



DALLAS COUNTY TEXAS

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
2021 ARPA Recovery Plan Report



Dallas County, Texas | 2021 ARPA Recovery Plan

All States and territories, and metropolitan cities and counties with a population that exceeds 250,000 residents that are recipients of State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds awards are required to produce a Recovery Plan to the U.S. Department of Treasury. The Recovery Plan provides information on Dallas County's projects and plan to ensure program outcomes are achieved in an effective and equitable manner. Each annual Recovery Plan will be posted online at www.dallascounty.org.

The initial Recovery Plan will cover the period from the date of award to July 31, 2021. Thereafter, the Recovery Plan will cover a 12-month period as outlined below.

Annual Report	Period Covered	Due Date
1	Award Date – July 31, 2021	August 31, 2021
2	July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022	July 31, 2022
3	July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023	July 31, 2023
4	July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024	July 31, 2024
5	July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025	July 31, 2025
6	July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026	July 31, 2026
7	July 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026	March 31, 2027



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INTRODUCTION

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 into law. The \$1.9 trillion package, based on President Biden’s American Rescue Plan, is intended to combat the COVID-19 pandemic, including the public health and economic impacts. ARPA allocates hundreds of billions of dollars for public health and vaccines, assistance for vulnerable populations, education and housing stabilization, economic recovery assistance and direct assistance for families and individuals. As part of the \$362 billion in federal fiscal recovery aid for state and local governments, \$65.1 billion is provided under ARPA direct aid to counties. The ARPA funds are intended to provide support to State, local, and Tribal governments in responding to the impact of COVID-19 and in their efforts to contain COVID-19 on their communities, residents, and businesses. ARPA funds build on and expand the support provided over the last year, including through the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund. Dallas County’s share of the funding is \$511,918,088.

Over the next three years, Dallas County intends to utilize its funding in response to the disproportionate toll the COVID-19 pandemic has taken on this region to fund projects and programs that mitigate the spread of COVID-19 within the County, assist the economic recovery of local businesses and industries and reinforce disadvantaged and underserved communities through housing support and infrastructure improvements. Amounts may be subject to modifications based on community needs, operational needs, and as determined by the Dallas County Commissioners Court and/or County Administrator.

ARPA CATEGORY	EXPENDITURE BUDGET	EXPENDITURES TO DATE	BALANCE
1. Public Health	\$111,000,000	\$0	\$111,000,000
2. Negative Economic Impacts	\$20,000,000	\$0	\$20,000,000
3. Services to Impacted Communities	\$110,000,000	\$0	\$110,000,000
4. Premium Pay	TBD	\$0	TBD
5. Infrastructure	\$35,000,000	\$0	\$35,000,000
6. Revenue Replacement	\$67,950,481	\$0	\$67,950,481
7. Plan Administration	TBD	\$0	TBD
8. TBD	\$167,967,607	\$0	\$167,967,607
	\$511,918,088	\$0	*\$511,918,088*

**Dallas County received an initial allocation totaling fifty percent of the total funding in 2021. A subsequent allocation with the remaining fifty percent of funding will be distributed to Dallas County by the U.S. Department of Treasury in 2022. Dallas County began operational expenditures under ARPA in August 2021, after the period covered by this initial report.*



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USE OF FUNDING

Dallas County established the following principles to aid in the deployment of its intended uses of funding:

- ❖ **Data driven.** Establish evidence and evaluation based projects/programs that contain the necessary data to demonstrate how they will address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic or assist in recovery.
- ❖ **Equitable outcomes.** Establish projects/programs with goals to increase equity and resilience for disadvantaged and unincorporated communities.
- ❖ **Avoid duplication.** Ensure established projects/programs do not duplicate services already provided by the state or federal government, including municipal coordination to avoid duplication of efforts of cities within Dallas County.
- ❖ **Directed towards health and safety measures.** Establish countywide projects/programs that bolster the health and safety response to COVID-19.

Dallas County intends to prioritize COVID-19 testing, vaccination, and other emergency response activities that directly respond to the COVID-19 Emergency. Dallas County's proposed projects and programs included in this plan are subject to change based on guidance and clarification from the U.S. Department of Treasury. The following are a list of intended uses of funds categorized by expense that would help Dallas County promote a strong and equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn:

1. Public Health Expenditures

Payroll Costs. For Dallas County Public Health, Safety, and Other First responder staff responding to COVID-19.

Personal Protective Equipment. Dallas County anticipates a sustained demand for this equipment among Dallas County staff as organizational policies change to require the use of personal protective equipment in daily operations.

COVID-19 Testing. Continuation of Dallas Countywide testing program to serve Dallas County Residents for the mitigation and prevention of COVID-19.

