DAUPHIN COUNTY

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Dauphin County, Pennsylvania

2022 Annual Recovery Plan Performance Report

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF)

(Reporting Period: Date of Award – June 30, 2022)

Submitted July 21, 2022

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Executive Summary

Over the past year, the American Rescue Plan State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) Program and the regulatory framework in which it is administered has rapidly evolved. Since distributing the first tranche of funds to Dauphin County in May 2021, the US Department of Treasury has issued its Final Rule making key changes to program requirements and providing definitive guidance on eligible uses, regulatory flexibilities, and compliance standards—many of which provide new latitude counties can utilize to streamline reporting and compliance. Dauphin County has carefully reviewed the US Department of Treasury Final Rule and continues to carefully chart a spending plan that takes advantage of these flexibilities to provide efficiency (at a time when County departments are short-staffed while administering a record number of programs) and reduce red tape, while investing in the county's greatest needs in a smart, leveraged manner.

Consistent with the strategy outlined in the 2021 Annual Recovery Plan Performance Report, the Dauphin County Board of Commissioners continue to take a methodical, deliberate, and judicious approach to planning and allocating ARP-SLFRF funds. Like most other counties, Dauphin County's spending plan continues to evolve as new needs and ARP-SLFRF requests emerge daily, and additional state and federal funding sources become available as potential sources of leverage. The resulting plan reflects these realities and is guided by the following principles:

1. Continued patience and a deliberate approach to allocating ARP-SLFRF dollars is critical to smartly invest public funds and maximize their leverage potential in an evolving climate.

2. The continued emergence of additional needs and requests for ARP-SLFRF investments requires an incremental approach to finalizing ARP-SLRF investments based on continued stakeholder feedback and consideration of how funds can be leveraged with new and upcoming state and federal resources.

3. Maximizing the reporting and compliance flexibilities availed in the Treasury Final Rule by utilizing "Provision of Government Services – EC 6.1" to the greatest extent possible is critical to allow county staff to manage ARP-SLFRF investments while continuing to provide myriad other COVID and non-COVID assistance programs. It is also a critical approach to remain nimble and respond to needs and leveraging opportunities as they continue to evolve.

Using these principles as a guide, Dauphin County has made limited investments of ARP-SFRF funds to date, and will continue to collect feedback, meet with stakeholders, review emerging state and federal opportunities, and utilize Treasury-approved flexibilities to continue investing ARP-SLFRF dollars in a responsible and responsive manner.

Using Provision of Government Services (EC 6.1) to Alleviate Administrative Burden While Investing in the Recovery

Recognizing that counties and local governments continue to be under a tremendous administrative burden after two-years of administering historic levels of COVID-relief coupled with reductions in staff, the Treasury Final Rule broadened the latitude for counties to report activities under "Provision of Government Services" (EC 6.1)—an Expenditure Category subject to simplified reporting and compliance requirements.

Under the Final Rule, "recipients have broad latitude to use funds for government services up to their amount of revenue loss due to the pandemic.[1]" These services cover a wide range of projects and investments consistent with the spirit of the American Rescue Plan but are subject to reduced reporting and compliance burdens. This latitude is critical to invest in impactful uses based on continued public input while doing so in the most efficient manner possible—a necessity to keep taxpayer-funded administrative costs at a minimum.

Over the past two years, Dauphin County, and its staff—like other communities—have deployed a historic number of COVID and non-COVID programs on top of regular services which has stretched administrative capacity to its limit. This approach will allow Dauphin County to continue to administer these programs, including the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, the HOME American Rescue Plan Program, the Community Development Block Grant and Emergency Solutions Grant Programs, the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, the Local Share Grant Program, the Tourism Grant Program, the Infrastructure Bank Program, and myriad additional assistance programs and regular services while also administering ARP-SLFRF with limited administrative bandwidth.

After reviewing the Treasury Final Rule and calculating lost revenue per the approved formula provided in Final Rule guidance at $52,329,323.84, Dauphin County has updated its intended ARP-SLFRF allocations to maximize the amount of funds reported under Provision of Government Services (EC 6.1). This will create much-needed reporting efficiencies while continuing to make critical ARP-SLFRF investments.

Uses under the Provision of Government Services (EC 6.1) category are reported to Treasury and are enumerated in publicly available Recovery Plan and Performance Reports—including this one--and Quarterly Progress and Expenditure Reports per Treasury rules. For purposes of this report, uses under Provision of Government Services (EC 6.1) are reported in detail as uses previously approved to date and as broad categories for uses under consideration but requiring additional stakeholder consultation and review.

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[1] US Treasury Final Rule

Content of 2022 Annual Recovery Plan

The 2022 Annual Recovery Plan and Performance Report reflects allocations reported in the Quarterly Project and Expenditure Reports submitted to the US Department of Treasury to date as well as future planned uses for funds throughout the next year. Consistent with the principles above, this document outlines an overall ARP-SLFRF spending plan that is still evolving.

As a result, an updated summary of planned allocations by Expenditure Category as of July 30, 2022, are below:

Expenditure Category	Type	Planned Allocations by EC	Uses Approved to Date within EC*
EC 6.1	Provision of Government Services	$52,329,323.84	$25,301,164.84
EC 2.35	Aid to Tourism, Travel, Hospitality	$1,559,994.16	$1,559,994.16
EC 7.1	Administrative Expenses	$167,000.00	$167,000.00
	TOTAL	$54,056,318.00	$27,028,159.00

*Funds within an approved Expenditure Category that have been spent or approved to be spent on a specific use within the EC to which funds are allocated.

A detailed breakdown of uses _within_ each Expenditure Category is noted below with related performance goals noted:

EC 6.1　　　Provision of Government Services　　-　　$52,329,323.84

Dauphin County intends to use $52,329,323.84 under the Provision of Government Services Expenditure Category initially for the restoration of county services that will allow for investments in additional vital areas.

To date, a portion of funds have been approved with the large bulk of uses still under consideration. Due to the tranched nature of receiving ARP-SLFRF funds from Treasury, use of funds under EC 6.1 is broken down into two (2) overall project numbers:

- ARP 2022-01　　-　　　$750,000.00
- ARP 2022-02　　-　　　$51,579,323.84

ARP- 2022-01　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　　$750,000.00

In January 2022, Dauphin County transferred an initial $750,000 from the first tranche of ARP-SLFRF for the following direct appropriations as Government Services:

- **Dauphin County Library COVID Mitigation HVAC Project　　$500,000.00**

This use addresses ventilation and disinfection of air at the McCormick Riverfront Library in Harrisburg City, a critical community resource and communal space.

Goal: Install one (1) HVAC system to ensure Riverfront McCormick Library can continue to safely operate as a focal community space and free resource for underserved communities as a library located in a Qualified Census Tract.

Progress: Project is 87% Complete based on Contractor Estimate.

- **Broadband Planning**   **$200,000.00**
  This use supports planning for broadband expansion in Dauphin County and improving broadband access and affordability in response to the pandemic.

Goal: Produce comprehensive inventory of areas underserved by broadband and leverage funds to expand broadband in identified underserved areas including low-to-moderate income and QCT communities in rural Northern Dauphin County. Deliver one (1) broadband expansion project as a result of planning.

Progress: Broadband consultant engaged, municipal survey distributed, internal mapping initiated, and work with PA Broadband Authority ongoing to leverage investments with infrastructure funds.

- **Homeless Assistance Pilot Project**   **$50,000.00**
  This use supports the retrofit of the old fire station at 336 South Second Street in Harrisburg City into a homeless day shelter to provide sheltering, hygienic resources, and social services to homeless.

Goal: Complete retrofit of 336 South Second Street into an operational homeless day shelter to connect the homeless with social services and hygienic resources.

Progress: Plumbing project completed. Project ongoing.

ARP 2022-02   **$51,579,323.84**

After the initial transfer outlined above, the balance of funds available under EC 6.1 will also be used for "Provision of Government Services."

