

Second Report – American Rescue Plan Fiscal Recovery Funds, as of August 20, 2021

As of August 20, 2021, **\$1,258,102.40** of expenditures were made from the **\$15,303,451.00** received as the first tranche of fiscal recovery funds. Expenditures by category were as follows:

1 Public Health	
R16 a Medical Expenses	\$ 206,838.33
R17a Public Health, Vaccination Clinic	4,707.11
R 18 a Communications for Board of Health	34,577.94
R 19 a Public Safety Payroll Support	944,927.28
1 Public Health	\$ 1,191,050.66
4 Premium Pay	
R41a Premium Pay, EMA (5 FTEs)	\$ 27,907.72
7 Administrative	
R71a Administrative Expenses	\$ 39,144.02
Total Expenditures	\$1,258,102.40

As of August 20, 2021, **\$671,753.67** was encumbered or obligated.

1 Public Health	
R17a Vaccination Clinic	\$18,406.51
R17b Capital Investment/Public Facilities of the County	2,350.16
R17c Capital Investment for Public Facilities, air quality improvements	56,674.00
<i>Subtotal Public Health</i>	<i>\$77,430.67</i>
2 Negative Economic Impacts	
R211a Aid to the Tourism Industry	500,000.00
R213a Aid to the Agricultural Industry, Strategic Growing Plan	45,000.00
<i>Subtotal Aid to respond to Negative Economic Impacts</i>	<i>\$545,000.00</i>
7 Administrative	
R71a Administrative Expenses	49,323.00
Total Encumbrances	\$671,753.67

Project Summaries

Public Health

R16a Public Health, Medical Expenses: This project is to account for uses of ARP fiscal recovery funds for reimbursement of COVID-19 medical expenses within the county self-funded insurance fund, representing public health responses to the COVID-19 pandemic; these uses are part of the public health response because maintaining the health of county workers is imperative to being able to provide an effective local response to the pandemic; this is the specific need that has arisen from the pandemic; the county investment specifically addresses this need arising from the pandemic by supporting the county health benefit plan to address COVID-19 health related needs of county workers and will allow the county health benefit plan to address future needs associated with long-term effects of the disease, including continuing care for employees who have had COVID-19 or for employees who become infected in the future.

R17a Public Health, Vaccination Clinic: This project is to support leasing additional space (and related adaptations) for the Board of Health. It is a type of COVID-19 response, mitigation, and prevention activity: The Health Commissioner certified the new space (and adapting and implementing the new space) with a lease amendment was a type of COVID-19 response, mitigation, and prevention activity. A broad range of services are needed to contain COVID-19, including the conduct of vaccination programs; medical care; testing; contact tracing; support for isolation or quarantine; supports for vulnerable populations to access medical or public health services; public health surveillance (e.g., monitoring case trends, genomic sequencing for variants); enforcement of public health orders; public communication efforts; enhancement of public health data systems; and other public health responses which directly or indirectly support the fight against COVID-19. For example, vaccinations for other diseases will help keep the public healthy and promote stronger immunity systems to fight the disease. These are the activities that will be conducted in the new leased space, which is mostly a vaccination clinic. Also, adaptations (such as wiring, flooring, and FFE) for the leased public building are included to implement COVID-19 mitigation tactics.

R17b Public Health, Capital Investments and Public Facilities of the County: This project includes expenditures as a response to the public health emergency for capital investments to improve public safeguarding, distancing, and remote work, such as improvements in technology to allow for social distancing and remote services for the public. Investments include conference room equipment and key software purchases for multiple public departments to allow for improved response, public safety, safeguarding, and essential services. The category also includes general assets for facilities (such as a tent) and minor improvements for facilities to allow for safeguarding measures, such as distancing or the provision of services in outdoor spaces.

R17c Public Health, Capital Investment for Air Quality Improvements: This project addresses the need that is a result of the public health emergency is a need to improve air disinfection in public buildings, specifically in the buildings of Utilities and Developmental Disabilities, which have not yet received air disinfection equipment (from the CARES Act purchases) and have a need to improve air quality, which has been shown to be helpful in the measures to combat the spread of COVID-19 and other diseases that are caused by airborne viruses; the county issued a request for proposals to survey the current market for appropriate methods, and records of the request for proposal are filed with the Facilities Management Department; the investment for the winning proposal is \$56,674, with such investment addressing the specific need as the county will be more prepared to address air quality with the equipment; the investment helps the county respond to the disease by allowing for improved safeguarding measures.

R17d Public Health, Capital Investment for Health Equipment, a Mobile Morgue The American Rescue Plan fiscal recovery funds are permitted to be used to respond to the public health emergency with respect to COVID19; one lesson from the pandemic was how there is an impact to the health system when there is an increased number of decedents; in 2020, EMA documented two reported instances where morgue capacity in the county was critically low; funeral home services were often backlogged and not able to take any decedents to alleviate room in the morgues, and funeral homes have indicated they would not be able to decedents in the future; the need for a mobile morgue exists as a direct result of the public health emergency; county EMA will research available mobile morgue units and evaluate costs from quotes obtained; such investment addresses the specific need as the county will have a mobile morgue and will be more prepared to address a potential increase in the number of decedents; the investment helps the county respond to the disease by allowing for improved response measures.

