

Merced County Recovery Plan

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds 2022 Report

Note: The Recovery Plan Performance Report provides the public and Treasury both retrospective and prospective information on the projects that recipients are undertaking or planning to undertake with program funding and how they are planning to ensure program outcomes are achieved in an effective, efficient, and equitable manner. While this template includes the minimum requirements for the Recovery Plan, each recipient is encouraged to add information to the plan that they feel is appropriate to provide information to their constituents on efforts they are taking to respond to the pandemic and promote an equitable economic recovery.

Each jurisdiction may determine the general form and content of the Recovery Plan, as long as it meets the reporting requirements, and recipients are encouraged to tailor this template to best meet their needs. Through the Recovery Plan, recipients may link to public documents, including, but not limited to, legislation, dashboards, survey results, community engagement reports, and equity frameworks to support the Recovery Plan narrative. Use of infographics, tables, charts, pictures, case studies, and other explanatory elements are encouraged.

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MERCED COUNTY
2022 Recovery Plan

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

Merced County (“County”) was allocated a total of \$53,936,085 in funding as part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program. The County received two tranches of \$26,968,042.50; the first tranche was received in May 2021 and the second tranche in June 2022. In response to the guidance released from the U.S. Department of Treasury (“Treasury”), the County conducted an analysis during the 2021 reporting period of the overall impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including the impacts on operations and services provided, and anticipated revenue compared to actual receipts. This analysis was conducted using information gathered from County Departments as it relates to existing operations and projects. The assessment of the pandemic’s effects on the County’s revenue was prepared by utilizing the formula provided by Treasury to calculate projected reductions in revenue, and was compared to actual revenue received to determine the local impact.

The analysis also included identifying operations and associated expenses as part of the County’s direct response to the pandemic. Additionally, to better understand future demands for countywide resources, a project needs assessment was conducted to provide a prioritization for unmet needs that would have otherwise been addressed, absent the impacts of the pandemic. Staff sought direction from the Board of Supervisors to utilize the County’s ARPA-SLFRF funding under the Expenditure Category (EC) 6.1 Revenue Replacement-Provision of Government Services to address operational and revenue shortfalls and create a framework for identifying projects. In accordance with Treasury’s guidance, the County has consistently utilized the prescribed formula during all reporting periods to confirm revenue loss and determine eligible costs as part of EC 6.1 Revenue Replacement-Government Services. All County project costs under the ARPA-SLFRF allocation are eligible as Revenue Replacement and will be expended and reported under EC 6.1. The County’s SLFRF expenditures are organized as projects under the following programmatic categories, as approved by the Board of Supervisors in its final version on June 7, 2022:

Programmatic Category	
1.	Homeless Services
2.	COVID-19 Support
3.	Community Facilities
4.	Flood Control/Water
5.	Roads
6.	Public Safety
7.	COVID-19 Pandemic Payment

Each programmatic category includes various projects to address the provision of government services that would otherwise be indefinitely delayed without the replacement of revenue under ARPA-SLFRF.

Uses of Funds

EC 6: Revenue Replacement

The programmatic categories identified above are based on the County's assessment of the pandemic's impacts on operations and revenue. Activities falling under these programmatic categories would have been impacted due to the reduction in revenue the County experienced during the pandemic, and ultimately would have limited regular operations. The County utilized the calculation formula released by Treasury to determine local revenue impacts and determine eligibility under EC 6.1. Based on the outcome of the County's analysis, actual revenue did not meet our counterfactual projections. According to the calculation formula provided by Treasury to calculate projected revenue growth, the County projected an average revenue growth rate of 7.6% through 2023. Actual revenues received in 2021 fell short of this rate by \$36,240,386. When combined with 2020's revenue loss, as reported in the 2021 Recovery Plan Performance Report, the amount of revenue loss exceeds the County's total SLFRF allocation of \$53,936,085. This identified gap in revenue would have prevented the County from completing projects necessary for the provision of government services. As such, the County's strategy for expenditure of ARPA-SLFRF funds under EC 6.1 ensures specified projects in the identified programmatic categories to move forward.

Eligible expenses for public projects during this period included costs under the Community Facilities programmatic category and includes park infrastructure improvements, library facility improvements, and Veterans and Community Hall improvements. Community facility and park infrastructure projects address deficiencies in the accessibility, functionality and general use of these locations and are vital for the health and safety of the communities. Activities identified as part of the County's Community Facilities projects will be ongoing throughout the ARPA-SLFRF program period

Eligible expenses identified under the COVID-19 Support programmatic category includes community outreach and engagement activities to better understand the needs and priorities throughout the unincorporated communities in the County. Special consideration and priority for hard-to-reach populations, including migrant and agricultural communities, low-income, and under- or uninsured populations, and communities of color were considered throughout the County's outreach and engagement process. Information was distributed in multiple languages with the provision of translation services during in-person presentations as well as delivery by various methods including mailers, text messaging and social media.

