

Horry County, South Carolina
Recovery Plan

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**
2024 Report

Table of Contents

- General Overview.....2**
- Executive Summary.....2
- Uses of Funds3
- Promoting Equitable Outcomes 15
- Community Engagement20
- Labor Practices20
- Use of Evidence21
- Performance Report21

- Project Inventory.....21**

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 is a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus bill passed by the United States Congress and signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021. It is meant to accelerate the United States' recovery from the economic and public health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. A primary component of ARPA is the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF), which provides \$350 billion that state and local governments can use to cover recovery costs obligated by December 31, 2024, for eligible purposes including:

- Responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, including providing assistance to households, small businesses and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel and hospitality;
- Providing premium pay to eligible workers of the government who are performing essential work, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who perform essential work;
- Funding government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue caused by the pandemic; and
- Making necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

Local governments were constrained during the pandemic due to the increased need for services, countered by a reduction of revenues including fees and taxes due to economic downturn. In Horry County, a popular tourist destination, negative impacts on the hospitality industry were particularly acute. The CARES Act funding in 2020, designed in part to address the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on state and local governments,

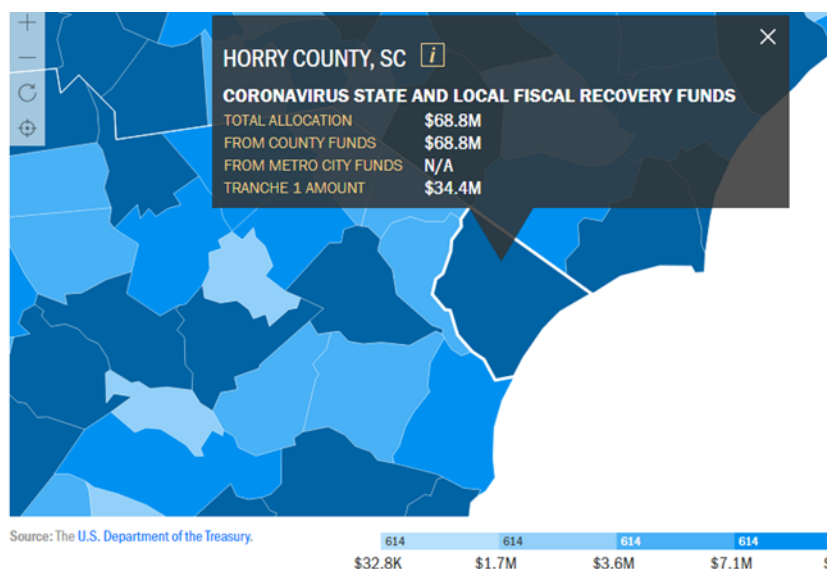


Figure 1: Coronavirus State and Fiscal Recovery Funds

nevertheless included guidance that expressly prohibited replacement of lost governmental revenues. This left many governments in precarious positions. Although funding was allocated to respond to the pandemic, general governmental funds were depleted in order to maintain basic services. Pursuant to the ARPA guidance, SLFRF resources may be used for the “provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.” Like many other programs, such as the Paycheck Protection Program

(PPP), the reduction in revenue is calculated in relation to the previous full fiscal year prior to the health emergency.

In order to best position the County to use the SLFRF resources in furtherance of its overall recovery goals and in compliance with the U.S. Treasury Guidance, Horry County has elected to utilize its SLFRF allocation for projects classified as Provision of Government Services authorized under the Expenditure Category of Revenue Replacement (EC 6). In doing so, the County then plans to utilize the funds to meet a broader scope of recovery needs. Horry County also projects expending approximately 1% of the total allocation for administrative costs associated with the management of the ARPA project (EC 7). In order to maintain the intent of the legislation, Horry County has categorized projects that meet the response and recovery areas set forth in the ARPA's Interim Final Rule, published in the Federal Register on May 17, 2021. The "Revenue Loss for the Provision of Government Services" category allows broad flexibility to support general government services, while also allowing the County to meet its current long-term needs.

Horry County received a total of \$68.8 million in ARPA funding, the first tranche of which was received in May 2021 and the second in June 2022. Based on the U.S. Treasury's Final Rule and subsequently issued guidance, Horry County developed a Comprehensive Plan to develop the framework for programming this funding into eligible use categories to address local needs. The planning and implementation process aligns with the funding process of other federally-sponsored programs including the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development entitlement programs. This approach has allowed Horry County to leverage other federally-sponsored COVID-19 pandemic allocations to meet the continuum of community needs throughout the County.

Uses of Funds

Under the Final Rule, Counties may use Fiscal Recovery Funds "For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the COVID-19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency." Through this approach, the County is able to replace lost revenue and then use these funds for a broad range of government services, programs and projects outside of explicit eligible uses of recovery funds under the interim rule. Horry County's Calculation of Revenue Reduction yields a total that far exceeds the entire allocation of ARPA funding to the County, or \$68,776,083.00. Horry County intends to then use this revenue replacement to undertake projects that align with the goals of the American Rescue Plan Act funding and promote recovery for residents and businesses throughout the County

Calculation of Revenue Reduction

The interim final rule for the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, published in the Federal Register on May 17, 2021, includes the following guideline for calculation of revenue

reduction, “For purposes of measuring revenue growth in the counterfactual trend, recipients may use a growth adjustment of either 4.1 percent per year or the recipient’s average annual revenue growth over the three full fiscal years prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency, whichever is higher.” This calculation occurs in three steps:

1. A county must determine its revenue collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the pandemic (i.e. last full fiscal year prior to January 27, 2020), also known as the base year;
2. After the base year figure is known, the county determines its average annual growth rate (i.e. growth adjustment) over the last three fiscal years prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency;
3. Identify actual revenue, which equals revenues collected over the past 12 months;

The National Association of Counties (NACo) has developed the figure below, which provides an overview of how a county calculates revenue loss:

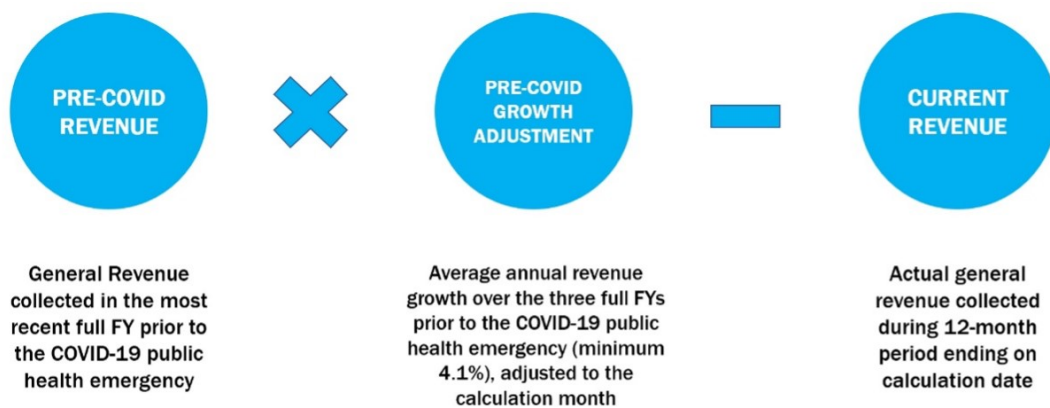


Figure 2 NACo Calculation of Revenue Loss

In addition to developing the revenue loss calculation utilizing the prescribed methodology, Horry County also prepares its financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles.

Base Year Revenue - The base year for calculating revenue reduction is Fiscal Year 2019, the most recent year completed prior to the pandemic. Revenue for Fiscal Year 2019 totaled \$535,335,530 prior to excluded items. Base year revenue is calculated by removing excluded items as prescribed in the American Rescue Plan Act and Treasury Guidance. Exclusions are included for refunds and correcting transactions which are netted with reported revenues, proceeds from the

issuance of debt which did not occur in the base period, interfund transfer which includes indirect cost allocation, interfund transfers, and interfund charges for service included in the internal service funds.

Horry County assumed the average actual three-year growth rate over the prescribed growth adjustment of 4.1% as provided in Treasury Guidance. The average actual three-year growth rate can be utilized if higher. A calculation of the actual rate represents a growth rate of 13.73%.

Therefore, the revenue reduction for the year ended December 31, 2020 is calculated by applying the same exclusions as noted above for revenues collected January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020 (six months of Fiscal Year 2020) and July 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 (six months of Fiscal Year 2021). The chart below reflects the total eligible revenue reduction for December 31, 2020 of \$147,922,915.

**Horry County, South Carolina
Calculation of Revenue Reduction at December 31, 2020**

Detailed Revenue (Year Ended December 31, 2020)	539,839,869
Excluded Items	
Refunds ¹	-
Correcting transactions ¹	-
Proceeds from the issuance of debt	23,981,312
Intergovernmental transfers (Federal)	56,302,908
Interfund transfers	46,981,736
Subtotal excluded items	127,265,956
Adjusted Revenue	412,573,913
Calculated Revenue Max (Fiscal Year 2019)	560,496,828
Revenue Reduction (Year Ended December 31, 2020)	147,922,915

¹ Included as reductions in detailed revenues.

Table 1 Horry County, SC Calculation of Revenue Reduction

Horry County’s calculation of revenue reduction, was independently reviewed for accuracy by Elliott Davis, the firm responsible for conducting Horry County’s single audit at the time, and by Hagerty Consulting, a firm that specializes in helping clients to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters such as COVID-19, and which advises the County on interpretation of federal rulemaking related to disaster recovery. Both firms concurred with the accuracy of Horry County’s calculation of lost revenue and its eligibility for reimbursement through the ARPA.

Horry County has therefore allocated 100% of its funding for revenue replacement (EC 6). Funds replenished through the ARPA funding will then be used for provision of Government Services.

Based on public input as well as County Government and Community Needs, Horry County developed and approved a preliminary framework for the first and second tranches of ARPA funding. The broad funding categories were approved by Horry County Council in October 2021, with approximately 20% of the funding dedicated to internal Horry County Government uses and the remaining 80% allocated for Community Benefit projects.

Use of Funds Replaced through ARPA Funding

Counties have served as a key resource for the provision of relief and recovery programs throughout the pandemic, despite limited resources to address local impacts comprehensively. The American Rescue Plan includes \$65.1 billion in direct flexible aid to every county in the United States, including Horry County, which has been allocated \$68.8 million in direct funding. Recovery requires a flexible framework and strong partnerships that can pivot effectively to meet changing demands. As such, this plan is intended to provide a structured framework through which the County can deploy annual project allocations to meet the changing demands of recovery.

As a local government providing essential public services during the pandemic, Horry County was faced with substantial unplanned and unbudgeted expenditures. Resources required to meet COVID-19 related demands created budgetary pressures on the County at a time when resources were already stressed by sharply increasing population growth, particularly in the areas of public safety and transportation. Horry County has committed considerable financial resources to protect the health, safety and economic future of its local residents. The success of response efforts hinges on the ability of local governments to respond to the virus at a time when post-pandemic economic recovery is still in the early stages, and future pandemic impacts resulting from the virulent Delta variant remain uncertain. Additionally, for Horry County, a tourism-based economy, the impacts are particularly acute. Accommodations and Food Service make up 23.1% of jobs, many of which were lost due to COVID-19 during 2020, and were still in the process of being built back to pre-pandemic levels in 2021.

Horry County engaged in a strategic process to determine the most impactful utilization for SLFRF resources. Through this process, the County identified a number of projects that can be grouped into a variety of topical areas, including support for employees, community development initiatives, public facility investments, technology modernization and public health. Analysis of the County's fiscal condition has documented a significant revenue reduction that occurred due to the negative economic impacts associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. Each of these projects represents provision of government services that, without SLFRF resources, would be infeasible due to those financial impacts.