Dauphin County intends to first utilize funds for the restoration of county services in an amount up to $51,579,323.84. Additional approved uses under this category are detailed below:

- **Dauphin County Library COVID Response**   **$101,425.54**
  Funds have been approved to support remote programming provided by the library and outfit the upper level of the library with computer stations and workstations to provide for socially distant usage of library resources

Goal: Support the delivery by DCLS of 14 unique remote children's programs, 28 unique remote adult programs, 200 homeless outreaches, 1,000 curbside pickup bags, and furnish one socially distanced bank of computer stations. These allow the library to operate as a focal community space and free resource for underserved communities in a Qualified Census Tract by supporting socially distanced and remote programming opportunities.

Progress: Remote programs 38 percent complete with estimated completion of December 31, 2022. Outfitting of library to accommodate social distancing in 62% complete.

- **Water Resource Enhancement Program**   **$1,000,000.00**
  This use provides seed funding to municipalities to participate in regional stormwater mitigation activities to meet state and federal environmental standards.

Goal: Assist QCT and low-to-moderate income municipalities within the Conewago Creek Watershed with financing pilot regional stormwater pollution reduction project to produce savings and improve water quality. Complete Conewago Creek Restoration Project as regional project.

Progress: To date, 5 of 6 municipalities have indicated intent to take part in the project including one QCT community (Steelton Borough), and one low-to-moderate income community (Middletown). Project in planning phase with expected completion July 2023.

- **Disparity Study**   **$83,333.33**

This use supports a disparity study in partnership with the City of Harrisburg to determine gaps in city contracting opportunities to minority-owned businesses.

Goal: Produce one disparity study to determine opportunities to increase minority-owned business participation in Harrisburg City (QCT) contracting opportunities.

Progress: Study is in progress.

- **Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy** $10,000.00
  This use support Dauphin County's cost-share of the Southcentral Pennsylvania regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs). The CEDs is a critical plan for regional economic growth post-pandemic.

Goal: Produce one (1) CEDS plan to spur regional economic growth that includes economic strategy benefitting all QCT and underserved communities in Dauphin County.

Progress: Project in progress with stakeholder consultation meetings completed. Plan expected to be completed by December 31st, 2022.

- **Detweiler Park Development** $1,000,000.00
  Funds are being used to develop expanded infrastructure at Dauphin County's largest park according to the recommendations of the Detweiler Park Master Site Plan including design, engineering, permitting, and construction of a dedicated public park entrance with accessible parking, comfort facilities, event lawn, pavilions, expanded ADA accessible playground facilities and trails. This investment is in response to increased park usage as a free and safe recreational amenity for residents including underserved communities during the pandemic.

Goal: Create an ADA accessible park entrance, parking area, restroom, pavilion, and event lawn at Detweiler Park that is usable by users of all ages and abilities.

Progress: Engineering and design approximately 30 percent complete. Project completion expected December 31, 2023.

- **Uses _Under Consideration_ but Not Approved**   **To Be Determined**

Substantial portions of ARP-SLFRF funds to be allocated under the Provision of Government Services (EC 6.1) category are still under consideration and subject to continued stakeholder input and review by Dauphin County.

Potential uses under consideration include, but are not limited to:

▪ Additional Restoration of County Services	TBD
▪ Infrastructure Leveraging	TBD
▪ Parks and Recreation Improvements	TBD
▪ Mental Health Services/MH Stabilization Center	TBD

More uses may be identified as the stakeholder consultation process continues. Any approved additional uses under EC 6.1 will be reported as revisions to the 2022 Annual Recovery Plan and posted at www.dauphincounty.org/arp within 60 days of approval per Treasury guidance.

TOTAL PLANNED USES UNDER EC 6.1:   **_$52,329,323.84_**

EC 2.35   Aid to Tourism and Hospitality $1,559,994.16

To date, $1,559,994.84 has been allocated and transferred to the Dauphin County Economic Development Corporation who administers the Dauphin County Tourism Grant Program. ARP-SLFRF funds are being used to replenish Tourism Grant funds lost due to the pandemic era decline in Hotel Tax Revenues which traditionally fund the program. Funds provide competitive grants to entities that provide tourism-generating activities within Dauphin County and aid in the tourism industry's rebound from the pandemic. As a top industry for Dauphin County, making the Tourism Grant Program whole is a critical piece to supporting the economic recovery of our communities.

**Performance Goal:** Support at least 10 tourism generating activities in underserved communities.

**Progress:** To date, 73 percent of ARP-SLFRF funds have directly supported 25 tourism-related entities including 8 entities located in Qualified Census Tracts. ARP funds have leveraged an additional $3.2 million to support an additional 104 tourism-related entities with over 50 being in QCTs or low-to-moderate income communities. These investments have brought an estimated 2.2 million visitors to Dauphin County post-pandemic.

TOTAL USES UNDER EC 2.35:   **_$1,559,994.16_**

EC 7.1   Administrative Expenses $167,000.00

To date, $167,000 has been allocated and transferred to the Dauphin County Economic Development Corporation to cover administrative costs related to administering ARP-SLFRF programs on behalf of Dauphin County.

TOTAL USES UNDER EC 7.1: $167,000.00

TOTAL ARP-SLFRF USES – ALL CATEGORIES
$54,056,318.00

Summary of Community Engagement to Date

As stated in the 2021 Annual Recovery Plan, community engagement and stakeholder feedback are key to Dauphin County's ARP-SLFRF decisions. It is for this reason that the Dauphin County Commissioners continue to take a deliberate and incremental approach to finalizing ARP-SLFRF allocations.

Key stakeholder meetings between the Dauphin County Commissioners and representatives from minority and undeserved communities continue to take place and play a significant role in the targeted local investments outlined in this plan. Initial meetings with minority stakeholders and representatives from underserved communities were held on August 24th, November 15th, and December 1st, 2021. These meetings have continued on a regular basis through 2022.

In addition, the Dauphin County Commissioners hold weekly public meetings that include a designated public comment period where any member of the public can discuss ARP-SLFRF plans, needs, and requests. Representatives of minority and underserved communities, as well as the public, have attended many of these meetings, provided input on county ARPA decisions, and/or made direct funding requests. Such meetings include:

- November 3, 2021
- November 10, 2021
- November 24, 2021
- December 1, 2021
- December 15, 2021
- March 2, 2022
- March 30, 2022
- May 25, 2022

Concurrently, in order to better inform investments based on community feedback, Dauphin County has commissioned with its own Affordable Housing Trust Fund dollars

a housing study to identify priority housing needs; has surveyed all 40 municipalities on infrastructure needs; has surveyed municipalities on unserved/underserved broadband needs throughout the county; and utilized its CDBG/HOME Consolidated Planning and HOME-ARP planning processes to receive feedback from stakeholders serving underserved communities that continue to inform investment decisions.

Dauphin County continues to host a public-facing ARP-SLFRF website at www.dauphincounty.org/arp where it has posted both the 2021 Annual Recovery Plan and Addendum to the 2021 Recovery Plan Performance Report, and where this report, and any future revisions hereto, will be posted.

To date, Dauphin County has received over 100 internal and external ARP-SLFRF requests for funding amounting to nearly $400 million (not including infrastructure).

Dauphin County continues to seek input from community stakeholders to guide additional investments from remaining funds available under the "Provision of Government Services (EC 6.1)" Expenditure Category and will publish updated reporting on the use of funds under this category as additional planned uses are finalized and approved. Dauphin County thanks the US Department of Treasury for recognizing the administrative strain on counties and municipalities administering multiple COVID relief programs nationwide by affording additional reporting and compliance flexibilities under EC 6.1. In return, Dauphin County will continue to make investments under this category based on continued public input and in a manner that achieves goals consistent with the American Rescue Plan.