COVID -19 Vaccination. Continuation of COVID-19 vaccination programs for residents of Dallas County are intended to mitigate the disparate health impacts and reduce the number of deaths caused by COVID-19.

Investments to County Infrastructure. Dallas County is currently assessing the need for capital projects that would improve Dallas County's response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. These include plans to improve Dallas County Health and Human Services and Institute of Forensic Sciences, the Dallas County Youth and Adult Jail Facilities and county-wide warehouse for the storage of emergency response items such as PPE.



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Improving Teleworking Capability. Enhanced teleworking capacity will allow for social distancing while maintaining essential Dallas County operations and ensures that Dallas County continues to provide services to the public while maintaining the safety of the employees and the public.

2. Negative Economic Impacts

Aid to Impacted Industries. Dallas County will focus assistance to aid industries impacted by the public health emergency, such as tourism, travel, and hospitality industries.

Small Business Economic Assistance. Dallas County plans to reauthorize the Dallas County Small Business Assistance Program it began in 2020. Dallas County accepted applications for its program in the wake of COVID-19. This small business assistance is designed to rapidly provide financial assistance to small businesses with no more than 100 employees located in Dallas County that have been adversely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, and that have been unable to obtain financial assistance to meet all of their business needs. The Dallas County Small Business Assistance program has been invested in by Dallas County to be a financial resource to “traditional” small businesses not excluding businesses who meet the guidelines and have experienced economic downfall during the pandemic.

3. Services to disproportionately impacted communities

Food Pantry Assistance. Reauthorize the 2020 Dallas County Food Pantry Assistance Program.

Household Assistance. Tenant eviction support services program to support rental assistance program.

Affordable and Transitional Housing Programs. Dallas County recognizes that individuals experiencing homelessness have been particularly hard hit during this pandemic. As such, it plans on developing projects that provide housing, food and mental health support for homeless populations in Dallas County.

Aid to Nonprofit Organizations. Dallas County plans to develop program to provide support to local nonprofit organizations to assist those in Dallas County impacted by the public health emergency to include expanding the scope of services provided.

Mental Health Assistance. Enhanced mental health collaboration including expansion of services with MetroCare, additional “Living Room” programs with North Texas Behavioral Health Authority, and correctional mental health services with Parkland Hospital. COVID-19 Mental Health resources have been provided by Dallas County in a variety of ways to support and render aid to residents of the county since the inception of the pandemic. Funding will be targeted to individuals who have been directly impacted through COVID-19 in a variety of ways including, but not limited to testing positive for or having had the COVID-19 virus, loss of family to the virus, lost wages, loss of employment, homelessness, loss of insurance, mental and behavioral illness exacerbated by the pandemic, and other COVID-related trauma.



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4. Premium Pay

Numerous Dallas County workers were deemed essential to maintain the continuity of critical services that ensure the safety, health, and wellbeing of Dallas County Residents since the inception of the COVID-19 pandemic. Dallas County employees deemed essential workers and eligible under the ARPA guidelines set forth by the U.S. Treasury will receive premium pay for their work throughout the pandemic.

5. Infrastructure - Broadband

The investment in broadband infrastructure over the course of the pandemic has been a focus for Dallas County as intentional efforts have been made to fund and infuse areas of the county with high broadband support. Dallas County has recognized that in the rush for residents and students residing in the county that attend learning institutions to go from face-to-face learning and daily work routines to working from home, having caused a shortage throughout the county in wireless connection. Dallas County will fund a project that make for reliable service with minimum 100 Mbps download/100 Mbps upload speeds, while being strategically focused on households and businesses without access and on those with connections that do not provide minimally acceptable speeds.

6. Revenue Replacement

Dallas County plans to allocate revenue replacement funds toward the provision of government services it provides including but not limited to, maintenance of roads and bridges, pay-go spending for building new infrastructure, including roads; modernization of cybersecurity, including hardware and protection of critical infrastructure; health services; environmental remediation; school or educational services; and the provision of police, fire, and other public safety services within Dallas County. While Dallas County plans to replace some of the lost revenue allowed under ARPA it remains committed to maximizing the opportunity to invest ARPA funding directly into the community.

7. Administrative

Dallas County will fund direct and indirect ARPA administrative costs for implementation of projects and programs. Developing Dallas County's Recovery Plan will require the oversight of Dallas County Administrator's Office with assistance from various county departments including the Auditor's Office, Budget Office, and the Office of Emergency Management.