The County has been able to leverage other ARPA resources to assist in providing COVID-19 support to communities. Merced County received a grant from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Emergency Preparedness Office (EPO) originating from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplement Appropriations Act of 2021. The purpose of this funding is to provide critical resources for COVID-19 response to include expanded testing, case investigation, contact tracing, surveillance, containment and mitigation under the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Enhancing Detection (ELC

ED Expansion) project. This grant has been utilized to support a variety of activities within the County to include support for ongoing vaccination clinics through May 2022 as well as testing for individuals in correctional facilities and other congregate settings. Support for these activities will continue into Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

There are additional opportunities for programming, partnerships and funding through ARPA that the County is currently evaluating potential grant applications and partnerships to serve the eligible populations. Specific opportunities include funding to support mental health and substance abuse programming, which the Merced County Department of Behavioral Health and Recovery Services is actively working with its community partners to maximize available funding and opportunities under ARPA.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes

Merced County has worked cooperatively with other government agencies, staff and community-based organizations to ensure information and outreach regarding available services is being provided to the public and is prioritized for marginalized or disadvantages groups. Merced County is located within the Central Valley region of California with a local economy that depends largely on agriculture. The region includes large migrant populations that have been historically underserved, with high rates of poverty, homelessness, low educational attainment levels, and communities that often lack infrastructure and resources to meet basic needs.

According to the recently released 2020 U.S. Census data, Merced County as a whole is disadvantaged, with 17% of persons in poverty for the area, and an overall per capita income level that is far below both State and Federal per capita income levels.

Merced County's government services are intrinsically designed and built around the recognition of local demographics and unique circumstances, which drives processes that are appropriate for disadvantaged populations to ensure greater access to available resources. These processes include cooperative partnerships with Community Based Organizations for the provision of a wide variety of services to targeted populations, information and outreach materials available in multiple languages, and critical location of county facilities in unincorporated and underserved areas to assist residents where they are.

To consistently serve the County's most vulnerable population, outreach materials and programming were developed and made available using multiple languages and distributed through various methods to ensure a broader impact in the community. The County has allocated additional funding for COVID-19 vaccination clinics, though this effort will be planned for a future reporting period during the ARPA-SLFRF timeframe. The County will continue to monitor its COVID-19 case rates and hospitalizations to respond in a timely and appropriate manner, as warranted by local metrics.

As the County's use of the ARPA-SLFRF funding is for Revenue Replacement (EC 6.1), new programs specific to this funding have not currently been established. Funding will be used to sustain existing projects and provide continuity of county services within the

above stated programmatic categories. Existing County programs and facilities associated with the ARPA-SLFRF projects have established processes and methods in place to ensure access and promote equitable outcomes for disadvantaged populations.

a. Goals

Merced County provides public services to its residents with the goal of delivering those services in a manner inclusive of the vastly diverse populations and communities residing within the County. County communications, programming, meetings, and materials are available in multiple languages. County departmental staff and community-based organizations are well-versed in culturally appropriate practices necessary to assist and provide services for hard-to-reach and diverse populations. Consideration is also given for populations that may not have access to internet or broadband, are non-English speakers, and may require the assistance of trusted messengers within their community. With the assistance of the ARPA-SLFRF funding, the County will continue providing access to services and outreach to our most vulnerable residents. As part of the community engagement process, which was completed during this reporting period, all materials provided, including community surveys, were offered in multiple languages. In-person presentations included translation services with headsets to ensure messaging was accurately and effectively received by community members.

b. Awareness

Community Outreach and Engagement activities were conducted to identify community needs and priorities, which included informational materials in multiple languages on the County website, as well as hard-copy delivery of information to most households in the county by the U.S. Postal Service. Additionally, hard copies of COVID-19 information and ARPA-SLFRF outreach and engagement materials were provided to community facilities for distribution. In-person presentations during Municipal Advisory Council (MAC) meetings were conducted by county staff to reach community members in unincorporated and remote or rural areas. MACs are comprised of community members serving in an advisory capacity for their community in their respective locations, and are representative of the diversity of residents in their neighborhoods. Information and materials detailing County ARPA project plans were presented to these groups to allow local residents multiple opportunities to learn about the County's progress and provide comment. Surveys were also sent out to County residents via text messaging, community groups and community-based organizations in hard-copy, and posted to the County's website for feedback and information gathering. These community groups and other members of the public had additional opportunity to provide comments and feedback during public meetings where County staff provided informational presentations on the ARPA-SLFRF funds.

