

**American Rescue Plan State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds First
Recovery Plan Performance Report-Dane County Wisconsin Through
July 31, 2023**

Executive Summary

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARP) was adopted by Congress on March 10, 2021. The ARP included approximately \$350 billion for the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds program. These funds were distributed directly to states, counties and municipalities with a population of 250,000 or more. Funds were distributed to smaller municipalities through each state. Dane county was allocated \$106,189,095 in funding under the American Rescue Plan State and Local Fiscal Assistance Fund. The funds are available for expenditure through December 31, 2024.

As of July 31, 2023, the county has initially allocated the funds as follows:

Uses of Funds

| <u>Purpose</u> | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Provider</u> |
|-------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| Food Bank Support | \$19,750,000 | Second Harvest Food Bank |
| Small business Assistance | \$14,129,706 | Dane Buy Local, Inc. |
| Non-profit Assistance | \$5,000,000 | Madison Community Foundation |
| Artist Direct Support | \$1,000,000 | N/A |
| Expo Center Air Purification | \$1,032,350 | N/A |
| Grass Roots Assistance | \$5,000,000 | Various |
| School Based Mental Health | \$1,367,634 | Various |
| Badger Needs Network Facility | \$2,000,000 | BP Needs Network |
| Hotel Sheltering | \$14,669,084 | N/A |
| Rehousing Initiative | \$13,200,000 | N/A |
| Tiny House Village | \$500,000 | Occupy Madison |
| Hotel/Housing Conversion | \$2,000,000 | TBD |
| Centro Hispano Facility | \$2,000,000 | Centro Hispano |
| Food Pantry Aid Program | \$2,000,000 | Various |

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|---|
| K-12 Mental Health | \$530,000 | Various |
| Eviction Prevention | \$750,000 | Tenant Resource Center |
| Women’s Homeless Sheltering | \$93,200 | Salvation Army |
| Homeless Outreach | \$900,000 | Catalyst for Change |
| UV Air Filtration | \$521,300 | Various |
| COVID Testing Etc. | \$224,400 | Various |
| Violence Prevention | \$300,000 | Public Health MDC |
| The River Food Pantry Fac. | \$1,500,000 | The River Food Pantry |
| Domestic Violence Intervention Ser. | \$1,000,000 | Domestic Violence Inter. Services, Inc. |
| Government Services | \$16,721,421 | N/A |

Promoting Equitable Outcomes

The county has targeted most of its allocation of ARP funds to programs designed to address the unequal impact of the pandemic’s economic impact on lower income households. By funding programs to provide food security, non-congregate sheltering, small business support, school based mental health, and creative assistance to households, the county believes that expenditures of ARP funding will reach those most disadvantaged in our community.

Community Engagement

The county has a robust system of county board committees and commissions that assure through their public meeting processes that the community is informed and engaged in the initiatives funded with ARP dollars.

Labor Practices

The county has prioritized the application of its ARP allocation on services within the community over investments in infrastructure. So, specific labor practices have not been considered. Further, Wisconsin law does not allow for many preferred labor practices by local governments such as prevailing wage requirements, living wage requirements, equal benefit requirements or project labor agreements.

Use of Evidence

The county is not pursuing evidenced based interventions.

Table of Expenditures

Below is a table of obligations and expenditures by expenditure category as of June 30, 2023.