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PROMOTING EQUITABLE OUTCOMES

Because the COVID-19 pandemic has not impacted all residents equally, Dallas County will ensure equity is considered in all of its ARPA investments and where possible advance the approved Dallas County objectives in key areas, including reversing negative pandemic-related trends, closing gaps in health, economic, and housing outcomes; and positioning disproportionately impacted groups and neighborhoods for improved future outcomes. An equity assessment will be developed for each major project or program and monitor all investments made to ensure Dallas County is reaching the populations and neighborhoods most impacted by the pandemic. To further ensure equitable outcomes, Dallas County will use also ARPA funding to develop the capacity of existing institutions and create new partnerships with credibility in underserved communities to help lead the ground effort for Dallas County's recovery.

Dallas County is composed of 30 incorporated cities and a few unincorporated communities, including 10 medically underserved areas as designated by the Department of Health and Human Service's Health Resources and Services Administration.¹ According to the U.S. Census Bureau, approximately 14% of the population lives at or below the poverty level which is 4% higher than the national average. Roughly 21% of adults 25 and older are not working and 21% do not have a high school diploma.² The projects and programs that will be proposed under ARPA funding are intended to help all Dallas County communities, with special focus on disadvantaged and underserved communities who experienced a greater negative economic and social impact as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Dallas County is seeking ongoing community input into the use of ARPA funding through public comments at Dallas County Commissioners Court Meetings, County Judge and County Commissioner Town Hall meetings as well as online on the County website's ARPA page. Dallas County will disseminate ARPA funding information through its social media sites, community-based partners, Commissioners Court meetings, and on the County website to ensure employees, residents, and businesses of Dallas County are aware of the services Dallas County plans to fund through ARPA. Dallas County intends to include the community and stakeholder engagement whenever possible to ensure people with significant barriers to services including those with limited English proficiency and low income people of color, and other traditionally underrepresented groups can have their voices heard. Throughout this ongoing process we aspire to be transparent about how funds are used and provide regular updates to communicate how the

¹ <https://data.hrsa.gov/tools/shortage-area/mua-find>
Health Resources & Services Administration, *Medically Underserved Areas/Populations, Interactive MUA find Map*, October 2020, Accessed August, 2021.

² <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/dallascountytexas,US/PST045219>
United States Census Bureau, *Quick Facts United States; Texas; Dallas County, Texas*, July 1, 2019, Accessed August, 2021.



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funds are benefitting and revitalizing our community. Public Comments can be submitted online at www.dallascounty.org or emailed to ARP@dallascounty.org

LABOR PRACTICES

Dallas County labor practices will follow and comply with all local, state, and federal laws, regulations, and directives. This includes compliance with all laws and regulations pertaining to wages and hours, state and federal income tax, unemployment insurance, Social Security, disability insurance, workers' compensation insurance, and discrimination in employment. The County, its contractors, and subcontractors shall comply with all applicable federal laws including:

- ❖ Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d et seq.) and Treasury's implementing regulations at 31 C.F.R. Part 22, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin under programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance
- ❖ Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. § 794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance
- ❖ The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§ 6101 et seq.), and Treasury's implementing regulations at 31 C.F.R. Part 23, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance.
- ❖ Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 et seq.), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability under programs, activities, and services
- ❖ Generally applicable local and state labor laws and regulations.

USE OF EVIDENCE

Dallas County will take a mixed approach to the use of evidence in rolling out programs including both evidence based and learned in nature. For those projects that Dallas County undertakes, such as mortgage and rental assistance, evidence based approaches will be utilized. However, for other programs such as Food Pantry assistance, Dallas County will utilize an evaluative approach that focuses on the County's broader plan to ensure that activities undertaken support the overarching goals of the recovery plan.

As of the date of this initial report, Dallas County has not begun ARPA funded programs but has started the process of identifying and establishing programs to be rolled out over the next 12 months. Future recovery plans will consider the use of evidence and evaluation-based programs as Dallas County continues to finalize plan uses for ARPA funding.



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TABLE OF EXPENSES BY CATEGORY

All expenses as of July 31, 2021.

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
1	Expenditure Category: Public Health	\$0	\$0
2	Expenditure Category: Negative Economic Impacts	\$0	\$0
3	Expenditure Category: Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities	\$0	\$0
4	Expenditure Category: Premium Pay	\$0	\$0
5	Expenditure Category: Infrastructure	\$0	\$0
6	Expenditure Category: Revenue Replacement	\$0	\$0
7	Administrative and Other	\$0	\$0

PROJECT INVENTORY

As of the date of this initial report, Dallas County has not yet expended any funding provided under ARPA. However, the County has undergone the process of identifying and establishing programs to be rolled out over the upcoming 12 months. Future recovery plans will consider the use of both evidence and evaluation based approaches to programs, include up-to-date expenditures and will provide key performance indicators for each major project/program as Dallas County continues to strategically plan its use of ARPA funding.