



Anoka County
MINNESOTA

Respectful, Innovative, Fiscally Responsible

Annual Recovery Plan

Anoka County, Minnesota

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

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General Overview

Executive Summary

On March 11, 2021, the President of the United States signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to provide continued relief from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of ARPA, \$350 billion of State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) were allotted to assist governments in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts on their communities. Anoka County was allotted just over \$69.8 million of SLFRF to assist its community in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts. Under ARPA, the funds provided are planned to support Anoka County's community broadly in accordance with the U.S. Department of the Treasury guidelines by:

- Providing support for public health expenditures.
- Addressing negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency.
- Replacement of lost public sector revenue.
- Providing premium pay for essential workers.
- Investing in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

Anoka County recognizes the significant impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had within our community and is taking a very proactive approach in developing the uses for these funds that address the impact and serve all the county's residents:

- On August 24, 2021, the County Board by resolution officially accepted receipt of these funds pledging to follow the guidelines as set forth by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.
- On August 24, 2021, the County Board by resolution established budget allocations for ARPA Funds in the following broad categories:
 - ✓ Public health - \$12 million.
 - ✓ Negative economic impact – to be determined.
 - ✓ Services to disproportionately impacted communities - to be determined.
 - ✓ Infrastructure - \$3.1 million.
 - ✓ Revenue replacement - \$18.6 million.
 - ✓ Grant administration - \$1 million.
 - ✓ Unallocated - \$35.1 million.

- On September 28, 2021, the County Board by resolution amended budget allocations for ARPA Funds increasing the Public Health Category by \$7.3 million.
- On January 31, 2022, the County Board by resolution amended budget allocations for ARPA Funds in the following broad categories:
 - ✓ Public health - \$27.17 million.
 - ✓ Negative economic impact - \$4.2 million.
 - ✓ Services to disproportionately impacted communities - \$2.1 million.
 - ✓ Infrastructure - \$8.5 million.
 - ✓ Revenue replacement - \$24.25 million.
 - ✓ Grant administration - \$1 million.
 - ✓ Unallocated - \$2.5 million.
- On March 22, 2022, the County Board by resolution amended budget allocations for ARPA Funds in the following broad categories:
 - ✓ Public health - \$27.17 million.
 - ✓ Negative economic impact - \$4.2 million.
 - ✓ Services to disproportionately impacted communities - \$2.1 million.
 - ✓ Premium pay – TBD.
 - ✓ Infrastructure - \$8.5 million.
 - ✓ Revenue replacement - \$24.25 million.
 - ✓ Grant administration - \$1 million.
 - ✓ Unallocated - \$2.5 million.
- On October 24, 2022, the County Board by resolution amended budget allocations for ARPA Funds in the following broad categories:
 - ✓ Public health - \$20.5 million.
 - ✓ Negative economic impact - \$4.7 million.
 - ✓ Services to disproportionately impacted communities - \$2.2 million.
 - ✓ Infrastructure - \$8.5 million.
 - ✓ Revenue replacement - \$32.4 million.
 - ✓ Grant administration - \$1.0 million.
 - ✓ Unallocated - \$0.5 million.
- Budget allocations will be adjusted by County Board resolution within the above categories as projects are identified and approved.
- The county administrator has developed an ARPA Governance Task Force that includes a cross-section of leaders from various departments throughout the county. This task force will meet as needed and review all requests prior to submission to the County Board for approval.
- Additionally, all projects will be vetted for compliance with ARPA guidelines prior to submission to the ARPA Governance Task Force by a compliance team, consisting of County Administration, Finance & Central Services, and the County Attorney's Office.

- ARPA information on the county’s plan will be provided on the county’s ARPA web page located at - <https://www.anokacounty.us/4094/American-Rescue-Plan-Act-ARPA>

Anoka County has continued spending State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) on specific projects that were recognized and introduced under ARPA. As of June 30, 2023, a total of \$18.4 million has been spent on projects across the categories that were identified by the County Board as priorities intended for infrastructure and community outreach.

Uses of Funds

The Anoka County Board, in an informational workshop, identified the following as initial priorities for consideration. Some funding has been obligated; however, it continues to be subject to modification as specific projects are identified and approved by the County Board.