| | Obligated | Expended |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Mental Health Services | \$1,367,634 | \$1,303,158 |
| Food Bank Assistance | \$19,750,000 | \$16,499,996 |
| Badger Needs Network | \$2,000,000 | \$2,000,000 |
| Pandemic Response | \$224,400 | \$123,062 |
| Public Health Violence Prev. | \$300,000 | \$0 |
| UV Filtration | \$521,300 | \$194,917 |
| Capital Improvements to address COVID | \$1,032,347 | \$1,032,347 |
| Aid to Non-Profit Organizations | \$5,000,000 | \$5,000,000 |
| Small Business Assistance | \$14,129,706 | \$14,129,706 |
| Grassroots Assistance | \$5,000,000 | \$5,000,000 |
| K-12 Mental Health | \$530,000 | \$62,662 |
| Eviction Prevention Legal Services | \$750,000 | \$290,955 |
| Homeless Outreach Services | \$900,000 | \$251,774 |
| Salvation Army Shelter | \$93,200 | \$93,200 |
| Hotels to Housing Program | \$13,200,000 | \$7,397,887 |
| Vulnerable Population/Isolation Quarantine | \$14,669,084 | \$12,888,829 |
| Artist Support | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 |
| Tiny House Project | \$500,000 | \$0 |
| Hotel Conversion | \$2,000,000 | \$0 |
| Centro Hispano Facility | \$2,000,000 | \$2,000,000 |
| Food Pantry Aid | \$2,000,000 | \$690,173 |
| Domestic Abuse Intervention Services | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 |
| Provision of Government Services | 16,721,421 | \$8,345,570 |

Project Inventory

The following is a brief inventory and description of projects initiated or in process as of the report date.

Food Bank Support

The county has used ARP funds to continue its support of the Second Harvest Food Bank to address the growth in food insecurity caused by the pandemic. The county used CRF funding through 2020 and the first seven months of 2021 to support the food bank's purchase of food for distribution to local pantries. The county extended the effort with \$10 million contract beginning in August of 2021 at a rate of \$833,333 per month through July 2022. This contract was further extended by \$3.75 million to allow support of \$750,000 per month for September 2022 through December 2022. The county extended the contract by an additional \$6,000,000 in 2023.

Small Business Support

The county used ARP funds to assist local small businesses through a partnership with Dane Buy Local, Inc (DBL). The county previously used \$14,800,000 of CRF funding through the same type of partnership with DBL. The \$14.129 million in ARP funding was awarded through an open grant program managed by DBL. It was open to any small business operating within the county. Approximately 3,200 businesses were assisted through the program with an average assistance grant of \$7,200. This project is complete.

Non-profit Assistance

The county used ARP funds to assist local non-profit organizations through a partnership with the Madison Community Foundation (MCF). The county dedicated \$5 million for this initiative. MCF managed a grant program to award funds to local non-profits that experienced a reduction in revenue or increased expenses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. MCF used developed an online application and conducted two webinars to explain the program. The program assisted 183 organizations with an average assistance grant of \$25,000. This project is complete.

Artist Direct Support

The county used \$1 million of ARP funds to assist local artists who were negatively impacted by the pandemic. Many local artists in both the visual and performing realms were negatively impacted by social distancing guidelines due to galleries and venues being closed. Grants of up to \$2,500 were made to individuals through an online application process. Applications were to be reviewed by a committee organized by the county's Office of Cultural Affairs. This project is complete.

Expo Center Air Purification

The county operates an exhibition center campus, the Alliant Energy Center. In order to improve safety for attendees of events at the center, the county invested \$1,032,350 for the installation of ionization air purification equipment at the various buildings at the campus. This project is complete.

Grass Roots Assistance

The county is using \$5 million of ARP funds to make grants to local community organizations that provide direct assistance to low income households. The county solicited grant proposals. Minimum grant amounts were \$50,000. Approximately 60 grants were awarded with an average grant of \$75,000. The initial distribution of funds was made in the fourth quarter of 2021. Additional distributions were made in the second quarter of 2022. Final distributions were made through 2022. This project is complete.

School Based Mental Health

The county is using \$1.3 million to award grants to local school districts to augment district resources available to address mental health challenges experienced by students as a result of the COVID pandemic. This project is nearly complete.

Badger Needs Network Facility

The county is using \$2 million to assist the Badger Prairie Needs Network, Inc. to expand its facility. The facility serves as a major food pantry to the southwestern portion of Dane County. The expansion will augment their capability to address food insecurity through the pantry. The expansion will also allow for expansion of regular congregate meals. In addition, the space will be used in an emerging job training initiative involving local employers and the Latino Academy of Workforce Development, Latino Chamber of Commerce, Verona and Fitchburg Chambers of Commerce and others. The project broke ground in the Fall of 2021 and was is completed in 2022.

