grow. Such funds will be provided to small businesses in the form of grants and will require an application and approval process. The funds will be provided to the Community Loan Fund of the Capital Region who will oversee all related aspects of this grant program.

Use of Evidence: The COVID-19 pandemic has severely harmed commerce in the County, with brick-and-mortar small businesses suffering from significant reductions in foot traffic and consumer spending. The goal of this program is to strengthen and stabilize small businesses in the County that were negatively impacted by the pandemic.

This use of funds was comprehensively reviewed and recommended by both the appropriate ARPA Subcommittee and the ARPA Executive Committee and then approved by the County Legislature.

Performance Report:

Output: A minimum of 90% of the obligated funds will be utilized toward evidence-based interventions.

Outcome: The project is not yet far enough along to assess performance.

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PROJECT INVENTORY

5. ON-THE-JOB TRAINING PROGRAM & ADMIN.

Project Identification Number: (Legislative Resolution Number):23-245

Project Expenditure Category: 2 – Negative Economic Impacts

Project Sub-Category: 2.10 Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers

Obligated Funding: \$1,000,000.00

Funds Spent to Date: \$0.00 (As of July 16, 2024)

Project Overview: As part of the County's ARPA Investment Plan, the County has obligated \$1.0 million to help those who are either unemployed or underemployed. In partnership with the Capital Region Workforce Development Board, Albany County will provide additional funding to support expansion of on-the-job training and existing working training. The funds will be provided to the Capital Region Workforce Development Board who will oversee all related aspects of this grant program.

Use of Evidence: The Capital Region Workforce Development Board is familiar with providing services to individuals facing employment barriers. The goal of this program is to improve quality of life for the County's most vulnerable residents by helping them attain employment and increase their income.

This use of funds was comprehensively reviewed and recommended by both the appropriate ARPA Subcommittee and the ARPA Executive Committee and then approved by the County Legislature.

Performance Report:

Output: A minimum of 90% of the obligated funds will be utilized toward evidence-based interventions.

Outcome: The project is not yet far enough along to assess performance.

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PROJECT INVENTORY

6. FIREWALL REPLACEMENT

Project Identification Number (Legislative Resolution Number):23-305

Project Expenditure Category: 3 - Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity

Project Sub-Category: 3.4 Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Obligated Funding: \$336,000.00

Funds Spent to Date: \$0.00 (As of July 16, 2024)

Project Overview: This project would include hardware and consulting services to replace the County's primary and backup internet firewalls along with the primary and backup segmentation firewalls. Hardware will include the procurement of 4 new Next Generation Firewalls (NGFW) to replace legacy hardware that is currently in place. Consulting services will help in facilitating a network redesign that will improve the County's cybersecurity posture while also improving infrastructure speed and reliability. IT investments will enhance the effectiveness of relief and support programs addressing negative economic impacts exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Use of Evidence: The last several years, including during the COVID-19 pandemic, have demonstrated that County services need to be delivered in a more dynamic and accessible manner that can rapidly adjust to cybersecurity threats. The project is intended to serve both the stakeholders of County and County staff, in order to provide an accessible, safe and secure digital environment. This use of funds was comprehensively reviewed and recommended by both the appropriate ARPA Subcommittee and the ARPA Executive Committee and then approved by the County Legislature.

Performance Report:

Output: Site visits to the County's website may be measured.

Outcome: The project is not yet far enough along to assess performance.

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PROJECT INVENTORY

7. CENTRAL STORAGE UPGRADE

Project Identification Number (Legislative Resolution Number):23-304

Project Expenditure Category: 3 - Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity

Project Sub-Category: 3.4 Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Obligated Funding: \$312,000.00

Funds Spent to Date: \$289,786.44 (As of July 16, 2024)

Project Overview: The storage environment utilized by the County is over nine years old, making it antiquated and under-resourced to support the County's ever-growing digital storage needs. This project will replace the legacy system with a new NetAPP storage environment. IT investments will enhance the effectiveness of relief and support programs addressing negative economic impacts exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Use of Evidence: The last several years, including during the COVID-19 pandemic, have demonstrated that County services need to be delivered in a more dynamic and accessible manner that can rapidly adjust to cybersecurity threats. The new storage environment will help the County to better adapt to the post-COVID virtual environment by providing improved overall infrastructure speed while lowering the risk of downtime by employing a redundant system architecture. Additionally, the upgrade will help improve the County's overall security posture by providing for a storage solution that has regular vulnerability and security patching done by the manufacture. This use of funds was comprehensively reviewed and recommended by both the appropriate ARPA Subcommittee and the ARPA Executive Committee and then approved by the County Legislature.

Performance Report:

Output: Digital storage capacity may be measured.

Outcome: The project is not yet far enough along to assess performance.

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PROJECT INVENTORY

8. SEPTAGE FOG RECEIVING STATION

Project Identification Number (Legislative Resolution Number):23-306

Project Expenditure Category: 5 - Infrastructure

Project Sub-Category: 5.7 Clean Water: Energy conservation

Obligated Funding: \$3,500,000.00

Funds Spent to Date: \$0.00 (IAs of July 16, 2024)

Project Overview: The project consists of the design and construction of a new septage and fats, oils, and grease (FOG) receiving station at the ACWPD North Plant. The receiving station will contain screening equipment as well as a dedicated hydronic FOG separation system that will extract brown grease for reuse as biofuel.

Use of Evidence: The project was recommended by the County Water Purification District because it will directly improve water effluent quality from the North Treatment plant by separating the FOG waste stream from the main wastewater treatment process. The project is currently in the ACWPD Capital Plan. In addition to being recommended by the County Water Purification District, this use of funds was comprehensively reviewed and recommended by both the appropriate ARPA Subcommittee and the ARPA Executive Committee. It was then approved by the County Legislature.

Performance Report:

Output: The project will allow ACWPD to accept increased volumes of septage and FOG waste from haulers, generating increased revenues via tipping fees. The project will also generate an additional revenue source via the resale of separated brown grease. Further, this project will reduce energy demands and sludge production volumes at the facility. The FOG separation system will be the first of its kind in the region and could potentially serve as a model for other POTWs across the State

Outcome: The project is not yet far enough along to assess performance.

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9. TOURISM, ARTS, AND CULTURE GRANT PROGRAM (AGGREGATE)

Project Identification Number (Legislative Resolution Numbers): 23-452:481

Number of External Awards: 30

Project Expenditure Category: 2 – Negative Economic Impacts

Project Sub-Category: 2.35 – Aid to Tourism Travel or Hospitality

Budgeted or Obligated Funding: \$1,425,000

Funds Spent to Date: \$539,544.73 (As of July 16, 2024)

Project Overview: A grant program to promote the recovery of the arts, culture, and tourism sectors in the County that were negatively impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. Grant awards are intended to assist in the development of tourism amenities; to enhance visitor experience; increase recreation, art, culture, and heritage opportunities for visitors; and/or to promote Albany County as a destination.

Use of Evidence: The COVID-19 pandemic has severely harmed the arts, culture, and tourism sectors in the County. The goal of this program is to strengthen and stabilize organizations that were negatively impacted by the pandemic.

Through public workshops, meetings and the survey, the community made clear the need to support arts, culture, and tourism in Albany County.

Performance Report:

Output: Tourism and visits to the County may be measured.

Outcome: Projects relating to this grant program are not yet far enough along to assess performance.



10. INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL PROPERTY REVITALIZATION GRANT PROGRAM (AGGREGATE)

Project Identification Number (Legislative Resolution Numbers): 23-482:486

Number of External Awards: 5

Project Expenditure Category: 2 – Negative Economic Impacts

Project Sub-Category: 2.23 – Strong Healthy Communities: Demolition and Rehabilitation of Properties

Budgeted or Obligated Funding: \$550,000

Funds Spent to Date: \$25,000 (As of July 16, 2024)

Project Overview: A grant program focusing on the revitalization and reuse of vacant or abandoned industrial or commercial properties in disadvantaged communities within Albany County. Properties are required to be located in “Disadvantaged Communities” as shown on the New York State Disadvantaged Communities map.

(<https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/ny/Disadvantaged-Communities>)

Use of Evidence: U.S. Treasury guidance does not require reporting on the amount of funding dedicated to evidence-based interventions for projects within this Expenditure Category. Albany County is committed to ensuring responsible use of recovery funds to ensure that infrastructure projects funded with ARPA resources represent a lasting investment in building strong, resilient communities.

Performance Report:

Output: Projected/actual construction start date and key project milestones may be measured.