R18a Professional Communications on Behalf of the Board of Health: This project supported the Board of Health with communication services for outreach to the general public about vaccination clinics and protocols.

R19a Public Safety Payroll Support: This project is for approved public safety payroll support expenditures, documented with attestation of the County Sheriff, opinion of the County Prosecutor and certification of the County Auditor. Position descriptions and assignments of 100 FTEs primarily addressing the public health emergency from March 13, 2021, through April 23, 2021, are available.

Negative Economic Impacts

R211a *Subgrant for Tourism, Support for the Fairfield County Fair*: The American Rescue Plan fiscal recovery funds are permitted to be used to respond to the public health emergency with respect to the COVID19 or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality; the Fairfield County Agricultural Society leads the Fairfield County Fair and is an institution that is part of the tourism and travel industry that has suffered based on the COVID19 pandemic, with negative economic effects from not being able to hold a traditional County Fair in 2020 (and losses of revenue and goodwill from not being able to hold a full fair in 2020); there were significant negative economic impacts in lost sales in connection with the public health emergency, and subgranting funds to support future County Fairs will address that harm by allowing for improvements or services that were formerly delayed; this investment helps the county respond to the harmful effects of the economic disruption by directly supporting tourism and the county fair, with long-term improvements for future fairs. The subgrant will be used for safety and security services, utilities, painting, technology improvements, and other improvements outlined in a subgrant agreement. The county is monitoring the Agricultural Society.

R29a *Emergency Assistance for Business Planning*: The Economic and Workforce Development Department and Revolving Loan Fund Committee have received multiple reports about the need for businesses and non-profit organizations to have consulting services to help with problem solving for problems that have arisen from the pandemic and its negative effects; the Fairfield County Economic and Workforce Development Department supports the business community and will implement contracted services for business consulting services to solve problems arising from the negative effects of the health emergency for Fairfield County businesses and non-profit organizations; and this county investment specifically addresses a need by identifying solutions with respect to problems arising from the pandemic such as recruitment and retention of employees; with the significant negative economic impact in lost sales, opportunities, or revenues in the business and non-profit community, contracting for professional services support future business activity will address harm by allowing for improvements for the workforce, organizations, and the overall economy.

R213a *Support for Agriculture and the Growing Community*: As an industry, agriculture has experienced market disruptions and slowdowns due to the pandemic. In response, the United States government provided economic relief in 2020 to assist farmers affected by the disruptions. This assistance has continued into 2021. In a study from the US Department of Agriculture in May of 2021, there was evidence that there were economic disruptions for agri-food products, with meat products and seafood being most severely impacted by the pandemic (Arita, Grant, Sydow, & Beckman, May 2021). Arita, et al. (May 2021) concluded there was a high degree of uncertainty in the agricultural industry based on the impact of the pandemic; reporting in the media shows uncertainty and disruptions in the agricultural industry; the Fairfield County agricultural industry faces challenges in identifying long-term needs and in examining how their businesses will emerge from the coronavirus pandemic; *Fairfield Growing*, is a local food council spearheaded by the Regional Planning Commission; the community would benefit from a long-term *Fairfield Growing* plan establishing strategies to support growers coming out of the pandemic and supporting the overall agricultural economy; professional consulting services will provide researched recommendations for improvements and stabilization as the industry comes out of the pandemic; this harm by allowing for identified improvements and support for grant opportunities, which in turn supports the overall economy.

R213b *Technical Assistance for Townships*: Fairfield County supports townships and villages, and Fairfield County desires to implement contracted services for grant writing support, technical assistance, and planning support through a contract for services to solve problems arising from the negative effects of the health emergency for Fairfield County townships and villages; and this county investment specifically addresses a need by identifying solutions for townships and villages with respect to problems arising from the pandemic; there have been reports from townships and villages about negative economic impacts in lost opportunities, delayed development, or lost revenues in the townships and villages, and contracting for professional services for grant writing support, technical assistance, and a planning supports future township and villages economic activity and development and will address harm by allowing for improvements within the townships and villages and the overall economy; the reports for the need for assistance are justified by federal actions which share ARP Act funds and also by state and federal actions that have increased the number of grant opportunities and reporting requirements placed upon townships and villages; contracting on behalf of the townships and villages is similar to providing an allocation but there is a defined use consistent with the ARP Act (provision of technical assistance to help with planning as entities come out of the pandemic and address the negative effects of the pandemic).

Premium Pay

R41a Premium Pay, Premium Pay for Emergency Management Agency Workers: It is permissible pay Emergency Management Agency workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to permanent EMA workers of the county performing essential work, for the timeframe of March 28, 2020, through April 23, 2021, for all regular hours worked during that time; permanent EMA workers are unique county workers included in the decision for premium pay because they had fundamental responsibility for the success of the response to the health emergency for the county (as an entity). Their work was essential for all of Fairfield County.

