



Recovery Plan

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds July 2022 Report



Jefferson County, Texas 2022 Recovery Plan

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

Jefferson County (County) was awarded \$48,863,552 as a part of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA). The County received ½ of this allocation on June 1, 2021, in the amount of \$24,431,776, and the balance thereof in June 2022. As of the submission of this report, the County has received numerous funding requests to support non-profits, water and sewer districts and small non-entitlement units. The County plans to utilize this funding within the parameters of US Treasury guidance to respond to the negative impacts of the pandemic, support a public health response, promote equitable economic recovery, replace lost revenue, and possibly enhance water, sewer, and broadband in rural areas.

The County has procured outside support services to provide grant administration and assurance that the County remain in compliance with award terms. The County and its Commissioners will vet and prioritize projects submitted by potential subrecipients and others as we move forward

Uses of Funds

The County's initial response to the pandemic was to focus on prevention and mitigation of the spread of the virus through enhanced sanitization of County public facilities, support of State vaccine assistance program, a rural testing program, providing PPE to the County jail and a joint venture infusion center. The County has received funding requests for a variety of projects that will respond to the negative impact of the pandemic and/or improve infrastructure for populations in need.

a. **Public Health (EC 1)**

The County has incurred expenses since March 3, 2021 related to vaccinations, PPE, and the sanitization of County public spaces. In the winter of 2021/2022 Jefferson County formed a joint venture antibody infusion center to combat the surge of Covid variants.

b. **Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2)-**

Mental Health Services in Jefferson County have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic whereas the need for such services has increased. Multiple funding requests from nonprofit mental health providers are currently under consideration for funding obligation.

Separate from SLFRF funding, the County was a direct recipient of Emergency Rental Assistance (ERAP) funding from the Coronavirus Relief Funding. The County has contracted to distribute the rental relief funds under the ERAP I and ERAP II allocations.

c. **Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity (EC 3)**

To date, the County has not identified any projects in this expenditure category.

d. **Premium Pay (EC 4)**

To date, the County has not identified any projects in this expenditure category.



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

Jefferson County has received numerous funding requests (+/- \$28mil) for water and sewer infrastructure improvement projects. These projects are under review for content and compliance with SLFRF award terms. Prioritization of County population needs may result in selection of water and sewer infrastructure projects.

f. **Revenue Replacement (EC 6)**

Based on the Interim Rule revenue replacement calculation Jefferson County has opted to allocate the allowable \$10 million in revenue replacement as per the Final Rule. The County will utilize these funds for projects delayed or directly affected due to Covid.

1. The County has budgeted \$2,400,000 of the \$10 million allocation to fund projects enhancing parks and outdoor activities along the Gulf of Mexico.
2. The County has utilized \$136,800 to complete the distribution of ERA 1 funds allocated to the County.

g. **Administrative Expenses (EC 7)**

The County has procured a grant administrator to handle all administrative aspects of the ARPA funds. Approximately 2% of the \$48,863,552 ARPA award will be allocated for Administrative Expenses.

Promoting equitable outcomes

The County continues to prioritize and develop project funding requests and obligate funds to subrecipients, beneficiaries and/or programs. The County will ensure that underserved, marginalized, or adversely affected populations benefit from the SLFRF funding and will ensure equitable and measurable outcomes.

Community Engagement

The initial phase of community outreach resulted in a wide array of project funding requests. These requests are currently under review and consideration as the County continues to prioritize population needs. The County's process and selections will be made public to maintain transparency and community engagement.

Labor Practices

The County and subrecipients utilizing funds for infrastructure projects will adhere to all applicable labor practices and will promote the use of local labor and materials suppliers.

Use of Evidence

The County will utilize established evidence-based methods and practices where required and appropriate to ensure funds are achieving the desired outcomes proposed by the County or the Subrecipient.



Performance Report

The County is currently establishing priorities for the use of the remaining unobligated ARPA funds. Upon completion of prioritization, projects will be fully developed with required and applicable performance indicators, performance goals, and outcome measures as appropriate.

PROJECT INVENTORY

Project Name: Grant Administration

Identification Number: Tidal Basin

Obligation: \$ 750,000.00

EC: 1.7 Administration Expenses

Project Overview

The County has procured a grant administrator to handle all administrative aspects of the ARPA funds. Approximately 2% of the \$48,863,552 ARPA award will be allocated for Administrative Expenses. Project is ongoing.

Use of Evidence

n/a

Performance Report

n/a

Project Name: Revenue Replacement-Jefferson County

Identification Number: CAP - ###

Obligation: \$ 10,000,000.00

EC: 6.1-Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

After analysis and calculations for revenue replacement, the County has opted to allocate the allowable \$10 million in revenue replacement as per the Final Rule. The County will utilize these funds for projects delayed or directly affected due to Covid. The County has budgeted \$2,400,000 of the \$10 million allocation to fund parks and outdoor activity and recreation projects along the Gulf of Mexico shoreline that were cancelled, delayed, or underfunded due to the impact of the COVID pandemic.

The County has utilized \$136,800 to complete the distribution of ERA 1 funds allocated to the County.