Outcome: Projects relating to this grant program are not yet far enough along to assess performance.

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PROJECT INVENTORY

11. BROADBAND COORDINATOR

Project Identification Number (Legislative Resolution Number): 23-672

Project Expenditure Category: 3 – Public Health – Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity

Project Sub-Category: 3.4 – Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Budgeted or Obligated Funding: \$404,382

Funds Spent to Date: \$-0- (As of July 16, 2024)

Project Overview: The creation of a Broadband Projects Coordinator position to work with broadband providers, as well as local partners, to identify opportunities to support project that bring broadband services to unserved and underserved areas.

Use of Evidence: U.S. Treasury guidance does not require reporting on the amount of funding dedicated to evidence-based interventions for projects within this Expenditure Category. Albany County is committed to ensuring responsible use of recovery funds to ensure that infrastructure projects funded with ARPA resources represent a lasting investment in building strong, resilient communities.

Performance Report:

Output: The number of fulltime (equivalent) employees and their term may be measured.

Outcome: The project is not yet far enough along to assess performance.



12. ALBANY COUNTY CRIME VICTIM AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE CENTER

Project Identification Number (Legislative Resolution Number): 23-659

Project Expenditure Category: 1 – Public Health

Project Sub-Category: 1.11 – Community Violence Interventions

Budgeted or Obligated Funding: \$100,000

Funds Spent to Date: \$-0- (As of July 16, 2024)

Project Overview: The Albany County Crime Victim and Sexual Violence Center (“CVSVC”) intends to utilize these funds for the purchase of ride share gift cards or creation of ride share accounts to assist clients in their transportation needs to and from appointments/examinations.

Use of Evidence: The CVSVC believes that individuals they service remain hesitant to use public transportation. In addition, inflation has caused gas prices to rise, creating hardship. Not all appointments are on bus lines. Some clients have mobility or sensory issues, exacerbated by COVID. For CVSVC clients specifically, public transportation may not be a safe option for fear of running into an abuser. Public transportation may also not be available late at night when someone is discharged from the hospital.

Performance Report:

Output: The number of ride share gift cards or ride share accounts may be measured.

Outcome: The project is not yet far enough along to assess performance.



13. GRANT MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE

Project Identification Number (Legislative Resolution Number): 23-660

Project Expenditure Category: 3 – Public Health – Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity

Project Sub-Category: 3.5 – Public Sector Capacity: Administrative Needs

Budgeted or Obligated Funding: \$100,000

Funds Spent to Date: \$30,000 (As of July 16, 2024)

Project Overview: Funds are intended to be utilized in connection with the implementation of a Grants Management System which will allow for a centralized platform to house all County grants. The County Department of Management and Budget intends to hire a vendor to implement their own Grants Management System product and to customize it based on the County's needs. The vendor will act as a partner during the development and implementation of the product and provide training for County users. The product will feature the ability to search a grants-opportunity database for specific funding needs, access applications, track requirements and deadlines, assign roles and accountabilities, configure workflows, house documentation, and more that will contribute to the creation and maintenance of a standardized grants policy/process within the County.

Use of Evidence: The County Department of Management and Budget believes streamlining the grant process for all departments will create efficiency in managing grants and effectiveness in finding and applying for new funding opportunities.

The amount of grant funding provided to the County increased significantly as a result of the pandemic. This caused an increase in tracking and managing required of the County to remain in compliance with grantors and effectively use funding. Internally, having a single platform that houses all grants-related materials allows for easy access for reporting requirements and as a historical repository that becomes even more beneficial during times of employee turnover.

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Performance Report:

Output: The implementation of a Grants Management System will help ensure that Albany County remains in compliance with grantors preventing loss of funding and future funding opportunities. The grants opportunity tool will allow departments to find more funding opportunities and potentially increase their program offerings, which will directly benefit County residents, both from a local tax-payer perspective and from a services perspective. The number of grant applications tracked by the system may be measured.

Outcome: The project is not yet far enough along to assess performance.



14. PUBLIC HEALTH DATA ANALYTICS - SOFTWARE

Project Identification Number (Legislative Resolution Number): 23-661

Project Expenditure Category: 3 – Public Health – Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity

Project Sub-Category: 3.4 – Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Budgeted or Obligated Funding: \$52,096

Funds Spent to Date: \$-0- (As of July 16, 2024)

Project Overview: The Albany County Department of Health will utilize funding to acquire SAS software and for the maintenance of such software for two (2) years. Through SAS, robust health data analyses, risk factor identification, and future trend predictions will be achieved, aligning with state-wide public health strategies. SAS provides advanced data analysis needs at the Albany County Department of Health. ArcGIS license (n=1) for three (3) years will enable effective visualization and analysis of geographic environmental health data, pinpoint disease hotspots, guide public health interventions, and ensure strategic resource allocation.

Use of Evidence: The COVID-19 pandemic exposed restrictions to Albany County's capacity for the timely integration (and mapping) of surveillance information and varied mega-data sets for public health response including, but not limited to coordinating COVID-19 vaccine resources and deploying opioid response resources. Mapping health trends across the county facilitates precise, data-driven strategies to address prevailing and future public health challenges. Digital X-ray sensors and a Digital X-ray software will enhance the prompt diagnosis and treatment of dental caries in children.

Performance Report:

Output: Specific metrics to measure project impact include but are not limited to: number of New York State Department of Health datasets acquired; number of preventive services directed to medically underserved areas pursuant to improved analytics; usage of public health dashboard(s); number of digital x-rays provided (cost savings re. film, solution); timely referrals to dental specialist.

Outcome: The project is not yet far enough along to assess performance.



15. DIABETES PREVENTION

Project Identification Number (Legislative Resolution Number): 23-662

Project Expenditure Category: 3 – Public Health – Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity

Project Sub-Category: 3.4 – Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Budgeted or Obligated Funding: \$26,000

Funds Spent to Date: \$-0- (As of July 16, 2024)

Project Overview: The Albany County Department of Health will utilize funding to build National Diabetes Prevention Program (NDPP) capacity for Albany County community residents at risk for diabetes and experiencing the adverse effects of social determinants of health (including, but not limited to: increase public awareness about prediabetes, increase clinical screening, testing, and referral to evidence-based lifestyle change programs; increase availability of and enrollment in evidence-based lifestyle change program i.e. NDPP).

Use of Evidence: Persons with chronic disease (including prediabetes and diabetes) are at higher risk for COVID-19 related hospitalization and mortality. It is projected that 33.9% (85,121) of Albany County adults have prediabetes. The COVID-19 pandemic period witnessed the exit of two significant Capital District NDPP providers and social distancing restrictions limited the provision of NDPP classes to a virtual format, thereby reducing NDPP enrollment / participation by eligible Albany County residents. NDPP is proven to prevent or delay type 2 diabetes. Participants who lost 5-7% of their body weight and added 150 minutes of exercise per week cut their risk of developing type 2 diabetes by up to 58% (71% for people over 60 years old).

Performance Report:

Output: Specific metrics to measure project impact include, but are not limited to: NDPP enrollment, participant completion rate; attainment of 5% weight loss, increase in number of NDPP providers achieving Diabetes Prevention Recognition Program Registry status and eligibility for Medicaid / Medicare reimbursement.

Outcome: The project is not yet far enough along to assess performance.



16. PORTABLE ICS STATIONS

Project Identification Number (Legislative Resolution Number): 23-663

Project Expenditure Category: 3 – Public Health – Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity

Project Sub-Category: 3.4 – Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Budgeted or Obligated Funding: \$99,000

Funds Spent to Date: \$-0- (As of July 16, 2024)

Project Overview: The Albany County Department of Health will utilize funding to acquire:

- (1) Portable ICS stations to have at each POD site to increase efficiency with POD set up (i.e. reduce POD set up time) and ensure needed supplies are at each site.
- (2) Portable generators for pop up POD sites / ICS command to ensure backup power at indoor sites and/or power at remote sites.
- (3) Portable heaters for pop up POD sites to ensure safe working conditions at pop-up outdoor locations set up to increase accessibility to countermeasures for residents disproportionately affected by public health hazards.

Use of Evidence: COVID-19 POD sites are predominately in public buildings or fields that require ad-hoc spaces for ICS command centers. Centralized ICS Command Centers complete with the needed supplies and communication tools are needed to provide timely guidance to support response efforts. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated equity challenges that required ACDOH to stand up 400+ community PODs to increase accessibility for those with access and functional needs. To increase accessibility to populations disproportionately affected by public hazards, ACDOH stood up POD operations during off hours and in community spaces that are accessible to these populations. Many of these targeted PODs took place at outdoor pop-up sites. Portable heaters and generators will help ensure workable conditions to support the operation.

