

LOS ANGELES COUNTY






HIGHLIGHTS: Los Angeles County has one of the most robust SLFRF spending plans in the state. The county's array of equity-driven investments range from meeting the immediate health and socio-economic needs of communities during COVID-19 to supporting and piloting forward-looking programs such as those under the "Care First, Jails Last" initiative. The county's Anti-Racism, Diversity and Inclusion Initiative has worked with community stakeholders to embed racial and social equity goals and principles in its ARPA plan and projects. The county also developed a comprehensive public website and an ARPA Equity Dashboard to demonstrate its detailed implementation progress with the public.

Total ARPA SLFRF allocated: **\$1,949,978,847**

First tranche received in 2021: **\$974,989,423.5**

CATEGORY	BEST EFFORTS	GAPS AND LIMITATIONS	GRADE
Use of Funds	<p>As of January 2022, Los Angeles County has <u>reported to the U.S. Treasury</u> an array of budgeted programs totaling \$704.8 million from its first tranche of SLFRF. These programs will support food, housing, homelessness and employment assistance, COVID-19 responses, digital access, and anti-Asian American Pacific Islander hate work.</p> <p>A significant portion of the county's SLFRF programs explicitly aim at addressing the social needs of communities of color, foster, LGBTQ+, justice-involved and the unhoused communities. Through ongoing grants and contracts, many programs and services will be conducted in partnerships with community-based organizations (CBOs), community health workers/navigators and ethnic media who serve or represent the county's most underserved communities.</p>	<p>Although the county has "budgeted" many programs to create immediate and long-term changes towards a healthier community, no SLFRF funds were expended from March through December 2021. The County's <u>ARPA Project Timelines</u> indicate that most of these projects will launch later in 2022, so actual spending will likely be reflected in future compliance reports to the U.S. Treasury. According to an update from the county, only \$55.8 million have been encumbered as of June 2022.</p>	

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Use of Funds	<p>The county Board of Supervisors previously adopted a countywide Phase One Spending Plan on July 27, 2021 <u>that incorporated community advocacy in support of equitable, forward looking investments.</u> Some of the earmarked investments sought to address long-standing systemic inequities, such as \$47 million for programs under the county's "Care First, Jails Last" initiative to expand systems of care and support decarceration, and \$16.3 million for a guaranteed basic income pilot program targeted at populations most impacted by COVID-19.</p>		
Promoting Racial Equity	<p>To promote racial equity through its SLFRF implementation, the county's <u>Anti-Racism, Diversity and Inclusion Initiative</u> (ARDI) with support from the Board of Supervisors has been working with a community coalitions and stakeholders, and county departments such as the Office of Immigrant Affairs to lead the county's SLFRF implementation. Under this leadership, county departments are required to use an Equity Toolkit to design their SLFRF projects and align their project goals and activities with a set of countywide equity principles, as reflected on the county's <u>ARPA Equity Dashboard.</u></p> <p>Part of the Equity Toolkit includes LA County's <u>COVID-19 Vulnerability and Recovery Index.</u> This map helps county departments identify neighborhoods disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. <u>The county has used additional strategies such as targeted outreach and engagement to prioritize "non-geographically concentrated" communities</u> including Pacific Islander, American Indian and Alaskan Native, and immigrant communities to complement its map-based strategy.</p>	<p>Although several SLFRF projects will provide grants and contracting opportunities to grassroots community-based organizations for communities hit hardest by the pandemic, it is less clear if these grant opportunities support community-defined practices that serve specific race/ethnic groups.</p>	

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Promoting Racial Equity	The county's ARDI team is also working with departments to ensure that programs address equity in their implementation and outcomes tracking. ARDI staff are working with departments to ensure program outcomes drive equity and are backed by strategies that can help support these outcomes.		
Community Engagement	<p>Los Angeles County requires that all ARPA-funded projects conduct equitable community outreach, including to limited-English proficient groups to build awareness and increase CBO contracting with the county to carry out services. Additionally, based on a January Board meeting, the county is providing technical assistance and capacity building for non-profit CBOs to apply for and comply with these federal grants, including working with philanthropic partners to provide additional support to help CBOs understand the funding opportunities and provide technical assistance.</p> <p>The county regularly provides updates on the use of SLFRF in its Board of Supervisors meetings, which are open the general public with up-to-date information and materials posted to the County's ARPA website.</p>	Because many projects have not yet begun implementation, the county has not yet held many public educational workshops to guide the specific implementation of budgeted programs.	
Transparency, Accessibility and Accountability	<p>The county has a dedicated ARPA website that clearly demonstrates the vision, principles, spending plan, evidence base for decision making, contract and grant opportunities, and up-to-date public meeting records regarding its SLFRF implementation.</p> <p>The county also developed an ARPA Equity Dashboard to help the general public better understand what departments and projects have received funds and the intended equity impact of SLFRF-funded projects.</p>	While there are several areas by which members of the public may provide feedback, it does not feature a single clear point of contact for grievances. Outside of Board of Supervisors meetings, it is unclear how the public can easily ask questions or further engage with its SLFRF spending decisions. The county did not post all of its federal compliance reports online.	

RELEVANT LINKS



County ARPA website: ceo.lacounty.gov/recovery/arpa/



2021 Recovery Plan Performance Report: ceo.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/SLFRF-Recovery-Plan-Performance-Report-July-2021.pdf



2021 Interim Report: apps-treas.my.salesforce.com/sfc/p/t0000000TZbC/a/t0000001emIS/HF0qnCkA3T41pKW1mHZn0nz56ToZ_RI8cE07_It7gAQ



2022 January Quarterly Project and Expenditure Report: home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-January-2022-Quarterly-Data-through-December-31-2021.xlsx

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

For more information, visit www.CPEHN.org/ARPAscorecards



California Pan-Ethnic
HEALTH NETWORK