USES OF FUNDS

EC 6.1 – REVENUE REPLACEMENT/PROVISION OF GOVERNMENT SERVICES

$52,329,323.84

The first and priority Expenditure Category under which Dauphin County is allocating SLFR funds is Revenue Replacement/Provision of Government Services (EC 6.1). Based on the broad range and impact of services provided by Dauphin County to over 286,000 residents in areas ranging from health and human services to housing to public safety, it is a primary objective of the Commissioners to first "shore up" the financial ability of the county to continue to provide government services to all county residents.

Dauphin County has calculated 2020, 2021, and 2022 lost revenue per the required formula instructions provided by the US Department of Treasury at $52,329,323.84. While the total *actual* calculated lost revenue exceeds this amount, Dauphin County has capped the amount claimed at the ARP-SLFRF award amount minus direct allocations already made to date under other Expenditure Categories. The county will utilize this balance of its ARP-SLFRF award under EC 6.1 primarily to restore county services and provide a broad range of eligible activities considered government services in the Treasury Final Rule.

How Revenue Replacement Supports Strong and Equitable Recovery

The financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic forced Dauphin County to cut costs and significantly limit the delivery of government services due to declines in county revenues. Cost-saving actions included both temporary and permanent layoffs, spending freezes, halts in contracts with third-party public service providers, and other measures continue to limit the ability of Dauphin County to deliver services at pre-pandemic levels. Over the course of the pandemic, Dauphin County furloughed 373 employees with some remaining on furlough to date. The estimated additional costs related to furloughs to the county amount to roughly $1.8 million. Third-party public service providers through which the county delivers many of its social, health, and human services were further forced to halt or curtail activities and many projects were placed on hold to weather the pandemic. In total, lost revenue as calculated by the US Department of Treasury approved formula exceeds $52,329,323.84.

Using SLFR funds to replace lost revenue will allow Dauphin County to restore its full functional capacity and ability to deliver a full range of government services to residents in 40 municipalities, both rural and urban, and many times targeted to the most vulnerable citizens. At the same time, it allows Dauphin County to invest in a broad range of activities considered "government services" subject to streamlined reporting and compliance requirements under the Treasury Final Rule.

Strategy to Maximize Programmatic Impact and Effective, Efficient, and Equitable Outcomes

As previously stated, the Dauphin County Commissioners are invoking the strategy of maximizing lost revenue to restore county services and deliver a broad range of activities considered "government services." From an efficiency standpoint, this strategy ensures SLFR funds are invested in a built-in system to maximize programmatic impact and deliver effective, efficient, and equitable outcomes.

Regarding programmatic impact, Dauphin County's existing infrastructure (including over 25 departments and 1,700-plus employees) provides a built-in mechanism for maximum programmatic impact with long-term institutional knowledge and experience in delivering a wide range of services. For example, investment of SLFRF funds under this category into the Dauphin County Library System's HVAC replacement project efficiently invests ARP-SLFRF funds into an experienced public administration system that delivers free public resources directly to residents.

Regarding equitable outcomes, Dauphin County's wide range of services and programs in one way or another impacts every one of its 286,000-plus residents. More specifically, a majority of Dauphin County's human services, community development, and social service programs target the residents with the greatest need, whether it be a low-income homeowner in need of critical housing repairs, a public service provider delivering programming for low-to-moderate income residents, a family seeking addiction treatment for a loved one, or a senior seeking assistance with daily activities. The broad and diverse range of constituencies served by Dauphin County programs in all areas lends itself to SLFRF investments leading to equitable outcomes when using some funds to restore county services.

Regarding investments in additional government services under consideration, Dauphin County has taken the following steps to ensure equitable outcomes:

- Continued meetings with representatives of minority and underserved communities.

- Commissioned (with local dollars) a housing study to identify housing needs of the most vulnerable populations to inform future investments.

- Piggybacked on the CDBG-HOME and HOME-ARP planning processes to inform ARP-SLFRF investments including utilizing the same staff for both programs to encourage data sharing on the needs of underserved communities.

Finally, the strategy of prioritizing revenue replacement mitigates pressure on Dauphin County to raise taxes in the next fiscal year. Given the financially precarious position of many Dauphin County residents—especially those on fixed and lower incomes—this strategy protects our most vulnerable from additional financial insecurity and keeps

residents in their homes. Coupled with the administration of over $24 million in Emergency Rental Assistance, this strategy is timely and critical when housing stability is at a potential tipping point.

How Investment of State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) in Revenue Replacement Supports Communities, Populations, or Individuals in Dauphin County
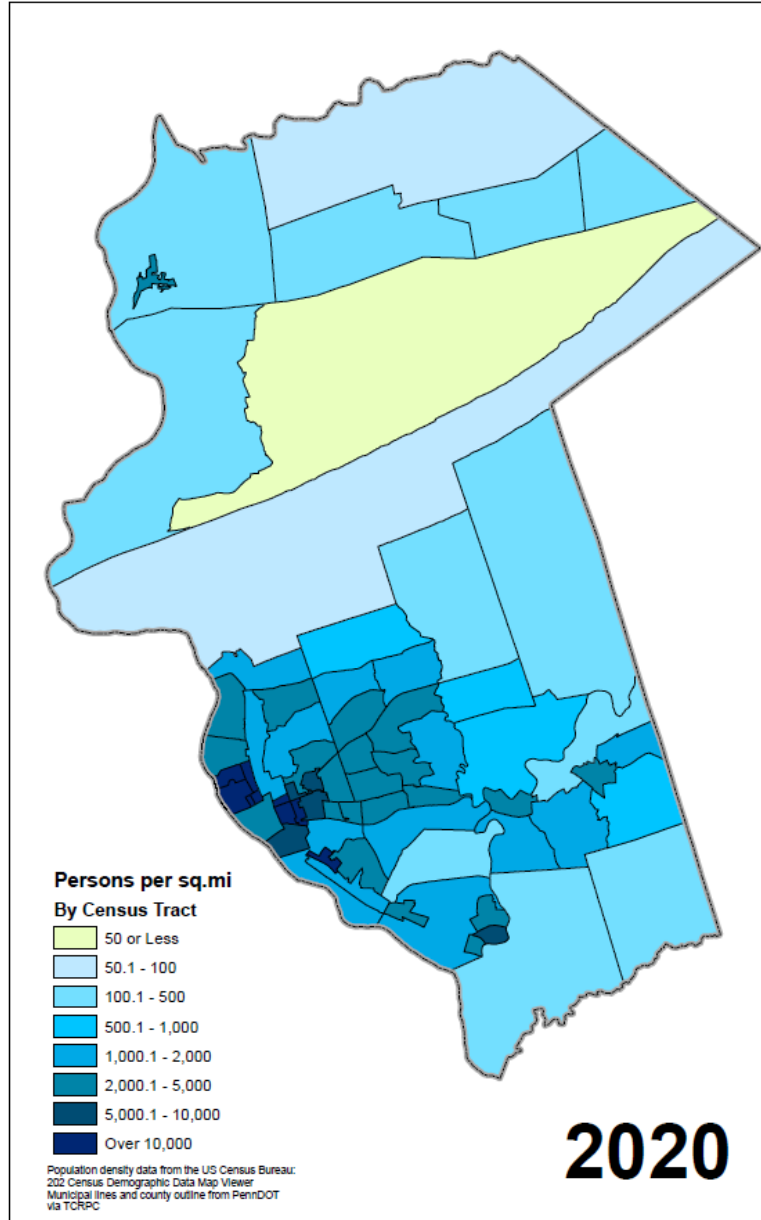
As noted previously, replacing revenue as a priority use of SLFR funds supports over 286,000 Dauphin County residents by ensuring the continued function of county departments providing critical services in areas including but not limited to:

- Aging services
- Children and Youth services
- Community and Economic Development
- Conservation District activities
- Criminal Justice
- Planning
- Drug and Alcohol Services
- Public Safety
- Emergency Management
- Magisterial District Justice system
- Mental Health, Autism, and Developmental Programs
- Human Services
- Parks and Recreation
- Pre-Trial Services
- Prison operations
- Solid Waste Management and Recycling
- Tax Assessment
- Tax Claims
- Veterans Affairs
- Victims Services

Please see map detailing service area of Dauphin County by population density. Dauphin County will be able to continue to provide government services and programs county-wide by prioritizing revenue replacement and restoration of county services as the first use of SLFRF funds.

