



Mobile County Alabama **Recovery Plan**

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

2022 Report

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

This document serves as Mobile County’s (the “County”) Recovery Plan Performance Report (the “Recovery Plan”) for the period ending July 31, 2022, as required by the American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”).

The County was awarded approximately \$80.26 million in ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (“SLFRF”) to develop eligible projects that effectively address the negative impacts caused or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic on Mobile residents, businesses, community organizations.

Mobile County Commission’s (the “Commission”) overall goal is to utilize ARPA funds to continue its response to the negative public health effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, while also investing in initiatives that support a strong economic recovery and strengthening fiscal stability by reducing demand on taxpayer dollars. When developing an approach for its ARPA/SLFRF allocation, the Commission recognized the importance of establishing a framework for investing these funds to generate quantifiable positive outcomes for populations most impacted by the pandemic. Accordingly, the County developed a framework that provides a solid foundation for approved expenditures that are in alignment with County priorities and are eligible under U.S.Treasury’s (the “Treasury”) Final Rule and applicable guidance. Specifically, the County’s process for evaluating and approving proposed initiatives to be funded with the County’s SLFRF dollars includes the following guideposts:

Understand Priorities	Understand the Priorities of the Commission and the community through public input
Identify Recovery Goals	Identify Recovery Goals based on community feedback, Treasury guidance, and county priorities
Identify Vulnerable Populations	Establish a mechanism for identifying the most vulnerable populations
Public Outreach	Invite and encourage external organizations to apply for funding
Spending Strategy	Provide a mechanism for centralized decision-making about proposals based on a multi-level, data-driven review process that aligns the County’s recovery goals with Treasury’s statutory requirements
Monitor and Compliance	Commit to strong accountability, compliance, and oversight to ensure all dollars are spent effectively and compliantly
Report and Closeout	Establish a process for the successful management, monitoring, and evaluation from program start through the distribution of funds and closeout of the approved program
Flexibility	Establishing a process that allows the county to be able to reallocate funding as needed and as federal guidance evolves

Uses of Funds

As part of implementing the spending framework, the Commission requested public input regarding how they should spend the County's approximate \$80.26 million ARPA SLFRF allocation. Through a public engagement website including information and a survey soliciting input, five specific recovery goals were identified to address community needs, aid in the immediate response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and invest in long-term growth initiatives that support a strong, resilient, and equitable recovery. Those five goals include:

- Provide direct response to the public health crisis
- Strengthen local government operations
- Improve public facilities and infrastructure
- Provide aid to the most vulnerable populations
- Increase economic recovery and growth efforts

The above-referenced goals will maximize the positive impact achieved through approved, eligible projects, and provide effective, efficient, and equitable outcomes to populations most affected by the pandemic. To determine which expenditures aligned best with these goals, as well as the eligibility requirements set forth by U.S. Treasury, the County requested all applicants answer the below questions when submitting an application for SLFRF funding.

- Does this project/expenditure(s) have a large direct benefit to many Mobile County residents or businesses?
- Will this project/expenditure(s) have impacts on the County or residents/businesses that are long term (10+ years) in nature?
- Does this project/expenditure(s) reach a population disproportionately impacted and does it respond to a salient community need?
- Is this project/expenditure(s) clearly aligned to the goals of multiple County strategic plans?
- Is this project/expenditure(s) impact far greater than the resource expenditure?
- Would this project/expenditure(s) be possible without ARPA funds?
- Will this project/expenditure(s) be sustainable after funding has been spent?

The County created a stringent approval process for the allocation of its ARPA dollars to eligible projects. The County received over 200 applications for funding from agencies, nonprofit organizations, private entities, and local governments. Upon conclusion of the application deadline, the County put all proposed projects through a defined, rigid review and approval process. This process contained eligibility and complexity rating assessments, location and equity assessments, County review, Commissioner briefing, subrecipient evaluation, and funding recommendations.

The County's overall goal is to approve and fund projects that strategies will promote each expenditure category in the following ways:

- **Public Health (EC 1)** – The County has obligated and expended approximately \$1.75 million in expenditures to date responding to the negative public health effects caused by COVID-19. Additional projects and expenditures that will respond to the negative public health effects are still in the approval process by the Commission.

- **Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2)** – The County has not approved expenditures or projects under EC 2 at this time. Projects and expenditures that will respond to the negative economic impacts caused by COVID-19 are still in the approval process by the Commission.
- **Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity (EC 3)** – The County has not approved expenditures or projects under EC 3 at this time. Projects and expenditures that will respond to the negative public health and economic impacts caused by COVID-19 within the public sector are still in the approval process by the Commission.
- **Premium Pay (EC4)** – The County is not considering premium pay for employees at this time.
- **Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure (EC 5)** – The County has not approved expenditures or projects under EC 5 at this time. Projects and expenditures that will address the need for infrastructure are still in the approval process by the Commission.
- **Revenue Replacement (EC 6)** – The County plans to use the funds calculated through the Revenue Replacement formula provided by Treasury to address needs throughout the County and community in a manner that aligns with normal provisions of government services.

Promoting equitable outcomes

The Commission is committed to the equitable use of its ARPA SLFRF dollars to ensure effective, prompt long-term recovery is achieved in those areas and populations most impacted by the negative effects of the pandemic. The Commission plans to support communities equitably across its investments including specifically addressing the disparate impacts of different communities within the County. At this time, the Commission has not obligated any funds related to disproportionately impacted communities. However, proposed projects and expenditures to meet these needs are currently in the review process by the Commission.

