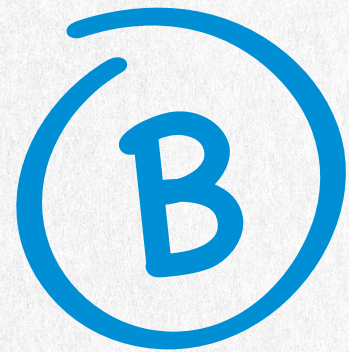


# ORANGE COUNTY

**HIGHLIGHTS:** Orange County did well in communicating and seeking input from the public on its ARPA SLFRF implementation. The county leveraged the funds to provide an array of health and social responses to the pandemic, but did not invest directly in grassroots community-based organizations or providing premium pay for non-governmental front-line workers.





Total ARPA SLFRF allocated: **\$616,840,943**

First tranche received in 2021: **\$308,420,471.5**

CATEGORY	BEST EFFORTS	GAPS AND LIMITATIONS	GRADE
Use of Funds	<p>As of February 2022, Orange County has allocated the majority, or 95% of its first tranche of SLFRF to support government services, including COVID-19 public health responses, mental health and substance use programs, housing vouchers, and emergency food assistance.</p> <p>The county also set aside some grants to small businesses and non-profits. Particularly, there was funding for <b>Orange County Human Relations Council</b>, a non-profit organization to enhance and expand anti-hate work.</p>	<p>As part of restoring government services, the county included ARPA funding to support payroll for sheriff and probation. The county did not spend any funds towards community-based crisis response as an alternative to policing.</p> <p>The county did not adequately invest in grassroots community-based organizations who serve BIPOC communities.</p>	
Promoting Racial Equity	<p>The County did acknowledge racialized health and social disparities during the pandemic in its ARPA compliance report.</p> <p>Leveraging previous CARES Act funding, the county developed an Orange County Equity Map (OCEM). The map continued to help the county prioritize its COVID-19 responses for underserved communities.</p>	<p>The county did not create an overarching racial equity plan or identify specific equity targets in its ARPA fund uses, despite having acknowledged racial disparities.</p> <p>It is worthwhile for the county to incorporate community lived experience, stories and expertise to compliment the use of a quantitative data tool like OCEM.</p>	



CATEGORY	BEST EFFORTS	GAPS AND LIMITATIONS	GRADE
<b>Community Engagement</b>	<p>The county opened a public comment portal on its ARPA website and used this portal twice between December 2021 and February 2022 to collect comments and feedback from the public regarding SLFRF implementation.</p> <p>The county also hosted a <b>public workshop</b> in September 2021 regarding SLFRF implementation plans.</p>	The County did not proactively reach out to community-based organizations and directly impacted communities to understand and incorporate their needs and wants for the SLFRF. And it was unclear how the public comments collected through the website informed the county's spending decisions.	
<b>Transparency, Accessibility and Accountability</b>	Orange county set up an easy-to-navigate public-facing website where all compliance reports and relevant ARPA information can be located by the public.	N/A	

## RELEVANT LINKS

- County ARPA website: [cfo.ocgov.com/resources/arpacares-act-reports](https://cfo.ocgov.com/resources/arpacares-act-reports)
- 2021 Recovery Plan Performance Report: [cfo.ocgov.com/sites/finance/files/2021-08/ARPA\\_CARES\\_ARPA\\_FY2021PerformancePlanV1.pdf](https://cfo.ocgov.com/sites/finance/files/2021-08/ARPA_CARES_ARPA_FY2021PerformancePlanV1.pdf)
- 2021 Interim Report: [cfo.ocgov.com/sites/finance/files/2021-09/ARPA\\_CARES\\_ARPA\\_Interim\\_Report-2021.pdf](https://cfo.ocgov.com/sites/finance/files/2021-09/ARPA_CARES_ARPA_Interim_Report-2021.pdf)
- 2022 January Project and Expenditure Report: [cfo.ocgov.com/sites/finance/files/2022-03/SLFRF%20Compliance%20Report%201-31-22.pdf](https://cfo.ocgov.com/sites/finance/files/2022-03/SLFRF%20Compliance%20Report%201-31-22.pdf)

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) Scorecard for Orange County

For more information, visit [www.CPEHN.org/ARPAscorecards](https://www.CPEHN.org/ARPAscorecards)



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