Dauphin County has expended an initial $25,301,164.84 from first tranche funds for both restoring county services and additional uses considered "government services" under the Treasury Final Rule. A significant portion of funds realized under "restoration of county services" will be reinvested in uses outlined below. These additional uses—both approved and still under consideration—are outlined in the following pages.

DAUPHIN COUNTY POPULATION BY DENSITY

Persons per sq.mi
By Census Tract

- 50 or Less
- 50.1 - 100
- 100.1 - 500
- 500.1 - 1,000
- 1,000.1 - 2,000
- 2,000.1 - 5,000
- 5,000.1 - 10,000
- Over 10,000

2020

Population density data from the US Census Bureau:
202 Census Demographic Data Map Viewer
Municipal lines and county outline from PennDOT
via TCRPC

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES FUNDED THROUGH EC 6.1

Homeless Assistance Pilot Project $50,000.00

In early 2022, ARP-SLFRF funds under EC 6.1 were allocated to support the transition of the Old Second Street Fire House into a daytime homeless shelter facility. This initiative is a partnership between Dauphin County Human Services, the Capital Area Coalition on Homelessness (CACH) and Harrisburg City to respond to the growing number of downtown homeless individuals needing daytime services and resources.

Dauphin County has invested in upgrading and running plumbing to accommodate use as a day shelter and with its partners is currently identifying additional facility needs to complete the retrofit. As a day facility, this location will serve as a place to store belongings, take showers, access hygiene products, and connect to support during daytime hours. At close of business, participants will be able to access the CACH network of overnight shelters including Downtown Daily Brea and Bethesda Mission. This project is a collaboration with Harrisburg City, CACH, Dauphin County Human Services.

How This Investment Promotes a Strong and Equitable Recovery

This investment targets the most vulnerable populations in Dauphin County to increase daytime resources that serve basic human needs as well as connect homeless individuals to vital resources. Supporting the health, safety, and welfare of the homeless population as well as increasing access to resources is a basic measure to ensure the economic recovery includes our most vulnerable citizens.

Strategy to Maximize Programmatic Impact and Effective, Efficient, and Equitable Outcomes

Dauphin County has employed a partnership utilizing experienced and knowledgeable providers in the homelessness field. The Dauphin County Department of Human Services has partnered with Capital Area Coalition on Homelessness (the county continuum of care) and Harrisburg City to ensure an efficient, effective, and equitable deliver of this project.

How This Investment Supports Communities, Populations, or Individuals in Dauphin County

Based on the most recent Point-in Time data, there are approximately 358 homeless individuals potentially served by this activity. Of this total, 183 are African American, 129 are Caucasian, with the remainder other races. There are further 69 persons identified as chronically homeless and 73 children categorized as homeless. This investment provides these individuals a daytime facility to meet their most basic needs including health, hygiene, shelter, food, and access to resources. **This project is also located within a Qualified Census Tract (Block Group 2, Tract 201).**

Broadband Planning $200,000.00

The Dauphin County Commissioners have allocated $200,000 to date to support broadband expansion efforts---either through direct investment in currently shovel-ready projects or long-term planning for future expansion. Over the past year, Dauphin County has worked with internet service providers, municipalities, intermediate units, and its broadband consultant to not only assess the overall need for broadband in the county, but also pursue funding for shovel-ready projects in known areas of need. Funds to date have been used to engage a professional broadband consultant, Dellicker Strategies, who is assisting the county with broadband planning.

Using a smart and robust planning process, Dauphin County is working to position itself for non-SLFRF grant funding for the purposes of expanding fiber broadband to households and businesses in unserved/underserved areas of northern Dauphin County. These chosen locations are based upon long-standing requests from each municipality and its residents in the project areas who currently lack broadband coverage.

Aside from using a small amount to date for planning, the broadband set-aside will also be considered as a potential match (if needed) to pending state and federal broadband funding programs. This approach will allow funds to be leveraged against other sources of funds and be used on immediately impactful projects.

Use of funds for broadband infrastructure expansion would focus primarily on rural areas in Northern Dauphin County when related to infrastructure expansion with additional consideration for addressing affordability/access in urbanized parts of the county.

Additional investment of ARP-SLFRF dollars in broadband is under consideration for purposes of promoting a public-private-partnership broadband expansion project in northern Dauphin County

How Investment in Broadband Promotes a Strong and Equitable Recovery

Investing funds in rural broadband supports a strong recovery by expanding digital access to workers, families, and students currently struggling to participate in remote work/educational settings. Improving remote work/education conditions in northern Dauphin County will further allow more flexibility for workers and students to safely participate in remote scenarios especially in instances of COVID resurgence.

Finally, expanding rural broadband in northern Dauphin County improves access to digital resources and information allowing rural residents to participate in the digital world that has become increasingly necessary.

Investing in rural broadband also supports an equitable recovery by bringing portions of Northern Dauphin County "up to speed" with Southern Dauphin County (which is highly built out). As previously stated, access to high-speed broadband will help bring digital resources to Northern Dauphin County residents that are currently available widely in

Southern Dauphin County thus bridging the "digital divide." From accessing job postings to retrieving the latest COVID information to accessing online banking, northern Dauphin County residents will begin to have equitable access to digital resources.

A parallel emphasis on affordability and access issues in southern Dauphin County will ensure financially vulnerable residents are still afforded access to broadband and the many critical resources it provides.

Strategy to Maximize Programmatic Impact and Effective, Efficient, and Equitable Outcomes Related to Broadband Uses

The strategy to maximize impact and effective, efficient, and equitable outcomes related to broadband will be, first and foremost, to leverage funds with upcoming federal dollars administered through the state Broadband Authority. As Dauphin County has already engaged a broadband consultant and formed a partnership with an ISP to apply for grants, finance, and execute the projects noted above, funds will be utilized only if needed to leverage grant opportunities available in Fiscal Year 2022 including those in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs (IIJA) Act and/or initiate a public-private-partnership to expand directly.

How Investment in Broadband Supports Communities, Populations, or Individuals in Dauphin County

Broadband expansion efforts will mainly support rural unserved and underserved communities in northern Dauphin County. This potentially includes low-to-moderate income communities like Elizabethville Borough, Lykens Borough, Millersburg Borough, Wiconisco Township, Gratz Borough, and Lykens Township. Investments in the southern end can potentially impact QCT communities like Harrisburg City and Steelton, as well as additional low-to-moderate income census tracts.

In addition, Dauphin County is utilizing separate HOME-ARP funding from HUD to further address homelessness

Library HVAC System Replacement $500,000.00

One of Dauphin County's most heavily used resources is the McCormick Riverfront Library located at 101 Walnut Street in downtown Harrisburg. Opened in 1914, this location serves as an essential hub for residents including underserved populations utilizing the space for job-searches, educational resources, community gatherings, wi-fi access, and connection to community services. It also serves as the Dauphin County Library's administrative offices where the affairs of the entire library system are managed. This location houses 36,000 volumes of books and periodicals, 15 adult-use and 4 juvenile computers for internet access, online education, and job searches, the Jean E. Pugh Community Room, and various meeting rooms for which the community may use.

This location offers resources including a job help center, tutoring, adult and children's programs, business and investment tools, health and human services resources, and connection to various community resources. Use of the library is evidenced by its 12,652 members paying an average of 48,505 visits and logging in for 13,677 computer sessions annually.

Located in a Qualified Census Tract (QCT), the Riverfront Library is truly more than a library—it is a lifeline for many of Dauphin County's undeserved population.