c. Access and Distribution

Merced County is geographically located over approximately 1,935 square miles and has a culturally diverse population of more than 286,000 with communities that speak multiple languages. Various challenges exist with the County's

demographic and geographic setting, which can include access to resources such as broadband and transportation. The Community Facilities projects identified for EC 6.1 are located throughout the County and are open to residents for the provision of necessary services and community use. The community outreach and engagement process began in October 2021 and continued through January 2022, which provided ample time for community members to provide input and feedback related to the County's use of ARPA-SLFRF allocation. Additionally, various methods of distribution were utilized to ensure each group was notified and had the opportunity to respond with important feedback in the decision process. As mentioned in previous sections, County practices and procedures are designed to provide equitable access to information and services for our diverse communities. Assigning funds to these projects will ensure continued access to a facility that provides a safe and effective location for the delivery of certain community services and ensure important community access.

No applications or eligibility are required for projects in this expenditure category, as the County is utilizing EC 6.1.

d. *Outcomes*

The County has developed practices and procedures that incorporate inclusivity as a priority in the delivery of services and access to community facilities. Merced County is responsible to serve some of California's most vulnerable populations, and works tirelessly with Department staff and community agencies to ensure that all residents are provided with the opportunity to access services and critical information. Throughout the Community Outreach and Engagement process, the County was able to receive responses from the community to direct decisions being made for ARPA-SLFRF spending priorities. The delivery of information and requests for information from the community was solicited in various platforms and languages, which resulted in valuable feedback from the public. Staff were able to more accurately assess the priorities of the community and provide informed recommendations for consideration by the Board of Supervisors. Although new programs are not being developed specifically with the use of ARPA-SLFRF funds, the County will continue to ensure that equity and access continues to be a priority for our local residents in existing programs and services. Updates on project progress and information pertaining to ARPA-SLFRF will be provided in current and future reports.

e. *Current Efforts to Promote Equity*

Efforts to promote equity as part of the County's work includes the provision of information and public notices in multiple languages according to the County's demographic needs; information provided in both electronic and hard copy formats; contracts with community agencies and organizations for community and culturally-specific outreach, trusted messengers, and translation services; ongoing relationships with community and culturally specific media outlets; language translation services and capability and the opportunity for residents to provide public comment through a variety of methods, including email, phone and in-person during public meetings.

These efforts are representative of the County’s overall goals of providing greater access to critical government services, and will continue through the use of ARPA-SLFRF funding under EC 6.1.

f. Distribution of Funding

The Merced County ARPA-SLFRF allocation is being utilized as Revenue Replacement, (EC 6.1) to support the provision of ongoing government services and projects. Based on community feedback received through the community outreach and engagement process, the County has fully allocated it’s ARPA-SLFRF funding. On June 7, 2022, the Board of Supervisors approved the SLFRF project allocations in its final version as follows:

Programmatic Category		Allocation
1.	Homeless Services	\$4.0M
2.	COVID-19 Support	\$0.9M
3.	Community Facilities	\$22.4M
4.	Flood Control/Water	\$7.2M
5.	Roads	\$10.0M
6.	Public Safety	\$6.5M
7.	COVID-19 Pandemic Payment	\$3.0M

Projects have been identified through community engagement which create benefit for residents and address high priority structural improvements necessary for continuity of services and critical access for community members at centralized location points. The County is largely comprised of traditionally marginalized communities, and important work within those communities has to be accessible due to the geographical layout. The Project Inventory included in this Performance Report provides details for projects contained within County’s approved framework.

Community Engagement

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the County has been working closely with local agencies to provide continuity of service delivery. The County held its first public presentation related to ARPA-SLFRF on August 10, 2021 as part of its early community engagement efforts. At the September 21, 2021 Board of Supervisors regularly scheduled public meeting, ARPA-SLFRF funds were allocated to eligible project expenses under the County’s framework for Community Facilities and Water/Flood Control programmatic categories. Materials for this action and opportunity for public comment was made available to residents online, by phone and in-person.