While all approved projects are classified as Provision of Government Services (EC 6.1), the County has endeavored to use SLFRF resources not only to replace lost revenue but to make

meaningful, lasting investments that will facilitate future success for all residents and businesses within the County. A wide range of programs are under consideration, ranging from rebuilding aging infrastructure to expanding social services. As part of the identification, selection and approval process, particular attention is being paid to how a proposed program will serve to aid members of traditionally disadvantaged communities and contribute to the County’s overall recovery strategy.

Horry County presented an initial briefing and expenditure plan for ARPA funding at a meeting of the County Council’s Administration Committee on July 27, 2021. The County then initiated a public comment period from July 30-August 17, 2021 during which the proposed framework for Horry County’s ARPA expenditures was made public. A public hearing was held on August 12, 2021 at 3:00 pm, and public comments were received at arpa@horrycounty.org. Following the public input period, a revised expenditure plan, was presented to the County Council’s Administration Committee on August 24, 2021 and to the Horry County Council on September 7, 2021, and a first appropriation was approved. A second appropriation was approved by Horry County Council on October 5, 2021. These appropriations are summarized in Table 2 below.

Provision of Government Services	Original 1st Recommendation	1st Appropriation	Current Recommendation	Future Recommendation	Projected Total	%
COVID-19 Extra Pay	4,250,000.00	4,600,000.00	800,000.00	-	5,400,000.00	7.9%
Cyber Security	1,400,000.00	1,400,000.00	-	1,400,000.00	2,800,000.00	4.1%
COVID Impacts - Waste Management	700,000.00	700,000.00	-	-	700,000.00	1.0%
Online Payments Fees	100,000.00	100,000.00	-	-	100,000.00	0.1%
Facilities Information Technology Enhancement:	100,000.00		100,000.00	-	100,000.00	0.1%
PPE & Other Direct Expenses	373,575.35	373,575.35	-	300,000.00	673,575.35	1.0%
County Facilities Upgrades	500,000.00		500,000.00	500,000.00	1,000,000.00	1.5%
Remote Working Capability	500,000.00		500,000.00	500,000.00	1,000,000.00	1.5%
Administrative Expense	515,820.62		515,820.62	515,820.62	1,031,641.25	1.5%
ROD Digitization	1,000,000.00		1,000,000.00	500,000.00	1,500,000.00	2.2%
Subtotal - Internal Uses	9,439,395.97	7,173,575.35	3,415,820.62	3,715,820.62	14,305,216.60	20.8%
Beach Bathrooms	500,000.00		500,000.00	1,000,000.00	1,500,000.00	2.2%
Beach Parking	1,000,000.00		1,000,000.00	1,500,000.00	2,500,000.00	3.6%
Road Improvements	10,000,000.00		10,000,000.00	15,699,237.35	25,699,237.35	37.4%
Coast RTA Operations	-		-	750,000.00	750,000.00	1.1%
Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities & Infrastructure (Proposal Based)	8,219,841.38		8,219,841.38	8,034,179.38	16,254,020.75	23.6%
Touchless payment system (Coast RTA)	440,000.00		440,000.00	-	440,000.00	0.6%
Assessible Playgrounds	250,000.00		250,000.00	250,000.00	500,000.00	0.7%
Land for Economic Development	1,000,000.00		1,000,000.00	-	1,000,000.00	1.5%
DHEC South Strand	100,000.00		100,000.00	-	100,000.00	0.1%
Contingency	3,438,804.15		2,288,804.15	3,438,804.15	5,727,608.30	8.3%
Subtotal - Community Benefit	24,948,645.53	-	23,798,645.53	30,672,220.88	54,470,866.40	79.2%
Total	34,388,041.50	7,173,575.35	27,214,466.15	34,388,041.50	68,776,083.00	100.0%

Table 2 Horry County, SC Fall 2021 ARPA Appropriations

On July 12, 2022, following receipt of the second tranche of ARPA funding, the third appropriation was passed as shown in Table 3.

Provision of Government Services	Current Appropriation	Third Appropriation	Projected Total	%
COVID-19 Extra Pay	5,400,000.00	-	5,400,000.00	7.9%
Cyber Security	1,400,000.00	1,400,000.00	2,800,000.00	4.1%
COVID Impacts - Waste Management	700,000.00	-	700,000.00	1.0%
Online Payments Fees	100,000.00	-	100,000.00	0.1%
Facilities Information Technology Enhancement:	100,000.00	-	100,000.00	0.1%
PPE & Other Direct Expenses	373,575.35	300,000.00	673,575.35	1.0%
County Facilities Upgrades	500,000.00	500,000.00	1,000,000.00	1.5%
Remote Working Capability	500,000.00	500,000.00	1,000,000.00	1.5%
Administrative Expense	515,820.62	515,820.62	1,031,641.24	1.5%
ROD Digitization	1,000,000.00	500,000.00	1,500,000.00	2.2%
Subtotal - Internal Uses	10,589,395.97	3,715,820.62	14,305,216.59	20.8%
Beach Bathrooms	500,000.00	1,000,000.00	1,500,000.00	2.2%
Beach Parking	1,000,000.00	1,500,000.00	2,500,000.00	3.6%
Road Improvements	10,000,000.00	15,699,237.35	25,699,237.35	37.4%
Coast RTA Operations		750,000.00	750,000.00	1.1%
Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities & Infrastructure (Proposal Based)	8,219,841.38	8,034,179.38	16,254,020.76	23.6%
Touchless payment system (Coast RTA)	440,000.00		440,000.00	0.6%
Assessible Playgrounds	250,000.00	250,000.00	500,000.00	0.7%
Land for Economic Development	1,000,000.00	-	1,000,000.00	1.5%
DHEC South Strand	100,000.00	-	100,000.00	0.1%
Railroad Rehabilitation (RJ Corman)	450,000.00		450,000.00	0.7%
Contingency	1,838,804.15	3,438,804.15	5,277,608.30	7.7%
Subtotal - Community Benefit	23,798,645.53	30,672,220.88	54,470,866.41	79.2%
Total	34,388,041.50	34,388,041.50	68,776,083.00	100.0%

Table 3 Horry County, SC Third Appropriation of ARPA Funding, July 2022

Horry County’s plan for use of revenue shortfalls replenished by the ARPA supports a strong and equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn. The plan also includes consideration of the totality of investments through the County’s FY 2022 budget, while also leveraging other funding sources designated for response and recovery from the COVID-19 health emergency. These projects can be divided into two broad categories: Provision of Government Services and Community Benefit.

Horry County Council approved a second adjustment in the same time frame, moving \$24.6 million from road improvements and \$1.4 million from the Cyber Security category to a new Public Safety Payroll line item, specifically targeted to FY 2022 Sheriff, Police, EMS and Detention personnel. As part of this action, Horry County Council approved the transfer of up to \$26 million

from the General Fund to the ARPA for completion of those elements in Road Infrastructure and Cybersecurity which may not be completed by the December 31, 2026 deadline for expenditure of ARPA funds.

Provision of Government Services

Support for Employees

Horry County Government remained open for business throughout the COVID pandemic, providing vital services that support individuals and businesses alike, and devising new strategies to provide services while minimizing the risk to employees and the citizens they serve. This outcome was only achieved through the dedication and perseverance of the County's employees. Based on public feedback, and in alignment with other local jurisdictions within the County, the ARPA budget includes supplemental compensation for County Employees, including public safety personnel, frontline workers and other employees who were critical to the continued operation of the County's programs and services. On September 7, 2021, County Council voted to use a portion of the American Rescue Plan Act funding to provide all County employees with a one-time COVID-19 related extra payment. This payment was paid out on Friday, September 10, 2021. Full-time employees that were employed with the County as of March 1, 2020 received the full payment. Part-time employees and employees that started after March 1, 2020 received a pro-rated payment based on time in service. This payment did not include County Council members, board members, volunteers or contract employees. It did include temporary employees. Horry County Council approved a one-time payment of \$1,500 for all full-time employees. In addition, uniformed public safety personnel and employees of the 911 department received an additional \$1,000 for a total of \$2,500. 2,292 employees received COVID Extra Pay in September 2021. An additional 120 individuals received COVID Extra Pay in October 2021 when County Council included Volunteer Firefighters as eligible recipients of extra pay through this program. (Line item: COVID-19 extra pay.)

Technology Improvements

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the need for robust information technology resources that allow employees to work remotely, and for services to be provided in electronic format. Such resources allow for social distancing, while also permitting the provision of government services for individuals and businesses. The adopted framework includes investments in cybersecurity upgrades as well as implementation of remote working capabilities for specific positions within the County for maintenance of services under emergency conditions. Facilities and Information Technology Enhancements also include the conversion of a large government meeting room into a space that can broadcast meetings to the general public, also providing interactive capabilities that facilitate the public input process in a distance format. The Online Payments Fees program allows the County to continue to subsidize online payments at a time when walk-in service poses a risk to employees and the general public. The digitization project for the Register of Deeds is designed to provide full online, indexed document access to real

estate agents, attorneys and the general public as an alternative to walk-in service. (Line items: Cyber security, Remote Working Capability, Register of Deeds Digitization, Online Payments Fees, and Facilities Information Technology Enhancements)

Ongoing COVID-19 Impacts

In light of the continuing impacts of COVID-19 at the time of this report, funds have also been budgeted for the purchase of PPE and other direct costs related to emergency protective measures. Moreover, as work from home models continue to be an option for many residents, and with 75% of the permanent population living in the unincorporated County, the pandemic has also significantly increased the cost of waste management services in the County. Funds were budgeted for additional increased costs in these areas. (Line items: PPE and other direct expenditures, Remote Working Capabilities, and COVID Impacts – Waste Management.)

Administrative Expenses

Approximately .04% of the ARPA allocation was set aside for administrative expenses related to management, reporting and compliance of ARPA funds. Administrative expenses reflect time and effort costs incurred by Horry County staff in management of ARPA funding, consultant services, coordination of the public input process, development and management of Calls for Proposals related to services to disproportionately impacted communities and infrastructure, and management of ARPA-funded subrecipients. (Line item: Administrative Expenses)

Community Benefit

Community Enhancement Initiatives and Services

The COVID-19 pandemic overwhelmed local non-profit organizations that address basic needs such as affordable housing, food and transportation services, child care, mental health services for disproportionately impacted communities and other relevant projects. In order to address locally identified needs, the county allocated a tranche of funding for public solicitation of projects that would be selected based on the ability of the project to meet a demonstrated local need for an underserved or disproportionately impacted clientele, a sound strategy for implementation, and performance metrics and an evaluation plan designed to measure the project's success. (Line item: Proposal-based projects for public services.)

Clean drinking water and services for the collection and treatment of wastewater and stormwater play a critical role in protecting public health. Similarly, broadband access has played a critical role in supporting continuing education, access of services and provision of health care during this public health emergency. ARPA funding will enable Horry County to make necessary investments in these sectors, particularly in low to middle income and rural areas where services are currently inadequate. During the past year, Horry County solicited applications for water and sewer projects from eligible providers. When the second tranche of ARPA funding was received from the U.S. Treasury in June 2022, a second call for proposals was issued for Public Service and Infrastructure projects on July 29, 2022. In this round, proposals for broadband projects were

also accepted. The second round of proposals resulted in funding for 2 water/sewer projects, 2 broadband projects and one request for an ambulance and equipment. (Line item: Proposal-based projects for infrastructure.)

Several projects designed to benefit rural or underserved communities have also been budgeted in the proposed framework, as they address needs already identified by the County, or were proposed as part of the public comment process. Projects include support of the Coast RTA, which provides critical transportation services to low-income and rural populations in Horry and Georgetown Counties, and the creation of accessible playgrounds in rural areas of the County which currently lack such amenities. (Line items: Coast RTA Operations, Touchless Payment System – Coast RTA, and Accessible Playgrounds.)