Community Engagement

As part of implementing the spending framework, a public engagement website was created that included information and a survey soliciting input. The Commission requested public input through the website to establish the community's priorities on how they should spend the ARPA SLFRF funds. The website and comment collector were open for a period of one month covering July 30, 2021 – August 30, 2021. The form was promoted on social media and reached a total of 21,171 people. A total of 146 responses were received through the survey, which enabled the County to establish clear priorities that would generate the greatest impact on those most affected by the pandemic.

In September 2021, the County published a news release seeking proposals from agencies, nonprofit organizations, private entities, and local governments for project funding through the County's ARPA SLFRF funding allocation. The County held a public webinar and training to educate external agencies about the online application process and the eligible uses set forth in Treasury's Interim Final Rule. The County's website outlined the details and requirements for submitting requests which included the application and the eligibility memo in English and Spanish, links to all Treasury guidance and resources should the applicant have had any questions, and recordings of all public educational webinars. Proposals were accepted from

September 27, 2021 – October 25, 2021. The County received nearly 214 applications with funding requests totaling more than four times the County's \$80.26 million allocation.

Labor Practices

Mobile County has a proven history of maintaining strong labor practices. The County intends to utilize a part of its SLFRF allocation to invest in necessary infrastructure improvements as allowed under ARPA. The County will ensure that all funds dedicated to infrastructure projects are used in alignment and accordance with the guidance set forth by U.S. Treasury, including any statutory or regulatory requirements for procurement or labor practices. At this time the County has not obligated or expended any funds related to infrastructure projects. Proposed infrastructure projects and expenditures are currently being evaluated for eligibility and viability.

Use of Evidence

At this time, the County has not obligated or expended any of its SLRF dollars to projects that require evidence-based interventions. The County is committed to working with awardees once projects are approved to develop evidence-based strategies, where required by ARPA, for a given project. The County will ensure any future funding on projects or expenditures that require evidence-based interventions and/or program evaluations are in alignment with applicable U.S. Treasury guidance.

Performance Report

The County is currently in the process of finalizing and approving a spending plan obligating the majority of their ARP SLFRF funds. The County's spending to date can be grouped into the following expenditure categories:

- Public Health (EC 1) –
 - Total Cumulative Obligations = \$1,749,016.25
 - Total Cumulative Expenditures = \$1,749,016.25
- Administrative Expenses (EC 7) –
 - Total Cumulative Obligations = \$4,013,946.89
 - Total Cumulative Expenditures = \$609,216.29

PROJECT INVENTORY

As previously stated, Mobile County has undertaken a rigorous process when evaluating how these dollars should be spent in an effort to make the greatest impact on those residents most impacted by the pandemic. Aside from the expenditures listed below, the County is undergoing the process of approving recommended, eligible projects through the required approval process in compliance with local and federal guidance. These applications have been rigorously vetted for eligibility, viability, and to ensure approved projects are in line with County priorities. Once projects are formally approved by the Commission, funds will be obligated/awarded to beneficiaries and/or subrecipients in accordance with Treasury guidance. This project approval process has not yet concluded, and thus, funds for specific projects have not yet been obligated and/or expended. Accordingly, Mobile County does not currently have a detailed project inventory list to provide to Treasury. Outlined below, however, is an overview of how Mobile County has utilized the total funds it has obligated and expended as of July 31, 2022. The County will update this Plan as required by Treasury guidance.

Project Name	Project Identification Number	Expended Amount	Project Expenditure Category	Project Description
Mobile County Commission EC 1.14 Spending 2022	MCCEC1142022	\$26,428.62	1.14 – Other Public Health Services	This project covers goods and services purchased by Mobile County to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic for purposes of maintaining government functions. These expenditures were primarily technology goods and services that allowed county employees to work remotely to maintain network security while working remotely and to maintain proper social distancing while carrying out their duties.
Mobile County Commission EC 1.14 Spending 2021	MCCEC1142021	\$1,275,960.92	1.14 – Other Public Health Services	This project covers goods and services purchased by Mobile County to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic for purposes of maintaining government functions. These expenditures were primarily technology goods and services that allowed county employees to work remotely to maintain network security while working remotely and to maintain proper social distancing while carrying out their duties.
Mobile County Commission EC 1.5 Spending 2022	MCCEC152022	\$48,878.27	1.5 – Personal Protective Equipment	This project covers personal protective equipment purchased by the County for the use by County employees and Commission guests.
Mobile County Commission EC 1.5 Spending 2021	MCCEC152021	\$95,288.31	1.5 – Personal Protective Equipment	This project covers personal protective equipment purchased by the County for the use by County employees and Commission guests.
Mobile County Commission EC 1.7 Spending 2022	MCCEC172022	\$230,726.66	1.7 – Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)	This project covers the cleaning services and cleaning supplies purchased by the County for use within the County offices and work sites.
Mobile County Commission EC 1.7 Spending 2021	MCCEC172021	\$71,733.47	1.7 – Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)	This project covers the cleaning services and cleaning supplies purchased by the County for use within the County offices and work sites.
Mobile County Commission EC 7.1 Spending 2022	MCCEC71	\$433,329.40	7.1 – Administrative Expenses	This project covers the costs associated with the administrative services regarding the program management and implementation of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds from the American Rescue Plan Act. These administrative services have included/will include the following: allowability assessment on proposed projects, project development, project complexity rating, due diligence and risk assessment on subrecipients, monitoring and compliance of funded projects, mandatory federal reporting assistance, audit support, and grant closeout.
Mobile County Commission EC 7.1 Spending 2021	MCCEC712021	\$175,886.89	7.1 – Administrative Expenses	This project covers the costs of ARPA consultant costs and internal administrative expenses related to the management of ARPA funds.