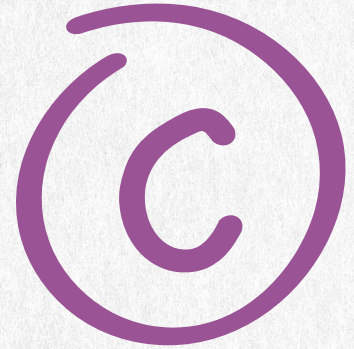


SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY


HIGHLIGHTS: San Bernardino County has created a multi-year plan to implement its SLFRF but has been slow in developing specific projects. The county plans to work with its racial equity-focused Equity Element Group and other stakeholders to implement SLFRF with an equity lens, but has not engaged with impacted communities at large through methods such as community surveys and workshops. The county created a public facing ARPA website but failed to post up-to-date spending information.



Total ARPA SLFRF allocated: **\$423,455,955**

First tranche received in 2021: **\$211,727,977.5**



CATEGORY	BEST EFFORTS	GAPS AND LIMITATIONS	GRADE
Use of Funds	<p>In its 2021 recovery plan, San Bernardino County outlined a four-year plan to implement its entire SLFRF in three spending categories including Pandemic Response (\$138.5 million), Economic Recovery (\$175.0 million) and Government Operations (\$110.0 million). The county listed broad investment areas under these categories, for example, housing and homelessness services and COVID-19 testing and vaccines under Pandemic Response, broadband, water and sewer improvements under Economic Recovery, and data technology and service delivery enhancement under Government Operations.</p> <p>As of February 2022, San Bernardino County has obligated some funds but not all towards projects promised in its 2021 recovery plan, including hiring for ARPA administration positions and water/sewer improvements.</p>	<p>As of early 2022, or the tail-end of “Year One” of its four-year ARPA plan, San Bernardino County has yet to implement the various promised program areas. It is also ambiguous which specific county departments will receive support under “Government Operations.”</p> <p>Additionally, the county has failed to consider other federally permitted SLFRF uses such as directly funding grassroots community-based organizations and community health workers, creating community-based crisis response models, improving public transportation and green spaces, and providing direct cash assistance for communities with low income and non-governmental frontline workers.</p>	

CATEGORY	BEST EFFORTS	GAPS AND LIMITATIONS	GRADE
Use of Funds		According to the county's 2022 January spending report submitted to the U.S. Treasury , the county has set up a "Vaccine Incentive" program to offer its county employees up to \$480 per person incentive pay to receive the COVID-19 vaccines. This incentive program is unavailable for the general public.	
Promoting Racial Equity	<p>The county's 2021 recovery plan stated that the county is working with its Vision Equity Element Group to ensure equity in its ARPA programs. This Equity Group was created following a countywide resolution passed in June 2020 to declare racism as a public health crisis by the San Bernardino Board of Supervisors. The Equity Group members are predominantly Black/African American local community leaders.</p> <p>Additionally, the county plans to use its annual Community Indicators Report and a new 2020 Equity Gap Score to provide an overview of the racialized health and social disparities in the county, which may guide its SLFRF implementation.</p>	Although the county stated its intent to reference quantitative data such as its Community Indicators Report and a 2020 Equity Gap Score to reduce racial disparities through ARPA, only a number of data categories on the "Indicators" such as uninsured rate for health care and COVID-19 case rates are disaggregated by race/ethnicity. It is unclear how the county will measure or track its progress in reducing racialized disparities across programs through SLFRF.	

CATEGORY	BEST EFFORTS	GAPS AND LIMITATIONS	GRADE
Community Engagement	The county plans to consult with representatives from all of its 11 Vision Element Groups, including the new Equity Group for feedback on the SLFRF programs. The county is also hiring a consultant to coordinate this work.	<p>There is little evidence showing that the county is using community workshops, surveys, and listening sessions to educate and engage with its directly impacted communities around SLFRF programs and decisions.</p> <p>It is undetermined how the Equity Vision Element Group may substantially impact the county's equitable SLFRF decisions. It is also unclear how the county will further solicit feedback from other disproportionately impacted communities such as Latino/a/x and Pacific Islander communities <u>who have had the highest COVID-19 case rates in the county.</u></p>	
Transparency, Accessibility and Accountability	The county has set up a public-facing website and dedicated ARPA contact information. The county also posted its 2021 recovery plan online for the public to review.	The county failed to post all of its federal compliance reports and up-to-date spending information on its ARPA website so that the public can view and follow its ongoing SLFRF projects and expenses. Additionally, the county did not set up a grievance or public comment process for the public to further engage with its SLFRF decisions.	

RELEVANT LINKS



County ARPA website: <https://arpa.sbcounty.gov>



2021 Recovery Plan Performance Report: arpa.sbcounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/67/2021/11/ARPA-Recovery-Plan.pdf



2021 Interim Report: apps-treas.my.salesforce.com/sfc/p/t0000000TZbC/a/t0000001emId/Hr_s5M7EuECUZ61N.QXAbgVmsJtW3g7WYLgZ5yhL6ls



2022 January 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 San Bernardino County

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



California Pan-Ethnic
HEALTH NETWORK