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the need for focused resources on improving the library's HVAC system due to its nature as a congregate setting. Built in the early 1800's, the McCormick Riverfront Library building has not received a comprehensive upgrade to its air circulation system in close to 50 years.

Dauphin County anticipates continued heavy usage of the building by the public as its resources remain in high demand and, therefore, has allocated $500,000 to support the upgrade to a new HVAC system providing adequate fresh air circulation and a clean and safe environment at the county's busiest library location. The project further facilitates the current expansion of the location into the adjacent Haldeman Haly House which will allow for effective social distancing capabilities, handicapped accessibility, a designated children's and family learning center, outdoor courtyard, and additional meeting rooms.

Library Social Distancing/Remote Programs $101,425.54

Dauphin County has allocated additional funds to be used to support salary and wages of employees providing remote classes and services on the following basis:

- Children's Programming   - $11,179.36
- Adult Programming   - $16,714.66
- Homeless Outreach   - $7,360.00
- Curbside Pickup   - $3,784.86
- IT Remote Work   - $9,671.96

Remaining funds under this allocation in the amount of $52,714.70 will be used to outfit the upper level of the library with computer stations and workstations to provide for socially distant usage of library resources. Pricing based on estimate from J.P. Jay Associates. **This project is also located in a Qualified Census Tract (Block Group 3, Tract 201).**

How These Investments Promote a Strong and Equitable Recovery

Investing in a new HVAC system and remote programming at the Riverfront McCormick Library effectively allows a vital and free community resource used by thousands of residents to continue to operate in a safe manner while expanding to offer new community spaces and resources. The Riverfront McCormick library provides free

access to all Dauphin County residents to its space and resources—something critical especially for underserved and low-to-moderate income individuals reliant on the library for access to educational and job-search resources as well as community programming.

Dauphin County residents will be assured that they can continue to rely on the Riverfront McCormick Library to be a safe, sanitary place to congregate as the pandemic continues and in instances of future pandemics.

Strategy to Maximize Programmatic Impact and Effective, Efficient, and Equitable Outcomes Related to These Uses

Dauphin County has entered into an agreement with the Dauphin County Library System governing the use of funds, project deliverables, budget, and schedule.

How These Investments Support Communities, Populations, or Individuals in Dauphin County

As stated above, the Riverfront Library provides free membership, congregating space, resources, and community services to approximately 12,652 members. This investment will ensure the library remains a safe focal point for these users and any resident of Dauphin County providing critical digital and in-person resources to those who need them most. This assists in a strong recovery by providing underserved residents access to job search resources, online applications, resume-writing tools, online education, and other digital resources needed to participate in the recovery. These are enriched by the suite of resources and programs that will continued to be offered at this location.

The McCormick Riverfront Library's primary users are drawn from the following communities:

1. Harrisburg City
2. Cumberland County
3. Lower Paxton Township
4. Susquehanna Township
5. Juniata County

Investment in the library not only supports individuals from Dauphin County's most populous municipalities, but it also has a regional impact on individuals across county lines.

This investment will also support 21 full-time and 4 part-time staff at the library as well as create construction jobs and additional library jobs because of the expansion made possible through this investment.

Both projects are located in a Qualified Census Tract (Block Group 3, Tract 201).

Water Resource Enhancement Program $1,000,000.00

Funds under this use are being utilized to provide municipalities within the Conewago Creek Watershed financial support to participate in a regional stormwater project that allows them to meet mandatory stormwater pollution reduction requirements at a greatly reduced cost. Participating municipalities will have the opportunity to draw on funds under this category to finance their cost share of the Conewago Creek Restoration Project, which will result in pollution and sediment reduction in the Conewago Creek Watershed while saving communities scare public dollars.

How This Investment Promotes a Strong and Equitable Recovery

This use facilitates participation in a regional stormwater project for up to six communities that will realize significant cost savings while meeting state and federal environmental mandates. Communities that will benefit from the regional project include Steelton Borough (a Qualified Census Tract Community), Middletown Borough (a Qualified Census Tract Community), Highspire Borough (a Low-to-Moderate Income Community, Swatara Township, Lower Swatara Township, and Londonderry Township. These communities will save between 60 and 90 percent which lowers the cost burden on residents in these communities and allows the local governments to spend funding on other pressing needs. Further, the project will result in improved water quality conditions for communities along the Conewago Creek.

Strategy to Maximize Programmatic Impact and Effective, Efficient, and Equitable Outcomes

To ensure efficiency and programmatic impact, Dauphin County will enter an intermunicipal agreement with participating municipalities enforcing delivery of the project as well as repayment to Dauphin County for funds borrowed from this allocation. This will ensure funds are paid back which can then be invested in additional uses. To ensure equitable outcomes, Dauphin County has formed a regional Water Resource Enhancement Program Advisory Committee made up of participating municipalities and county stakeholders to ensure underserved communities (Steelton, Highspire, and Middletown) have fair representation and a vote on regional stormwater decisions.

How This Investment Supports Communities, Populations, or Individuals in Dauphin County

This investment will support up to six (6) communities in Dauphin County with a total population of 56,616 residents by improving environmental and clean water standards in the Conewago Creek Watershed; producing cost savings for their respective municipalities; and providing an affordable way to obtain compliance with Department of Environmental Protection stormwater pollution standards and improve water quality. One community is a Qualified Census Tract with additional participating communities containing low-to-moderate income census tracts.

Disparity Study $83,333.33

Funds under this use have been approved to assist the City of Harrisburg with conducting a disparity study that identifies gaps in opportunities for minority-owned businesses to participate in city contracting.

How This Investment Promotes a Strong and Equitable Recovery

A disparity study is one of the most fundamental ways Dauphin County, in partnership with Harrisburg City, can ensure long-term, structural changes to provide greater opportunities for underserved communities—specifically minority owned businesses. This will create a post-pandemic playing field that is more equitable and provide greater opportunity for minority populations.

Strategy to Maximize Programmatic Impact and Effective, Efficient, and Equitable Outcomes

To maximize programmatic impact and effective, efficient, and equitable outcomes, Dauphin County has partnered with the City of Harrisburg to complete a study that impacts minority businesses in the largest Dauphin County municipality. Recommendations from the study will be considered and acted upon, when appropriate, to ensure an impactful outcome.

How This Investment Supports Communities, Populations, or Individuals in Dauphin County

This investment is a direct response to outreach and communication with representatives of minority communities including the Pennsylvania Diversity Coalition. This investment will support minority communities in Dauphin County; specifically, minority contractors and minority-owned businesses seeking business in Harrisburg City, **a Qualified Census Tracts community**.

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy $10,000.00

The Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) outlines the economic priorities, plans, and strategies for continued economic development and recovery in the nine county Southcentral Pennsylvania Region. SLFR funds will be allocated to the Southcentral Pennsylvania Partnership for Economic Performance (PREP) for Dauphin County's share of the cost to prepare the next five-year CEDS plan. This plan is necessary to make Dauphin County and its regional PREP partners eligible for important federal economic assistance including United State Economic Development Agency grant programs. Investment in the CEDS plan is a much-needed investment in coordinating a regional approach to an economic recovery that benefits all communities.

How This Investment Promotes a Strong and Equitable Recovery

A large-scale pandemic requires a large-scale response.

Investing in the county's share of the cost to prepare the CEDS plan is investing in such a response. The CEDS Plan is a strategy-driven plan for regional economic development that will include strategies for recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic in the Southcentral Pennsylvania region. According to the US Economic Development Administration, the CEDS serves as the cornerstone of EDA programs and establishes a regional blueprint for collaboration, capacity building, and working together to create an environment for economic prosperity. Most importantly, a CEDS is required to apply for EDA funding opportunities including:

- Economic Adjustment Assistance
- Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation Programs
- Build Back Better Regional Challenge
- Good Jobs Challenge

A strong regional recovery requires not only a coordinated, regional strategy like the CEDS, it also requires access to current and future funding sources to leverage into meaningful economic recovery. The CEDS is the starting point to doing just that.