Hotel Sheltering

Beginning in April of 2020, the county initiated a robust non-congregate sheltering program for persons experiencing homelessness. Throughout the pandemic, this effort has housed nearly 300 individuals and families in local motels. The effort involves renting lodging rooms in local facilities, providing food, medical isolation, security and case management. The effort also provides an isolation and quarantine center for those who have tested positive or had a direct exposure to COVID-19. CRF funding was used to support the effort through June 2021. The effort using ARP funds continued for the vulnerable population services through September 2022. The isolation and quarantine services were continued through March 2023. Both of these efforts are now complete.

Rehousing Initiative

The county is using \$13.2 million over two years to launch and maintain a rehousing initiative to transition households experiencing into permanent housing through concerted case management services and rental subsidies. The effort has focused on households that have been housed in local hotels and may expand to other homeless households. Approximately 175 household have secured housing through the program. This project will continue into 2024.

UV Filtration

The county has allocated \$521,300 to install UV filtration systems at various county facilities. These systems provide protection from viral contagions within buildings by using UV light within the central air handling systems.

This initiative was approved in September 2021. As of June, 2023 this project is complete.

Building Bridges Expansion

The county has allocated \$500,000 per year for 2022-2024 to expand this popular school based mental health initiative.

Eviction Prevention Legal Services

In late September 2021, the County Board approve 2021 RES-115 which allocated \$50,000 to provide legal assistance to prevent evictions. In addition, the County Executive's 2022 budget included \$250,000 per year for 2022-2024 for this purpose. A request for proposals has been issued for a three year contract. The Tenant Resource Center was the successful respondent to the RFP. This project commenced in 2022 and is ongoing.

Homeless Outreach

The County Executive's 2022 budget included \$300,000 per year for 2022-2024 for this purpose. A request for proposals was issued for a three year contract. This project commenced in 2022 and is ongoing.

Salvation Army Sheltering

The County Executive's 2022 budget included \$93,200 for 2022 to assist the Salvation Army fund 24/7 operations if its women's shelter on East Washington Ave. in Madison. This project was completed in 2022.

Tiny House Project

The County Executive's budget included \$500,000 to fund a grant to a non-profit to support the establishment of an additional tiny house village. The funds will be awarded through a grant process in 2022.

As of June 30, 2023, the grant application process resulted in an award that is under development.

Hotel Conversion Project

The County Executive's budget included \$2,000,000 to fund a grant to a non-profit to support the conversion of an under-utilized hotel property into permanent affordable housing. A grant application was concluded June 1, 2023. No applications were received.

Centro Hispano Project

The County Executive's budget included \$2,000,000 to contribute towards Centro Hispano's efforts to rehabilitate and modernize their facility on Badger Road in Madison. Centro provides a wide range of community services at its facility that are targeted to populations disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. As of June 2023, the project is under construction.

Domestic Violence Intervention Services

The county's 2023 budget included a \$1,000,000 operating grant for Domestic Violence Intervention Services, Inc. (DAIS). During the pandemic DAIS saw an increase in service demands along with a

reduction in community fundraising support. The grant allows them to continue sustained operations as the primary shelter in Dane County. As of June 2023, the agreement for this support had been approved and the funds disbursed.

The River Food Pantry

The River Food Pantry is pursuing a replacement and expansion of their pantry facility on the north side of Madison. The 2023 county budget included \$1,500,000 to help support this project. As of June 30, 2023, the agreement has been executed. The organization has until September 2024 to completely fund the project.

Providing Government Services

The county experienced substantial losses in revenue due to the pandemic. Based on the formula in the Interim Final Rule, the county's losses total \$34,419,517 in fiscal year 2020. The County Board has authorized \$4,000,000 for information technology investments related to the pandemic under this permitted use. These investments will allow for the upgrade of county meeting rooms to facilitate hybrid meetings, fund licenses for Zoom meetings, offset costs for cybersecurity upgrades, purchase equipment to facilitate hybrid work arrangements, and the cost of an information technology staff position.

The county has allocated additional funding to support 911 center and Medical Examiner Office operations among support for other services.

Performance Report and Programmatic Data

Performance data is limited at this time. Future reports will include such data.