

Jefferson County, Texas

Recovery Plan

State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds

2021 Report

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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 (ARP). The County received ½ of this allocation on June 1, 2021 in the amount of \$24,431,776. As of August 31, 2021, the County has received numerous funding requests to support non-profits and small non-entitlement cities. The County plans to utilize this funding within the parameters of US Treasury guidance to respond to the pandemic, support a public health response, promote economic recovery, replace lost revenue, and enhance water, sewer, and broadband in the rural areas.

Uses of Funds

As of August 31, 2021, the County has received several requests for funding for a variety of projects. A more detailed breakdown by category follows:

- a. **Public Health (EC 1)**-The County has incurred expenses since March 3, 2021 related to vaccinations, PPE, and sanitizing. The County has formed a joint venture antibody infusion center to combat the recent surge in Covid cases due to the Delta variant. Currently, all ICU space is at critical capacity and the antibody infusion center will decrease the demand on the ICU bed space availability.
- b. **Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2)**- One of the first projects to be approved for funding to a population that has suffered as a result of Covid-19 are victims of domestic violence and abuse. The County has allocated \$5,000,000 to the Family Services of Southeast Texas (FSSET) to enhance this non-profit's capability to house, treat, and protect victims of domestic violence.

Mental Health Services in Jefferson County have been impacted and requests from non-profit providers for assistance are under funding consideration.

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

- c. **Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities (EC 3)**-Overlap from EC-2 will most likely recategorize anticipated funding to non-profits that had negative economic impacts from COVID-19. As formal projects are developed and funded to non-profits, expenses could be reclassified from EC-2 to EC-3.
- d. **Premium Pay (EC 4)**-No Plans at this time to fund this category.

- e. **Water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure (EC 5)** -The County has received \$14,000,000 in funding requests for infrastructure improvements to rural water and sewer systems. These requests will be vetted through our grant administrator who will be hired by September 30,2021. \$10,000,000 is allocated for enhanced broadband in the rural area. No formal project has been developed for the broadband project but will be developed with the aid of our grant administrator.
- f. **Revenue Replacement (EC 6)** – Based on the first revenue replacement calculation ending 12/31/2020, the County plans to allocate \$10,000,000 over the grant period and to utilize this funding for County projects that were delayed due to Covid -19 revenue loss. The County has budgeted \$2,400,000 of the planned \$10 million allocation to fund projects enhancing parks along the Gulf of Mexico.

Administrative Expenses – The County will hire a grant administrator to handle all administration aspects of the ARP funds. The County anticipates hiring the grant administrator by the end of September 2021. Approximately 2% of the \$48,863,552 will be allocated for Administrative Expenses.

Promoting equitable outcomes

As the County develops, approves and formalizes the projects, funding will be geared toward providing equitable outcomes that will close gaps in economic equity and promotes equitable growth

Community Engagement

The County will develop an outreach plan to communicate the projects under consideration.

Labor Practices

The County and subrecipients utilizing funds for infrastructure projects will follow Federal guidelines to promote local labor recovery and will pay prevailing wages for labor utilized.

Use of Evidence

The County will utilize evidence-based clearinghouses where appropriate to insure funds are achieving the desired outcomes proposed by the County or the Subrecipient.

Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
1	Expenditure Category: Public Health		
1.1	COVID-19 Vaccination	3,552.45	3,552.45
1.2	COVID-19 Testing		

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
1.3	COVID-19 Contact Tracing		
1.4	Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, etc.)		
1.5	Personal Protective Equipment		
1.6	Medical Expenses (including Alternative Care Facilities)		
1.7	Capital Investments or Physical Plant Changes to Public Facilities that respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency		
1.8	Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)		
1.9	Payroll Costs for Public Health, Safety, and Other Public Sector Staff Responding to COVID-19	2,454.42	2,454.42
1.10	Mental Health Services		
1.11	Substance Use Services		
1.12	Other Public Health Services	21,699.70	21,699.70
2	Expenditure Category: Negative Economic Impacts		
2.1	Household Assistance: Food Programs		
2.2	Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid		
2.3	Household Assistance: Cash Transfers		
2.4	Household Assistance: Internet Access Programs		
2.5	Household Assistance: Eviction Prevention		
2.6	Unemployment Benefits or Cash Assistance to Unemployed Workers		
2.7	Job Training Assistance (e.g., Sectoral job-training, Subsidized Employment, Employment Supports or Incentives)		
2.8	Contributions to UI Trust Funds*		
2.9	Small Business Economic Assistance (General)		
2.10	Aid to nonprofit organizations		
2.11	Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality		
2.12	Aid to Other Impacted Industries		
2.13	Other Economic Support		
2.14	Rehiring Public Sector Staff		

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
3	Expenditure Category: Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities		
3.1	Education Assistance: Early Learning		
3.2	Education Assistance: Aid to High-Poverty Districts		
3.3	Education Assistance: Academic Services		
3.4	Education Assistance: Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Services		
3.5	Education Assistance: Other		
3.6	Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care		
3.7	Healthy Childhood Environments: Home Visiting		
3.8	Healthy Childhood Environments: Services to Foster Youth or Families Involved in Child Welfare System		
3.9.	Healthy Childhood Environments: Other		
3.10	Housing Support: Affordable Housing		
3.11	Housing Support: Services for Unhoused persons		
3.12	Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance		
3.13	Social Determinants of Health: Other		
3.14	Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators		
3.15	Social Determinants of Health: Lead Remediation		
3.16	Social Determinants of Health: Community Violence Interventions		
4	Expenditure Category: Premium Pay		
4.1	Public Sector Employees		
4.2	Private Sector: Grants to other employers		
5	Expenditure Category: Infrastructure		
5.1	Clean Water: Centralized wastewater treatment		
5.2	Clean Water: Centralized wastewater collection and conveyance		
5.3	Clean Water: Decentralized wastewater		
5.4	Clean Water: Combined sewer overflows		
5.5	Clean Water: Other sewer infrastructure		
5.6	Clean Water: Stormwater		
5.7	Clean Water: Energy conservation		
5.8	Clean Water: Water conservation		
5.9	Clean Water: Nonpoint source		

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
5.10	Drinking water: Treatment		
5.11	Drinking water: Transmission & distribution		
5.12	Drinking water: Transmission & distribution: lead remediation		
5.13	Drinking water: Source		
5.14	Drinking water: Storage		
5.15	Drinking water: Other water infrastructure		
5.16	Broadband: “Last Mile” projects		
5.17	Broadband: Other projects		
6	Expenditure Category: Revenue Replacement		
6.1	Provision of Government Services		
7	Administrative and Other		
7.1	Administrative Expenses		
7.2	Evaluation and data analysis		
7.3	Transfers to Other Units of Government		
7.4	Transfers to Nonentitlement Units (States and Territories only)		

Project Inventory

Family Services of Southeast Texas

\$5,000,000

2.10 Aid to Nonprofits

Project overview

- Funding of \$5,000,000 will be provided to FSSET, a local nonprofit that is a County partner operating a Regional Domestic Violence Shelter and providing numerous family services for those in need. The FSSET has requested additional funding from the local cities in order to purchase and renovate a skilled nursing facility that is currently on the real estate market. This location would remove FSSET from continued weather-related flooding and allow for more enhanced services to be provided to the victims of domestic violence.
- <https://westrengthenfamilies.org>

Use of Evidence

- The goal of this project is to expand/enhance domestic violence shelter capabilities and provide a secure location for victims of domestic violence. Data will be provided and tracked to ensure enhancement of the FSSET capabilities. The County will work with our grant administrator to provide a evidence based matrix of results from this project.