Strategy to Maximize Programmatic Impact and Effective, Efficient, and Equitable Outcomes

The CEDS Plan is being coordinated through the Southcentral Pennsylvania PREP organization in consultation with the US EDA, Dauphin County, and the seven additional counties making up the Southcentral PA PREP Region. A Request for Proposals will be utilized to engage a professional firm in drafting the CEDS plan. This will promote an efficient and effective process with broad ranging outcomes due to the regional nature of the plan.

How This Investment Supports Communities, Populations, or Individuals in Dauphin County

Investing in the CEDS Plan potentially impacts all of Dauphin County's 286,000 residents as well as its 6,850 businesses and 40 municipalities. It is an investment in the long-term economic prosperity of Dauphin County, the region, and its communities. **This includes supporting economic growth and prosperity that benefits Qualified Census Tracts within Dauphin County.**

Detweiler Park Development $1,000,000.00

As a 400-acre park central to Dauphin County residents, Detweiler Park experienced a record number of visitors during the COVID-19 pandemic highlighting the need for

expansion to greater serve the public as a free amenity. $1,000,000 has been dedicated to expanding the development of Detweiler Park to provide greater ADA-accessible passive and active recreational opportunities and expand a healthy, accessible, outdoor environment for Dauphin County families and children—something critical in the event of prolonged pandemics like COVID-19. This expansion will be consistent with the Master Site Plan developed in 2020.

Funds will be used to develop accessible park infrastructure according to the recommendations of the Detweiler Park Master Site Plan including design, engineering, permitting, and construction of a dedicated public park entrance with accessible parking, comfort facilities, an event lawn, pavilion, and ADA accessible playground. Dauphin County will attempt to leverage funds with Pennsylvania Redevelopment Capital Assistance Program Funds for a total project budget of $2 million. Project scope will be scaled back in the absence of RACP funds.

A copy of the Detweiler Park Master Plan outlining proposed activities can be found at Detweiler Park Master Plan.

How This Investment Promotes a Strong and Equitable Recovery

Expansion of Detweiler Park is critical to providing free, healthy outdoor activities for all Dauphin County residents. As Dauphin County's largest park located in a geographically central location, Detweiler park provides more than 7 miles of hiking trails, gardens, fields, meadows, and mature deciduous forest. Investing funds in expanding ADA accessible facilities and playgrounds, as well as additional restroom facilities and an event lawn, will promote equitable access to Detweiler park by disabled individuals. Restoration of forest and habitat, expansion of trails, regrading of trails for accessibility, and other activities will expand a critical public resource and key component to physical and mental health outcomes—especially during a pandemic. Research shows that spending time in natural settings like Detweiler Park reduces stress levels, improves mental health, and promotes physical activity. These are all components to a strong and equitable health and wellness recovery from the pandemic.

Strategy to Maximize Programmatic Impact and Effective, Efficient, and Equitable Outcomes

To maximize programmatic impact, efficiency, and equitable outcomes, Dauphin County is administering this investment through the Dauphin County Parks & Recreation Department who manages the park. The department will follow county procurement and administrative processes to ensure project costs are reasonable and market based.

To promote equity, new park facilities and expansion areas will be announced and promoted throughout Dauphin County, including communities traditionally underserved. Promotion of the facilities may include English to Spanish translated materials, posting of promotional items in high traffic areas, and advertisement through local media outlets.

Detweiler Park and its facilities will continue to be a free, public amenity open to any Dauphin County resident from dawn until dusk year-round.

How This Investment Supports Communities, Populations, or Individuals in Dauphin County

This investment supports all Dauphin County residents by providing additional recreational opportunities at the county's most-used park. Expansion of universally accessible facilities as well as modifications to existing trails and facilities ensure this investment further supports the disabled populations allowing them to experience the benefits of Detweiler Park equally. Beneficiaries of an expanded Detweiler Park include populations from all Qualified Census Tracts and underserved communities in Dauphin County.

ADDITIONAL USES UNDER EC 6.1 UNDER CONSIDERATION

Dauphin County intends to expend the balance under EC 6.1 for the Provision of Government Services. Broad categories of uses to which the balance may be allocated includes, but is not limited to:

- Restoration of County Services   TBD
- Infrastructure Leveraging   TBD
- Parks and Recreation Improvements   TBD
- Mental Health Services/MH Stabilization Center   TBD

Dauphin County continues to review written funding requests and is holding additional meetings with stakeholders of underserved communities prior to approving additional uses of funds under the EC 6.1 Expenditure Category.

EC 2.35 – AID TO TOURISM, TRAVEL, OR HOSPITALITY

TOURISM REPLENISHMENT

$1,559,994.16

Tourism is a critical sector in Dauphin County's economy bringing approximately $2.4 billion to the county every year and supporting 28,000 local jobs. Dauphin County is ranked third in the state (behind Philadelphia and Allegheny counties) in visitor spending and relies heavily on tourism for its economic well-being.

To support this critical industry, a portion of the hotel tax revenue generated by a 5% room occupancy tax in Dauphin County goes toward the Tourism Grant Program. This program, administered by the Dauphin County Department of Community & Economic Development, provides grant funding to county-based entities for tourism-related projects that sustain and perpetuate tourism in our communities. The precipitous decrease in hotel stays during the pandemic resulted in a historic shortfall in the county's hotel tax essentially placing the Tourism Grant Program on hold for 2021. Supporting tourism generating community-based activities is tantamount to Dauphin County's economic success and the economic health of many of its communities.

For this reason, Dauphin County has allocated $1,559,994.16 to replenishing and resuming its Tourism Grant Program. Utilizing this funding, Dauphin County has supported 25 important tourism generating entities to date hosting events that draw visitors back to our communities.

How This Investment Promotes a Strong and Equitable Recovery

Replenishing the Tourism Program was critical to a sustained resurgence of tourism in Dauphin County including its smaller communities. Roughly 60 to 70 tourism generating entities are supported annually through the Tourism Grant Program with total annual funding (pre-COVID) of approximately $2.6 million. For example, 2020 Tourism Awards in the amount of $2,659,500 were awarded to 66 organizations for activities ranging from community events like the 13th Annual Tour de Millersburg and Gratz Fair to the Market Square Concerts Summer Music Fest to the Big 33 Football Classic.

The historic decline in hotel tax revenue resulted in financial support for many of these projects being placed on hold, including support for the county's Destination Marketing Organization (DMO), Visit Hershey & Harrisburg. Investing SLFR funds into replenishing the Tourism Fund has allowed Dauphin County to continue investing directly in local tourism activities directly benefitting communities and local economies throughout the county.

Tourism Program dollars will continue to be administered as a competitive grant program through the Dauphin County Economic Development Corporation open to any eligible municipality or 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization whose proposed activity generates local tourism in the county.

Strategy to Maximize Programmatic Impact and Effective, Efficient, and Equitable Outcomes

In January 2022, Dauphin County transferred this SLFRF allocation to the Dauphin County Economic Development Corporation which has administered the Tourism Program since its inception. Experienced staff utilizing existing administrative processes and infrastructure ensure the program is administered in an effective and efficient manner. Applications continue to be processed via EDC staff through an application available at the Dauphin County EDC website. As subrecipient, Dauphin County EDC is responsible for meeting financial management, reporting, and programmatic requirements related to administering this allocation.

Per custom with the Dauphin County Tourism Program, funds are distributed in an equitable manner that provides investments throughout Dauphin County and based on merit of the proposed project and its tourism generating impact. Awards are made by vote of the Dauphin County Commissioners. A full listing of previous awards highlights the equitable and wide-ranging way Tourism Grant Program funds are allocated to both rural and urban tourism activities, small community activities, and broader county-wide activities.

