

Volusia County, Florida
Recovery Plan

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

As of July 31, 2021 Report

Volusia County, Florida
July 31, 2021 Recovery Plan

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

Volusia County has been allocated \$107.4 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CLFRF). The County Council has met multiple times in open public forums to develop priorities and a plan for expenditure of these funds.

While no final decisions have been made, the county has begun to prioritize its needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn into three broad categories as follows:

Public Health - \$5.73 Million

- Mental Health - \$2.5 Million
- County COVID Expenditures - \$2.75 Million
- Library Social Workers - \$480,000

Water and Sewer Infrastructure - \$26.9 Million

Revenue Replacement - \$74.77 Million

As of July 31, 2021, \$10,217,943.13 in funds have been expended.

Once the spending plan has been finalized, community needs and addressing equity issues will form the basis of programs and expenditures. Additionally, relevant labor standards for Water and Sewer infrastructure projects will be taken into account and evidence-based practices will be utilized as applicable. Future reports will include relevant programmatic data and performance indicators as appropriate.

Uses of Funds

Although the spending plan has not been formally adopted by the County Council, the Council has provided preliminary direction to County staff on the projects it wishes to see developed and implemented. Currently, the County has prioritized projects into the categories of Public Health, Water and Sewer Infrastructure and Revenue Replacement. A general project identification for the plan allocations provided by the Council are listed below.

- Public Health (EC 1) - As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the County has had many requests for funding assistance from Mental Health and Public Health services providers. Initially, the County had allocated \$3.23 million to this service. At the August 31, 2021 special meeting, the Council increased the allocation by \$2.5 million to bring the total allocation in this area to \$5.73 million. It is anticipated that the County will issue a notice of availability of funding that will be open and competitive to all agencies. The council will select the most advantageous proposals based upon the solicitations received.
 - Mental health/Substance Abuse - \$2.5 Million
 - Volusia County's alcohol, drug and mental health service providers have seen a continued steady rate of demand for drug, alcohol and mental health services over the last two years. However, the service delivery model has had to change drastically by increasing telehealth appointments from a couple hundred to thousands for some agencies in the county. This change in the delivery model has increased the need for information technology funding. In addition, employment challenges have affected the delivery of services.
 - Library Social Worker program - \$480,000
 - A social worker in the libraries would be available during scheduled hours to provide one-on-one counseling/mental health, food/SNAP benefits, health, housing, unemployment assistance and other governmental service assistance.
 - COVID expenses - \$2.75 Million
 - Due to the recent surge in COVID cases, the County will need additional resources for testing, advertising, personal protective equipment, building cleaning and sanitization, etc.

- Water and Sewer Infrastructure (EC 5) – The County has designated water and sewer infrastructure as a critical need (\$26.9 million). Proposed projects will convert and increase advanced wastewater treatment processing capabilities at two of the County’s existing sewage processing plants. These projects will have a direct and positive environmental impact on water quality concerns at Blue and Gemini Springs and the Mosquito Lagoon estuary.
 - Pooser Pond - \$1.5 Million
 - Stormwater improvement to reduce nutrient loading into Blue Springs
 - Southwest Regional Water Reclamation Facility - \$18.4 Million
 - Increase advanced treatment capacity
 - Improve and protect environmental water quality
 - Southeast Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant - \$6.6 Million
 - Advanced waste water treatment and plant expansion, benefiting environmental water quality in the Mosquito Lagoon estuary.
 - Northeast drinking water resiliency project - \$400,000
 - Resiliency project to ensure reliable and safe supply in the event of an emergency.

- Revenue Replacement (EC 6) – The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in a significant reduction in the County’s general revenue growth as compared to what has been experienced in the past, as evidenced by the Treasury model for calculating for revenue loss. The current reduction is projected to continue into future years. This reduction in revenue growth has negatively impacted the County’s ability to fund future operational and capital needs that would normally have been funded through revenue appreciation. The County plans to use fiscal recovery funds to reimburse itself for public safety wages and benefits up the extent of revenue loss, as allowed by the American Rescue Plan Act.

Using these funds for reimbursement of public safety wages and benefits will result in budgetary savings in the funds that originally paid for such wages and benefits.

While not a requirement of the American Rescue Plan, the County will further plan the expenditure of the above mentioned budgetary savings for public transparency utilizing a separate “APRA Transition Fund”. These budgetary savings will be used to provide additional capital needs and services for our residents. (\$74.77 million)

Promoting equitable outcomes

All projects will be discussed and approved by County Council in an open and advertised meeting. To date, no projects have been initiated. From water and sewer infrastructure and water quality improvements to the provision of mental health and substance abuse services, current proposed projects are designed to benefit all citizens of the county. Projects as tentatively approved reflect needs that are reflective of the entire community.

Regarding the request for funding for mental health projects, these will be evaluated based upon their prioritization of services to disproportionately impacted communities and those communities that have traditionally been underserved.

Funded projects will require sub-recipients to monitor and report on compliance with intended outcomes and progress towards those outcomes.

Community Engagement

The Volusia County Council will make the final determination on the projects that will be funded with Fiscal Recovery Funds. Throughout the decision-making process, the Council has promoted and continues to promote open feedback and dialog with its constituents.

- On July 27, 2021, the Council held a public workshop solely dedicated to reviewing the proposed and available use of ARPA funding.
- ARPA projects also were publicly discussed at a regularly scheduled Council meeting on Aug. 3, 2021.
- On August 31, 2021, the Council held a special meeting to discuss and begin finalize its proposed uses of ARPA funding, with the meeting being promoted to the public and local news media through the issuance of a news release for the widest possible dissemination. This meeting will set the foundation for the ARPA funded projects and future reporting requirements.

Labor Practices

Projects related to Water and Sewer infrastructure will address labor practices in their construction and development plans prior to issuance and Council approval.

Use of Evidence

Mental health projects that are proposed will be evaluated for effective and efficient use of funds. Awards will require monitoring and reporting on services rendered to disproportionately impacted communities.

Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
1	Expenditure Category: Public Health		
1.2	COVID-19 Testing	\$82.25	
1.4	Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, etc.)	\$58,765.78	
1.5	Personal Protective Equipment	\$94,790.47	
1.7	Capital Investments or Physical Plant Changes to Public Facilities that respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency	\$11,121.57	
1.8	Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)	\$7,063.23	
1.12	Other Public Health Services	\$46,119.83	
6	Expenditure Category: Revenue Replacement		
6.1	Provision of Government Services	\$10,000,000.00	

Project Inventory

No projects have been started to date.

Performance Report

Goals, measures, outputs and outcomes will be prepared during the project development and tracked as the projects are implemented. No projects have been started.