Ongoing/not completed

Use of Evidence

n/a



Performance Report

n/a

Project Name: Payroll Expenses for Support Staff for EOC Covid Operations

Identification Number: 1.9

Obligation: \$2,718.04

EC: 3.1 Public Sector Workforce: Payroll and Benefits for Public Health, Public Safety, or Human Services Workers

Project overview

Several of Jefferson County's COVID management, prevention and mitigation efforts required staffing by County employees. Payroll expenses for support staff for the EOC COVID-19 response and infusion center efforts were offset with SLFRF funding. This approach had a positive impact on the general population of Jefferson County by reducing the number and severity of COVID cases. This project is complete.

Use of Evidence

n/a

Performance Report

n/a

Project Name: Quarantine Expense Reimbursement

Identification Number: 1.7

Obligation: \$ 2,000.00

EC: 1.7 Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)

Project overview

Following CDC and public health authority recommendations that COVID-positive individuals self-quarantine for 7-14 days, County employees who tested positive remained home with pay until negative test results were shown. Jefferson County applied funding to payroll in reimbursement for qualifying employees quarantine expenses. This project is not complete and ongoing.

Use of Evidence

n/a

Performance Report

n/a



Project Name: Regional Infusion Center

Identification Number: C1C01

Obligation: \$ 200,000.00

EC: 1.6 Medical Expenses (including Alternative Care Facilities)

Project overview

Because of COVID-positive case rate surges effecting the availability of local hospital ICU bed availability, rising infection rates and emerging COVID variants, Jefferson County in conjunction with the Texas Division of Emergency Management formed a joint venture regional antibody infusion center in the winter of 2021/2022. The County operated the infusion center and costs were shared between participating Counties based on population served. The infusion center had a significant positive impact on the region as it provided covid-specific preventative and support care options outside of the hospital setting, alleviating hospitalization rates for sub-acute COVID-positive individuals. The antibody infusion center completed its mission on March 31,2022.

Use of Evidence

n/a

Performance Report

n/a

Project Name: PPE-Jail

Identification Number: 1.5

Obligation: \$ 45,000.00

EC: 1.5 Personal Protective Equipment

Project overview

As an ongoing effort from August 2021 through March 2022 Jefferson County has provided PPE, specifically face masks to inmates and staff of the Jefferson County Correctional Facility. The goal was to reduce the spread and positive cases of COVID-19 and its variants in the congregate setting. This project is complete.

Use of Evidence

n/a

Performance Report

n/a



Project Name: COVID-Testing

Identification Number: 1.2

Obligation: \$ 49,000

EC: 1.2 COVID-19 Testing

Project overview

During a surge of positive COVID cases between September 2021 and October 2021 the County provided free COVID-10 testing in rural areas of the County. A mobile testing vendor was utilized, and specific underserved rural areas of the County were identified for the service. The intended outcome was to ensure rural populations had access to no-cost testing to reduce the spread and surge rates. This project is complete.

Use of Evidence

n/a

Performance Report

n/a

Project Name: Other Public Services-Cleaning public facilities

Identification Number: 1.20

Obligation: \$ 24,031.70 to-date

EC: 1.14 Other Public Health Services

Project overview

The County has taken robust action to disinfect County facilities, including courtrooms and congregate areas in accordance with CDC and OCA guidelines, to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and its variants. Cleaning of public facilities was provided by contractors between March 2021 and May 2021. The intended outcome of reducing the spread of the virus within County facilities and protecting the health and safety of County employees and populations across all demographics. This project is completed.

Use of Evidence

n/a

Performance Report

n/a



Project Name: Vaccine Assistance-EOC

Identification Number: 1.1

Obligation: \$ 3552.45 to-date

EC: 1.1 COVID-19 Vaccination

Project overview

From March 2021 through May 2021 Jefferson County provided personnel support of State-run vaccination sites. Part time payroll expenses were incurred during the Jefferson County EOC operations in support the State vaccination program locally. The vaccine program goal was to provide County residents the opportunity to obtain vaccination regardless of income, ethnicity, employment status, age etc. This project is complete.

Use of Evidence

n/a

Performance Report

n/a

Subrecipient: Family Services of Southeast Texas

Project Name: Family Services of Southeast Texas Domestic Violence Shelter Relocation

Identification Number: FSSET01

Obligation: \$5,000,000

EC: 2.34 - Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project overview

The County identified victims of domestic violence as a negatively impacted and high priority population in need of support in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding in the amount of \$5,000,000 has been obligated to Family Services of Southeast Texas (FSSET), a local nonprofit agency operating a Regional Domestic Violence Shelter and support programs. FSSET will utilize funds to relocate the shelter facility to a location less prone to flooding and assure consistent accessibility to critical services for populations negatively impacted by the COVID pandemic. The new facility will expand capacity to allow for an increase of services to domestic violence populations across all demographics. This project is in development and ongoing.

FSSET website: <https://westrengthenfamilies.org>

Use of Evidence

n/a

Performance Report

Jefferson County will work closely with FSSET to establish measurable goals, key performance indicators and measurable outcomes.