Public Facility Investments

Horry County has also set aside ARPA funding to make improvements to public facilities and services designed to reduce the risk of infection through the spread of airborne pathogens. Such improvements can include improved ventilation, physical barriers or partitions, signage to facilitate social distancing, provision of masks or personal protective equipment, or consultation with infection prevention professionals to develop safe reopening plans. Public facility investments will also include maintenance of County facilities for which repairs have been deferred due to budgetary constraints. The County also proposes improvements to a Department of Health and Environmental Control facility that will provide a new access point to public health services in a location with a large population of underserved clientele. Provision of government services in the revenue replacement category also extends to roads and bridges. Projects will be designed to improve the safety and wellbeing of citizens by improving roads and ensuring structurally sound transportation infrastructure within the County. (Line items: DHEC South Strand, Road Improvements, County Facilities Upgrades.)

Economic Development

Historically, Horry County has been an important economic contributor to the financial success and stability of South Carolina and a leader in hospitality and tourism sector. Some of the metrics indicating the favorable impacts to the state as reported by the SC Department of Revenue and the SC Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism indicate that Horry County, ranks fourth in the State with a population of 354,081, and is also a national top golf destination. The County is first in Accommodations Tax Revenues, \$21.8 million (29.1 % of state); first in Admissions Tax Revenue, \$9.9 million (23.8% of state); and first in domestic travel expenditures with \$4.8 billion, 31.4% of State, supporting \$907 million in payroll income and 44,700 jobs for area residents, \$297.5 million state tax receipts. The area recorded 20.6 million visitors in 2019 (D.K. Shifflet & Associates Ltd. Study, 2020).

Nationally, on net, the leisure and hospitality industry experienced an approximately 24% decline in revenue and approximately 17% decline in employment nationwide during the COVID-19 public health emergency. A study published by the Brookings Institute placed Myrtle Beach ninth

among all U.S. metro areas as most vulnerable to the economic downturn resulting from the health crisis. About 29% of all jobs in the area fall in sectors considered “at risk”, with the vast majority of those in the leisure and hospitality category.

In order to support the economic recovery of Horry County, the preliminary plan includes expenditure categories related to tourism and economic development. (Line items: Beach Bathrooms, Beach Parking, and Land for Economic Development in the form of a new or expanded industrial park.)

Planning updates in 2023-2024

As the implementation timelines for some projects became clearer since the adoption of the original budget, at the direction of County Council, selected projects were moved to alternate sources of funding. Other projects with APRA-eligible expenditures with shorter timelines were moved to ARPA SLFRF. These changes are summarized in the Performance Report section of this report.

Leveraged Funds

In addition to the ARPA funding, Horry County continues to benefit from additional federal supplemental funding that is intended to mitigate the negative economic and public health impacts of COVID-19, with a particular focus on disproportionately impacted communities. In particular, Horry County, SC, in partnership with the City of Myrtle Beach, SC is a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) entitlement community, funding projects and programs to meet the needs of the entitlement as identified in its Consolidated Plan and Annual Action Plan. The Horry County HOME Consortium (HCHC) was created in 2018 to assist the low-income and underserved areas of Georgetown, Horry, and Williamsburg Counties of South Carolina in the financing, development, and preservation of affordable housing. Member jurisdictions of HCHC include Georgetown, Horry, and Williamsburg Counties, as well as the municipalities of Myrtle Beach, Conway, Atlantic Beach, Aynor, Loris, Georgetown, Andrews, Kingstree, Hemingway, Stuckey, Lane, and Greeleyville. Horry County is the designated lead agency for the Consortium. Horry County also receives HUD funding through the Emergency Solutions Grant Program, which focuses on funding to prevent initial and recurrent homelessness, shortening the duration of homelessness, veteran services, assisting in the transition from homelessness to independent living, and providing needs assessment. These HUD grants also provide funding for the rehabilitation or conversion of buildings for use as emergency shelter for the homeless, for essential services related to emergency shelters, and for street outreach for the homeless.

Horry County CDBG Outcomes

The primary deliverable during the 2023-2024 program year was the development of decent, safe and affordable housing. Horry County spent \$908,875.57 on housing rehabilitation during this program year, completing 18 rehabs. In addition, 8 housing rehabilitation projects are currently underway. The average cost of housing rehabilitation was \$34,113.01.

Housing activities promote the stability of neighborhoods not only by providing safe and

affordable housing opportunities, but also through eliminating blight and safety hazards within distressed targeted neighborhoods. CDBG public services continue to assist Horry County non-profits that aid individuals in low income areas. Finally, adequate public facilities and improvements, including infrastructure and neighborhood revitalization, improve the living environments of residents of low-to-moderate income areas, and provide improved access to critical services.

On March 27, 2020, the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) was signed into law to assist communities in their efforts to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. The CARES Act included supplemental formula allocations to HUD’s Community Planning and Development (CPD) programs, including CDBG (CDBG-CV), the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-CV), and HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) for Horry County. The additional CARES Act funds allocated to the County were \$3,422,118 in aggregate for CDBG-CV and \$2,173,736 in aggregate for ESG-CV. Horry County has also received HOME-ARP funding in the amount of \$3,823,021. Horry County developed funding priorities aligning with program objectives and in compliance with the CDBG, ESG and HOME regulations respectively. Special attention is paid during SLFRF program design and implementation to ensure that no unauthorized duplication of benefits occurs.

CDBG-CV Projects

To date, Horry County has expended \$3,324,095.12 in CDBG-CV funds to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the Coronavirus. Activities included financial assistance to qualifying small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, two ambulances, and subrecipient agreements with local non-profits who provide specialized services to beneficiaries across the County. In 2020, CDBG-CV funding provided assistance to 31 businesses in Myrtle Beach and 36 businesses in unincorporated Horry County. A summary of CDBG-CV public services projects funded through Horry County is provided in Table 4.

Horry County, SC CDBG-CV Projects and Expenditures		
Horry County	Small Business Assistance Grants	\$792,911.06
	Small Business Assistance Grants	\$683,387.65
SOS Care, Inc.	COVID Healthy Air Initiative	\$4,838.83
Finklea Alumni Assoc.	Finklea After-School Program – COVID Modifications	\$10,043.00
ECHO	Mental Health Services to Homeless Populations	\$100,000.00
Neighbor to Neighbor	Transportation Services for COVID-19 Vaccinations and to Food Services	\$28,208.00
CareTeam Plus	Mobile COVID-19 Vaccination Team	\$8,377.87
United Way	Breaking Barriers for Mental Health (LMI focus)	\$602,609.73
Finklea Alumni Assoc.	After School/Summer Camp Program	\$77,840.00
Assoc. for the Betterment of Bucksport	Business Development	\$45,349.26

Neighbor to Neighbor	Transportation for Breaking Barriers	\$149,072.01
Neighbor to Neighbor	Health Transportation Services	\$28,966.00
Veteran’s Welcome Home and Resource Center	Housing and Financial Literacy Case Managers	\$110,000.00
Horry County	Fire/EMS Ambulances and equipment	\$449,837.12
Horry County	Administrative Expenses	\$232,654.59
Total		\$3,324,095.12

Table 4 Horry County CDBG-CV Projects and Expenditures

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-CV)

The Horry County Emergency Solutions Grant – COVID (ESG-CV) program provides funding for rapid rehousing, homelessness prevention, emergency shelter, and maintenance of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Rapid rehousing includes rental assistance to help homeless individuals or families move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieve stability. Homelessness prevention consists of payment of arrears and other assistance to prevent households who are at risk of homelessness from becoming being evicted and becoming homeless due to effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Emergency shelter consists of vouchers for overnight stays for homeless individuals while isolating due to COVID-19 concerns. HMIS data management includes tracking of individuals and households receiving assistance through the ESG-CV program. Administration includes planning, reporting, and compliance to ensure that ESG-CV funds are utilized in a manner compliant with the CARES Act, ESG regulations and other applicable laws and authorities. Horry County administers the majority of its ESG projects through a subrecipient agreement with the Eastern Carolina Housing Organization (ECHO). ESG-CV projects and expenditures are summarized in Table 5.

Horry County, SC ESG-CV Projects and Expenditures		
Rapid Rehousing	151 Households Served	\$794,668.61
Homelessness Prevention	141 Households Served	\$926,745.47
Emergency Shelter	134 Households Served	\$207,283.31
HMIS		\$84,906.91
ESG-CV Administration		\$217,373.00
Total		\$2,173,736.00

Table 5 ESG-CV Projects and Expenditures

U.S. Treasury – Emergency Rental Assistance Programs

In addition to the above funding, Horry County was awarded Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) program funding through the U.S. Treasury. The ERA program makes funding available to assist households that are unable to pay rent or utilities. Two separate programs were established: ERA 1 was established under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, which was enacted on December 27, 2020, and ERA 2 was established under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which was enacted on March 11, 2021. Horry County was awarded funding under both ERA 1 (\$10,708,257) and ERA 2 (\$8,300,000). In June 2022, Horry County received an



additional \$10,000,000 in reallocated ERA 1 funds. Subsequently, Horry County received additional ERA 2 funds in two separate tranches, totaling \$1,536,411.00 and \$1,187,364.91 respectively, for a total of \$31,732,032.91. In order to implement this program, Horry County partnered with the Eastern Carolina Housing Organization (ECHO), which provides veteran services, transitional housing programs, short-term housing programs, and long-term housing programs. ECHO also serves as Horry County's subrecipient for the HUD Emergency Solutions Grant.

Horry County has utilized ERA funding to provide assistance to 10,366 households, averaging 5 months of assistance per household. All ERA1 funds were expended by December of 2022 and ERA 2 funds were expended by December 2023.

As ERA funding closed, Horry County initiated a Tenant-Based Rental Assistance (TBRA) program through its HOME Investment Partnerships entitlement program, with ECHO serving as subrecipient. Although the requirements for TBRA program differ from those of the ERA program, and funding is not of the same scale as ERA, the initiation of TBRA funding provides an alternate form of rental assistance for qualified recipients in Horry, Georgetown, and Williamsburg counties.

Promoting equitable outcomes

The negative impacts of the coronavirus pandemic have affected not only local economies but also families, employers and governments in unprecedented ways. Money spent under this category should address an economic harm resulting from, or exacerbated by, the public health emergency.

Economic disparities that existed prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency were amplified because of the impacts of the pandemic among low-income and minority cohort groups. Families facing housing, food and financial insecurity are over-represented among low-income workers. Economic impacts of COVID-19 are most acute in lower income neighborhoods, which suffer from unemployment, housing instability, and educational disparities. Lower-income neighborhoods can also benefit from programs designed to promote healthy environments. Qualified activities may also have presumed benefits that provide services in qualified census tracts.

A qualified census tract (QCT), is an area that has an assumed disparate impact. Other low-income communities and communities of color also faced exacerbating effects on economic inequality, so funds may address disproportionate negative economic effects due to the COVID-19 public health emergency in the following ways:

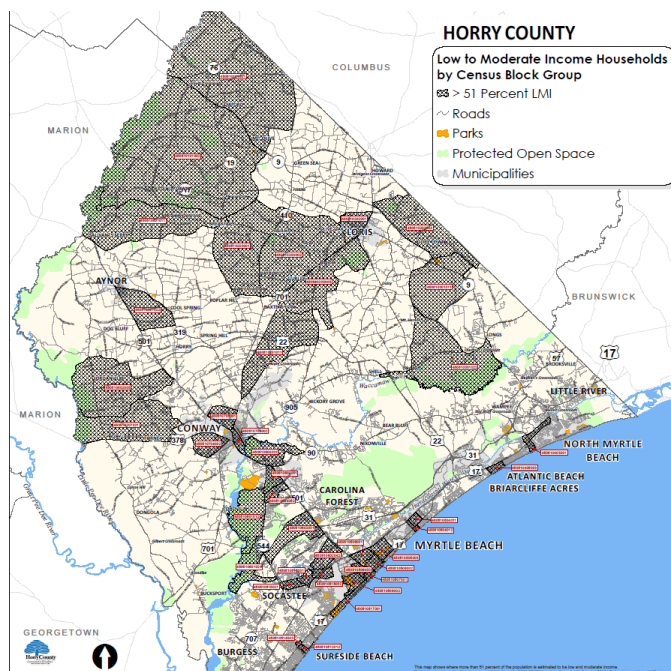


Figure 3. Horry County, LMI Map by Census Block Group

- Investing in housing and neighborhoods to strengthen communities by supporting unhoused individuals and increasing supply of affordable and high-quality living units;
- Addressing educational and childhood welfare disparities by expanding early learning services and promoting evidence-based practices that address mental health needs of students; and
- Supporting healthy childhood environments through expanding childcare and enhancing services for child welfare-involved families.

