



Anoka County
MINNESOTA

Respectful, Innovative, Fiscally Responsible

Annual Recovery Plan

Anoka County, Minnesota

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

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General Overview

Executive Summary

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

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

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

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

- On September 28, 2021, the County Board by resolution amended budget allocations for ARPA Funds increasing the Public Health Category by \$7.3 million.
- On March 22, 2022, the County Board by resolution amended budget allocations for ARPA Funds in the following broad categories:
 - ✓ Public health - \$27.17 million.
 - ✓ Negative economic impact - \$4.2 million.
 - ✓ Services to disproportionately impacted communities - \$2.1 million.
 - ✓ Infrastructure - \$8.5 million.
 - ✓ Revenue replacement - \$24.25 million.
 - ✓ Grant administration - \$1 million.
 - ✓ Unallocated - \$2.5 million.
- Budget allocations will be adjusted by County Board resolution within the above categories as projects are identified and approved.
- The county administrator has developed an ARPA Governance Task Force that includes a cross-section of leaders from various departments throughout the county. This task force will meet as needed and review all requests prior to submission to the County Board for approval.
- Additionally, all projects will be vetted for compliance with ARPA guidelines prior to submission to the ARPA Governance Task Force by a compliance team, consisting of County Administration, Finance & Central Services, and the County Attorney's Office.
- ARPA information on the county's plan will be provided on the county's ARPA Web page located at - <https://www.anokacountymn.gov/4094/American-Rescue-Plan-Act---ARPA>

Anoka County continues to plan the use of its funding and has obligated just over \$11.75 million for various projects and has spent \$11,231,238 of the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) under ARPA as of June 30, 2022. Continued discussions with the County Board have identified additional needs and options that are being pursued. The county has been working through its Human Services Division to identify needs and programs for enhancing services that target underserved communities related to health care access, housing needs, and food insecurity.

Uses of Funds

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

Public Health

Anoka County plans to designate funds to mitigate Covid-19 by supporting public health initiatives throughout the county. Currently, the Anoka County Board has allocated \$27.17 million for this category (subject to change), in which the following options are being considered:

- Continued support for our Public Health and Public Safety workforce that are involved with the COVID-19 related activities.
- Support for healthcare costs related to the community and employees that have been directly impacted.
- Continued prevention and mitigation of COVID-19 through ongoing purchases of personal protective equipment and needed facility modifications.
- Enhanced behavioral and mental health care programs for both employees and citizens.
- Improved and redesigned execution of health and public programs to serve citizens.
- Address health disparities within our county.

Negative Economic Impacts

Anoka County intends to address the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic within the community as follows. Currently, the Anoka County Board has allocated \$4.2 million for this category (subject to change) for addressing park maintenance issues related to overuse from the community that continues to occur. In addition, the county continues to explore options within this category to address the following:

- Assisting small business and non-profits with technical support resources.
- Addressing public safety response to increased community violence.
- Addressing court service backlogs that are related to the pandemic.

Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities

Currently, the Anoka County Board has allocated \$2.1 million for this category (subject to change), in which the following options are being considered:

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

Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure

Anoka County has currently allocated \$8.5 million (subject to change) to provide a matching grant opportunity to our cities and township for projects that provide Broadband expansion to unserved and underserved areas of our community. The county is currently working with some

of its cities to distribute the funds for broadband expansion within their communities and has a study underway to identify the gaps that exist within the broadband services offered within the county.

Revenue Replacement

Anoka County has suffered an economic loss due to the COVID-19 pandemic and intends to claim the revenue lost due to the pandemic (in accordance with the treasury guidance) to invest into the community. The county is allocating funds for upgrades related to its cybersecurity needs and has initially dedicated \$20 million for the construction of a 911 Emergency Communication Center to serve the community. Anoka County has adopted an amount of \$24.3 million for this category over the four-year calculation period; however, we are planning to adjust this category upwards for reporting based on new information, which currently shows a calculated loss of around \$40.1 million. This category will be adjusted as final numbers become available throughout the reporting period.

Unallocated

With the continued changing dynamic of the impacts related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Anoka County Board of Commissioners will continue to evaluate and engage the community as it determines how to allocate the remaining \$2.5 million in funds.

Promoting equitable outcomes

Projects related to promoting equitable outcomes are under development. This includes the discovery of program enhancements to allow underserved communities increased healthcare access, housing access (targeting families in need), and food insecurity.

Community Engagement

Anoka County received some feedback from some non-profit groups at its Finance Committee meeting in July 2021. The county has been performing outreach through its Human Services Division and is exploring the development of a variety of programs to serve the community. Anoka County recognizes it is vital that community feedback remain a central theme throughout this process and continues to consider additional methods for obtaining feedback throughout the performance period.

Labor Practices

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

Use of Evidence

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

Project Inventory

COVID-19 Vaccination Planning & Implementation

Approved Budget Amount - \$1,500,000.00

Actual Spend as of June 30, 2022 - \$215,750.54

Project Expenditure Category - 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project ID - 5759000010

Project Overview

This project is necessary as part of the county's COVID-19 response, mitigation, and prevention activities and includes costs for supplies, materials, and contracts with vendors. Current expenditures include costs related to providing vaccinations for COVID-19 to the community through county administration as well as through contracts with outside parties to administer vaccines. This project is intended to last through December 2024.