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Performance Report:

Output: The ICS Command station allows staff to stock the stations with needed supplies well in advance of a public health emergency response; facilitates organization of needed items; promotes clear communication by ensuring the necessary equipment to support communication between ICS leaders, planning section lead, and POD managers is on-site. Increase accessibility to populations disproportionately affected by public hazards requires standing up POD operations during off hours and in community spaces that are accessible to these populations. Portable heaters and generators will help ensure workable conditions to support POD operations that are set up in alternative sites to reach those disproportionately affected by a public health hazard.

Outcome: The project is not yet far enough along to assess performance.



17. ADVANCED CAMERA SYSTEM - STORMWATER

Project Identification Number (Legislative Resolution Number): 23-664

Project Expenditure Category: 3 – Public Health – Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity

Project Sub-Category: 3.4 – Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Budgeted or Obligated Funding: \$99,000

Funds Spent to Date: \$99,000 (As of July 16, 2024)

Project Overview: The acquisition of an advanced camera system designed for remote inspection of stormwater infrastructure throughout the County. The Envirosight Rover X camera system is equipped with a retractable tether and remote-control capabilities and is specially designed for inspecting pipes as small as 6 inches in diameter. It offers a comprehensive range of features, including 360-degree rotation, zoom functionality for detailed joint inspections, video recording, wall defect measurement, obstruction detection, bend assessment, branch angle examination, flow level measurement and slope evaluation. The introduction of this camera system has the potential to revolutionize our stormwater infrastructure inspections. It not only enhances the accuracy and comprehensiveness of our assessments but also addresses critical safety and cost concerns.

Use of Evidence: The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the urgency of operating with maximum efficiency. The Rover X camera system offers a valuable solution, as it allows the County to enhance planning and budgeting for closed system culvert maintenance. This tool plays a critical role in keeping our closed drainage systems in optimal working condition, which in turn, safeguards against flooding and sinkholes - two factors that could otherwise lead to road closures. In addition, by eliminating the need for workers to enter confined spaces or engage in invasive cutting of roadways to explore stormwater pipe issues, it ensures a safer and more efficient inspection process.

Performance Report:

Output: Rover usage and the number of inspections completed may be measured.

Outcome: The project is not yet far enough along to assess performance.



18. DIGITAL DISCOVERY EQUIPMENT

Project Identification Number (Legislative Resolution Number): 23-665

Project Expenditure Category: 3 – Public Health – Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity

Project Sub-Category: 3.4 – Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Budgeted or Obligated Funding: \$6,520

Funds Spent to Date: \$1,027.95 (As of July 16, 2024)

Project Overview: The acquisition of digital discovery analysis software/hardware and Video Conferencing Hardware by the Albany County Public Defender's Office.

Use of Evidence: *Digital Discovery Analysis Software/Hardware Investment.* During and continuing after the COVID-19 pandemic, the ability of the Public Defender's Office to fill vacant staff positions led to understaffing issues and, therefore, a need for each attorney, investigator, and other staff member to perform their duties as efficiently as possible. An investment in digital discovery video and audio analysis software, and the computer hardware needed to run the software, will enable our investigators and attorneys to more efficiently analyze the continually growing volume of digital discovery evidence associated with our clients' cases.

Video Conferencing Hardware Investment. With the decrease in traditional face-to-face, in-person meetings during and continuing after the COVID-19 pandemic, the need to easily set up and conduct high quality virtual meetings with the Public Defender's Office's clients and other players related to our cases has become essential. An investment in video conferencing hardware will enable the Office's attorneys, investigators, caseworkers and other staff to more efficiently conduct high quality virtual meetings.

Performance Report:

Output: Software/hardware usage and related cases may be measured.

Outcome: The project is not yet far enough along to assess performance.



19. DIGITIZATION HUMAN RESOURCES

Project Identification Number (Legislative Resolution Number): 23-666

Project Expenditure Category: 3 – Public Health – Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity

Project Sub-Category: 3.4 – Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Budgeted or Obligated Funding: \$97,000

Funds Spent to Date: \$-0- (As of July 16, 2024)

Project Overview: To assist with the transition of the Albany County Department of Human Resources paper files to an all digital platform.

Use of Evidence: During the COVID-19 pandemic, the need for employees to remotely access files became necessary and the County, like many organizations, was unprepared for its workforce to not be physically present in the office.

Performance Report:

Output: The digitization of employee files will allow for greater efficiency for the Human Resources Team. It will allow for remote access to the files to make necessary adjustments in benefits, and retirement files. This will aid payroll as well as vendors who work in and for the County. This project will also be incorporated into the new Pay Comm system. This project will indirectly benefit County residents as the employees in Human Resources will be able to focus on hiring and recruiting and not on manually searching and filing paper documents. The metric to study this will be seen by the increased County hiring events and job fairs that staff can now focus on. In addition, the number of transitioned files may be measured.

Outcome: The project is not yet far enough along to assess performance.



20. APPLE IPADS AUDITION (HUMAN RESOURCES)

Project Identification Number (Legislative Resolution Number): 23-667

Project Expenditure Category: 3 – Public Health – Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity

Project Sub-Category: 3.4 – Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Budgeted or Obligated Funding: \$33,500

Funds Spent to Date: \$-0- (As of July 16, 2024)

Project Overview: The acquisition of iPads and digitalization process in connection with employee onboarding for the Albany County Department of Human Resources.

Use of Evidence: During the COVID-19 shutdown, it became evident that the need to modernize traditional paper-related processes, such as PEO, were essential to day-to-day operations, not only for the Department of Human Resources, but County-wide. The purchase of iPads will continue this upward trajectory as Albany County's Department of Human Resources is responsible for onboarding all new hires for more than 30 departments and divisions.

Performance Report:

Output: This project will allow the Department of Human Resources to develop a more streamlined, efficient onboarding process for new employees. It will create a more secure platform for storing employees' sensitive data and will minimize the use of outdated practices, such as the printing, filing and storing of documents. While this will not directly benefit County residents, it will impact those who join County service.

Outcome: The project is not yet far enough along to assess performance.



21. CAREER CONNECTOR PROGRAM

Project Identification Number (Legislative Resolution Number): 23-668

Project Expenditure Category: 3 – Public Health – Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity

Project Sub-Category: 3.4 – Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Budgeted or Obligated Funding: \$20,000

Funds Spent to Date: \$-0- (as of July 16, 2024)

Project Overview: Albany County's Department of Human Resources continues to seek new ways to engage prospective employees, as the workforce shortage crisis continues. Of its more than 30 departments and divisions, almost all are experiencing issues recruiting new hires. The Department of Human Resources is developing a "Career Connector" program and is in need of four (4) kiosks, which would allow job seekers to search for open positions within the County.

Use of Evidence: Like many private and public organizations, Albany County is dealing with the post-pandemic workforce shortage. Developing an on-site and portable resource for job seekers creates an easy to navigate platform that they can peruse at their own pace, while giving them a broader sense of opportunities available with Albany County. The kiosks are a more modern approach to connecting with potential employees.

Performance Report:

Output: This project will allow the Department of Human Resources to develop a more robust recruitment program. New hires and vacant positioned may be measured.

Outcome: The project is not yet far enough along to assess performance.



22. AED ACQUISITION

Project Identification Number (Legislative Resolution Number): 23-669

Project Expenditure Category: 3 – Public Health – Negative Economic

Impact: Public Sector Capacity

Project Sub-Category: 3.5 – Public Sector Capacity: Administrative Needs

Budgeted or Obligated Funding: \$52,000

Funds Spent to Date: \$34,327.99 (As of July 16, 2024)

Project Overview: The Albany County Department of Human Resources will purchase 15 (fifteen) automated external defibrillators and 3 training units, (Physio Control CR2) to replace old and outdated equipment. These devices will be placed at various facilities in the County and will ensure that all AED units are the same for ease in training and employee use.

Use of Evidence: AEDs greatly increase the chance of survival in the event of sudden cardiac arrest. By placing more of these devices in County facilities the County is serving the best interests of their employees as well as the public who utilize these facilities every day.

As a result of COVID-19 a greater awareness was placed on personal physical health. Additionally, a greater awareness of those identified with compromised immune systems and additional risk factors which pose a greater risk to medical disease was identified. These greater risk groups are exposed regularly to a greater chance of medical and cardiac related events. The awareness to these groups being identified was a positive outcome of COVID 19 in that now that awareness is done, the County can work to provide the best possible resources in the event of a medical emergency.

