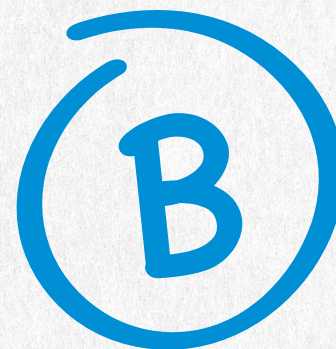


CONTRA COSTA COUNTY




HIGHLIGHTS: As of early 2022, Contra Costa County targeted its entire first half of ARPA funds to support its County Health Services Department's COVID-19 relief efforts. The county has made progress in reducing COVID-19 related health disparities but did not have an overarching plan for advancing racial equity through its ARPA use. The county did not directly inform, consult or engage directly impacted communities on its ARPA funding decisions, nor did the county make these decision making processes accessible for the public to participate in.



Total ARPA SLFRF allocated: **\$224,058,903**

First tranche received in May 2021: **\$112,029,451**

Second tranche received in May 2022: **\$112,029,451**

CATEGORY	BEST EFFORTS	GAPS AND LIMITATIONS	GRADE
Use of Funds	As of August 2021, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors voted to allocate the entire first tranche of SLFRF to its county Health Services Department. The funds would support ongoing COVID-19 mitigation efforts, and strengthen governmental public health infrastructure such as epidemiology and data systems, public health staffing, and hospitals and clinics. The Health Services Department also prioritized a portion of the funding specifically to its Health Equity team to continue to reduce COVID-19 health disparities among historically marginalized communities.	<p>In the use of the first half of SLFRF, the county failed to invest in other federally permitted areas such as housing, food or cash assistance for residents impacted by COVID-19, community-based mental health and crisis response programs as alternatives to policing, and/or improving green space and public transportation.</p> <p>The county did not allocate any funding to community based non-profit organizations who directly serve historically marginalized communities.</p>	

CATEGORY	BEST EFFORTS	GAPS AND LIMITATIONS	GRADE
Promoting Racial Equity	<p>The county acknowledged historic and present inequities “specifically among African American, Latinx, homeless, non-English speakers, disabled, elderly, and rural populations.” Meanwhile, the County <u>established an Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice (ORESH)</u> after <u>declaring racism a public health crisis in 2020</u>, and <u>had aimed to operationalize the Office by October 2022</u>.</p> <p>The county invested its SLFRF to continue to reduce disparities in COVID-19 testing and vaccination rates through a diverse set of strategies, including its Community Ambassadors Program, partnerships with community and faith-based organizations, data-driven digital communication campaigns, and mobile vaccination clinics in areas where people trust.</p> <p>The county’s <u>Adult Ambassador Program</u> promotes culturally and linguistically appropriate COVID-19 messaging and outreach through social media and door-to-door canvassing; the Program also helps developing a workforce that represents directly impacted communities.</p>	<p>Outside of the establishment of an Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice and health equity efforts under the Health Services Department, the county did not have an overarching vision or action plan for advancing racial equity or reducing racial disparities in its ARPA use. The county shared that because its newly created <u>Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice</u> was yet to be fully operationalized at the time of the first tranche of ARPA decision making, there was no opportunity to consult or involve the Office in these funding decisions in order to follow the Treasury’s guidance in advancing racial equity through ARPA.</p>	

CATEGORY	BEST EFFORTS	GAPS AND LIMITATIONS	GRADE
Community Engagement	<p>The county has created robust COVID-19 outreach programs including the Adult Ambassador program and the COVID-19 Historically Marginalized Communities Engagement Unit to reduce COVID-19 disparities. The county has been sharing updates on ARPA fund uses via its regular Board of Supervisors meetings.</p>	<p>Outside of COVID-19 specific outreach efforts, the county missed the opportunity to leverage these outreach programs to co-create budgetary priorities through ARPA. The county failed to directly inform, educate, consult or engage directly impacted communities in its ARPA funding decisions. For example, the county did not provide any educational workshops on ARPA fund decisions, nor did it utilize common tools such as surveys to understand how directly impacted communities want to spend these funds.</p>	
Transparency, Accessibility and Accountability	<p>Contra Costa county's annual recovery plans from 2021 and 2022 can be easily located through online searching.</p>	<p>The county did not set up any public facing webpages, making it difficult to directly locate information from the county related to ARPA fund use. There is no contact information or grievance process if anyone from the general public wishes to request information or comment on current decisions with the county regarding its ARPA fund uses. The county failed to reference any guidance language from the Treasury on the ARPA SLFRF program.</p>	

RELEVANT LINKS

- County website: N/A
- 2021 Recovery Plan Performance Report: <https://cchealth.org/covid19/pdf/Recovery-Plan-2022.pdf>
- 2022 April Project and Expenditure Report: <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/April-2022-Quarterly-and-Annual-Reporting-Data-through-March-31-2022.xlsx>
- 2021 Recovery Plan Performance Report: <https://cchealth.org/covid19/pdf/Recovery-Plan-2021.pdf>

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

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



California Pan-Ethnic
HEALTH NETWORK