Infrastructure

R56a Clean Water, Stormwater. The American Rescue Plan fiscal recovery funds are permitted to be used for water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, or which stormwater projects (Clean Water definitions) are included, based on the June 17, 2021, Compliance and Reporting Guidance issued by the US Department of Treasury for the ARP fiscal recovery funds; the Stormwater category includes costs associated with the planning, design, and construction of conveying stormwater via pipes, inlets, roadside ditches, and other similar mechanisms. This category also includes the costs of activities associated with the planning, design, and construction of treating stormwater with wet ponds, dry ponds, manufactured devices, and other similar means; Examples are for subgrants for Walnut Township and the Hunters Run Conservancy District.

R511a Drinking Water: Transmission and Distribution, the Grant Hampton Project. Drinking Water: Transmission & Distribution projects are included in ARP projects; this project includes costs associated with the planning, design, and construction of water lines, hydrant, valves and other similar mechanisms in accordance with Drinking Water State Revolving Fund in the Fairfield County Public Water System ID# 2301912 (consistent with the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, Compliance and Reporting Guidance - Page 22, issued June 17, 2021); the waterline improvements will be along Grant Lane, Hampton Drive, Hampton Circle and MacIntosh Circle, areas tested with high levels of arsenic in private wells; Fairfield County is seeking to construct transmission waterlines to offer alternatives to the private wells with high levels of arsenic and in doing so, improve the available water supply and health conditions of 60 residences; Fairfield County Utilities will perform all construction inspection services and administer the contract and related competitive bidding processes.

Administration

R71a *Administrative Expenses*: Recipients of funds may use fiscal recovery funds to cover the portion of payroll and benefits of employees corresponding to the time spent on administrative work necessary due to COVID-19 public health emergency and its negative economic impacts; this includes, but is not limited to, costs related to disbursing payments of fiscal recovery funds and managing new grant programs established using fiscal recovery funds, based on guidance from the US Treasury dated June 24, 2021; a Deputy County Administrator has been assigned fundamental responsibility for success of the fiscal recovery program; work assignments are documented in a position description; there are examples of work products relating to the management of fiscal recovery programs. Also included in this category are professional services for strategic visioning.

As of August 20, 2021, the Board of Commissioners has authorized uses for \$ 5,328,719.66 of the first tranche.

Category	Appropriations as of August 20, 2021	In dollars
R16a	Professional Health, Medical Expenses as Public Health response for treatment of COVID-19 and its effects	\$ 206,838.33
R17a	Public Health, Vaccination Clinic	32,168.62
R17b	Public Health, Capital Investment for Public Facilities of the County	1,191,359.74
R17c	Public Health, Capital Investment for Public Facilities, Air Quality	56,674.00
R17d	Public Health, Capital Investment for a Mobile Morgue	49,500.00
R18a	Professional Communications on Behalf of the Board of Health	34,577.94
R19a	Public Safety Payroll Support	944,927.98
	Subtotal Public Health	\$ 2,516,045.91
R211a	Support for Tourism, Support for the Fair	\$ 500,000.00
R29a	Economic Assistance for Businesses Planning	150,000.00
R213a	Support for the Agricultural and Growing Community	45,000.00
R213b	Technical Assistance for Townships	100,000.00
	Subtotal Response to Negative Economic Impact	\$ 795,000.00
R41a	Premium Pay, Premium Pay for EMA Workers	\$ 27,907.73
R56a	Infrastructure, Stormwater	\$ 475,000.00
R511a	Infrastructure, Water, Grant Hampton	1,370,000.00
	Subtotal Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure	\$ 1,845,000.00
R71a	Administrative Expenses	\$ 144,766.02
	Total Appropriations as of August 20, 2021	\$ 5,328,719.66

There are multiple projects under review. In addition to the appropriations dedicated and listed above, the county is researching projects for water and sewer (to improve an existing subdistrict and potentially provide new services); FFE and staffing to support a vaccination clinic and public health services; technological improvements for multiple departments, including the courts (and staffing to address a DR Court backlog); imaging projects; broadband projects; services to address truancy and homelessness; and potentially a position within Protective Services to address needs arising from the pandemic. The first tranche is materially and informally dedicated.

The county will be using a community visioning process to inform final decisions and prepare for the second tranche, as well as prepare for broad community goals, beyond the fiscal recovery program. We expect a report for the community strategic plan by the end of 2021. The county will be using the theme of Fairfield Forward for strategic planning. There are two main uses that stand out for Fairfield County's fiscal recovery:

1. Responding to the public health emergency with respect to the COVID19 or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality.
2. Making necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

As we think about the first purpose, we are required to:

- Identify a need or negative impact of the public health emergency,
- Identify how the county investment would specifically address that need, and
- Readily explain how the investment helps the county respond to the disease or the harmful economic consequences of the economic disruption.