Public Health

Anoka County plans to designate funds to mitigate COVID-19 by supporting public health initiatives throughout the county. Currently, the Anoka County Board has allocated \$20.5 million for this category, in which the following options are being considered:

- Continuing support for healthcare costs related to the community and employees that have been directly impacted.
- Supporting community members and staff through needed facility modifications ensuring the prevention and mitigation of COVID-19.
- Enhancing behavioral and mental health care programs for both employees and citizens.
- Improving and re-designing the health and public programs that serve citizens.
- Addressing health disparities within our county.
- Meeting health needs of the community through usage of Cham Clinic.

Negative Economic Impacts

Anoka County intends to address the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic within the community as follows. Currently, the Anoka County Board has allocated \$4.7 million for this category, in which the following options are being considered:

- Assisting small business and non-profits with technical support resources.
- Providing assistance to unemployed workers through our CareerForce Center.
- Addressing Park maintenance issues related to overuse from the community that has and continues to occur.
- Addressing public safety response to increased community violence.
- Addressing court service backlogs that are related to the pandemic.
- Aiding members of the community facing food insecurities via food shelves.

Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

Currently, the Anoka County Board has allocated \$2.2 million for this category, in which the following options are being considered:

- Services and programs directed towards working with populations who are homeless.
- Development of community outreach programs, targeting mental health and other needs.
- Increased maintenance and updates to areas such as parks that serve impacted communities.
- Developing a strategic plan to identify and address community resources and economic development needs of the communities.

Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure

Anoka County has currently allocated \$8.5 million to provide a matching grant opportunity to our cities and township for projects that provide broadband expansion to unserved and underserved areas of our community. The following are currently under development:

- Bunker Hills Regional Park infrastructure.
- Enhanced public safety equipment.
- Broadband implementation and expansion for more modernized networks within the community.

Revenue Replacement

Anoka County has suffered an economic loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic and intends to claim the lost revenue (in accordance with the Treasury guidance) and reinvest these funds back into the community. Anoka County Board has allocated \$32.4 million to this category. Anoka County's calculated revenue loss has exceeded the SLFRF allocation received of \$69.4 million.

Unallocated

The Anoka County Board of Commissioners will continue to evaluate and engage the community as it determines how to allocate the remaining \$0.5 million in funds.

Promoting equitable outcomes

Projects related to promoting equitable outcomes are under development.

Community Engagement

Anoka County recognizes it is vital that community feedback remain a central theme throughout this process and continues to consider additional methods for obtaining feedback throughout the performance period. Feedback was received by immigrant and non-profit groups in 2022 which expressed insecurities within the community. As a result of the community feedback, the Anoka County Board provided financial support from the SLFRF funds to develop projects that directly benefited the communities impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Labor Practices

Projects for infrastructure will address labor practices within their plans as they are adopted and in accordance with US Treasury Guidance.

Use of Evidence

Projects in categories that require an evidence-based approach will be provided in the project plans during Anoka County Board adoption of the plan.

Project Inventory

COVID-19 Vaccination Planning & Implementation

Approved Budget Amount - \$1,000,000.00

Actual Spend as of June 30, 2023 - \$233,000.54

Project Expenditure Category - 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project ID - 5759000010

Project Overview:

This project is necessary as part of the county's COVID-19 response, mitigation, and prevention activities and includes costs for supplies, materials, and contracts with vendors. Current expenditures include costs related to providing vaccinations for COVID-19 to the community through county administration as well as through contracts with outside parties to administer vaccines.

Protective Equipment & Measures

Approved Budget Amount - \$500,000.00

Actual Spend as of June 30, 2023 - \$148,195.04

Project Expenditure Category - 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project ID - 5759000007

Project Overview:

This project allows the county to take the appropriate steps necessary to implement safety measures that mitigate the transmission of the virus including, but not limited to, materials and supplies for personal protection, enhanced cleaning for minimizing exposure, materials, and supplies for ongoing telework, and other supplies for additional protective measures as needed. To keep employees and citizens safe, the county has provided the ability for employees to work remotely, citizens to visit remotely, and the county has approved other personal protective equipment purchases.