The map shown in figure 3 shows census block groups in which more than 51% of the population is estimated to be low and moderate income. Estimates are based on block groups available from the 2011-2015 American Community Survey (ACS). Data used for these estimates were obtained from HUD at: <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/acs-low-mod-summary-data/acs-low-mod-summary-data-summarized-block-groups>. The map was created by the Horry County Department of Planning & Zoning.

In 2017, Horry County published a HUD-approved Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) plan. This plan utilizes a HUD-prescribed framework to review disparities found within the County, focusing on the identification of concentrated poverty, disparities in access to opportunities and disproportionate housing needs. Local indicators suggest a need for further investments in education, affordable housing and improved access to public transportation and primary community needs. The existing gaps identified in the AFFH plan have been exacerbated by the pandemic. As such, Horry County has prioritized all competitive proposals that serve a disproportionately impacted community and/or meet a goal of the AFFH plan. Projects submitted for funding consideration through non-profit organizations (for public services) and utility companies (for water and broadband) projects specified goals for impacting historically underserved, marginalized and adversely affected groups. Proposal also specify strategies for awareness and equitable access and distribution, as well as specific, measurable goals for outcomes. These criteria have been included as components of the merit review process for evaluating proposals.

Goals: For selected line items, service to historically underserved individuals and communities will be prioritized through an emphasis on projects that create positive impacts for LMI

individuals and individuals residing in LMI census tracts, as noted in the map above.

Awareness: As a CDBG entitlement community, Horry County is experienced both in direct outreach and working with non-profit partners to create awareness of opportunities made available through federal funding programs. Depending on the program, outreach methods enacted by the county and its partners include, but are not limited to street outreach, flyers and hangtags for doors, outreach through churches, direct phone calls, and outreach through non-profit organizations. As individual projects are identified and approved by County Council, outreach plans customized for each project will be developed and implemented.

Access and Distribution: Horry County has identified issues with access to electronic documents among individuals based on lack of broadband access, technical literacy challenges and service to elderly citizens. In order to ensure equitable access and service through programs, Horry County Community Development and its partners routinely provide assistance with completion of applications by phone, in-person, or with the consent of the beneficiary, in consultation with a family member.

Outcomes: Intended outcomes and reporting requirements are tailored to the specific project that is funded. Anticipated outcomes for underserved individuals or communities will be specified for selected project prior to project award, and will be detailed in future reports.

Projects focusing on historically underserved individuals and populations within the proposed plan above include, but are not limited to the following: Coast RTA Operations, Coast RTA touchless payment system, proposal-based projects for public services and infrastructure and DHEC South Strand. Moreover, the accessible playgrounds line item is intended to provide equitable facilities for children in rural communities, which currently lack these amenities compared with the County's urban centers.

To date, projects serving disproportionately impacted communities are already underway through Horry County Community Development, which currently supports home repair and rehabilitation through its CDBG and USDA programs. Additionally, there are multiple grant awards to non-profit subrecipients to provide an array of public services including a mobile vaccination clinic to provide vaccine access to those who are geographically isolated, a transportation service providing rides to medical appointments and food banks, and a counseling program to provide services at multiple location for those in need of mental health and or substance abuse services. Horry County is also providing rental and utility assistance to tenants and landlords through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program. 31 businesses in Myrtle Beach and 36 businesses in unincorporated Horry County have received assistance through CDBG-CV funding awarded to small businesses to retain the employment of low to moderate income employees.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDING

Timeline to Implementation

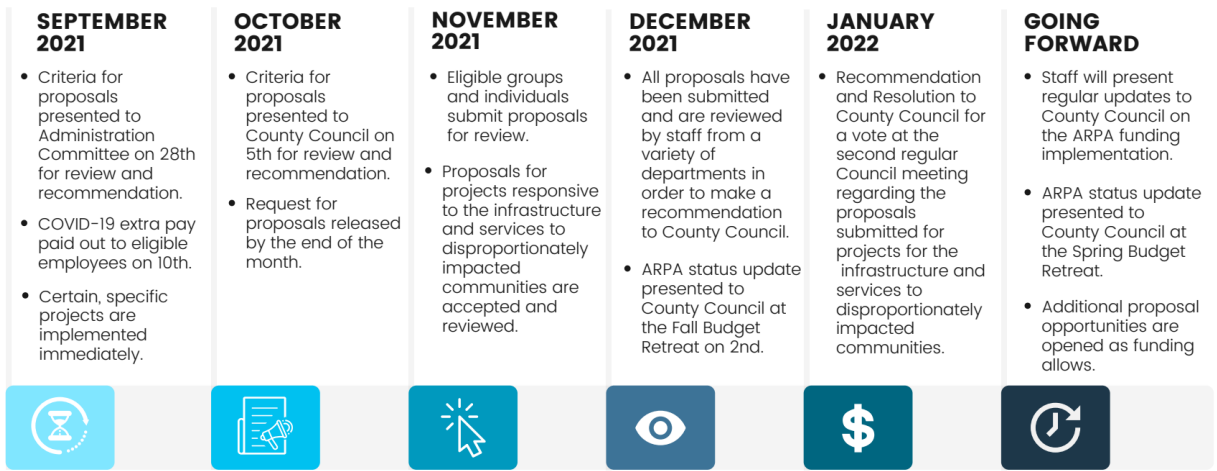


Figure 4 Call for Proposals for Public Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities, Affordable Housing and Water and Sewer Infrastructure.

In October 2021, a proposal application window opened for projects in the “Services to Disproportionately-Impacted Communities” line item, focusing on Public Services, Affordable Housing and Water and Sewer Infrastructure projects. Review Criteria for all proposals were approved by Horry County Council as shown in Table 7.

Program Review Criteria	Points
Impact of project and clientele served – Project achieves a significant positive impact for communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, or serves a low-to-moderate income area.	20 points
Organizational capacity and experience – History of managing similar projects successfully, as well as sufficient experienced staff to manage the grant.	20 points
Budget – Costs are necessary and reasonable. Matching funds are provided.	20 points
Feasibility – Project timeline is reasonable. Proposal demonstrates support of all stakeholders required to execute the project.	10 points
Aid in response to a negative impact of COVID-19	20 points
Project evaluation – Plan to measure the success of the project and service provided to proposed clientele.	10 points
Total	100 points

Table 6 Review Criteria for Call for Proposals

Through this proposal process, Horry County’s goal was to address unmet needs in the County, setting aside both more than \$16 million in ARPA funding and approximately \$1 million in CDBG-CV funding for meritorious proposals from external entities in the areas of public services,

affordable housing, and water and sewer infrastructure. 25 proposals were received. County Council approved funding for 2 public services proposals, 3 affordable housing proposals, 3 water and 2 sewer proposals. An additional 4 Public Services projects were funded through CDBG-CV.

A second round of proposals was initiated on June 15, 2022, with proposals to be received June 29, 2022. Public workshops were held as part of each round of proposals to provide technical assistance to organizations planning to prepare proposals. 5 ARPA proposals were received during this second round. County Council approved funding for an additional 2 broadband proposals, 1 public service proposal, 1 water, and 1 sewer proposals. Projects receiving funding are enumerated in the final section of this report, under the heading “Services to Disproportionately-impacted communities and infrastructure.”

Organization	Title	Source	Funding Amount	
Public Services			Tranche 1	Tranche 2
Horry Georgetown Technical College	Community Resilience through a Holistic Approach to Job Training, Health and Nutrition	ARPA	\$444,938.00	\$1,421,236.00
Waccamaw EOC	Skills Training Enrichment (STEP-Up)	ARPA	\$200,000.00	\$0.00
Total Public Service - ARPA			\$644,938.00	\$1,421,236.00
United Way	Breaking Barriers for Mental Health	CDBG-CV	\$602,610.00	\$0.00
Neighbor to Neighbor	Transportation Services for Breaking Barriers	CDBG-CV	\$207,836.00	\$0.00
Finklea High in Loris Training Schools Alumni Assoc.	Tutor for Afterschool Program	CDBG-CV	\$77,840.00	\$0.00
Assoc. for the Betterment of Bucksport	Business Development in Bucksport	CDBG-CV	\$61,000.00	\$0.00
Total Public Service - CDBG-CV			\$949,286.00	\$0.00
Affordable Housing				
SOS Health Care, Inc.	Affordable Housing for Adults with Disabilities at Oak tree Farm	ARPA	\$1,934,590.00	\$0.00
Waccamaw EOC	Weatherization Assistance Program	ARPA	\$360,000.00	\$0.00
Habitat for Humanity of Horry County	Affordable Housing Inventory Creation	ARPA	\$1,000,000.00	\$935,000.00
Total Affordable Housing			\$3,294,590.00	\$935,000.00
Water Infrastructure				
NMB Water	Water Line Extension, Little River Neck Road, Jack's Circle, Harrelson Road	ARPA	\$1,500,000.00	\$0.00
Bucksport Water System	Northern System Hydraulic Improvements	ARPA	\$511,376.40	\$0.00
Little River Water & Sewerage Company	Booster Pump Station Upgrade	ARPA	\$262,500.00	\$0.00
Total Water Infrastructure			\$2,273,876.40	\$0.00
Sewer Infrastructure				
Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority	Conway WWTP to Bucksport WWTP Flow Diversion Project	ARPA	\$0.00	\$4,000,000.00
City of Myrtle Beach	Canal Street Sanitary Sewer Force Main Replacement Project	ARPA	\$1,500,000.00	\$0.00
Total Sewer Infrastructure			\$1,500,000.00	\$4,000,000.00
Total ARPA			\$7,713,404.40	\$6,356,236.00
Total CDBG-CV			\$949,286.00	\$0.00
Grand Total			\$8,662,690.40	\$6,356,236.00

Table 7 Projects Targeting Disproportionately Impacted Communities, and Water and Sewer Infrastructure

Organization	Title	Services to Disproportionately-Impacted Communities and Infrastructure	County Facilities Upgrades	Total
Murrells Inlet Garden City Fire District	Ambulance and Equipment	\$317,657.20	\$0.00	\$317,657.20
Town of Atlantic Beach	Community Connectivity - Broadband	\$488,840.00	\$0.00	\$488,840.00
City of Loris	Water System Upgrades	\$500,000.00	\$0.00	\$500,000.00
Town of Surfside Beach	North Side Drainage Improvements	\$500,000.00	\$0.00	\$500,000.00
HTC, Inc.	Broadband, Horry County Recreation Centers, libraries and boat landings	\$377,883.16	\$122,116.84	\$500,000.00
	Total Funding - Round 2	\$2,184,380.36	\$122,116.84	\$2,306,497.20
	Total Funding - Round 1	\$14,069,640.40		
	Total ARPA Funding	\$16,254,020.76		

Table 8 Second Round of Projects Targeting Disproportionately Impacted Communities, and Water and Sewer Infrastructure

Community Engagement

In order to solicit public input for the plan, Horry County adapted the approach used for public input for its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) entitlement program. Horry County developed a draft framework based on known areas of need for which funds had not been allocated in the budget for the current fiscal year. The framework, which included suggested areas of investment to address public health, negative economic impacts, infrastructure, disproportionately impacted communities and provision of government services, as well as the suggested funding level and potential projects under each category.

The draft framework was made publicly available on June 30, 2021 and the availability of the plan was announced through a press release, the Horry County website, and public notices in local newspapers. A public hearing was then held on August 12, 2021 in order to solicit input from the general public and a dedicated email address, arpa@horrycounty.org, was established for the public to submit comments and suggestions for the use of funds.