Performance Report:

Output: The current AEDs in some County locations are greater than 7 years old and are becoming obsolete technology. By purchasing the same devices as the rest of the County it will allow for a more streamlined approach to training, as well as cut costs moving forward. The cost cutting in the future will be accomplished by only needing to maintain one stock of replacement equipment and parts. The cost of purchasing training devices will also decrease as all equipment will be uniform.

Outcome: The project is not yet far enough along to assess performance.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

ALBANY COUNTY



2024 RECOVERY PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT

PROJECT INVENTORY

23. AUTOMATED CLEARING HOUSE SYSTEM

Project Identification Number (Legislative Resolution Number): 23-670

Project Expenditure Category: 3 – Public Health – Negative Economic

Impact: Public Sector Capacity

Project Sub-Category: 3.4 – Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Budgeted or Obligated Funding: \$100,000

Funds Spent to Date: \$-0- (As of July 16, 2024)

Project Overview: Albany County has utilized paper checks throughout its history to reimburse vendors for good and services provided to the county. Automated Clearing House (ACH) payments are an alternative payment method. If feasible, implementation of payment by ACH may; reduce costs for check stock and ink, improve relationships with vendors as more efficient and timely payments are issued to them, reduce the risk of fraud and associated costs to detect and prevent fraud, and improve efficiency of reconciliation processes. Challenges to implementation exist. Albany County has over its fifty-year history developed processes across multiple departments centered around paper check processing. Additionally, obtaining complete acceptance of ACH payments by vendors has proven challenging to other organizations. The feasibility study would utilize the experience and expertise of a consultant to determine whether conversion to ACH payments for vendors is feasible for Albany County. If implementation were advisable, this portion of this project would take place beginning in Q4 of 2024 through Q2 of 2025.

Use of Evidence: During the COVID-19 pandemic a large portion of county employees worked from home for at least some percentage of the regular work week. Accordingly, an automated payment process would be highly beneficial to Albany County if another set of circumstances limited the ability of county employees to report to their offices daily. Additionally, employees in the labor market may demand in coming years for greater work flexibility, inclusive of greater opportunities to work from home. Albany County developing the infrastructure to respond to national crises and/or changes in the labor market will prove beneficial to the county.

Performance Report:

Output: If an ACH system is ultimately implemented, the number of ACH payments may be measured.

Outcome: The project is not yet far enough along to assess performance.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

ALBANY COUNTY



2024 RECOVERY PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT

24. TECHNOLOGICAL UPGRADES (AUDIT AND CONTROL)

Project Identification Number (Legislative Resolution Number): 23-671

Project Expenditure Category: 3 – Public Health – Negative Economic
Impact: Public Sector Capacity

Project Sub-Category: 3.4 – Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service
Delivery

Budgeted or Obligated Funding: \$5,000

Funds Spent to Date: \$2,86.61 (As of July 16, 2024)

Project Overview: Various information technology upgrades for the
Albany County Department of Audit and Control.

Use of Evidence: The use of obscure and outdated technology causes
issues with efficiency and creates risk that internal controls such as
segregation of duties cannot be performed appropriately. These issues
were exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic as a result of
difficulties recruiting and retaining staff.

Performance Report:

Output: This project benefits residents in creating a greater efficiency
in the regular functions and operations of the Comptroller's Office. The
continued use of obsolete technology restricts accounting staff from
reaching maximum productivity. Updated technology will significantly
reduce risks related to data security and data integrity.

Outcome: The project is not yet far enough along to assess
performance.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

ALBANY COUNTY



2024 RECOVERY PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT

PROJECT INVENTORY

25. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM (AGGREGATE)

Project Identification Number (Legislative Resolution Numbers): 23-91:104

Number of External Awards: 15

Project Expenditure Category: 2 – Negative Economic Impacts

Project Sub-Category: 2.10 – Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers (e.g. job training, subsidized employment, employment supports or incentives)

Budgeted or Obligated Funding: \$2,201,500

Funds Spent to Date: \$-0- (As of July 16, 2024)

Project Overview: A grant program focusing on awards to external organizations that will expand access to workforce development opportunities in the County. Funding is being provided to workforce development/training providers to create or expand workforce development programs that enhance the skills, employability, or earning potential of unemployed or underemployed County residents.

Use of Evidence: Albany County households and businesses face ongoing economic challenges associated with job loss, increased childcare costs, and cost of living increases due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Workforce Development Program will help the unemployed population of Albany County find much needed job assistance and training in order to re-enter the workforce

Performance Report:

Output: As required by U.S. Treasury's Compliance and Reporting Guidance, the following performance metrics will be reported upon program implementation in the quarterly Project and Expenditure Reports for projects under Expenditure Category 2.10 Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers:

- Number of workers enrolled in sectoral job training programs
- Number of workers completing sectoral job training programs
- Number of people participating in summer youth employment programs
- Number of people employed post training

Outcome: Projects relating to this grant program are not yet far enough along to assess performance.



26. VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

Project Identification Number (Legislative Resolution Number): 24-147

Project Expenditure Category: 3 – Public Health – Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity

Project Sub-Category: 3.4 – Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Budgeted or Obligated Funding: \$168,666

Funds Spent to Date: \$168,666.30 (As of July 16, 2024)

Project Overview: The project will replace various video servers located in various facilities around the County. These upgrades will improve the reliability and retention times of video for the County.

Use of Evidence: The Department of Information Services believes the video surveillance infrastructure, which manages that data storage and operations for the cameras located in and around Albany County properties, is obsolete and requires upgrade.

Performance Report:

Output: The upgrade of the video infrastructure will allow of a more reliable environment offering longer video retention times. This will indirectly benefit the public by providing a more robust infrastructure that allows for longer data retention times should a safety or other situation arise in county facilities and on county property.

Outcome: The project is not yet far enough along to assess performance.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

ALBANY COUNTY



2024 RECOVERY PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT

PROJECT INVENTORY

27. SOUTH END GROCERY

Project Identification Number (Legislative Resolution Number): 24-148

Project Expenditure Category: 2 – Negative Economic Impacts

Project Sub-Category: 2.23 – Strong Healthy Communities: Demolition and Rehabilitation of Properties

Budgeted or Obligated Funding: \$450,000

Funds Spent to Date: \$-0- (As of July 16, 2024)

Project Overview: The Advance Albany County Alliance will utilize such funds to acquire property located at 106 S. Pearl Street from AACC Holdings, through a deed-in-lieu of foreclosure transaction. The Alliance intends to secure the building in an effort to reduce any further deterioration and keep the grounds clean, safe, and secure. The Alliance intends to work with the local community to determine a suitable short-term and long-term use that will benefit the residents of Albany's south end, and the County as a whole.

Use of Evidence: The grocery store experienced problems from inception, many of which can be tied to the COVID-19 pandemic including supply chain issues and inflation. The issues created an inability to identify an appropriate store operator, the repayment of the mortgages to the lenders, the lack of working capital and continuous negative public relations and media coverage.

Performance Report:

Output: Projected/actual construction start date and key project milestones may be measured.

Outcome: The project is not yet far enough along to assess performance.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

ALBANY COUNTY



2024 RECOVERY PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT

PROJECT INVENTORY

28. ADVANCE ALBANY COUNTY ALLIANCE

Project Identification Number (Legislative Resolution Number): 24-146

Project Expenditure Category: 2 – Negative Economic Impacts

Project Sub-Category: 2.37 Economic Impact Assistance: Other

Budgeted or Obligated Funding: \$600,000

Funds Spent to Date: \$-0- (As of July 16, 2024)

Project Overview: With the economic fallout from the pandemic still lingering, these funds will be provided to the Advance Albany County Alliance to enable the organization in its efforts to ramp up its efforts in revitalizing local businesses, supporting entrepreneurs and stimulating growth sectors, thereby accelerating county's economic recovery.

Use of Evidence: The COVID-19 pandemic has severely harmed local economy in the County. The goal of this program is to aid in the County's economic recovery, community empowerment, and long-term resilience.

Performance Report:

Output: Programs and projects of the Alliance may be measured.

Outcome: The project is not yet far enough along to assess performance.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

ALBANY COUNTY



2024 RECOVERY PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT

PROJECT INVENTORY

29. SWITZKILL FARM

Project Identification Number (Legislative Resolution Number): 23-594

Project Expenditure Category: 2 – Negative Economic Impacts

Project Sub-Category: 2.23 (Strong Healthy Communities: Demolition and Rehabilitation of Properties)

Budgeted or Obligated Funding: \$250,000

Funds Spent to Date: \$-0- (As of July 16, 2024)

Project Overview: The County will utilize such funds to acquire the Switzkill Farm property from the Town of Berne and to pay costs associated with the initial stabilization of the property.

