

Cumberland County, North Carolina
Recovery Plan

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

2022 Report

Cumberland County, North Carolina
2022 Recovery Plan

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

Congress has allocated 65.1 billion to counties of the United States in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF). Cumberland County, North Carolina, has been allocated 65.2 million in SLFRF under the American Rescue Plan Act, which was received in two distributions of 32.5 million, the first in June 2021 and the second in June 2022.

The seven-member Board of County Commissioners established a three-member ARP Committee to lead the County's planning process and bring project and expenditure recommendations to the full board for approval. Minutes from all meetings are posted on the County's ARP webpage at cumberlandcountync.gov/ARP.

At their June 20, 2022, regular meeting the Board of County Commissioners approved Budget Ordinance Amendment B220652 to the County's ARPA Grant Project Ordinance allocating the use of the SLFRF distribution for the following purposes:

Public Health

1. Behavioral Health Services
2. Substance Use Services
3. COVID-19 Assistance to Small Business
4. COVID-19 Assistance to Non-Profits
5. Physical Plant changes to Public Facilities that respond to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency.

Negative Economic Impacts

6. Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid
7. Assistance to Unemployed and Underemployed Workers
8. Long-term Housing Security: Affordable Housing
9. Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance
10. Assistance to Small Businesses: Technical Assistance, Counseling, or Business Planning.

Infrastructure

11. Clean Water: Other Sewer Infrastructure
12. Drinking Water: Other Water Infrastructure
13. Broadband: Other Projects

Revenue Replacement

14. Provision of Government Services

Uses of Funds

The final rule identifies a non-exclusive list of eligible uses for responding to the public health emergency. The pandemic has broadly impacted Americans and recipients can provide services to prevent, mitigate, and recover from COVID-19. Local governments can engage in eligible uses to include a broad range of services and programming to assist in COVID-19 mitigation and recovery. The following projects are in line with responding to the public health emergency and are organized by funding category:

Public Health

- **Community Paramedics Program** - A subrecipient agreement is planned with Cape Fear Valley Health center who will provide a Community Paramedic Community Response Program. Cumberland County EMS Community Paramedics are uniquely suited to respond in the 911 environment to crisis mental health and substance abuse/overdose calls within the geopolitical boundaries of Cumberland County. The team will work alongside Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW) that are healthcare practitioners trained in mental health, substance abuse counseling, and patient management.
- **NARCAN Project** -A subrecipient agreement is planned with Cape Fear Valley Health Center who will purchase NARCAN for distribution to the Sheriff's Office, Fire Districts, and other first responders.
- **Small Business Economic Assistance Program** - Cumberland County has issued a request for applications, focused on for-profit small businesses located within the County. Eligible small businesses have an opportunity to receive a one-time amount up to \$50,000 to aid in COVID-19 recovery efforts. Higher priority is being given to eligible small businesses who employ one or more individuals of low to moderate income and/or whose business is in a QCT. Community Development staff are in the process of reviewing applications and have made some recommendations. It is anticipated that contracts will be approved/funds obligated between August-September 2022.
- **Aid to Non-Profits Program** - Cumberland County has issued a formal request for proposals (RFP) seeking the assistance of nonprofit entities to recommend ideas on how to best provide county citizens in need with supports/services to aid in COVID-19 recovery efforts. The highest ranked proposals will be considered for a subaward or contractual agreement. A sub-committee was established and is in the process of reviewing responses. It is anticipated that award recommendations will be made in August 2022.
- **Board Meeting Room** - Board of Commissioner meetings are required to be open to the public. Sufficient space is not available in the current congregate meeting room to allow for social distancing between commissioners or in the employee/public seating area. Funds will be utilized to enhance airflow, provide commissioner and employee/ public seating sufficient to provide for social distancing in a different meeting room that will allow for safety in this congregate setting.

