

Harford County, Maryland **Recovery Plan**

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
2022 Report

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

Harford County, Maryland received its full allocation of \$49.6 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). As of June 30, 2022 the county has spent nearly \$17 million on 20 eligible projects, these would include approximately \$7 million on broadband expansion into unserved and underserved communities, \$5 million in premium pay for eligible employees who worked during the pandemic, and nearly \$4 million on public health expenditures with an emphasis on mental health and substance abuse services, as well as air quality improvements in county facilities. In addition, the county has elected to use \$10 million of its allocation as revenue loss; however, these funds were set aside and are being used to fund projects that were largely eligible under CARES but not ARPA, primarily capital improvements and public safety equipment for our Sheriff's Office and our Volunteer Fire Companies.

As for the remaining funds, there is approximately \$5 million in unspent obligations, such as purchase orders, on ARPA eligible projects. Of the remaining \$18 million it is expected the majority of it will be used on broadband extension. Resources will also be allocated to other eligible expenses, particularly to address public health and negative economic impacts. There is still considerable uncertainty regarding both the pandemic and the economy; therefore, the county will strive to maintain its flexibility and reserves the right to reallocate funds to other eligible uses.

Uses of Funds

Harford County has used nearly \$17 million for eligible projects detailed in the Project Inventory section below and elected to use \$10 million in revenue replacement that will be used primarily for public safety capital improvements and equipment for both Harford County Sheriff's Office and our volunteer fire companies

Promoting equitable outcomes

Harford County is using the vast majority of its ARPA funding on underserved and disadvantaged communities. Broadband expansion is targeting rural areas that have no access to high-speed internet. Premium Pay is focused on employees who meet federal income eligibility requirements. Public Health funding is largely allocated to mental health and substance abuse, both of which have a disproportionate impact to disadvantaged communities.

Community Engagement

Harford County has allocated its ARPA funding through its budget process, which has numerous opportunities for community input, including virtual townhalls, formal public hearings, social media, and the county's website.

Labor Practices

Harford County is compliant with all applicable Federal, State and local labor laws.

Use of Evidence

To Be Determined

Performance Measurements

To Be Determined

Project Inventory

Broadband

Expenditure as of 6/30/2022: \$6,946,106

5.19 Infrastructure, Broadband – Last Mile Projects

Open Project – Additional Expenditures Expected

Harford County is building off its existing public network, Harford County Metro Area Network (HMAN), to provide last mile internet connections to unserved and underserved private residences in rural areas that do not have access to high-speed service. The internet service will meet or exceed 100 mbps download and upload speeds.

Harford County Public Schools (Bus Drivers and Food Service Workers) Premium Pay

Expenditure as of 6/30/2022: \$2,287,734

4.1 Premium Pay, Public Sector Employees

Closed Project – No Additional Expenditures Expected

Harford County allocated Harford County Public Schools with funding to provide \$2,000 in premium pay to all eligible bus drivers and food service workers. Eligibility based on being under 150% of the State of Maryland's average wage of \$63,426, which equates to \$95,000. 1,092 employees received this bonus in 2021. This funding assisted the school system with recruitment and retention efforts for valuable front-line workers.

Harford Crisis Center**Expenditure as of 6/30/2022: \$1,500,000****1.12 Public Health, Mental Health Services****Closed Project – No Additional Expenditures Expected**

Harford County allocated funding to the Harford Crisis Center to provide mental health services throughout the county. The pandemic has created an increased demand for mental health services, and at the same time other funding sources for the Harford Crisis Center have contracted. This funding will enable crucial services to be provided, particularly in our at-risk communities.

Harford County Government Premium Pay**Expenditure as of 6/30/2022: \$1,426,901****4.1 Premium Pay, Public Sector Employees****Closed Project – No Additional Expenditures Expected**

Harford County used ARPA funds to provide premium pay in the amount of \$1,000 to all county government eligible full-time employees and \$500 to all eligible part-time employees. Eligibility based on being under 150% of the State of Maryland's average wage of \$63,426, which equates to \$95,000. As Harford County never closed during the pandemic, and all employees were required to be on-site (no telework) as of March 1, 2021, any employee meeting the income requirement was deemed eligible for ARPA funded premium pay. 1,389 employees received ARPA premium pay on July 23, 2021.