Use of Evidence: The condition of Switzkill property deteriorated starting in 2020, which coincides with and appears to have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since this time, a building on the property has even collapsed. “In recognition of the disproportionate negative economic impacts on certain communities and populations, the 2022 final rule includes enumerated eligible uses in disproportionately impacted communities for developing neighborhood features that promote improved health and safety outcomes, such as parks, green spaces, recreational facilities, sidewalks, pedestrian safety features like crosswalks, projects that increase access to healthy foods, streetlights, neighborhood cleanup, and other projects to revitalize public spaces.”

Performance Report:

Output: The purchase date and key project milestones may be measured.

Outcome: The project is not yet far enough along to assess performance.



30. MOVE YOUR WAY

Project Identification Number (Legislative Resolution Number): 24-449

Project Expenditure Category: 1 - Public Health

Project Sub-Category: 1.14 Other Public Health Services

Budgeted or Obligated Funding: \$120,000

Funds Spent to Date: \$-0- (As of July 16, 2024)

Project Overview: The Albany County Department of Health will Conduct a high visibility community-wide campaign (Move Your Way) to increase physical activity and improve physical fitness including, but not limited to, earned and paid messaging; individually focused efforts such as support and self-help groups; physical activity counseling; risk factor screening and education at worksites, schools, and community health fairs; environmental activities such as community events; and the enhancement of resources (e.g. walking trails).

Use of Evidence: Persons with chronic disease (e.g. prediabetes, diabetes, cardiovascular disease) are at higher risk for COVID-19 related hospitalization and mortality. NYSDOH identifies that support of physical activity is a strategy to reduce obesity and the risk of chronic disease. Based on Area Deprivation Index (<https://www.neighborhoodatlas.medicine.wisc.edu/>), the New York State Department of Health has identified the following priority Albany County communities as eligible to benefit from assessments to improve community-built environments and promote physical activity: City of Albany, City of Cohoes, Town of Rensselaerville and City of Watervliet.

Performance Report:

Output: Specific metrics to measure project impact include but are not limited to: number of persons engaged / reached with messaging; built environment enhancements; community events; focus group findings; and return on investment projection(s).

Outcome: The project is not yet far enough along to assess performance.



31. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: AFFORDABLE HOUSING/ HOUSING SUPPORT (AGGREGATE)

Project Identification Number (Legislative Resolution Numbers):
Various

Number of External Awards: 7

Project Expenditure Category: 2 – Negative Economic Impacts

Project Sub-Category: 2.15 - Long-term Housing Security: Affordable Housing

Budgeted or Obligated Funding: \$1,800,000

Funds Spent to Date: \$-0-

Project Overview: A Community Development grant program focusing specifically on affordable housing and housing support projects. Key areas of include:

- Affordable housing development,
- Emergency housing assistance,
- Counseling and legal aid to prevent eviction and homelessness,
- Emergency programs or services for homeless individuals,
- Building improvements, and
- Prevention programs

Use of Evidence: Housing stability has been significantly exacerbated by the COVID-19 Pandemic. In the Final Rule, the Treasury has listed housing stability as an enumerated use.

Performance Report:

Output: As required by U.S. Treasury's Compliance and Reporting Guidance, the following performance metrics will be reported upon program implementation in the quarterly Project and Expenditure Reports for projects under Expenditure Category 2.15 Long-term Housing Security: Affordable Housing:

- Number of households receiving eviction prevention services
- Number of workers completing sectoral job training programs
- Number of affordable housing units preserved or developed

Outcome: Projects relating to this grant program are not yet far enough along to assess performance.



32. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE ABUSE, TELEHEALTH (AGGREGATE)

Project Identification Number (Legislative Resolution Numbers):
Various

Number of External Awards: 6

Project Expenditure Category: 1 - Public Health

Project Sub-Category: 1.12 - Mental Health Services

Budgeted or Obligated Funding: \$1,600,000

Funds Spent to Date: \$-0-

Project Overview: A Community Development grant program focusing specifically on behavioral health, substance abuse, telehealth projects. Key areas of include:

- Prevention, outpatient treatment, inpatient treatment, crisis care, diversion programs, outreach to individuals not yet engaged in treatment, harm reduction and long-term recovery support,
- Enhanced behavioral health services in schools,
- Support for equitable access to reduce disparities in access to quality treatment, and
- Expansion of access to evidence-based services for opioid use disorder prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery

Use of Evidence: Behavioral/mental health and substance abuse has been significantly exacerbated by the COVID-19 Pandemic. In the Final Rule, the Treasury has enumerated such uses.

Performance Report:

Output: The number of individuals receiving mental health and substance abuse related services may be measured.

Outcome: Projects relating to this grant program are not yet far enough along to assess performance.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

ALBANY COUNTY



2024 RECOVERY PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT

33. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: FOOD ACCESS (AGGREGATE)

Project Identification Number (Legislative Resolution Numbers):
Various

Number of External Awards: 6

Project Expenditure Category: 2 – Negative Economic Impacts

Project Sub-Category: 2.1 - Household Assistance: Food Programs

Budgeted or Obligated Funding: \$1,300,000

Funds Spent to Date: \$-0-

Project Overview: A Community Development grant program focusing specifically on food access projects. Key areas of include:

- Addressing food insecurity,
- Promoting access to healthy foods,
- Education and outreach,
- Addressing food deserts, and
- Establishing child nutritional programs

Use of Evidence: Food insecurity has been significantly exacerbated by the COVID-19 Pandemic. In the Final Rule, the Treasury has enumerated such uses.

Performance Report:

Output: The number of households and/or individuals served may be measured.

Outcome: Projects relating to this grant program are not yet far enough along to assess performance.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

ALBANY COUNTY



2024 RECOVERY PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT

PROJECT INVENTORY

34. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO VIOLENCE (AGGREGATE)

Project Identification Number (Legislative Resolution Numbers):
Various

Number of External Awards: 4

Project Expenditure Category: 1 - Public Health

Project Sub-Category: 1.11 - Community Violence Interventions

Budgeted or Obligated Funding: \$800,000

Funds Spent to Date: \$-0-

Project Overview: A Community Development grant program focusing specifically on preventing and responding to violence.

Use of Evidence: Violence and crime has been significantly exacerbated by the COVID-19 Pandemic. In the Final Rule, the Treasury has enumerated such uses.

Performance Report:

Output: Various forms of crime rates throughout the County may be measured.

Outcome: Projects relating to this grant program are not yet far enough along to assess performance.



35. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: RECREATION AND OUTDOOR INFRASTRUCTURE (AGGREGATE)

Project Identification Number (Legislative Resolution Numbers):
Various

Number of External Awards: 8

Project Expenditure Category: 2 – Negative Economic Impacts

Project Sub-Category: 2.22 - Strong Healthy Communities:
Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

Budgeted or Obligated Funding: \$1,300,000

Funds Spent to Date: \$-0-

Project Overview: A Community Development grant program focusing specifically on recreation and outdoor related projects. Key areas of include:

- Preservation and public utilization of open space,
- Recreation and sports facilities,
- Heritage and agritourism facilities and programs,
- Trails and nature education facilities, and
- Community forestry/garden initiatives
- Use of Evidence: As the transmission of COVID-19 is lower in outdoor spaces, keeping options available for residents to utilize outdoor spaces is essential.

Performance Report:

Output: The number of recreation or outdoor related projects may be measured.

Outcome: Projects relating to this grant program are not yet far enough along to assess performance.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

ALBANY COUNTY



2024 RECOVERY PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT

36. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: FOOD ACCESS (AGGREGATE)

Project Identification Number (Legislative Resolution Numbers):

Various

Number of External Awards: 2

Project Expenditure Category: 2 – Negative Economic Impacts

2.37 - Economic Impact Assistance: Other

Budgeted or Obligated Funding: \$400,000

Funds Spent to Date: \$-0-

Project Overview: A Community Development grant program focusing specifically on food the needs of seniors.

Use of Evidence: Senior residents of the County, in excess of 55 years of age, have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Among other things, this population has experienced food insecurity, mental and behavioral stressors and they often have a more difficult time accessing various forms of support.

Performance Report:

Output: The number of households and/or individuals served may be measured.