Overall, 39 individuals submitted comments, either at the Public Hearing or through email. Some individuals submitted multiple requests on how they would like to see the ARP funds be utilized in Horry County. Public Services, Public Safety Salaries, Affordable Housing, Infrastructure were highlighted as areas of specific need.

Horry County holds several public input sessions each year for its HUD programs, and endeavors to direct the totality of available funding to address unmet needs, particularly among LMI populations and other underserved communities. Projects recommended for funding are presented as part of the County Council’s Administration Committee and Full Council meetings, where public input is encouraged. Moreover, arpa@horrycounty.org and a dedicated ARPA webpage hosted on the County website provide transparency for ARPA-related projects.

Labor Practices

South Carolina does not have a state Prevailing Wage law. Horry County’s Procurement Code includes provisions for local vendor preference. Horry County also coordinates with out-of-state

subrecipients (such as RJ Corman Railroad Lines) to post all invitations to bid on the South Carolina Business Opportunities (SCBO) website.

Use of Evidence

Horry County is utilizing SLFRF resources to undertake projects that were unable to be completed due to reductions in revenue caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The County engaged in a comprehensive process in order to determine the most appropriate allocation of these resources and identify projects that will best support the County's recovery goals. While no program evaluations designed to build evidence are being contemplated, achieving meaningful outputs is of the utmost importance. With this in mind, Horry County Council discussed and approved criteria for the review and selection of the most impactful proposals to be funded through the ARPA programs designed to benefit disproportionately impacted communities. Programmatic subrecipient agreements include reporting requirements and benchmarks for the number of beneficiaries, number of affordable housing units created, number of clients served by new water and sewer infrastructure, etc. As such, program outputs and outcomes are closely monitored through quarterly reporting. Data collection and analysis protocols within the County are sufficient to provide for program monitoring and to ensure that program outcomes can be used to inform future decision-making.

The County's decisions regarding use of SLFRF funding have been and will be informed by gathering evidence from a variety of sources. While the County has not engaged in a Learning Agenda process for SLFRF funds or its broader policy agenda, its decisions are guided by many of the same principles that place a high value on ensuring inputs from a variety of sources, setting broad goals, capturing program outputs, conducting meaningful analysis and evaluating program outputs against overall goals.

Performance Report

PROJECT INVENTORY

Provision of Government Services:

Project AR1PubH: COVID-19 Extra Pay

Funding amount: \$4,894,644.13

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Revenue Replacement

Project Overview: On September 7, 2021, Horry County Council voted to use a portion of the American Rescue Plan Act funding to provide all County Employees with a one-time COVID-19 related extra payment. Full-time employees that were employed with the County as of March 1, 2020 received the full payment as outlined below. Part-time employees and employees who started after March 1, 2020 received a pro-rated payment based on time in service. The payment did not include County Council members, board members, volunteers

or contract employees. It did include temporary employees. Horry County Council approved a one-time payment of \$1,500 for all full-time employees. In addition, uniformed public safety personnel and employees of the e911 Department received an additional \$1,000 for a total of \$2,500.

Use of Evidence: The goals of the program were to recognize the service of employees whose service provided continuity of government services during the pandemic, to provide a higher level of extra pay to public safety employees whose positions required them to provide in-person services to community members during the pandemic, thereby risking their own health to provide services to the community. This program also allowed the County to provide COVID-19 extra pay commensurate with the extra pay offered by surrounding counties. SLFRF funds are not used for evidence-based interventions as part of this project.

Performance Report: 2,292 employees received COVID Extra Pay in September 2021. An additional 120 individuals received COVID Extra Pay in October 2021 when County Council included Volunteer Firefighters as eligible recipients of extra pay through this program. 100% of the allocation towards COVID-19 Extra Pay has been expended. This project has been completed.

Project AR6RevR-128-GovSv-CyberSe: Cyber Security

Funding amount: \$1,353,876.50

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Revenue Replacement

Project Overview: During the COVID-19 pandemic, a larger volume of services have been provided online in order to reduce the need for face-to-face contact. The County's Chief Information Officer has concluded that expansion of online services will require increased system security in order to safeguard County data from continually escalating cyber threats. Horry County is therefore acquiring and implementing a data vault to segregate and isolate the County's backup data from the rest of the network. This initiative will provide an isolated backup in case of a cyber attack, thereby enabling quicker and more complete systems restorations.

Use of Evidence: The goal of this project is to enable secure provision of expanded online government services in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. SLFRF funds are not used for evidence-based interventions as part of this project.

Performance Report: 100% of the allocation towards Cyber Security has been expended. This project has been completed.

Project AR6RevR-128-1GovSev-Waste: COVID Impacts – Waste Management

Funding amount: \$700,000

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Revenue Replacement

Project Overview: During the COVID-19 pandemic, due to the systematic closure of Schools, Higher Education, and businesses, normal waste disposal systems were impacted to shift municipal and commercial disposal to Horry County's rural waste collection system. The

physical relocation of school children and workers from their normal daytime locations and shift of on-premises restaurant dining to take-out service or home delivery resulted in a dramatic shift in waste disposal from the municipal and commercial systems to the rural system. The rural collection system is comprised of 24 individual collection centers where rural waste is delivered by individual residents to the center closest to their home.

Based on the higher volume of waste disposal due to school and business closure as well as stay at home order, Horry County is incurring a significant additional unbudgeted cost. Due to the sustained impacts of COVID-19, resulting in significant unbudgeted costs related to waste disposal, Horry County Council approved a \$700,000 budget allocation of ARPA funds to cover the estimated increased costs. At the time of this report, the ARPA budget for this category has already been fully expended.

Use of Evidence: The goal of this project was to offset higher operating costs for the County that were directly attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic. That goal has been achieved. SLFRF funds were not used for evidence-based interventions as part of this project.

Performance Report: 100% of the allocation towards Waste Management has been expended. This project has been completed.

Project AR6RevR-128-GovSVOnlinePy: Online Payments Fees

Funding amount: \$100,000

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Revenue Replacement

Project Overview: During the COVID-19 pandemic, Horry County has encouraged online payment for the conduct of County-related business transactions as a means of promoting social distancing and reducing exposure to the virus. In order to reduce the financial burden of online transactions to its citizens, Horry County has been absorbing the cost of those transactions, thereby resulting in an increased cost of doing business for the County. In September 2021, Horry County Council approved use of ARPA funding in the amount of \$100,000 to absorb the increased cost to the County.

Use of Evidence: The goal of this project was to offset higher operating costs for the County that were directly attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic. That goal has been achieved. SLFRF funds are not used for evidence-based interventions as part of this project.

Performance Report: At present, more than 90% of the funds for this project have been expended.

Project AR6RevR-128-GovSv-ITFacil: Facilities Information Technology Enhancement

Funding amount: \$99,936.69

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Revenue Replacement

Project Overview: During the COVID-19 pandemic, the County moved many public meetings traditionally held in-person to an online format as a means of promoting social distancing and preventing spread of the virus. In the past, the County's Government and Justice Center (GJC) had used a County Council rooms for this purpose. In order to offer additional capacity for County Departments to host online interactive meetings with both online and in-person

attendees, County Council budgeted ARPA funds in the amount of \$100,000 to retrofit Multipurpose Room B in the GJC with Information Technology enhancements to serve this purpose.

Use of Evidence: The goal of this project is to enable live streaming of public meetings, a high priority during COVID-19, when social distancing was advised. SLFRF funds are not used for evidence-based interventions as part of this project.

Performance Report: The work related to this project has been completed. The room is currently in use for this purpose, and, in fact, was used for public input and workshop meetings related to use of ARPA funding. 100% of the allocation towards Technology Enhancement has been expended. This project has been completed.

Project AR6RevR-128-GovSv-PPE: PPE and other direct expenses

Funding amount: \$300,743.70

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Revenue Replacement

Project Overview: In October 2021, Horry County Council authorized use of ARPA funds to purchase PPE and other related supplies and expenses to protect County employees and the public from transmittal of COVID-19. In July 2022, Horry County Council appropriated additional funding from the second tranche of ARPA funding for this purpose.

Use of Evidence: The goal of this project is to provide PPE and other supplies and equipment necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19. SLFRF funds are not used for evidence-based interventions as part of this project.

Performance Report: The purchase of PPE, disinfection supplies, and other expenses are currently supported by this project. As the need for conventional PPE has decreased in the last year, Horry County Fire Rescue utilized \$22,072.02 to purchase a Lucas device for its EMS Department from this fund. The total budget for this project was reduced to \$300,743.70.

Project AR6RevR-128-1GovSv-Remote: Remote Working Capability

Funding amount: \$582,375.85

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Revenue Replacement

Project Overview: Horry County Council approved a line item in the amount of \$1,000,000 to better enable remote working capabilities in the County. In the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, County leadership recognized the need for additional investments in support of remote working capabilities for County Employees. ARPA funds will be used to purchase laptops, docking stations, monitors and VPN devices to provide users the ability to securely work from home or from other remote locations. During the third quarter of 2023, the budget for this project was reduced to \$582,375.85.

Use of Evidence: The goal of this project is to enable remote work for a greater percentage of County employees. SLFRF funds are not used for evidence-based interventions as part of this project.

Performance Report: This project is substantially complete with the successful deployment of laptops and remote work kits to Horry County departments.

Project AR6RevR-128-1GovSv-RODDig: Register of Deeds Digitization Project

Funding amount: \$1,379,325.05

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Revenue Replacement

Project Overview: The Horry County Register of Deeds (ROD) is responsible for recording of documents concerning land transfers and other miscellaneous instruments of record. Historically, the ROD office, has maintained a dedicated room of public use computers to provide access to deeds and other legal documents. This room has typically experienced a high volume of foot traffic from external entities performing title searches, as well as searches for other legal documents. During COVID-19, accommodations needed to be made within the ROD's office to accommodate this influx of personnel while also maintaining social distancing. Horry County Council has approved ARPA funding in the amount of \$1,500,000 to digitize and index older records. The goal of this project is to enable a comprehensive online search of County records, thereby reducing the need for face-to-face contact while also increasing service to individuals and firms which frequently use the ROD's services.

Use of Evidence: The goal of this project is to enable those who require access to County records the ability to search and print records online, thereby providing public health benefits of social distancing during the COVID-19 pandemic. SLFRF funds are not used for evidence-based interventions as part of this project.

Performance Report: Horry County's contractor for this project, Kofile, is within the parameters of their timeline for implementation.

Project AR7Admi: Administrative Expenditures

Funding amount: \$486,831.83

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Revenue Replacement

Project Overview: Administrative expenses include, but are not limited to, time and effort expenditures for County staff for work on ARPA-related programming and for consultant expenditures to verify the County's revenue reduction calculation. Administrative expenses include time and effort, consulting expenses, and advertisement of public input opportunities. Time and Effort includes, but is not limited to, preparation, presentation of ARPA-related materials for public input, meetings as well as meetings of the County Council and the Council's administrative committee, establishment of segregated accounts for individual ARPA projects, and ARPA financial and performance reporting. During the reporting period, staff developed and advertised proposal solicitation documents for Public Services, Affordable Housing and Water and Sewer Infrastructure proposals for external entities. Information sessions were held for proposals, and proposals were reviewed in the months of December 2021 and January 2022. Subrecipient agreements were drafted and financial and performance management infrastructure was established for ARPA-funded projects. Time and Effort directly related to ARPA program implementation is charged to this project.

Use of Evidence: The goal of this project is to reimburse Horry County for the time and effort expended in managing and maintaining compliance related to SLFRF funds. SLFRF funds are not used for evidence-based interventions as part of this project.

Performance Report: Administrative funds are being expended for time and effort of staff in oversight and management of ARPA funding, reporting and management of subrecipients.

Project AR6RevR-128-1GovSv-BombRV: Bomb Response Vehicle

Funding amount: \$407,224.30

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Revenue Replacement

Project Overview: On October 17, 2023, Horry County Council designated \$407,224.30 in ARPA Contingency for a project to be completed by the Horry County Police Department's Pee Dee Regional WMD Bomb Squad.