Negative Economic Impacts

- **Mortgage Assistance Program** - Cumberland County plans to issue a request for applications tailored to those who had existing mortgages, who were negatively affected by the pandemic, and who have been thus rendered unable to maintain their current mortgage payments. Eligibility will be limited to providing mortgage assistance to those who reside in a QCT, and /or those who qualify as low to moderate income households, without duplicating similar assistance that has already been provided to these households.
- **Rental Assistance Program** - County plans to issue a request for applications tailored to those who had existing rental agreements/leases, who were negatively affected by the pandemic, and who have been thus rendered unable to maintain their current rental/lease payments. Eligibility will be limited to providing rental assistance to those who reside in a QCT, and /or those who qualify as low to moderate income households, without duplicating similar assistance that has already been provided to these households.
- **Trade and Job Training Program** - A subrecipient agreement is planned with Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC). The funds will be used to support the “Hope, Opportunity, Prosperity through Education” or HOPE Program, which seeks to increase the social and economic mobility of participants through accelerated training connected to high-demand employment opportunities in various trades through on-the-job training with local businesses.
- **Assistance to Small Business** - A subrecipient agreement is planned with Fayetteville State University (FSU). The funds will be used to support the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Hub, which seeks to increase access to technical assistance, counseling services to help local business meet their business planning needs. The hub will provide advisory services, education, entrepreneurial summits, and expositions to local businesses.
- **Shaw Heights Affordable Housing Project** - Cumberland County is in the planning phase of construction of affordable housing to be located within the Shaw Heights community, which is located within a Qualified Census Tract (QCT). This project is being explored in conjunction with the installation of a sanitary sewer system described in the Shaw Heights Sanitary Sewer Project. The number of housing units is to be determined. The affordable housing units will provide for permanent housing options for those citizens who are within the low to moderate income range.
- **First-time Homebuyers Program** - Cumberland County plans to issue a request for applications, with a focus on first-time home buyers of low to moderate income and/or those who have had an adverse economic impact because of COVID-19, and/or residents of a QCT. Eligible applicants may receive financial assistance in the household per person amounts that do not exceed the payment totals provided by the federal government within the COVID-10 Stimulus & Relief packages.

Infrastructure

- **Shaw Heights Sanitary Sewer Project** - Cumberland County is in the process of exploring the addition of a sanitary sewer system located within the Shaw Heights community, which is located within a QCT. Failing septic systems have been an issue within this community and for the Shaw Heights Affordable Housing Project to be most successful, the installation and construction of new pipes, pump stations, and force mains for sewer system is required.
- **Gray's Creek Water & Sewer Project** - The Gray's Creek area of Cumberland County has been tested and conformed to have above normal/unsafe limits of contaminants within its groundwater and wells that provide water to the schools, residences, and businesses in the area. Construction is planned to create a community water system to address the existing public health problems associated with consuming unsafe drinking water provided by the individual well. SLFRF funds will assist in partially funding the initial phases of this water project.
- **Broadband Expansion Project** - Cumberland County plans to partner with an internet service provider to expand fiber optic internet access into the more rural/remote areas of the County. SLFRF funds will provide for a portion of the project cost with the remaining required funds coming from the State of North Carolina and the internet service provider. A state grant request has been submitted and results are pending. If awarded the combined funds will provide access to approximately 2,017 homes.

Revenue Replacement

- **Provision of Government Services** - The funds will be utilized to cover staffing/payroll costs of the Sheriff's Office and Detention Center. The funds will cover salaries and corresponding fringe benefit expenses for those employees beginning April 2022 until available funds are exhausted. Covered salaries are based on Cumberland County's current pay schedule and the fringe benefits are based on the Board of Commissioner adopted benefits ordinance.

Promoting equitable outcomes

The projects chosen by the Board of County Commissioners were selected to ensure aid to areas, businesses, and residents who were most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and have been historically underserved within the County. In consultation with the UNC School of Government, National Association of Counties (NACo), North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC), North Carolina Local Government Finance Officers Association (NCLGFOA), and North Carolina Local Government Budget Association (NCLGBA), Cumberland County has thoughtfully allocated funding that addresses economic disparities within the greater community.

Community Engagement

The ARP Committee sought public feedback on uses for the proposed ARP funding by hosting four in-person meetings, holding a virtual session, and conducting an online survey throughout July. The online survey received 687 responses, which were combined with feedback from 88 people who participated in the meetings to create a dashboard available on the County website.

Several community in-person community meetings were conducted in various municipalities within the County as well as a virtual meeting:

[Town of Godwin](#)

[Gray's Creek](#)

[Town of Spring Lake](#)

[City of Fayetteville](#)

[Virtual Meeting](#)

Minutes for these meetings and others are located at cumberlandcountync.gov/ARP.

The Board of County Commissioners always devotes a portion of their monthly meeting to accept public comment. Additionally, County staff have been guest on local radio stations to promote the Boards ARPA agenda broadly but, more specifically the Small Business Economic Assistance and the Aid to Non-Profits Programs.