Outcome: Projects relating to this grant program are not yet far enough along to assess performance.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

ALBANY COUNTY



2024 RECOVERY PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORT

37. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: YOUTH SERVICES (AGGREGATE)

Project Identification Number (Legislative Resolution Numbers):

Various

Number of External Awards: 7

Project Expenditure Category: 2 – Negative Economic Impacts

Project Sub-Category: 2.37 - Economic Impact Assistance: Other

Budgeted or Obligated Funding: \$700,000

Funds Spent to Date: \$-0-

Project Overview: A Community Development grant program focusing specifically on youth related projects.

Use of Evidence: U.S. Treasury guidance does not require reporting on the amount of funding dedicated to evidence based interventions for projects within this Expenditure Category.

Performance Report:

Output: The number of youths and/or individuals served may be measured.

Outcome: Projects relating to this grant program are not yet far enough along to assess performance.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

ALBANY COUNTY

2024 RECOVERY PLAN
PERFORMANCE REPORT



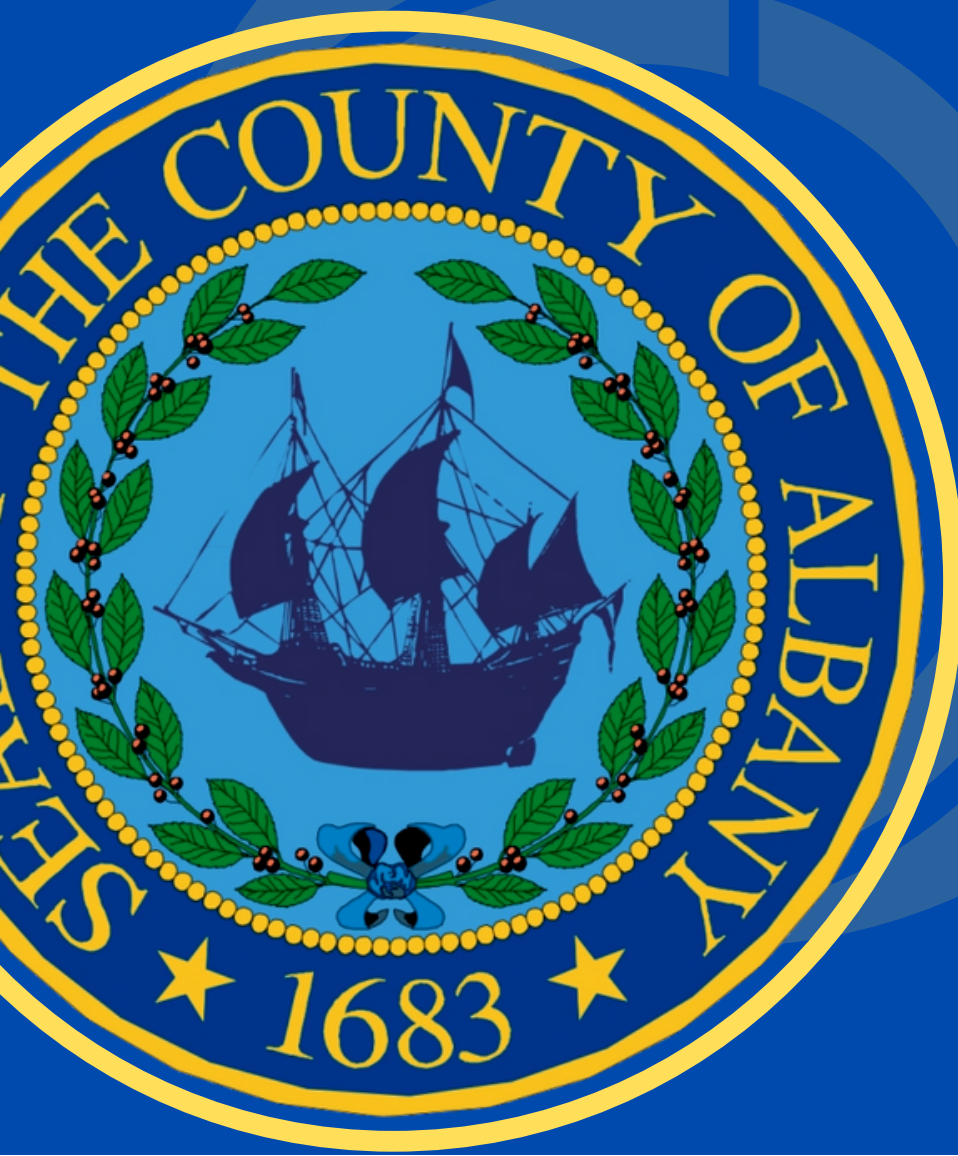
APPENDIX A

Albany County American Rescue Plan Act Investment Plan (As of March 2023)

In March 2023, the County publicly released its first draft of the ARPA Investment Plan. The Investment Plan is a living document and will continue to evolve as the County engages stakeholders and monitors additional Federal actions and other funding sources that could shift the demands on its ARPA funding. It is being used to help direct funds toward continuing the County's recovery from the negative impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and economic shutdown.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

INVESTMENT PLAN



March
2023

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

ALBANY COUNTY

Harold L. Joyce Albany County Office Building
112 State Street Albany, NY 12207
(518) 447-7000
<https://www.albanycounty.com/>
<https://albanycountyarpa.org>

HOW TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON THE ARPA INVESTMENT PLAN

1 Participate in a brief [NEW](#) ARPA Investment Plan Survey



OR VISIT:

<https://albanycountyarpa.org/newsurvey/>

2 Create and share your own ARPA budget



OR VISIT:

<https://albanycountyarpa.org/createbudget>

3 Attend a public meeting

Hybrid Public Meeting Date 1

Date: March 21, 2023

Time: 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM

Where: Cahill Room

Harold L. Joyce Albany County Office Building
112 State Street
Albany NY 12207

Virtual: Details for virtual attendance will be made available on the County's ARPA Portal:
<https://albanycountyarpa.org>

Hybrid Public Meeting Date 2

Date: March 27, 2023

Time: 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM

Where: Cahill Room

Harold L. Joyce Albany County Office Building
112 State Street
Albany NY 12207

Virtual: Details for virtual attendance will be made available on the County's ARPA Portal:
<https://albanycountyarpa.org>



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Executive Committee Message

Thank you for taking the time to review and provide feedback on Albany County's Strategic Investment Plan for our second tranche of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) recovery funds. The last three years have been an unprecedented challenge for our County, but we are proud to say that our community met that challenge head-on. Albany County is committed to utilizing our ARPA funds in a fair and impactful manner to address the lingering impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and position our County on a path toward health, equity and prosperity. We were all impacted by COVID-19 in different ways, and your feedback is vitally important to our process.

This Strategic Investment Plan outlines the 'rules of the road' set by the Treasury Department, explains the County's process, establishes a timeline for next steps, and provides information on how we propose to invest these funds into our County and community. As you will see in the summary pages below, the \$29.4 million in ARPA funds that are the focus of this plan are divided into three categories: Economic Recovery and Growth; Community Development and Public Health; and County Infrastructure and Workforce. In the coming months, we will be soliciting applications for funding in each of these categories, and it is our hope that these funds will serve as a catalyst to encourage further investment in our community.



THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021

The \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (“ARPA”) signed into law on March 11, 2021, provides \$350 billion in emergency funding for state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to help mitigate the long-term effects of the Pandemic and to remedy the disparity between rising costs and falling revenues.

Albany County received \$59.3 million in two equal tranches, creating a historic opportunity to achieve fiscally responsible yet transformational objectives that will shape the County’s recovery and future.

ELIGIBLE USES OF ARPA FUNDS

The American Rescue Plan Act provides significant resources for the County to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency and the resulting economic impact through programs and services that fall within several categories of eligible uses:



Support Public Health Response

Fund COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health and safety staff



Replace Public Sector Revenue Loss

Use funds to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic



Water and Sewer Infrastructure

Make necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water and invest in wastewater and stormwater infrastructure



Address Negative Economic Impacts

Respond to economic harms to workers, families, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector



Premium Pay for Essential Workers

Offer additional support to those who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors



Broadband Infrastructure

Make necessary investments to provide unserved or underserved locations with new or expanded broadband access



Within these primary categories, governments have some level of flexibility to determine how best to use the stimulus funds to meet the specific needs of their communities and populations. ARPA also allows for broad flexibility in the use of funds for programs and services that target the hardest-hit communities and families or those provided within Qualified Census Tracts and other disproportionately impacted areas.