Use of Evidence: SLFRF funds are not used for evidence-based interventions as part of this project.

Performance Report: Horry County recognizes the need for a Bomb Response Vehicle to keep our community safe and to ensure the safety of those first responder dealing with an array of situations that call upon up-to-date equipment and technology to safeguard our community. A bomb response vehicle was purchased during the reporting period.

Project AR6RevR-128-1GovSv-Coroner: Coroner's Office Expansion

Funding amount: \$1,500.00

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Revenue Replacement

Project Overview: The Horry County Coroner's Office has long struggled with capacity issues for intake, storage and operations. This funding, approved by Horry County Council in August 2023, will provide resources for coolers and other needed equipment to increase capacity.

Use of Evidence: SLFRF funds are not used for evidence-based interventions as part of this project.

Performance Report: Funds expended for this project support building renovations. Additional coolers were also purchased.

Project AR6-RevR-128-GovSV-Facili: Land for Future County Facilities

Funding amount: \$1,500.00

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Revenue Replacement

Project Overview: In light the County's growth, Horry County is exploring opportunities to acquire land suitable for future county facilities.

Use of Evidence: The goal of this project is to support the economic recovery of coastal tourist areas in unincorporated Horry County. SLFRF funds are not used for evidence-based interventions as part of this project.

Performance Report: This project is complete. An appraisal was conducted and the proposed site was not selected.

Community Investments:

Project AR1PUBH-300-9Payrl-PSSalary: Public Safety Payroll

Funding amount: \$43,805,237.35

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Revenue Replacement

Project Overview: This line item is designed to fund public safety regular-time salaries for EMS, Horry County Police, and the J. Reuben Long Detention Center (under the purview of the County Sheriff’s Office). Call volumes have reached record levels during and following the COVID-19 pandemic, and as a general increase in the County’s base population.

Use of Evidence: The goal of this project is to reallocate lost revenue replaced through ARPA to Salaries for Public Safety in EMS, Police, and the Detention Center. SLFRF funds were not used for evidence-based interventions as part of this project.

Performance Report: The initial \$26,000,000 in ARPA funding for this project was fully expended in Q4 of FY 2022. The balance was fully expended by June 30, 2024. This project has been completed.



Figure 5 Honor Guard

Project AR3Disp-128-13Othr-CoastR: Touchless Payment System – Coast RTA

Funding amount: \$340,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Revenue Replacement

Project Overview: The Coast Rural Transit Authority (RTA) provides transportation within and between Horry and Georgetown counties, operating vehicles ranging from 9-passenger to 40-passenger vehicles and services ten fixed routes. The fixed routes include Andrews, Bucksport, Conway, Garden City, Georgetown, Loris, Murrells Inlet, Myrtle Beach, Pawleys Island and Surfside Beach. In addition, the Authority provides Paratransit services for those with disabilities. In order to promote public safety and to reduce possible COVID-19 transmittal among operators and riders, Horry County approved \$440,000 in ARPA funding for a Touchless Payment System to be installed in its vehicles. For more information regarding Coast RTA, visit <http://www.coastrta.com>



Figure 6 Touchless Payment System

regarding Coast RTA, visit

Use of Evidence: The goal of this project is to promote social distancing within the low to moderate income ridership of the Coast RTA. SLFRF funds were not used for evidence-based interventions as part of this project.

Performance Report: The contactless payment system has been installed on all vehicles as well as hardware installation training and testing has taken place for the Coast RTA maintenance staff. Administrative staff have been trained on back-end reporting and customer assistance. Operations staff have been trained on implementing and engaging passengers on how to use the contactless fare system. Driver Console and bar-coded cards are still in development. Coast RTA is in the research and development stages for a driver console and a barcoded card.



Figure 7 "Tap to Cap" Program - Coast RTA

Project AR3Disp-128-13Othr-CoastRT2: Coast RTA Operations

Funding amount: \$475,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Revenue Replacement

Project Overview: This funding supports operations of the Coast RTA, which provides critical services for rural commuters in Horry and Georgetown Counties. During COVID-19, ridership decreased, straining the finances of this vital service. Operations assistance provided by ARPA will assist in stabilizing the finances of Coast RTA, providing low- and moderate-income ridership with a low-cost means of transportation within Horry and Georgetown Counties.



Figure 8 Coast RTA Vehicles

Use of Evidence: SLFRF funds are not used for evidence-based interventions as part of this project.

Performance Report: This project was awarded from the second tranche of ARPA funding. At this time, five trolley buses have been purchased. Funding to support the new Operations and Maintenance facility remains to be expended. Coast RTA took delivery of the trolleys and completed a full inspection of each trolley, with only one trolley having a damaged oil pan. Contacted Transit Sales International and had a new oil pan delivered and installed. Installation both fare systems, camera systems, graphics/logos, AVL and cradle points (sim cards that are used for the new contactless fare systems) on all trolleys has taken place. The budget for this project was reduced and the funds have been fully expended.

Project AR6RevR-128-1GovSv-DHECSS: DHEC South Strand

Funding amount: \$100,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Revenue Replacement

Project Overview: Horry County Council has approved \$100,000 for the renovation of a facility from which the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) can provide services to the highly-populated South Strand area of the County.

Use of Evidence: The goal of this project is to provide convenient access to health and environmental services for a highly populated disproportionately impacted area of unincorporated Horry County that is located immediately south of Myrtle Beach. SLFRF funds are not used for evidence-based interventions as part of this project.

Performance Report: The work related to this project will be performed by the Horry County Maintenance Department. The Certificate of Occupancy was received on Friday, January 26, 2024, and this project has been completed. As of July 1, 2024, SC DHEC has reorganized as two separate offices at the state level, the South Carolina Department of Environmental Services, and the South Carolina Department of Public Health.



Project AR6RevR-128-1GovSV-LandEc: Land for Economic Development

Funding amount: \$1,000,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Revenue Replacement

Project Overview: Horry County is a coastal county in South Carolina that includes the Grand Strand, an area featuring beachfront resorts, entertainment attractions, and restaurants serving an estimated 20,000,000 visitors on an annual basis. As such, the local economy is dominated by the hospitality industry. In order to the long-term economic health of the area, an important long-term priority is diversification of the local economy by incentivizing companies to move to the region. Initial efforts to this end have proved successful, with most of the available industrial parks at or near capacity. In October 2021, Horry County Council approved an ARPA budget line item in the amount of \$1 million for the Myrtle Beach Regional Economic Development Council to purchase additional land for economic development. A parcel contiguous to Ascott Valley Industrial Park has been identified for this purpose. Additional information regarding Myrtle Beach Regional Economic Development Corporation is available at: <http://www.mbredc.org>



Use of Evidence: The goal of this project is to provide support for the economic diversification of Horry County by establishing industrial park facilities to which businesses can relocate or expand. SLFRF funds are not used for evidence-based interventions as part of this project.

Performance Report: A parcel of land was purchased in partnership with Myrtle Beach Regional Economic Development Corporation and \$1,000,000 has been expended. The project has been completed.

Project AR7Admi-128-Contng-RJCorm: RJ Corman – Railroad Upgrades

Funding amount: \$450,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Revenue Replacement

Project Overview: Horry County Council has approved a project to make repairs to a currently unused rail line between Conway, SC and the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway so that it can provide freight service to commercial customers. Horry County approved a budget of \$900,000 for this project, comprised of \$450,000 in ARPA funding and \$450,000 in matching funds from RJ Corman Railroad

**RJ Corman
Railroad Company**



Group. This project will extend the limits of a recently-completed railroad rehabilitation project funded by the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), extending the line from Conway, SC though Carolina Forest, a heavily-populated area within unincorporated Horry County. Additional information regarding RJ Corman Railroad Group is available at: <http://rjcorman.com>

Use of Evidence: When this section of the railroad became inoperable due to safety concerns resulting from deferred maintenance, trucking became the primary means of transporting local goods to market. This change resulted in higher costs for manufacturers, costs which are often passed on to consumers. The goal of this project is to support the economic development of local businesses through providing a lower-cost option to transport goods to market. SLFRF funds are not used for evidence-based interventions as part of this project.

Performance Report: Contracts have been awarded for this project and the prime contractor started construction in November 2022. At this time their portion of the track work has been completed. The bridge work was completed as of March 15, 2023 and the final invoice has been submitted. 100% of the allocation towards the Rail Line Expansion has been expended. This project has been completed.

Project AR6RevR-128-GovSvVANurse: Veterans Administration Nursing Center Land

Funding Amount: \$800,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Revenue Replacement

Project Overview: Horry County has budgeted ARPA funding for the acquisition of land to serve as an in-patient facility for the Veterans Administration. Preliminary site selection has occurred, and the County is currently in the due diligence phase for the parcel.

Use of Evidence: SLFRF funds were not used for evidence-based interventions as part of this project.

Performance Report: During the second quarter of calendar year 2023, the due diligence process was completed and the land was acquired. This project has been completed.

Project AR2NegE-128-11Tour-LandEcon: Multi-Use Sports and Recreation Land

Funding amount: \$1,600,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Revenue Replacement

Project Overview: Horry County Council authorized the use of \$1,600,000 of ARPA funding as part of a larger, \$4,500,000 financial package to purchase nearly 500 acres intended to accommodate a new equestrian and rural civic center. Funding for the land purchase includes \$2.8 million from Horry Electric Cooperative, \$1.5 million from the county's allocation of American Rescue Plan Act funds and nearly \$270,000 from the sale of a coquina mine. The Rural Civic Center is designed to promote economic development within the County through support of inland tourism.

Use of Evidence: The goal of this project is to reallocate lost revenue replaced through ARPA to Salaries for Public Safety in EMS, Police, and the Detention Center. SLFRF funds were not used for evidence-based interventions as part of this project.

Performance Report: This land acquisition has been completed.

Project AR2NegE-128-11Tour-Parking: Beach Parking

Funding amount: \$5,750.00

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Revenue Replacement

Project Overview: As a popular travel destination, Horry County suffered negative economic impacts due to the reduction in tourism caused by the Coronavirus pandemic. In order to support the economic recovery of beach areas located in unincorporated Horry County, the County Council approved \$2,500,000 in ARPA funding for the construction of additional beach parking facilities. Horry County leadership is currently engaged in site selection for this project.

Use of Evidence: SLFRF funds were not used for evidence-based interventions as part of this project.

Performance Report: Due diligence was performed on a parcel that, in the end, proved unsuitable for these purposes. Due to the lack of other available parcels for this purpose, this project has been defunded.

During the reporting year, Horry County has elected to move the following previously-reported projects to alternate sources of funding:

Project AR2NegE-128-11Tour-Bathro: Beach Bathrooms

Project Overview: As a popular travel destination, Horry County suffered negative economic impacts due to the reduction in tourism caused by the Coronavirus pandemic. This project was initiated in order to support the economic recovery of beach areas located in unincorporated Horry County.

Project AR2NegE-128-12Othr: Road Improvements

Project Overview: As a popular retirement destination as well as an expanding tourist population, Horry County has struggled to expand road infrastructure commensurate with population growth in the area. The negative economic impacts of COVID-19 limited the amount of funding available for roadway improvements.

Project AR2NegE-501-12Othr-RIHwy9: Highway 90 Upgrades

Project Overview: Highway 90 is a heavily-utilized commuting corridor from the Little River and North Myrtle Beach areas to Conway, SC. Approximately four years ago, Horry County also completed International Drive, an important connector road between the large unincorporated community of Carolina Forest to Highway 90.

Project AR3Disp-12813Othr-Playgrn: Accessible Playgrounds

Project Overview: As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of outdoor accessible playgrounds has been highlighted as a means for children to remain physically active while also avoiding crowded indoor environments which promote transmittal of the virus. Such amenities are currently less common in more rural areas of the County. Horry County Council is therefore prioritizing accessible playgrounds to serve disproportionately impacted communities.

Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities and Infrastructure

Projects in this category are proposal-based, from projects external to Horry County. Each project is governed by a subrecipient agreement with Horry County, which clearly delineates the project goals, anticipated number of beneficiaries, schedule and terms and conditions.

Project AR3Disp-128-13Othr-HGTC Pb: HGTC - Community Resilience through a Holistic Approach to Job Training (Phase I)

Funding amount: \$441,960.96

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Revenue Replacement

Project Overview: Horry Georgetown Technical College (HGTC) is leading a project designed to promote resilience in targeted underserved communities by providing local opportunities for job



training and credentialing. Phase I of the project includes a community needs assessment and initial curricular offerings.

Use of Evidence: The goals of this project are: to provide on-site training, health and wellness education, telemedicine access, and computer literacy focusing on job skills and training, and disadvantaged business entity development to residents of Horry County; to implement a community survey to determine the unmet needs as well as the full scope of the project that will be implemented using the 2nd tranche of funding, and; to build community awareness through media and outreach activities including an open house and opportunity fair. SLFRF funds were not used for evidence-based interventions as part of this project.

Performance Report: HGTC has completed 16 outreach activities with a total of 1,017 participants. Most of these outreach activities took place in either the James Frazier Community Center or the Bucksport Senior Center. Training needs were identified at each of these activities with Basic Computer Literacy, Certified Nursing Assistant, Starting A Business, CDL, Phlebotomy, CAN, and Drone training being the most often requested training programs. In total, 156 participants have enrolled in and attended a training program. Previously an amendment was executed with HGTC to extend their Tranche 1 award to May 15, 2023. Additionally, an agreement for Tranche 2 funding to HGTC has been executed and is grounded in the outreach work completed in Tranche 1.



Figure 9 HGTC, Conway Campus.

Project AR3Disp-128-130thr-HGTCpS2: HGTC - Community Resilience through a Holistic Approach to Job Training (Phase II)

Funding amount: \$1,424,213.04

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Revenue Replacement

Project Overview: Horry Georgetown Technical College is leading a project designed to promote resilience in targeted underserved communities by providing local opportunities for job training, health and nutrition. Phase II of this project, funded through the second tranche of ARPA funding, will include an expanded set of curricular offerings for residents in disproportionately impacted communities.

Use of Evidence: The goals of this project are to: launch technical training programs in online and in-person formats; provide career coaching and supportive services, and; to expand

participation in health and wellness programs. SLFRF funds were not used for evidence-based interventions as part of this project.

Performance Report: This project will be funded through the second tranche of APRA funds, received in June 2022. An agreement for Tranche 2 funds was executed on December 15, 2022. To date, 302 individuals have participated in programming using Tranche 2 of HGTC's funding. Participants enrolled in classes such as: Commercial Drivers Licenses, Welding, Clinical Medical Assistant, Anatomy & Physiology, Phlebotomy, and Medical Terminology, among others. Additionally, outreach efforts continued with a Business Network Event at Chesterfield Missionary Baptist Church with 45 attendees, Father's Place Presentation with 17 attendees, Adult ED Graduation and Opportunity Celebrator reaching 125, and 2 separate Solicitors Intervention Program Presentations with a total of 166 attendees.

Project AR3Disp-128-13Othr-MBSInf: City of Myrtle Beach - Canal Street Sanitary Sewer Force Main Replacement Project

Funding amount: \$1,500,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Revenue Replacement

Project Overview: City of Myrtle Beach project for a Sanitary Sewer Force Main Replacement along Canal Street was funded. This project is located on Canal Street, Myrtle Beach, from Highway 501 to Grissom Parkway, and is designed to benefit 18,546 residences and 2,228 businesses. The project area is located in Census Tract 506, Block Group 2, which is 74.39% low to moderate income. This project includes a \$2.5 million local match from the City of Myrtle Beach.



Use of Evidence: The goal of this project is to replace a sanitary sewer force main along Canal Street providing service to approximately 18,546 households. SLFRF funds were not used for evidence-based interventions as part of this project.

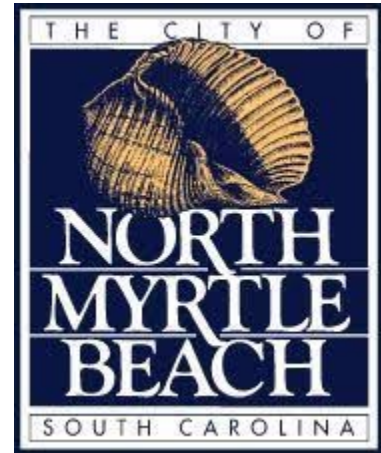
Performance Report: A City of Myrtle Beach project for a Sanitary Sewer Force Main Replacement along Canal Street was funded through a dedicated ARPA solicitation for infrastructure improvements. This project is located on Canal Street, Myrtle Beach from Highway 501 to Grissom Parkway and is designed to benefit 18,546 residences and 2,228 businesses. The project area is located in Census Tract 506, Block Group 2 which has 7,439 low to moderate income residents. This project includes a \$2.5 million local match from the City of Myrtle Beach. The construction phase of the project is 95% completed. Pipe is installed and fitted for service. The remainder of the project is being completed with matching funds.

Project AR3Disp-128-13Othr-NMBWIn: City of North Myrtle Beach - Water Line Extension Little River Neck Road

Funding amount: \$1,500,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Revenue Replacement

Project Overview: A proposal from the City of North Myrtle Beach was funded to construct a City water line extension to residents along Little River Neck Rd., Jacks Circle, and Harrelson Road, who lack clean water and are currently operating from shallow wells for residential water. This project is located within Census Tract 402, Block Group 2, and will benefit 70 residences, approximately 40 of which are low to moderate income. The City of North Myrtle Beach has committed \$2,650,000.00 in local funding as match for this project. Although the project will be led by the City of North Myrtle Beach, the project beneficiaries reside in unincorporated Horry County.



Use of Evidence: The goal of this project is to construct a water line extension providing service to approximately 70 residents of Little River Neck Road, Jack’s Circle, and Harrelson Road. SLFRF funds were not used for evidence-based interventions as part of this project.

Performance Report: A proposal from the City of North Myrtle Beach was funded to construct a City water line extension to residents along Little River Neck Rd, Jacks Circle, and Harrelson Road who lack clean water and are currently operating from shallow wells for residential water. This project is located within Census Tract 402 Block Group 2 and will benefit 70 residences, approximately 40 of which are low to moderate income. The City of North Myrtle Beach has committed \$2,650,000.00 in local funding as match for this project. Although the project will be led by the City of North Myrtle Beach the project beneficiaries reside in unincorporated Horry County. Plans are completed and permit applications are pending. The project schedule was revised due to staffing availability. There have been no changes this quarter.

Project AR3Disp-128-13Othr-AtlanBch: Town of Atlantic Beach – Community Connectivity - Broadband

Funding amount: \$488,840.00

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Revenue Replacement

Project Overview: The Town of Atlantic Beach is responsible for installing broadband infrastructure to improve the quality of life and create a springboard for economic development in the Town.

Use of Evidence: The project will include installing solar powered smart LED WIFI street lights on 30th Street, serving approximately 300 residences and 37



businesses. SLFRF funds were not used for evidence-based interventions as part of this project.

Performance Report: The Town of Atlantic Beach is responsible for installing broadband infrastructure to improve the quality of life and create a springboard for economic development in the Town. The project will include installing solar powered smart LED WIFI street lights on 30th Street, serving approximately 300 residences and 37 businesses. The Town of Atlantic Beach issued KHAFRA Engineering the design contract and Notice to Proceed. KHAFRA completed a design estimate of probable cost for the lighting, Wi-Fi and charging stations. Bid alternatives were also examined to complete the project within available funding. The project has been bid out 3 separate times with no bids being received. The Town of Atlantic Beach is working with Horry County to develop strategies to successfully bid this project.

Project AR3Disp-128-13Othr-BUCKWI: Bucksport Water System, Inc. - Northern System Hydraulic Improvements – Phase 2

Funding amount: \$511,376.40

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Revenue Replacement

Project Overview: Bucksport Water System is a member-owned, not for profit water system providing needs based service in the Bucksport and surrounding communities, with a service area comprising areas in unincorporated Horry County. This project addresses a standing consent order for Trihalomethanes. Phase I of this project included new line on Jordanville Rd. BWS also installed two new reverse osmosis systems. This project will fund phase 2 of transmission line upgrades, covering the Dog Bluff area (from Lundy Shortcut Road to Knotty Branch Road.). The project will distribute higher quality, cleaner water in a more expedient manner. It will also increase water pressures along the line. The project will benefit 3,475 residences and 25 businesses. This project is located in Census Tract 802, Block Group 3 (54.09% LMI). Bucksport Water System has committed \$56,819.60 in matching funds to this project. Additional information regarding Bucksport Water System is available at: <https://www.bucksportwater.com/>

Use of Evidence: The goal of this project is to upgrade to a potable water hydraulic system along Lundy Shortcut Road providing service to approximately 3,475 households. SLFRF funds were not used for evidence-based interventions as part of this project.

Performance Report: Construction costs on the original Scope of Work on Lundy Shortcut Road were lower than originally anticipated. After the original scope of work was completed, additional line work was approved and completed on the adjacent Brunson Spring Road area. Work on this project has been completed, and final invoicing is anticipated to occur in the next quarter.



Project AR3Disp-128-13Othr-SOSOak: SOS Health Care, Inc. - Affordable Housing for Adults with Disabilities at Oak Tree Farm

Funding amount: \$1,934,590.00

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Revenue Replacement

Project Overview: SOS Health Care provides affordable housing for adults with cognitive disabilities. In addition to housing, SOS’s full range of employment, independent living,



social, and health and fitness programs are available to all Oak Tree residents. Horry County awarded ARPA funds to SOS Health Care, Inc. for the construction of 24 rental units in a single, additional apartment building (Number 6) as part of Phase III of their development in Conway, SC.

Use of Evidence: The goal of this project is the construction of a minimum of 24 affordable rental housing units rented to income-eligible tenants. The rental units will be developed in Oak Tree Farm community in Conway, South Carolina. Oak Tree Farm is an affordable housing community designed for individuals with autism and intellectual disabilities. SLFRF funds were not used for evidence-based interventions as part of this project. Additional information about SOS and Oak Tree Farm is provided at the following URL:



Figure 10 Oak Tree Farm, Conway, SC – Building 6

<https://soscaresc.org/oak-tree-farm/>

Performance Report: All construction has been completed, a final inspection was performed and a Certificate of Occupancy was received. The project has been completed.

Project R3Disp-128-13Othr-HFHInv: Habitat for Humanity of Horry County – Affordable Housing Inventory Creation

Funding amount: \$435,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Revenue Replacement

Project Overview: Habitat for Humanity of Horry County is reaching capacity on the land currently available for developing new affordable housing. The ARPA project is designed to provide Habitat Horry with funding to acquire new land for affordable housing. Land will be

developed as affordable housing through a Memorandum of Understanding and affordability will be maintained through restrictive covenants. Additional information regarding Habitat for Humanity of Horry County is available at the following URL: <https://habitathorry.org>



Use of Evidence: The goal of this project is the acquisition of land for the development of new affordable housing. The single-family residences will be developed at parcels to be identified in conjunction with Horry County Planning and Zoning, and must meet all development standards as required by the County, including flood elevation requirements. SLFRF funds were not used for evidence-based interventions as part of this project.