In addition to the ARP-specific feedback, there are other community assessments that will be referenced to provide information pertinent to designing programs that address the negative economic impacts of the pandemic and provide services to disproportionately impacted communities. These reports include the Community Health Assessment, which describes the health needs of the community and develops strategies to address those needs. Cumberland County also completed a Homeless Strategic Plan and Gap Analysis.

Labor Practices

Water and sewer projects are included in the County's Recovery Plan and workforce practices will be described in future reports. As of June 30, 2022, policies for the Shaw Heights Sanitary Sewer, Gray's Creek Water & Sewer Project, and Broadband Expansion Projects have not been completed. These practices as well as the scope of the project will be recommended for approval to the Board of County Commissioners at a future date.

Use of Evidence

Cumberland County will prioritize the allocation of SLFRF funds for evidence-based interventions and projects that include rigorous program evaluations as parts of their scopes. Each program is tailored to address low to moderate income residents, individuals and entities residing in a Qualified Census Tract, unemployed and underemployed individuals, and those who have been most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
1	Expenditure Category: Public Health		
1.4	Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, Childcare facilities, etc.)	-	-
1.8	COVID-19 Assistance to Small Businesses	-	-
1.9	COVID-19 Assistance to Non-Profits	-	-
1.12	Mental Health Services	-	-
1.13	Substance Use Services	-	-
2	Expenditure Category: Negative Economic Impacts		
2.2	Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid	-	-
2.10	Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers (e.g., job training, subsidized employment, or incentives)	-	-
2.15	Long-term Housing Security: Affordable Housing	-	-
2.18	Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance	-	-
2.30	Technical Assistance, Counseling, or Business Planning	-	-
5	Expenditure Category: Infrastructure		
5.5	Clean water: Other sewer Infrastructure	-	-
5.15	Drinking water: Other water infrastructure	-	-
5.21	Broadband: Other projects	-	-
6	Expenditure Category: Revenue Replacement		
6.1	Provision of Government Services	5,039,034.00	5,039,034.00
7	Administrative and Other		
7.1	Administrative Expenses	56,801.01	56,801.01

PROJECT INVENTORY

Community Paramedics Program

Project AR112

Funding amount: \$874,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.12 Public Health – Mental Health Services

A subrecipient agreement is planned with Cape Fear Valley Health center who will provide a Community Paramedic Community Response Program. Cumberland County EMS Community Paramedics are uniquely suited to respond in the 911 environment to crisis mental health and substance abuse/overdose calls within the geopolitical boundaries of Cumberland County. The team will work alongside Licensed Clinical Social Workers (LCSW) that are healthcare practitioners trained in mental health, substance abuse counseling, and patient management.

NARCAN Project

Project AR113

Funding amount: \$140,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.13 Public Health – Substance Use Services

A subrecipient agreement is planned with Cape Fear Valley Health Center who will purchase NARCAN for distribution to the Sheriff's Office, Fire Districts, and other first responders.

Small Business Economic Assistance Program

Project AR108

Funding amount: \$3,500,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.8 Public Health – COVID-19 Assistance to Small Businesses

Cumberland County has issued a request for applications, focused on for-profit small businesses located within the County. Eligible small businesses have an opportunity to receive a one-time amount up to \$50,000 to aid in COVID-19 recovery efforts. Higher priority is being given to eligible small businesses who employ one or more individuals of low to moderate income and/or whose business is in a QCT. Community Development staff are in the process of reviewing applications and have made some recommendations. It is anticipated that contracts will be approved/funds obligated between August-September 2022.

Aid to Non-Profits Program

Project AR109

Funding amount: \$3,500,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.9 Public Health – COVID-19 Assistance to Non-Profits

Cumberland County has issued a formal request for proposals (RFP) seeking the assistance of nonprofit entities to recommend ideas on how to best provide county citizens in need with supports/services to aid in COVID-19 recovery efforts. The highest ranked proposals will be considered for a subaward or contractual agreement. A sub-committee was established and

is in the process of reviewing responses. It is anticipated that award recommendations will be made in August 2022.

Board Meeting Room

Project AR104

Funding amount: \$3,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.4 Public Health – Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, Childcare facilities, etc.)

Board of Commissioner meetings are required to be open to the public. Sufficient space is not available in the current congregate meeting room to allow for social distancing between commissioners or in the employee/public seating area. Funds will be utilized to enhance airflow, provide commissioner and employee/ public seating sufficient to provide for social distancing in a different meeting room that will allow for safety in this congregate setting.