SPENDING REQUIREMENTS

ARPA funds must be obligated no later than December 31, 2024, and fully expended by December 31, 2026.



Obligated By:

no later than December 31, 2024



Fully Expended:

no later than December 31, 2026

Funds that are not fully spent by December 31, 2026 are required to be returned to the U.S. Treasury.



STRATEGIC RECOVERY & RESILIENCY INVESTMENT PLAN

It is in the best interest of the County to identify best practices and procedures, and to identify a strategic plan for ensuring that the County, including its residents, businesses and stakeholders realize the maximum relief and benefits available as a result of ARPA aid.

This Investment Plan is a living document and will continue to evolve as the County engages stakeholders and monitors additional Federal actions and other possible funding sources that could shift the demands on its ARPA funding.

KEY GOALS

In order to best address the needs of the County, we must reflect upon what we learned from COVID-19. As we have navigated our way through this pandemic, we have:

- 1 Reimagined our operations and workforce;
- 2 Developed a better understanding of the health disparities in our communities and the need to address them;
- 3 Seen the progression of growth industries, the introduction of clean, green energy sources, and the necessity in fostering development of their technology and infrastructure;
- 4 Made a commitment to economic development and are cognizant of the fact that the strategic location of some projects can be the catalyst to strengthen communities;
- 5 Developed a deeper understanding that partnerships with governments, community organizations, and businesses are essential to achieving sustainable change;
- 6 Recognized the importance of the intersection of health, mental health and recreation for our youth and for the public as a whole, and the need to break down barriers to create broader opportunities for all citizens; and
- 7 Seen the internet/broadband challenges that exist in both rural and urban areas, and the significant hindrance this has had on our students.



Moving forward, key goals in the County's recovery include support for community members and organizations that have been impacted or disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. There will be a continued effort to achieve systematic changes that will provide the most strategic and sustainable long-term benefits for the County's stakeholders, rather than investing in short-term solutions, with an overarching vision of creating a more inclusive and sustainable economy in our County.

ARPA COMMITTEES

A decision-making framework has been established to oversee the use of ARPA funds that will adhere to Treasury guidelines, combat the negative impacts of COVID-19, and set the County on a path to sustainable and inclusive economic growth. This framework includes an Executive Committee comprised of key County officials, including the County Executive, bipartisan representation from the County Legislature, the County Comptroller, and the Office of Management and Budget, as well as focused subcommittees comprised of County representatives and public stakeholders. Subcommittees have worked collaboratively to establish priority areas of investment based on member expertise and community input. Their recommendations were the basis for this Investment Plan, which we are publishing for community feedback as we prepare to release applications for funding.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

ALBANY COUNTY



COUNTY PROCESS



Funding requests, both internal and external, will be carefully evaluated to ensure prospective projects maximize the County's allocation of ARPA aid, promote the long-term fiscal health of the County and comply with U.S. Treasury guidelines and requirements.

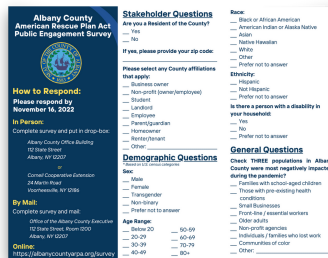


OVERVIEW

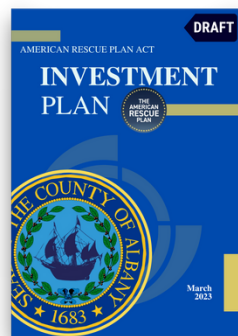
The County is committed to ensuring that our ARPA investments directly respond to the needs of County residents and that they address the inequities exposed by the pandemic. As such, the County developed a four-pronged community engagement strategy to shape its ARPA decision-making. More information will be included as we move through this process.



ARPA Website
August 2022



Stakeholder Survey
October 2022



Investment Plan Public Comment & Meetings
March 2023



Information Sessions/Office Hours*
Once Applications Start
(April - June 2023)

*More information will be available



To date, the County's public engagement efforts have fostered meaningful conversations and provided key data points which have informed the development of this investment plan.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

On October 17, 2022, the County launched a website and interactive survey for the community to provide input on needs and priorities for ARPA funding. Response highlights from the public engagement survey are provided below. For more a more comprehensive breakdown of survey responses, please visit: <https://albanycountyarpa.org>.

Response Highlights from Public Engagement Survey:

Total Responses: 1,591

Key Demographics: Below are a series of demographic highlights from the respondents:

Respondent Age: Youth and young adults ages 39 or younger accounted for 34.9% of respondents, adults between the ages of 40 to 59 accounted for 39.7%, while the remaining 25.4% were 60 or older.

Respondent Sex: Female respondents accounted for 55.4% of responses, male respondents accounted for 39.8% of responses, non-binary respondents accounted for 1.1% of responses, transgender respondents accounted for 0.6% of responses, while the remaining 3.1% of respondents indicated they preferred not to answer.

Respondent Race: Approximately 74.9% of respondents identified their race as white, 10.8% were black or African American, 9.0% preferred not to answer, 0.9% were Asian, 0.3% were Indian or Alaska Native, 0.1% were native Hawaiian and the remaining 3.9% identified their race as other.

Respondent Ethnicity: Approximately 5.1% of respondents identified their ethnicity as Hispanic, while the remaining 94.9% were either not Hispanic or preferred not to answer.



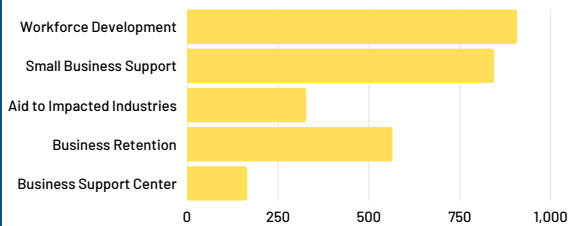
Most Impacted County Populations. When asked to identify the most negatively impacted populations in the County, the top three (3) identified populations, in order, were the:

- Front-line and/or essential workers
- Families with school-aged children
- Small businesses

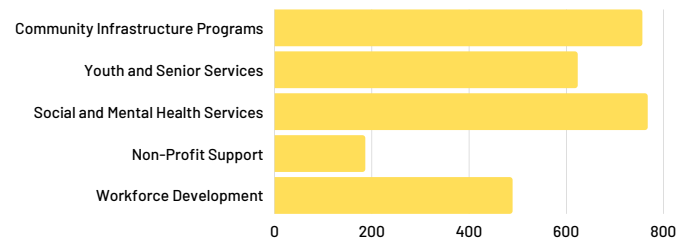
Overall Funding Priorities. When asked about the importance of eight (8) different ARPA eligible funding priorities, respondents gave the highest votes of importance to community health and wellness, homeless and housing services and public infrastructure.

Subcommittee Specific Funding Priorities: Respondents were asked to rank funding priorities specific to each of the County's four (4) ARPA subcommittees. Below is a summary of the results.

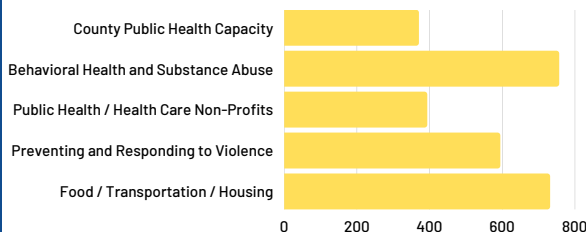
Economic Development Subcommittee



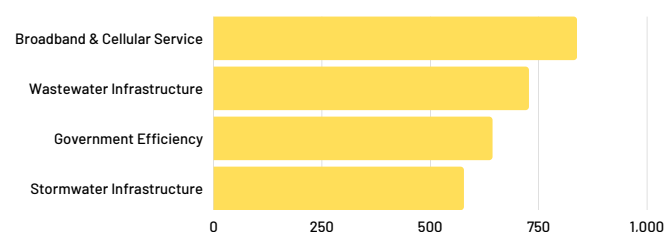
Community Development Subcommittee



Public Health Subcommittee



County Projects Subcommittee





ARPA INVESTMENT PLAN SUMMARY

Using community input and an internal review of the County's highest priorities, Albany County has developed this Strategic Investment Plan to ensure ARPA funds are used to meet the County's immediate needs as well as to provide long-term, transformative investments for tomorrow. We are seeking public comment in order to further refine this plan as we prepare to make funds available for County priorities and to the community. The following plan is broken into three funding categories: Economic Growth and Recovery; Community Development and Public Health; and County Infrastructure and Workforce. Within each category, key focus areas are ranked in current order of funding priority based on subcommittee and public input. Please consider taking our Investment Plan survey to offer feedback on the plan. (visit: <https://albanycountyarpa.org/newsurvey>)

There are three ways to provide feedback:

- 1 Complete our *NEW* Investment Plan Survey
- 2 Create a sample budget
- 3 Attend a public meeting

The following 2 pages include a summary of the County's Key Focus Areas.