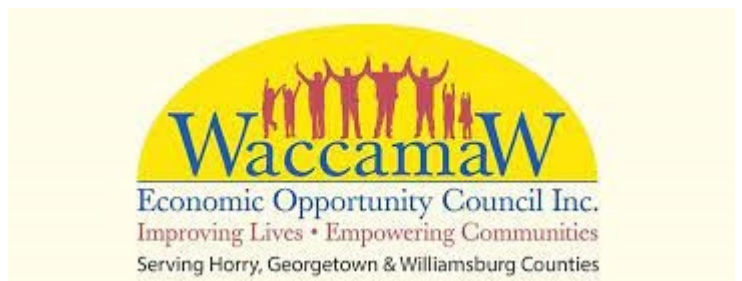
Performance Report: The goal of this project is the acquisition of land for the development of new affordable housing. The single-family residences will be developed at parcels to be identified in conjunction with Horry County Planning and Zoning and must meet all development standards as required by the County including flood elevation requirements. Habitat for Humanity of Horry County is under contract for property on Allentown Road and Freewoods Road. Habitat for Humanity of Horry County is currently in the due diligence period with these properties and working on the environmental reviews. Habitat is waiting on attorneys to set a closing date for the property at Sweet Bay in Conway. The property on Freewoods is currently in the rezoning process. Horry County currently intends to fund the remainder of this project through an alternate funding source.

Project AR3Disp-128-13Othr-EOCSte: Waccamaw Economic Opportunity Council (EOC): Skill Training Enrichment Training (Step-Up)

Funding amount: \$0.00

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Revenue Replacement

Project Overview: The Skills Training Enrichment Program (STEP-UP) is designed to help low to moderate income young adults and young parents, especially those that are transitioning out of foster care, and to break the cycle of poverty. This program is specifically designed to supplement



current federal funding, providing support for participants to continue in the Step Up project when they reach the benefits cliff. Client support includes rental assistance, utility assistance, transportation, child care, and food. The targeted clientele is young parents aged 17-24. Additional information regarding the Waccamaw EOC is available through the following link: <https://weoc.org/>

Use of Evidence: The goal of this project is to provide client assistance to approximately 17 young adult families. Client assistance includes rental assistance, utility assistance, internet, transportation, child care, food or any other essential supportive services. Support services

will be provided to participants of Waccamaw EOC's Step-Up program that are facing elimination of benefits due to programmatic age or income restrictions. SLFRF funds are not used for evidence-based interventions as part of this project.

Performance Report: WEOC experienced a significant delay in a full implementation of the Step-Up Program due to the loss of their Case Manager in June 2022. Staff have been working diligently to identify and recruit a capable candidate, but have not been able to complete a hire for the position. In light of this development, this project was defunded and the WEOC's Weatherization award agreement was increased by \$200,000 to \$560,000, as need for that program remains high, and more than 50% of their original \$360,000 had been expended.

Project AR3Disp-128-13Othr-EOCWAP: Waccamaw Economic Opportunity Council (EOC): Weatherization Assistance Program

Funding amount: \$560,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Revenue Replacement

Project Overview: This project provides resources for low to moderate income owner-occupied rehabilitation repairs necessary to implement its federal Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) funding, as well as repairing other items unallowable under WAP (ceiling, flooring, plumbing, HVAC).

Use of Evidence: The goal of this project is to rehabilitate a minimum of 30 single-family housing units occupied by low-to moderate income residents in Horry County, South Carolina. Rehabilitation activities will be limited to construction items necessary to facilitate the weatherization of assisted units. SLFRF funds were not used for evidence-based interventions as part of this project. Additional information regarding the Waccamaw EOC is available through the following link: <https://weoc.org/>

Performance Report: This program is underway with 36 homes having received repair services since the beginning of the project. This quarter WEOC addressed issues such as HVAC repairs, HVAC replacement. Fourteen (14) of the additional sixteen (16) homes enabled by the \$200,000 ARPA budget increase have been completed.



Project AR3Disp-128-13Othr-MIGCFire: Murrells Inlet Garden City Fire District – Ambulance and Equipment

Funding amount: \$317,657.20

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Revenue Replacement

Project Overview: The Murrells Inlet – Garden City Fire District (MIGCFD) will be responsible for purchasing one ambulance and medical equipment to outfit the ambulance. The addition of a new ambulance will help the residents of Murrells Inlet and Garden City with the timely delivery of emergency medical services to all citizens regardless of race, religion, creed or ability to pay. The increased demand on emergency services in this area makes this a critical need for the district.



Use of Evidence: The ambulance will serve a 25-square mile service area which has received and increase in emergency calls due to COVID-19. SLFRF funds were not used for evidence-based interventions as part of this project.

Performance Report: The chassis for the ambulance has been purchased and delivered to Northwestern Emergency Vehicles. The ambulance committee has met several times with the manufacturer and have settled on the final design and equipment for the new ambulance. The build date start time has been readjusted due to supply chain issues. The new start date for the unit is late January 2024 or early February 2024. Some of the equipment that will be placed on the new ambulance has arrived, including the power stretcher and the Lucas Device. The ambulance is in production with an expected August 2024 delivery.

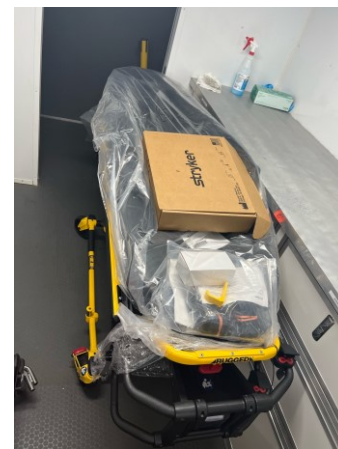


Figure 11 Power Stretcher Purchased by MIGCFD

Project AR3Disp-128-13Othr-DVShel: Family Justice Center Domestic Violence Shelter

Funding amount: \$750,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Revenue Replacement

Project Overview: On August 15, 2023, Horry County budgeted ARPA funding for the construction of a Domestic Violence Shelter in Horry County. Currently the Family Justice Center (FJC) of Georgetown and Horry Counties serve the clients who are in need of shelter with placement in their small shelter located in Georgetown, SC. There are currently no comparable facilities in Horry County, SC. At times, this prevents their clients from seeking shelter because of logistics. FJC can only house 9 residents in the current shelter, but with the new facility, FJC will be able to assist 18-20 clients and families as they are fleeing from abuse.

Use of Evidence: SLFRF funds were not used for evidence-based interventions as part of this project.

Performance Report: A variance issue with the land was discovered, therefore an additional acre had to be purchased. The Civil Plan set was submitted to Horry County for review and returned to engineering for revisions. The Storm Water Notice of Intent (NOI) - Construction Activities \$125 fee has been paid to the SC Department of Environmental Services to start the construction site storm water DHEC approval process. Two quotes for site work have been received. Horry County approval to proceed with project is currently pending. Once FJC receives approval on the civil site plan drawings, site clearing and preliminary site plan improvements will commence and construction documents will be submitted to Horry County Code Enforcement for approval. Approval stamps have been received from Engineering, Code Enforcement and Planning & Zoning. Stormwater approval is pending. The permit from the Department of Environmental Services should be received within the next seven weeks.



FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER
Serving Georgetown and Horry Counties
Family Justice Center 24/7 Crisis Hotline: **844-208-0161**
National Domestic Violence Hotline: **800-799-7233**

Project AR3Disp-128-13Othr-HCAging: Horry County Council on Aging

Funding amount: \$150,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Revenue Replacement

Project Overview: In order to keep pace with population growth, the Horry County Council on Aging is expanding services and locations throughout the County. This funding is being used to equip site for expanding public services.

Use of Evidence: SLFRF funds were not used for evidence-based interventions as part of this project.

Performance Report: On August 15, 2023, Horry County budgeted ARPA funding for the equipping of the new



center in Carolina Forest in order to provide in-home services, senior care services, and senior activities for members of the community. These funds may also be used to equip other HCCOA sites as needed for provision of services to Horry County's senior citizens. Construction on Carolina Forest was completed and the building was opened to clients. There are a few minor projects left to finish such as shelving. The flooring for Mt. Vernon and South Strand was completed and a new ice maker purchased. The Enterprise-Burgess site was also improved this period as flooring was installed and cabinets were delivered. Also, new computer equipment and furniture were purchased. Horry County COA anticipates the final expenditures to occur by the end of the calendar year.

During the reporting year, Horry County has elected to move the following previously-reported projects to alternate sources of funding

Project AR3Disp-138-13Othr-HTCInc: HTC, Inc. - Public Access Broadband Service for Public Facilities

Project Overview: The purpose of this project is to provide public access to broadband service at outdoor locations throughout the county including recreation centers, ball fields, and boat landings. This is a collaborative project between Horry County and HTC, Inc. Providing free broadband access will give the County the flexibility it needs to address several critical public health needs at their discretion. It can be used to provide internet access to community members for telehealth visits with their doctors. Instead of having to find transportation to a doctor's office that may be outside of their community, they can save time, money and resources by utilizing this free internet service to visit with their doctor virtually. The broadband service could also provide access for students that do not have an internet subscription at home to study remotely so that they do not fall behind in their classwork.



Figure 12 Horry Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Project AR3Disp-128-13Othr-GSWSAInf: Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority - Conway WWTP to Bucksport WWTP Force Main

Project Overview: Grand Strand Water and Sewer Authority provides water and sewer service for the majority of unincorporated Horry County. This project will fund a new pumping system at Conway Waste Water Treatment Plant and a 39,410 of new 20" force main along Hwy 701 S in Conway from New Road to Bucksville Road. The project allows for diversion to Bucksport WWTP during flood events to relieve system strain. The project is located in Census Tract 705 Block Group 1 (34.54% low to moderate income) and Census Tract 706.02 Block Group 2 (37.08% low to moderate income). The project will serve 37,500 beneficiaries. Additional information about Grand strand Water and Sewer Authority is available at: <http://gswsa.com>

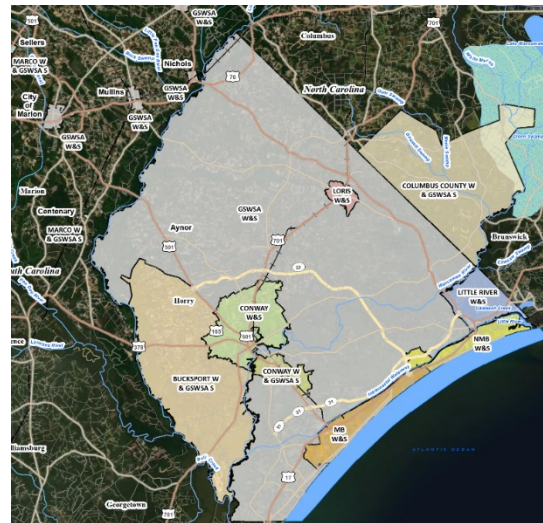


Figure 13 GSWSA Service Area

Project AR3Disp-128-130thr-LRWInf: Little River Water and Sewerage Company – Booster Pump Station Upgrade

Project Overview: Little River is an unincorporated area of Horry County, SC, and a Census Designated Place with a population of 11,711 according to the 2020 U.S. Census. This project will fund a water booster pump station upgrade in area of Highway 1008 in the Little River area of Horry County. The project will replace 3 of 5 booster pumps. The project is in Census Tract 401.02, Block Group 1 and is designed to benefit 10,208 residences and 926 businesses (a total of 25,520 individuals).



Project AR3Disp-128-130thr-Loris: City of Loris – Water System Upgrades

Project Overview: The City of Loris will be responsible for replacing old galvanized and asbestos cement water lines in the Main and Walnut Street sections of downtown Loris, as well as extending new services from the brand-new PVC water line to the existing individual residences and commercial customers. This project is designed to benefit approximately 52 residences and 14 businesses.



Project AR3Disp-128-130thr-Surfside: Town of Surfside Beach – North Side Drainage Improvements

Project Overview: The Town of Surfside Beach will be responsible for installing a drainage system in the Upper Myrtle and Magnolia Basins. The system to be installed will infiltrate as much stormwater as possible before sending it downstream. The water will be removed from the surface, cleaned through infiltration and result in a reduction of downstream flooding. This project is located on 2nd Ave North, 11th Ave North and 14th Avenue North and is designed to benefit approximately 7,750 residences and 75 businesses. This project includes a \$2 million local match from the Town of Surfside Beach.