Protective Equipment & Measures

Approved Budget Amount - \$1,000,000.00

Actual Spend as of June 30, 2022 - \$144,595.04

Project Expenditure Category - 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project ID - 5759000007

Project Overview

This project allows the county to take the appropriate steps necessary to implement safety measures that mitigate the transmission of the virus including, but not limited to, materials and supplies for personal protection, enhanced cleaning for minimizing exposure, materials, and supplies for ongoing telework, and other supplies for additional protective measures as needed. To keep employees and citizens safe by providing the ability for employees to work remotely, citizens to visit remotely and other personal protective equipment purchases. This project is intended to last through December 2024.

Modifications to Ensure Safe Services Delivery

Approved Budget Amount - \$2,435,050.00

Actual Spend as of June 30, 2022 - \$51,208.57

Project Expenditure Category - 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project ID - 5759000013

Project Overview

This project allows the county to take the appropriate steps necessary to implement safety measures that mitigate the transmission of the virus including, but not limited to, items such as replacing outdated HVAC systems with new ones and the installation of aerosol monitors. This project is intended to last through December 2024.

Employee Assistance Program Enhancement

Approved Budget Amount - \$800,000.00

Actual Spend as of June 30, 2022 - \$248,636.73

Project Expenditure Category - 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project ID - 5759000001

Project Overview

Anoka County recognizes the strain the pandemic has placed on employees' mental health, dealing with secondary trauma, family events, etc. To enhance the Employee Assistance Program, a contracted onsite professional was added to support employees and their families through the following: assessments and program advocacy, referrals, management consultations, critical incident response support & training. This project is intended to last through December 2026.

COVID-19 Health Ins. Claims

Approved Budget Amount - \$2,855,018.83

Actual Spend as of June 30, 2022 - \$2,855,018.83

Project Expenditure Category - 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project ID - 5759000005

Project Overview

As Anoka County is self-insured for Medical Insurance, this project enables Anoka County to cover the additional claim costs incurred due to COVID-19. Anoka County's medical insurance is run through Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota. This project is intended to last through December 2026.

COVID-19 Workers Comp. Claims

Approved Budget Amount - \$300,000.00

Actual Spend as of June 30, 2022 - \$194,783.26

Project Expenditure Category - 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project ID - 5759000004

Project Overview

As Anoka County is self-insured for worker's compensation insurance, this project enables Anoka County to cover the additional claim costs incurred due to COVID-19. Anoka County's worker's compensation insurance is run through SFM Risk Solutions. This project is intended to last through December 2026.

Public Health & Safety Payroll

Approved Budget Amount - \$17,000,000.00

Actual Spend as of June 30, 2022 - \$7,161,599.20

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

Project ID - 5759000011

Project Overview

Due to the pandemic, Anoka County was forced to change how its business operated to maximize the prevention and mitigation of the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Additionally, the county had to deal with the citizens and staff that had COVID-19. This project claims the time spent on these types of activities. This project is intended to last through December 2024.

OpenGov Module

Approved Budget Amount - \$87,475

Actual Spend as of June 30, 2022 - \$37,675

Project Expenditure Category - 7.1 Administrative Expenses

Project ID – 5759000003

Project Overview

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

through multiple processing steps and approvals to ensure proper administration of funds. This project is intended to last through December 2024.

Water and Sewer to Bunker

Approved Budget Amount - \$4,200,000.00

Actual Spend as of June 30, 2022 - \$17.92

Project Expenditure Category - 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project ID - 5759000014

Project Overview

This project replaces the Bunker Hills Activity Center's outdated well and septic infrastructure with city water and sewer services, providing a clean, stable water source for the public with new infrastructure to accommodate increased visitation and demand from guest use. Parks have seen a dramatic increase in usage due to the pandemic putting a large strain on the existing infrastructure. This project is intended to be completed by December 2024.

Regional Broadband Study

Approved Budget Amount - \$350,000.00

Actual Spend as of June 30, 2022 - \$12,536.26

Project Expenditure Category - 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project ID - 5759000016

Project Overview

Anoka County recognizes the need for broadband across the county. This project establishes a county wide plan to target areas in need. This project is intended to be completed by December 2022.

EA Move - Blaine Building

Approved Budget Amount - \$64,950.00

Actual Spend as of June 30, 2022 - \$24,085.00

Project Expenditure Category - 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project ID - 5759000006

Project Overview

This project renovates existing government property to create a safer environment for staff and citizens, including creating workstations with glass barriers between the worker and the public. This project is intended to be completed by December 2022.

Administrative Payroll

Approved Budget Amount - \$862,725.00

Actual Spend as of June 30, 2022 - \$287,242.00

Project Expenditure Category - 7.1 Administrative Expenses

Project ID - 5759000008

Project Overview

Payroll costs to administer the SLFRF grant. This project is intended to be last through December 2022.