Modifications to Ensure Safe Services Delivery

Approved Budget Amount - \$51,208.57

Actual Spend as of June 30, 2023 - \$51,208.57

Project Expenditure Category - 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project ID - 5759000013

Project Overview:

This project allows the county to take the appropriate steps necessary to implement safety measures that mitigate the transmission of the virus including, including but not limited to items such as replacing outdated HVAC systems with new ones and the installation of aerosol monitors.

Employee Assistance Program Enhancement

Approved Budget Amount - \$1,000,000.00

Actual Spend as of June 30, 2023 - \$389,261.73

Project Expenditure Category - 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project ID - 5759000001

Project Overview:

Anoka County recognizes the strain the pandemic has placed on employees' mental health, dealing with secondary trauma, family events, etc. To enhance the Employee Assistance Program a contracted onsite professional was added to support employees and their families through the following: assessments and program advocacy, referrals, management consultations, critical incident response support and training.

COVID-19 Health Ins. Claims

Approved Budget Amount - \$3,736,168.00

Actual Spend as of June 30, 2023 - \$3,214,420.50

Project Expenditure Category - 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project ID - 5759000005

Project Overview:

As Anoka County is self-insured for Medical Insurance, this project enables Anoka County to cover the additional claim costs incurred due to COVID-19. Anoka County's medical insurance is run through Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota.

COVID-19 Workers Comp. Claims

Approved Budget Amount - \$263,832.18

Actual Spend as of June 30, 2023 - \$263,832.18

Project Expenditure Category - 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project ID - 5759000004

Project Overview:

As Anoka County is self-insured for worker's compensation insurance, this project enables Anoka County to cover the additional claim costs incurred due to COVID-19.

Public Health & Safety Payroll

Approved Budget Amount - \$7,938,309.07

Actual Spend as of June 30, 2023 - \$7,938,309.07

Project Expenditure Category - 3.1 Public Sector Workforce – Payroll and Benefits for Public Health, Public Safety, or Human Services Workers

Project ID - 5759000011

Project Overview:

Due to the pandemic, Anoka County was forced to change how its business operated to maximize the prevention and mitigation of the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Additionally, the county had to deal with the citizens and staff who had COVID-19. This project claims the time spent on these types of activities.

OpenGov Module

Approved Budget Amount - \$1,000,000.00

Actual Spend as of June 30, 2023 - \$62,575.00

Project Expenditure Category - 7.1 Administrative Expenses

Project ID – 5759000003

Project Overview:

This project is the purchase of a module to assist in the processing and reporting of the SLFRF grant (part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)). This module allows Anoka County to create forms for project requests that show workflow allowing Anoka County to process the forms effectively and efficiently through multiple processing steps and approvals to ensure proper administration of funds.

Water and Sewer to Bunker

Approved Budget Amount - \$4,200,000.00

Actual Spend as of June 30, 2023 - \$121,879.69

Project Expenditure Category - 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project ID - 5759000014

Project Overview:

This project replaces the Bunker Hills Activity Center's outdated well and septic infrastructure with city water and sewer services, providing a clean, stable water source for the public with new infrastructure to accommodate increased visitation and demand from guest use. Parks have seen a dramatic increase in usage due to the pandemic putting a large strain on the existing infrastructure.

Regional Broadband Study

Approved Budget Amount - \$350,000.00

Actual Spend as of June 30, 2023 - \$134,495.35

Project Expenditure Category - 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project ID - 5759000016

Project Overview:

Anoka County recognizes the need for broadband across the county. This project establishes a county wide plan to target areas in need and allow for more modernized networks which gives residents and businesses a more diversified choice of providers and services.

EA Move - Blaine Building

Approved Budget Amount - \$2,448,791

Actual Spend as of June 30, 2023 - \$488,233.58

Project Expenditure Category - 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project ID - 5759000006:

Project Overview:

This project renovates and improves existing government property to create a safer environment for staff and citizens, including creating workstations with glass barriers between the worker and the public.