Woodbridge Center Stormwater**Expenditure as of 6/30/2022: \$959,019****5.6 Infrastructure, Clean Water – Stormwater****Open Project – Additional Expenditures Expected**

Emergency stormwater pipe repair was necessary in Edgewood, Maryland. Edgewood is on the Chesapeake Bay and adjacent to a large military installation. It is home to a significant number of economically disadvantaged households and has one of the county's two qualified census tracts.

Harford County Public Schools (Custodians) Premium Pay**Expenditure as of 6/30/2022: \$885,000****4.1 Premium Pay, Public Sector Employees****Closed Project – No Additional Expenditures Expected**

Harford County allocated Harford County Public Schools with funding to provide \$2,000 in premium pay to all eligible custodians. Eligibility based on being under 150% of the State of Maryland's average wage of \$63,426, which equates to \$95,000. 411 employees received this bonus in 2022. This funding assisted the school system with recruitment and retention efforts for valuable front-line workers.

HVAC Upgrade/Air Handling Unit Replacement**Expenditure as of 6/30/2022: \$851,571****1.7 Public Health, Capital Investment to Public Facilities to Respond to Covid-19
Open Project – Additional Expenditures Expected**

The air handling units are being replaced in the county's main office building, the McFaul senior center and the county detention center. The new units use scroll compressors and variable frequency drives on the blower motors and are generally more efficient to meet the energy code. The new units use R410A (environmentally friendly) refrigerant compared to the old units which used R-22. 180 employees work in the office building, and thousands of individuals visit it throughout the year. The senior center has six employees and 350 senior citizen visitors per day. The Detention Center has approximately 160 employees and 410 inmates on an average day.

Detention Center Video Cameras**Expenditure as of 6/30/2022: \$542,067****1.4 Public Health, Prevention in Congregate Settings
Open Project – Additional Expenditures Expected**

Replaced and upgraded the video camera system in the detention center in order to promote social distancing and limit physical interaction between the inmates and the correctional officers.

Ashley Clubhouse**Expenditure as of 6/30/2022: \$450,000****1.13 Public Health, Substance Abuse Services
Closed Project – No Additional Expenditures Expected**

Harford County allocated funding to Ashley Addiction Treatment, a provider of substance abuse treatment, to construct a facility to expand its services. The pandemic has created an increased demand for substance abuse treatment, and at the same time other funding sources for Ashley have contracted. This funding will enable crucial services to be provided, particularly in our at-risk communities.

ARC of Northern Chesapeake Region**Expenditure as of 6/30/2022: \$300,000****2.34 Negative Economic Impacts, Assistance to Impacted Nonprofits
Closed Project – No Additional Expenditures Expected**

Harford County allocated funding to the ARC of Northern Chesapeake Region, who provide a range of services to the developmentally disabled community. The funding was used to address recruitment and retention staffing issues at the arc by increasing wages, particularly at the lower end of their salary scale. As with other nonprofits, the ARC's ability to fundraise was significantly reduced during the pandemic.

Sexual Assault/Spouse Abuse Resource Center (SARC)**Expenditure as of 6/30/2022: \$200,000****1.12 Public Health, Mental Health Services****Closed Project – No Additional Expenditures Expected**

Harford County allocated funding to SARC, who provide support to the victims of domestic violence, to renovate a safehouse that provides a temporary and secure living environment. The pandemic has created an increased demand for domestic violence support services, and at the same time other funding sources for SARC have contracted. This funding will enable crucial services to be provided, particularly in our at-risk communities.