For additional information on the Key Focus Areas below please refer to pages 14 to 17.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

ALBANY COUNTY



ARPA INVESTMENT PLAN SUMMARY

Strategic County Priority	Allocation	Priority Rank	Key Focus Areas	ARPA Eligibility Category
Economic Growth And Recovery	\$7.9 Million	1	Small Business Grants	Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship
		2	Workforce Development Grants	Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship
		3	On-the Job Training Funding	Technical Assistance, Counseling, or Business Planning
		4	Tourism, Arts, and Culture Grants	Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality
		5	Blighted Property Demolition/Rehabilitation Grants*	Rehabilitation of Commercial Properties or Other Improvements
		6	Commercial Property Conversion/Reinvention Program	Rehabilitation of Commercial Properties or Other Improvements
		7	County Tourism and Economic Development Capacity	Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality
Strategic County Priority	Allocation	Priority Rank	Key Focus Areas	ARPA Eligibility Category
County Infrastructure and Workforce	\$12.2 Million	1	Wastewater and Stormwater Infrastructure	Clean Water: Stormwater Water and Sewer: Other
		2	Broadband Infrastructure	Broadband: Other projects
		3	County IT Infrastructure	Public Sector Capacity: Administrative Needs
		4	County Workforce Retention/Attraction	Public Sector Workforce: Other
		5	Effective Service Delivery Investments	Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery
		6	County Public and Mental Health Initiatives	Mental Health Services
		7	Parks and Open Space Funding	Provision of Government Services

*Limited to Qualified Census Tracts

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

ALBANY COUNTY



ARPA INVESTMENT PLAN SUMMARY

Strategic County Priority	Allocation	Priority Rank	Key Focus Areas	ARPA Eligibility Category
Community Development And Public Health	\$8.8 Million	1	Behavioral Health, Substance Abuse & Telehealth Grants	Mental Health Services Substance Use Services
		2	Affordable Housing & Housing Support Grants	Long-term Housing Security: Affordable Housing
		3	Community Improvement Capital Grants	Economic Impact Assistance: Other
		4	Food Access Grants	Household Assistance: Food Programs
		5	Frontline Worker Support Program	
		6	Non-Profit Recovery Grants (Other)	Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations
		7	Preventing and Responding to Violence Grants	Community Violence Interventions
		8	Youth Services Grants	Other Public Health Services
		9	Senior Services Grants	Other Public Health Services
		10	Transportation Services Grants	Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers
Strategic County Priority	Allocation	Priority Rank	Key Focus Areas	ARPA Eligibility Category
Flex Funds	\$0,5 Million	N/A	To be allocated based on demand	To be determined



PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

March 2023	Investment Plan Public Comment and Meetings
April 2023	Economic Development Funding Application Launches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small Business Grants Workforce Development Grants Tourism, Arts, and Culture Grants Blighted Property Demolition/Rehabilitation Grants
May/June 2023	Economic Development Awards Announced
June 2023	Community Development & Public Health Application Launches <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Behavioral Health, Substance Abuse & Telehealth Grants Affordable Housing & Housing Support Grants Community Improvement Capital Grants Food Access Grants Non-Profit Recovery Grants (Other) Preventing and Responding to Violence Grants Youth Services Grants Senior Services Grants Transportation Services Grants
July/August 2023	Community Development & Public Health Application Awards



ARPA INVESTMENT PLAN DETAIL

Economic Recovery and Growth \$7.9 Million

Small Business Grants: Grants to help small businesses in the County recover and grow.

Workforce Development Grants: Grants to support development or expansion of workforce development programs in Albany County serving strategic industries including clean energy manufacturing, health care, nanotechnology, and advanced manufacturing.

On-the Job Training Fund: In partnership with the Capital Region Workforce Development Board, the County will provide additional funding to support expansion of on-the-job training and existing working training in Albany County.

Tourism, Arts, and Culture Grants: Grants to help tourism, arts, and cultural institutions recover from the impacts of COVID-19 or launch new initiatives to attract tourists to Albany County.

Blighted Property Demolition and Rehabilitation Grants: Grants to support the demolition or rehabilitation of commercial properties in qualified census tracts.

Commercial Property Demolition and Rehabilitation Grants: Grants to support the conversion of vacant or underutilized commercial office properties to other uses or to attract new out-of-County tenants to fill vacancies.

County Tourism and Economic Development Capacity: Funding for Discover Albany and the Advance Albany County Alliance to offset lost revenue, build capacity, and enhance their presence in the community in order to assist with economic recovery.



County Infrastructure and Workforce \$12.2 Million

Wastewater and Stormwater Infrastructure: Investments in County water infrastructure including wastewater, stormwater, and green infrastructure.

Broadband Infrastructure: Funding for standalone broadband expansion programs and/or funding to leverage against state and federal grant funding.

County IT Infrastructure: Funding for hardware/software needed to protect and prepare County IT infrastructure for increased stress on the system resulting from remote work, virtual meetings, telehealth, etc.

County Workforce Retention/Attraction: Funding to retain and/or attract workers to County service.

Effective Service Delivery Investments: Investments in technology, software, equipment, etc. to improve the delivery of County services.

County Public and Mental Health Initiatives: Core Public Health and Mental Health initiatives to address the impact of the pandemic, underlying conditions, and/or social determinants of health.

Parks and Open Space: Funding to improve County parks and open space to promote recreation in Albany County.



Community Development & Public Health \$8.8 Million

Behavioral Health, Substance Abuse, Telehealth Grants: Funding for programs or initiatives focused on behavioral health and/or substance abuse, including telehealth, that were exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Affordable Housing/ Housing Support Grants: Funding to address housing insecurity. Examples include increasing the supply of affordable housing, rent assistance, tiny housing, financial planning services, building improvements, and prevention programs.

Community Improvement Capital Grants: Capital grants to support community infrastructure. Examples include, but are not limited to, physical improvements to homeless shelters, parks and recreation facilities, etc.

Food Access Grants: Funding to increase food accessibility in Albany County (e.g. education and outreach, home delivery, and food assistance).

Preventing and Responding to Violence Grants: Funding to support community violence intervention/prevention programs.

Frontline Worker Support Program: A County-led program to support frontline workers most impacted by the pandemic including, but not limited to, health care, public health, emergency services, and long-term care workers.

Nonprofit Support Grants (Other): Competitive grants for nonprofit organizations impacted by COVID-19 that are not eligible under the other categories in this section.

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Youth Services Grants: Funding for programs and initiatives focused specifically on youth. Examples include, but are not limited to after school programming and services for foster youth.

Senior Services Grants: Funding for programs and initiatives specifically targeted toward senior citizens in Albany County.

Transportation Services Grants: Funding for programs that address transportation challenges, including, but not limited to, health care, food access, and employment.

ARPA INVESTMENT PLAN DETAIL



PROVIDE FEEDBACK

There are three ways to provide feedback:

- 1 Complete our *NEW* Investment Plan Survey
- 2 Create a sample budget
- 3 Attend a public meeting



Hybrid Public Meeting Date 1

Date: March 21, 2023

Time: 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM

Where: Cahill Room

Harold L. Joyce Albany County Office Building
112 State Street
Albany NY 12207

Virtual: Details for virtual attendance will be made available on the County's ARPA Portal:

<https://albanycountyarpa.org>

Hybrid Public Meeting Date 2

Date: March 27, 2023

Time: 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM

Where: Cahill Room

Harold L. Joyce Albany County Office Building
112 State Street
Albany NY 12207

Virtual: Details for virtual attendance will be made available on the County's ARPA Portal:

<https://albanycountyarpa.org>

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

ALBANY COUNTY

Harold L. Joyce Albany County Office Building
112 State Street Albany, NY 12207
(518) 447-7000
<https://www.albanycounty.com/>
<https://albanycountyarpa.org>

HOW TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON THE ARPA INVESTMENT PLAN

1 Participate in a brief [NEW](#) ARPA Investment Plan Survey



OR VISIT:

<https://albanycountyarpa.org/newsurvey/>

2 Create and share your own ARPA budget



OR VISIT:

<https://albanycountyarpa.org/createbudget>

3 Attend a public meeting

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