Administrative Payroll

Approved Budget Amount - \$6,061,691.00

Actual Spend as of June 30, 2023 - \$391,628.00

Project Expenditure Category - 7.1 Administrative Expenses

Project ID - 5759000008

Project Overview:

Payroll costs to administer the SLFRF grant.

Courts Security Card Reader

Approved Budget Amount - \$94,775.00

Actual Spend as of June 30, 2023 - \$77,753.18

Project Expenditure Category - 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project ID – 5759000009

Project Overview:

This project improves security and efficiency within the county courts by replacing all cipher locks with touchless card readers. The second part of this project replaces keyed locks for access of public entrances to courtrooms with bailiff unlock buttons improving safety for citizens and staff.

Anoka Treatment Court

Approved Budget Amount - \$100,000.00

Actual Spend as of June 30, 2023 - \$18,200.00

Project Expenditure Category - 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project ID – 5759000020

Project Overview:

This project was initiated to create additional support from justice and treatment providers for veterans within the community who are struggling with chemical dependency, homelessness, unemployment, or other high-need situations.

Air Handlers - Bunker

Approved Budget Amount - \$500,000.00

Actual Spend as of June 30, 2023 - \$11,439.62

Project Expenditure Category – 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project ID – 5759000021

Project Overview:

This project allows the county to improve the activities center to accommodate increased usage and make the location more accessible for all members of the community. These objectives will be met by increasing filtration capacity, efficiencies, operations usability, sound reductions and to meet current building codes.

Emergency Communications Center

Approved Budget Amount - \$22,000,000.00

Actual Spend as of June 30, 2023 - \$4,094,307.60

Project Expenditure Category - 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project ID – 5759000022

Project Overview:

This project is the development of a new Emergency 911 center which helps create a safer work environment for staff by creating social distancing. This construction includes updated and enhanced dispatch systems allowing dispatchers to appropriately assign first responders and improve response times.

Food Insecurities

Approved Budget Amount - \$100,000.00

Actual Spend as of June 30, 2023 - \$100,000.00

Project Expenditure Category - 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project ID – 5759000024

Project Overview:

Food shelves within Anoka County face challenges receiving food due to the inflated cost. This project will mitigate the disparities of the community regarding food insecurity. Anoka County has partnered with five different food shelves and has issued a one-time grant of \$20,000 per shelter to assist with depleted resources and ensure that all members of the community can receive the help that is needed.

Cham Clinic X-Ray Machine

Approved Budget Amount - \$38,000.00

Actual Spend as of June 30, 2023 - \$20,805.77

Project Expenditure Category - 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project ID – 5759000025

Project Overview:

The clinic has been instrumental in the education and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines to our socially vulnerable communities in Anoka County. Cham Clinic and Anoka County Public Health and Environmental Services have established a strong working relationship. The services Cham Clinic continues to provide have been essential to ensuring we continue to meet the health needs of our community. These services assist Public Health in their ability to prevent and manage communicable disease for our socially vulnerable populations in Anoka County and will allow the clinic to better serve the community.

General Physical Modifications - GC

Approved Budget Amount - \$2,500,000.00

Actual Spend as of June 30, 2023 - \$33,785.55

Project Expenditure Category - 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project ID – 5759000026

Project Overview:

The purpose of this project is to make improvements that help create safer work environment for members of the community and staff within the government center to continue daily operations at the highest level.

Cyber Security

Approved Budget Amount - \$3,632,346.00

Actual Spend as of June 30, 2023 - \$517,461.39

Project Expenditure Category - 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project ID – 5759000027

Project Overview:

This project is necessary to keep Anoka County up to date with evolving technology and mitigates the likelihood of a data breach by enhancing and implementing upgraded security detection, prevention, and backup systems.

Public Safety Equipment

Approved Budget Amount - \$50,000.00

Actual Spend as of June 30, 2023 - \$16,500.00

Project Expenditure Category - 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project ID – 5759000028

Project Overview:

This project enhances radio frequencies for local first responders, the project includes the conditioning, filtering, and programming of frequencies used by first responder personnel to optimize signal flow. Implementing this project creates channel selectivity, interference mitigation, and higher power output to any first responder radio in the coverage area.