Vaccine Public Service Announcements**Expenditure as of 6/30/2022: \$144,475****1.7 Public Health, Other Covid-19 Public Health Expenses****Open Project – Additional Expenditures Possible**

Production of a vaccine public service announcement (PSA) and placements of that PSA. This PSA campaign targets young adults who have not been vaccinated, and it ran between July 2021 and September 2021. The total 11-week campaign generated 3.5 million impressions through 295 tv spots and an additional 200,000 digital impressions through web-based placements. There are no future planned PSA campaigns; however, that is subject to change.

Boys and Girls Club – Transportation**Expenditure as of 6/30/2022: \$123,800****2.34 Negative Economic Impacts, Assistance to Impacted Nonprofits****Closed Project – No Additional Expenditures Expected**

Harford County allocated funding to the Boys and Girls Club to provide a Club on the Go – a mobile club that can be transported directly to at-risk communities. Services provided include STEM and other educational programs. The pandemic has created increased demand for youth services, and at the same time other funding sources for the Boys and Girl's Club have contracted.

Harford County Fire and EMS Foundation Premium Pay**Expenditure as of 6/30/2022: \$90,426****4.2 Premium Pay, Private Sector****Closed Project – No Additional Expenditures Expected**

Harford County allocated the Fire and EMS Foundation with funding to provide \$1,000 in premium pay to all eligible employees. The Foundation provides paid paramedics to staff volunteer fire company ambulances. Eligibility based on being under 150% of the State of Maryland's average wage of \$63,426, which equates to \$95,000. Ninety-nine employees received this bonus in 2021. This funding assisted the Foundation with recruitment and retention efforts for these essential workers.

ARPA Consultants**Expenditure as of 6/30/2022: \$25,331****7.1 Administrative, Administrative Expenses****Open Project – Additional Expenditures Expected**

Harford County has procured consulting services to assist with determining project and expenditure ARPA eligibility.

Edgewood Community Support Center – Epicenter**Expenditure as of 6/30/2022: \$25,000****2.34 Negative Economic Impacts, Assistance to Impacted Non-Profit****Closed Project – No Additional Expenditures Expected**

Harford County allocated the Edgewood Community Support Center with funding to assist approximately 50 children with their transportation needs to the Center. The center provides a range of community support services, including childcare, food assistance and blood drives. Edgewood is home to a significant number of economically disadvantaged households and has one of the county's two qualified census tracts.

Harford County Health Department (Health Care Employees) Premium Pay**Expenditure as of 6/30/2022: \$22,000****4.1 Premium Pay, Public Sector Employees****Closed Project – No Additional Expenditures Expected**

Harford County allocated the Health Department with funding to provide \$2,000 in premium pay to all eligible health care employees. Eligibility based on being under 150% of the State of Maryland's average wage of \$63,426, which equates to \$95,000. Eleven employees received this bonus in 2021. This funding assisted the Health Department with recruitment and retention efforts for these essential workers.

**Harford County Sheriff's Office (New Hire) Premium Pay
Expenditure as of 6/30/2022: \$20,000**

**4.1 Premium Pay, Public Sector Employees
Open Project – Additional Expenditures Expected**

Harford County is providing a one-time hiring bonus for deputies and correctional officers in the amount of \$5,000. Eligibility based on being under 150% of the State of Maryland's average wage of \$63,426, which equates to \$95,000. Four new hires received this bonus as of June 30, 2022. This hiring bonus will assist the Sheriff's Office in its recruitment efforts.

Vaccine Tracking Software

Expenditure as of 6/30/2022: \$3,170

**1.7 Public Health, Other Covid-19 Public Health Expenses
Open Project – Additional Expenditures Possible**

Harford County purchased software to account for vaccine status and the number of Covid-19 in its workforce in order to comply with expected federal mandates. As the mandates were not officially implemented by the Federal Government due to court challenges, the software has not been utilized.

Fallston Complex Park – Pickleball

Expenditure as of 6/30/2022: \$2,260

**2.22 Negative Economic Impacts, Strong Healthy Communities
Open Project – Additional Expenditures Expected**

Harford County parks had increased usage during the pandemic, as residents were looking for outdoor activities. The county is allocating funding to its various parks to address the deterioration and inadequacies of existing park facilities.