

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY

HIGHLIGHTS: As of early 2022, San Joaquin County has allocated a portion of its SLFRF on housing, homelessness, COVID-19 and other social programs. Despite some promises on improving equity, the county has not developed any racial equity plan, strategies or goals to guide its SLFRF use or evaluate its progress. The county fell significantly short in its community engagement efforts to implement these critical relief dollars, nor has the county been transparent in sharing information.





Total ARPA SLFRF allocated: **\$148,038,314**

First tranche received in 2021: **\$74,019,157**

CATEGORY	BEST EFFORTS	GAPS AND LIMITATIONS	GRADE
Use of Funds	<p>As of February 2022, the county of San Joaquin <u>has budgeted more than \$70 million of its first tranche SLFRF</u> towards programs such as county-run housing and homelessness services, COVID-19 testing and vaccination, water and sewer improvement, and a <u>premium pay program for county employees</u>. It is worth noting that the county <u>approved</u> \$4.2 million ARPA funds for First 5 San Joaquin to provide health and social services for young children and their families, including Medi-Cal dental benefit navigation through <u>“SJ TEETH.”</u></p>	<p>The county does not seem to have a comprehensive spending framework for SLFRF. It has not invested in many other federally permitted SLFRF uses such as adult mental and behavioral health programs, improving language access and demographic data collection, creating community-based crisis response programs, or providing reintegration services for formerly incarcerated community members. The county also failed to consider leveraging ARPA funds to expand <u>Stockton City’s universal basic income program that has proven effective in improving health and social outcomes for its recipients.</u></p> <p>In January 2022, San Joaquin County Board of Supervisors <u>approved</u> \$6.8 million of SLFRF to provide “premium pay” for county employees who worked during the pandemic, which likely included sheriff, probation and jail personnel. This premium pay program was unavailable for other non-governmental essential workers.</p>	

CATEGORY	BEST EFFORTS	GAPS AND LIMITATIONS	GRADE
Use of Funds	<p>Additionally, San Joaquin County is working with a few local non-profit organizations to deliver services. For example, the county contracted with El Concilio to provide application assistance for the county's Family COVID Assistance Grant program. The program offers up to \$10,000 per family in rent, mortgage and utilities relief. The county also approved funds for a non-profit, Lodi House to acquire transitional housing for women and children experiencing homelessness.</p>	<p>Although the county contracted with Beacon Economics, a consulting firm to create an ARPA strategy report in 2021, there was little public evidence showing how much money the county used to contract with this external consulting firm.</p>	
Promoting Racial Equity	<p>The county stated in its 2021 recovery plan that “for each of the ARPA funded programs, data will be collected to measure and support equity at various stages of each program.”</p>	<p>San Joaquin County did not develop any racial equity plan, strategies or goals to guide and evaluate its SLFRF use. The county failed to explicitly identify the inequitable impacts communities of color experienced during COVID-19 either in its federal compliance reports or the consultant Beacon Economics' ARPA strategy report. In the absence of baseline data and clear targets for improvement, it is unclear how the county can fulfil its promise “to measure and support equity at various stages” for its SLFRF implementation.</p>	

CATEGORY	BEST EFFORTS	GAPS AND LIMITATIONS	GRADE
Community Engagement	San Joaquin County contracted with Beacon Economics, a consulting firm in May 2021, who subsequently presented a plan for the county in October 2021 on “An ARPA Strategy for San Joaquin County.”	There was no evidence of community-facing workshops, sessions or surveys conducted by San Joaquin County. It is unclear how San Joaquin county’s community residents and grassroots organizations can learn about or participate in its SLFRF decision making. It is also unclear how the Beacon Economics strategy report is being incorporated in the county’s ongoing SLFRF decisions.	
Transparency, Accessibility and Accountability	San Joaquin County posted its 2021 Recovery Plan online in a timely manner.	The county failed to develop a public ARPA website, nor did it share all of its federal compliance reports and the latest Board decisions on SLFRF with the public, making this information extremely inaccessible for communities. The county also failed to provide any contact information or grievance process for the public to ask questions or follow up with its SLFRF decisions.	

RELEVANT LINKS



County website: sjready.org/events/covid19/



2021 Recovery Plan Performance Report: sjready.org/assets/docs/covid/SLFRF-Recovery-Plan-Performance-Report-San%20Joaquin%20County.pdf



2021 Interim Report: apps-treas.my.salesforce.com/sfc/p/t0000000TZbC/a/t0000001empV/lnET.UR0iiUBl8wePtd7q0wUunTx0DNXxo.Mhi9O08s



2022 January Project and Expenditure Report: home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Project-and-Expenditure-Report-User-Guide.pdf

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

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



**California Pan-Ethnic
HEALTH NETWORK**