How This Investment Supports Communities, Populations, or Individuals in Dauphin County

This allocation of ARP-SLFRF funds has directly supported 25 tourism-related entities critical to the Dauphin County's economic recovery. Of those, eight entities are located in Qualified Census Tracts. ARP funds have leveraged an additional $3.2 million to support an additional 104 tourism-related entities with over 50 being in QCTs or low-to-moderate income communities. These investments have brought an estimated 2.2 million visitors to Dauphin County post-pandemic.

EC 7.1 – ADMINISTRATION

$167,000

Dauphin County has allocated an initial $167,000 to administrative costs related to administering the ARP-SLFRF program. Funds in this amount were transferred in late 2021 to the Dauphin County Economic Development Corporation for purposes of processing administrative costs related to ARP-SLFRF. As subrecipient, Dauphin County EDC is responsible for meeting financial management, reporting, and programmatic requirements related to administering this allocation.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes in SLFRF Planning and Implementation

Dauphin County has extensive experience in administering equity-based assistance programs with specific qualitative and quantitative performance and evaluation metrics including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Community Development Block Grant Emergency Solutions Grant (CDBG-ESG) and HOME Investment Partnership Programs through its Department of Community and Economic Development and Human Services Department. Through these programs, Dauphin County has provided significant support to underserved communities for decades with the goal of promoting equitable outcomes. This experience informs a strategy to promote equitable outcomes with the goal of supporting underserved communities through ARP-SLFRF investments.

Measures taken to promote equitable outcomes with ARP-SLFRF investments to date include:

- Reviewing historically underserved areas for potential areas of priority investment. This includes a review of historically low-to-moderate income census tracts in Northern and Southern Dauphin County based on data used by Dauphin County in administering the CDBG program.

- Utilizing the Qualified Census Tract listing specific to the SLFRF program to identify areas for eligible investments.

- Reviewing the continuum of public service providers based on previous CDBG experience to determine effective providers in areas of need based on past performance.

- Soliciting written requests for assistance and reviewing based on impact on equitable outcomes.

- Holding regular meetings with representatives of underserved communities to discuss continued needs including minority representatives.

- Commissioning a separate housing study and hiring an affordable housing coordinator with local funds to determine priority needs related to affordable housing. Feedback will inform future ARP-SLFRF housing investments.

- Utilizing the concurring CDBG/HOME and HOME-ARP planning processes to gather additional input on needs in underserved communities through stakeholder consultation.

To date, this strategy of promoting equitable outcomes has informed the following ARP-SLFRF investments under Provision of Government Services (EC 6.1):

- Commissioning a disparity study in the City of Harrisburg (QCT) and-potentially-Dauphin County to increase opportunity for minority-owned businesses in government contracting.

- Investing in the Riverfront McCormick Library, a major community space and resource hub for underserved populations located in a Qualified Census Tract (QCTs).

- Funding the South Second Street Homelessness Assistance Pilot Project creating a homeless day shelter in the City of Harrisburg to provide additional resources to homeless populations (located in QCT).

- Investing in a regional stormwater program to benefit communities including Steelton Borough (QCT) and other HUD-defined low-to-moderate income communities that will improve environmental conditions and save costs for struggling communities.

- Investing in a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) Plan to promote region-wide economic growth benefiting all underserved communities in Dauphin County.

- Investing in broadband planning to connect rural underserved communities and make broadband more affordable in low-to-moderate income areas—creating more equal access to affordable broadband.

- Supporting tourism-generating activities in underserved communities by restoring the Dauphin County Tourism Program.

Geographic Distribution of Investments to Date

All ARP-SLFRF investments approved and/or expended to date are either projects located in a Qualified Census Tracts or uses that will have some impact on underserved communities and communities located in Qualified Census Tracts.

Equity Strategy Moving Forward

Focus on equity will continue to play a focal role in informing additional ARP-SLFRF investments to be made under the Provision of Government Services (EC 6.1) category including the following items under consideration:

- Focus on expanding new affordable housing and transitional housing opportunities as a result of the pending hosing study.

- Continued investments based on additional meetings with representatives from underserved and minority communities.

- Investment in mental health resources for underserved communities.

- Investment in infrastructure and leveraging with other federal and state programs to maximize impact of infrastructure improvements.

- Improvements and expansion to public parks as free resources to all populations including underserved populations.

As additional uses are finalized, design considerations for future Dauphin County SLFRF programs related to promoting equitable outcomes may include:

- Equitable Promotion
  - Earned media promotion of Dauphin County SLFRF programs.

  - Utilizing the Dauphin County website and social media to promote Dauphin County SLFRF programs.

  - Public outreach events to promote Dauphin County SLFRF programs in low-to-moderate income communities.

  - Multi-lingual translation of material related to Dauphin County SLFRF programs and partnering with providers to non-English speaking populations to disseminate program information.

  - Distribution of SLFRF program materials in high-volume areas of low-to-moderate income communities (e.g., post offices, laundry mats, convenience stores, government buildings.)

- Income or area-based eligibility guidelines like the CDBG/HOME Program or utilizing QCTs specific to the SLFRF program IF additional grant programs are funded via ARP-SLFRF.

- Program eligibility guidelines based on benefit to low-to-moderate beneficiaries or limited clientele beneficiaries based on HUD standards, specifically related to any SLFRF public service activities IF additional grant programs are funded via ARP-SLFRF.

Goals and Targets for Promoting Equity in ARP-SLFRF Uses to Date

An overall goal for promoting equity in the use of ARP-SLRF funds is to make investments in uses that benefit underserved communities/QCT communities for at least 50 percent of uses. To date, 100 percent of ARP-SLFRF investments are either located in a Qualified Census Tract or provide a potential benefit to underserved communities/QCT populations.

Please refer to the "Executive Summary" Section of this Plan to review Goals and Targets related to promoting equity specific to each project.

Dauphin County intends to maximize equitable outcomes when planning for additional uses of funds claimed under EC 6.1.

Community Engagement

Public input and community engagement is a cornerstone to Dauphin County's SLFRF development process. Specifically, Dauphin County has taken a multi-pronged approach to obtaining community input.

Minority Stakeholder Meetings

The Dauphin County Commissioners continued to host minority stakeholder meetings to fully understand the needed investments to promote an equitable recovery. The first such meeting with African American community leaders took place on August 24th, 2021, with additional meetings held through 2021 and 2022 with, but not limited to, representatives of the following entities that serve minority and underserved communities:

- African American Chamber of Commerce
- Pennsylvania Diversity Coalition
- Latino Connection
- United Way
- African American faith-based leaders

Dauphin County Commissioners and staff continue to hold regular individual and group-based meetings with leaders from the community to best align spending decisions with community needs.

Written Requests

Concurrent with minority stakeholder meetings, Dauphin County continues to utilize a written request process for the community to articulate needs. To date, approximately 20 unique written requests have been received and reviewed.

CDBG/HOME Stakeholder Meetings

Dauphin County is also consulting feedback obtained during its Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnerships Program stakeholder engagement processes to further ascertain community needs. Stakeholders consulted during this process included, but were not limited to:

- Municipalities
- Broadband Providers
- Habitat for Humanity
- Tri-County Community Action Commission
- Dauphin County Human Services
- Northern Dauphin County Human Services
- YWCA
- Dauphin County Housing Authority
- Capital Area Coalition on Homelessness
- Shalom House
- Latino Hispanic American Community Center
- Keystone Human Services
- American Red Cross
- Capital Region Economic Development Corporation
- Salvation Army
- Christian Churches United

Infrastructure Needs Survey

Supplementing the above input, Dauphin County further issued an Infrastructure Feedback Survey to all 40 municipalities in Fall 2021 identifying priority infrastructure needs in each municipality. Thirty-three municipalities responded identifying over $347 million in infrastructure needs.

Broadband Survey

Dauphin County also distributed a broadband priorities survey to municipal managers to identify granular data on areas of greatest needs. The county continues to collect this data and is working further with internet service providers to internally map broadband needs.