Mortgage Assistance Program

Project AR202

Funding amount: \$2,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.2 Negative Economic Impacts – Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid

Cumberland County plans to issue a request for applications tailored to those who had existing mortgages, who were negatively affected by the pandemic, and who have been thus rendered unable to maintain their current mortgage payments. Eligibility will be limited to providing mortgage assistance to those who reside in a QCT, and /or those who qualify as low to moderate income households, without duplicating similar assistance that has already been provided to these households.

Rental Assistance Program

Project AR202

Funding amount: \$1,500,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.2 Negative Economic Impacts – Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid

Cumberland County plans to issue a request for applications tailored to those who had existing rental agreements/leases, who were negatively affected by the pandemic, and who have been thus rendered unable to maintain their current rental/lease payments. Eligibility will be limited to providing rental assistance to those who reside in a QCT, and /or those who qualify as low to moderate income households, without duplicating similar assistance that has already been provided to these households.

Trade and Job Training Program

Project AR210

Funding amount: \$2,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.2 Negative Economic Impacts – Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers (e.g., job training, subsidized employment, or incentives)

A subrecipient agreement is planned with FTCC. The funds will be used to support the “Hope, Opportunity, Prosperity through Education” or HOPE Program, which seeks to increase the social and economic mobility of participants through accelerated training connected to high-demand employment opportunities in various trades through on-the-job training with local businesses.

Assistance to Small Business

Project AR230

Funding amount: \$250,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.30 Negative Economic Impacts – Assistance to Small Business: Technical Assistance, Counseling, or Business Planning

A subrecipient agreement is planned with Fayetteville State University (FSU). The funds will be used to support the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Hub, which seeks to increase access to technical assistance, counseling services to help local business meet their business planning needs. The hub will provide advisory services, education, entrepreneurial summits, and expositions to local businesses.

Shaw Heights Affordable Housing Project

Project AR215

Funding amount: \$10,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.15 Negative Economic Impacts – Long-term Housing Security: Affordable Housing

Cumberland County is in the planning phase of construction of affordable housing to be located within the Shaw Heights community, which is located within a Qualified Census Tract (QCT). This project is being explored in conjunction with the installation of a sanitary sewer system described in the Shaw Heights Sanitary Sewer Project. The number of housing units is to be determined. The affordable housing units will provide for permanent housing options for those citizens who are within the low to moderate income range.

First-time Homebuyers Program

Project AR218

Funding amount: \$2,500,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.18 Negative Economic Impacts – Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance

Cumberland County plans to issue a request for applications, with a focus on first-time home buyers of low to moderate income and/or those who have had an adverse economic impact because of COVID-19, and/or residents of a QCT. Eligible applicants may receive financial assistance in the household per person amounts that do not exceed the payment totals provided by the federal government within the COVID-10 Stimulus & Relief packages.

Shaw Heights Sanitary Sewer Project

Project AR505

Funding amount: \$12,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 5.5 Infrastructure – Clean water: Other sewer Infrastructure
Cumberland County is in the process of exploring the addition of a sanitary sewer system located within the Shaw Heights community, which is located within a QCT. Failing septic systems have been an issue within this community and for the Shaw Heights Affordable Housing Project to be most successful, the installation and construction of new pipes, pump stations, and force mains for sewer system is required.

Gray's Creek Water & Sewer Project

Project AR515

Funding amount: \$10,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 5.15 Infrastructure – Drinking water: Other water Infrastructure

The Gray's Creek area of Cumberland County has been tested and conformed to have above normal/unsafe limits of contaminants within its groundwater and wells that provide water to the schools, residences, and businesses in the area. Construction is planned to create a community water system to address the existing public health problems associated with consuming unsafe drinking water provided by the individual well. SLFRF funds will assist in partially funding the initial phases of this water project.

Broadband Expansion Project

Project AR521

Funding amount: \$1,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 5.21 Infrastructure – Broadband: Other projects

Cumberland County plans to partner with an internet service provider to expand fiber optic internet access into the more rural/remote areas of the County. SLFRF funds will provide for a portion of the project cost with the remaining required funds coming from the State of North Carolina and the internet service provider. A state grant request has been submitted and results are pending. If awarded the combined funds will provide access to approximately 2,017 homes.

Provision of Government Services

Project AR601

Funding amount: \$10,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Revenue Replacement – Provision of Government Services

The funds will be utilized to cover staffing/payroll costs of the Sheriff's Office and Detention Center. The funds will cover salaries and corresponding fringe benefit expenses for those employees beginning April 2022 until available funds are exhausted. Covered salaries are based on Cumberland County's current pay schedule and the fringe benefits are based on the Board of Commissioner adopted benefits ordinance.