

Allen County, Indiana
Recovery Plan

**State and Local
Fiscal Recovery Funds
2022 Report**

Executive Summary

Allen County, Indiana (the “County”) received 50% of its American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) funds (“Recovery Funds”) allocation in late May 2021. The other 50% of Recovery Funds were received in May 2022. In total, the County received just over \$73,000,000. As the SLFRF Final Rules were released in January 2022, the County has a clearer idea of how Recovery Funds may be used. While no definitive plan has been developed, the County intends to be strategic and targeted in its use of Recovery Funds with particular focus on Negative Economic Impacts and Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure.

Uses of Funds

The County is developing a definitive plan for the use of Recovery Funds, with appropriation anticipated to occur in August 2022. There are a handful of Expenditure Categories in which the County has a natural bent toward assistance.

Public Health (EC 1) – The Allen County Department of Health has been on the front lines of keeping the County safe during the COVID-19 pandemic, particularly through contact tracing and testing, but also by operating a vaccination site. The ongoing need to operate a free, no symptoms necessary testing site is probably an area the County will look to spend Recovery Funds.

Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2) – The County has been approached by small businesses, non-profits, and other government units expressing a need for financial assistance due to COVID-19. The Board of Commissioners is considering provision of assistance to small businesses and non-profits. If approved, it is anticipated that eligibility criteria will be established and applications for assistance would be solicited. Qualified applications would be considered in a manner that promotes equitable outcomes.

Water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure (EC 5) – The County believes this is a significant area of focus for Recovery Funds due to the community-wide impact that can be had with infrastructure projects. Broadband, in particular, has been something the County has been actively studying since the start of the pandemic. Large swaths of rural Allen County lack adequate broadband to facilitate Work from Home for adults or E-Learning/Distance Learning for students. Not to mention the wide availability of Telemedicine that became available during the pandemic and will be a new norm for many moving forward. The County expects significant state and federal money to be available for Broadband and will seek to leverage every dollar possible. To identify infrastructure projects, the Board of Commissioners is considering engaging a wide group of subject matter experts to identify potential projects for review and comment by the community at a series of geographically distributed meetings.

Revenue Replacement (EC 6) – While no decision has been made on utilizing Recovery Funds for lost revenue, using the Department of Treasury’s formula, the County would be eligible for approximately \$27.5 million in revenue replacement; with \$12.6 million of the loss occurring in 2020 and \$14.9 million occurring in 2021. The provision of government services never stopped during the pandemic, and in some areas increased.

Promoting equitable outcomes

The County understands that Recovery Funds are expected to bear in mind equitable outcomes. As definitive plans for the use of Recovery Funds are currently being created, there are not particular goals or outcomes that have been identified at this time.

Community Engagement

The County understands that Recovery Funds are expected to be developed having received feedback from the community. Approaches for provision of assistance to small business and non-profits and for infrastructure funding are anticipated to include engagement of the community.

Labor Practices

For identified infrastructure projects, it is anticipated that labor practices will be pursued to promote effective and efficient delivery of high-quality infrastructure while supporting economic recovery through employment opportunities for workers.

Use of Evidence

As there is no definitive plan for the Use of Recovery Funds yet, it is not possible to report on whether Recovery Funds are being used for evidence-based interventions and/or if projects are being evaluated through rigorous program evaluations that are designed to build evidence.

Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category

	Category	Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
1	Expenditure Category: Public Health	95,916	95,916
2	Expenditure Category: Negative Economic Impacts	0	0
3	Expenditure Category: Public Health – Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity	0	0
4	Expenditure Category: Premium Pay	0	0
5	Expenditure Category: Infrastructure	0	0
6	Expenditure Category: Revenue Replacement	0	0
7	Administrative	0	0

Performance Report

The County's determination of key performance indicators for any major projects funded with Recovery Funds will be forthcoming.

Project Inventory

Project EN-00326174: COVID-19 Testing Site

Funding amount: \$100,000

Project Expenditure Category: Public Health, COVID-19 Testing

Project Overview

Allen County has rented various buildings to house free COVID-19 community testing site operated by the Allen County Board of Health. There were not county-owned buildings available with sufficient space and equipment to host the testing site.

Use of Evidence

Objective was to provide a free COVID-19 community testing site so that individuals, regardless of symptoms, would be able to determine whether they were positive for COVID-19 and needed to isolate at home. They could provide the information to schools, work, or close contacts. The goal was to keep our local hospitals from being overrun with COVID-19 patients by lowering community spread. Operating free testing sites are common approaches to helping lower the community spread of viruses with high reproduction rates, particularly viruses for which no one has natural immunity or vaccinations to protect them. As of the end of June 2022, 65,876 tests have been administered (35,831 PCR and 30,045 rapid test) to 48,904 individuals.