Housing Study

Recognizing the housing crisis created by the pandemic and the continued lack of affordable housing of all types for the county's most vulnerable populations, Dauphin County has further commissioned with non-ARP local dollars a comprehensive housing study by Urban Partners. This study includes an additional stakeholder input process which will be used to inform further ARP-SLFRF decisions related to affordable and transitional housing.

Continued Public Input

Dauphin County will continue to follow a public input process to help inform its future allocation of funds under EC 6.1. Measures taken to incorporate written, oral, and other forms of public input from constituents and stakeholders in the planning process are as follows:

- Dauphin County hosts a dedicated, public-facing, SLFRF webpage where the public can view SLFRF reports and information. Additional investments of funds made *after* claiming lost revenue under EC 6.1 will be included in reporting posted to this webpage.

- Dauphin County will publicize significant planned investments via local media when necessary.

- Continued meetings with leaders from minority and underserved communities are planned through 2022 until all fund uses have been allocated.

- The Dauphin County Board of Commissioners will provide periodic updates on the SLFRF spending plan during regularly scheduled weekly board meetings. These meetings are open to the public and covered by the local media.

- Where applicable, provide translated materials promoting SLFRF programs including program announcements, applications, and guidelines when administering specific programs.

- Utilize future county newsletters to update the public on ARP-SLFRF investments.

It is important to note that Dauphin County has consulted with a wide range of stakeholders within the community through a variety of mechanisms to solicit feedback informing SLFRF spending decisions. Stakeholders have ranged from small businesses to community organizations/nonprofits to broadband providers to municipalities to representative of underserved communities. It is our intent to continue this practice to inform all additional spending decisions under EC 6.1.

Labor Practices in Administration of SLFRF-funded Programs

Due to utilizing EC 6.1 to the maximum extent feasible, Dauphin County will not directly allocate ARP-SLFRF funds to infrastructure projects requiring federal labor standards. However, Dauphin County will continue to follow state and local labor standards as applicable when utilizing any funds under EC 6.1 for projects requiring labor practices.

Use of Evidence-Based Interventions and Performance Evaluations in Administration of SLFRF Programs

Due to limited staff and administrative capacity, Dauphin County is maximizing the amount of funds used under the "Provision of Government Services" (EC 6.1) category and does not have SLFRF funds committed to specific uses related to evidence-based interventions and/or projects being evaluated through rigorous program evaluations. The limited number of staff currently delivering other COVID relief programs on top of standing county services do not have the capacity to develop and monitor rigorous program evaluation and measurement regiments at this time.

Pursuant to guidance in the Treasury Final Rule, Dauphin County may consider evidence-based interventions and program evaluations, where appropriate and administratively feasible, when determining additional investments under EC 6.1. This will include, but not be limited to, considering investments in local uses that can demonstrate evidence of an intervention, program, or activity's effectiveness and implementing program evaluations specific to approved activities.

Performance Report

While staff capacity limits the ability to have a robust performance reporting and tracking system—during a time when multiple programs continue to be administered on top of regular services—Dauphin County is utilizing its Department of Community and Economic Development to track important metrics on a project-by-project basis (see: Executive Summary and Project Inventory). The department utilizes internal trackers to track project level data including project status, beneficiaries (when applicable), and outcomes.

Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category

The table below reports allocations by Expenditure Category and expenditures to date.

Expenditure Category	Type	Amount Allocated	Expended to Date*
EC 6.1	Provision of Government Services	$52,329,323.84	$25,301,164.84**
EC 2.35	Aid to Tourism, Travel, Hospitality	$1,559,994.16	$1,559,994.16
EC 7.1	Administrative Expenses	$167,000.00	$167,000.00
	TOTAL	$54,056,318.00	$27,028,159.00

*Amount includes only funds that have been spent/transferred by Expenditure Category as of June 30, 2022. Does not include funds approved for uses but not yet expended.

**Includes funds reported as expended for restoration of county services. These funds will be reinvested in critical activities subject to continued stakeholder and community feedback.

PROJECT INVENTORY

Project ARP 2021-01: ARP-SLFRF Administration

Funding amount: $167,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 7.1, Administrative

Project Overview
- Funds under this project were transferred to the Dauphin County Economic Development Corporation for purposes of paying expenses related to administration of ARP-SLFRF programming, reporting to Treasury and compliance work, and professional services related to accounting, management, reporting, and compliance.

- This project use is not applicable to addressing climate change and/or advancing the Justice40 initiative.

Use of Evidence
- Not applicable.

Performance Report
- Not applicable.

Project ARP 2021-02: Tourism Replenishment

Funding amount: $1,559,994.16

Project Expenditure Category: 2.35, Aid to Tourism, Travel or Hospitality

Project Overview
- Funds under this project were transferred to the Dauphin County Economic Development Corporation for purposes of replenishing Tourism Grant funds depleted by the decline in hotel tax revenues during COVID-19. Funds are provided as competitive grants to tourism-related entities generating tourism activity post-pandemic.

- This project use is not related to the environment and not applicable to addressing climate change and/or advancing the Justice40 initiative.

Use of Evidence
- Not applicable.

Performance Report
- Goal: Support at least 10 tourism generating activities in underserved communities.

- Progress: To date, 8 entities supported are within Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs) with 73 percent of funds expended. Funds have leveraged additional tourism dollars that have supported over 50 entities located in or serving QCTs.

Project ARP 2022-01: Revenue Replacement/Provision of Government Services

Funding amount: $750,000.00

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Provision of Government Services

Project Overview
- This project represents the first "tranche" of ARP-SLFRF funds utilized as provision of government services. Funds in the amount of $750,000 were transferred to the Dauphin County Economic Development Corporation for the following uses:
  - Dauphin County HVAC Replacement - $500,000
  - Broadband Planning - $200,000
  - South Second Street Homelessness Pilot Project - $50,000

- This project use is not related to the environment and not applicable to addressing climate change and/or advancing the Justice40 initiative.

Use of Evidence
- Not applicable.

Performance Report
Dauphin County Library HVAC Replacement

- Goal: Install one (1) HVAC system to ensure Riverfront McCormick Library can continue to safely operate as a focal community space and free resource for underserved communities as a library located in a Qualified Census Tract.

- Progress: Project is 87% Complete based on Contractor Estimate.

Broadband Planning

- Goal: Produce comprehensive inventory of areas underserved by broadband and leverage funds to expand broadband in identified underserved areas including low-to-moderate income and QCT communities in rural Northern Dauphin County. Deliver one (1) broadband expansion project as a result of planning.

- Progress: Broadband consultant engaged, municipal survey distributed, internal mapping initiated, and work with PA Broadband Authority ongoing to leverage investments with infrastructure funds. Project not identified yet.

Homeless Assistance Pilot Project

- Goal: Complete retrofit of 336 South Second Street into an operational homeless day shelter to connect the homeless with social services and hygienic resources.

- Progress: Plumbing project completed. Project ongoing.

Project ARP 2022-02: Revenue Replacement/Provision of Government Services

Funding amount: $51,579,323.84

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Provision of Government Services

Project Overview
- This project represents planned uses for the remainder of ARP-SLFRF funds for restoration of county services. Funds realized under this Project are also being used to make additional investments in public services and activities.

- Additional uses are under consideration pending additional stakeholder input and will be finalized and approved up to the total amount of funding available under this project number.

- Funds realized under this category will be invested in activities including the Water Resource Enhancement Program is a regional stormwater pollution reduction program that includes one community from a Qualified Census Tract and other low-to-moderate income census tract communities. Therefore, it may advance the Justice40 initiative.

Use of Evidence
- Not applicable.

<u>Performance Report</u>

- Goal: Restore full suite of county services to pre-pandemic levels and invest in public service activities.

- Progress: In progress. The county continues to plan for restoration of services and additional allocations to achieve this goal.

A copy of this report is available to the public at **www.dauphincounty.org/arp**