Beginning in October 2021, and through January 2022, County staff utilized various platforms to seek community feedback related to ARPA-SLFRF spending priorities. A survey was hosted on the County’s website to obtain responses from Merced County residents. One virtual session and nine in-person sessions were conducted throughout

the county to provide information about the ARPA-SLFRF program and solicit community feedback. Text messages were sent to cell phone numbers within the county to provide convenient access to the survey link on mobile devices. Additionally, a mass mailer with return postage was delivered to each local household, which included a copy of the survey and information about other COVID-19 resources. Social media was used to promote each community event and encourage residents to take the survey. The survey and all ARPA related materials were available in multiple languages, which included translation services during in-person meetings. Staff compiled all survey results and comments made during public meetings as part of an analysis for community spending priorities of ARPA-SLFRF funds. The results of the community survey are available online and can be viewed at:

[ARPA-SLFRF-Merced-County-Community-Survey](#)

On February 8, 2022, the Board of Supervisors held a public hearing to receive the survey results and public comment during the outreach meetings. Direction was provided for ARPA-SLFRF funding allocations based on community feedback. Ultimately, the Board of Supervisors approved the use of SLFRF funds for projects under EC 6.1 - Revenue Replacement, which is supported by Treasury's revenue loss formula. Details were provided for the County's project framework, which identified specific projects to be funded and included Homeless Services, COVID-19 Support, Community Facilities, Flood Control/Water, Roads, and Public Safety. The opportunity to provide comment was provided to the public during the hearing.

On June 7, 2022, the Board approved recommendations to allocate remaining ARPA-SLFRF funding to the project framework, which included adjustments based on community feedback. An additional programmatic category of COVID-19 Pandemic Payment was added to the framework to issue one-time payments to employees who worked from March 1, 2020 through February 28, 2022. As in previous meetings, agenda materials and ARPA information was referenced and available during the meeting as well as online through the County's website. The public was afforded the opportunity to comment.

The County will continue to schedule periodic updates and presentations to the Board of Supervisors to provide updates on the status of allocated projects. These presentations will be part of the public meeting's published agenda and members of the public will have the ability to make comment.

Labor Practices

Merced County is utilizing (EC 6.1) Revenue Replacement – Provision of Government Services. Merced County follows all appropriate Federal and State labor practice rules during the normal course of service.

Use of Evidence

Merced County is expending the funds under category EC 6.1. There are no new programs requiring evidence-based interventions planned for development specifically for the use of this funding. Funds are being allocated to sustain services and projects throughout communities in the County that would have otherwise been impacted due to revenue reductions as a result of COVID-19. The identified projects were selected and prioritized based on community feedback received during the community outreach and engagement process, including community survey results. The County is currently evaluating new programmatic and partnership opportunities funded through the other sections of ARPA.

Performance Report

Merced County is expending its full ARPA-SLFRF allocation under EC 6.1 Revenue Replacement – Provision of Government Services. There are no mandatory performance indicators required for this expenditure category. As a matter of course, the County complies with all State and Federal Regulations during the regular conduct of business for government procurement, contracting, and government accounting and auditing procedures. For the purposes of tracking and reporting ARPA-SLFRF expenditures, each project performance indicators are outlined in the Project Inventory, and all projects will include, at a minimum, indicators for monitoring timeframes for obligation and expense for the timely completion of projects. There are no new ongoing programs being created or funded through the use of the County’s ARPA-SLFRF allocation.

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
6 Expenditure Category: Revenue Replacement			
6.1	Provision of Government Services	\$4,632,075.80	\$4,094,410.80

PROJECT INVENTORY

Project CF1: Community Facilities 1

Funding amount: \$6,663,087

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

Project overview

This project fits within the Community Facilities programmatic category and includes building and infrastructure improvements made to public-use facilities and open park space. The list of projects funded during this reporting period include:

Community Facilities 1 (CF1) Project List	
Merced Library Handrails	Ballico Park Irrigation
Gustine Veterans Hall & ADA	Henderson Park Bat Removal
Livingston Veterans Hall ADA	Bicentennial Grove Septic System
Le Grand Community Hall	Yosemite Lake Boat Dock
Le Grand Municipal Court Roof Replacement	Courthouse Park Irrigation System
Santa Nella Roof Replacement	Le Grand Park Irrigation System
Hot Coals Containers Countywide	Henderson Park Split Rail Fencing
Livingston Veterans Hall Water Repair	Spring Fair: Water System/Irrigation
HVAC: Ballico Veterans Hall	Yosemite Lake Walking Pier
HVAC: Courthouse Museum	HVAC: Winton Veterans Hall
HVAC: Del Hale Community Hall	HVAC: Germino Building
HVAC: El Nido Community Hall	HVAC: Le Grand Muni Court
Livingston Library Public Service Counter	HVAC: Le Grand Veterans Hall
Los Banos Library Public Service Counter	HVAC: Planada Community Hall
HVAC: Winton Community Hall	HVAC: Stevinson Veterans Hall
Merced Library Book Elevator Replacement	Le Grand Library Roof
Snelling Library Roof	
Broadway Park Irrigation/Sidewalk/Landscape	

Use of Evidence

Funds are being utilized through category EC 6.1 – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services. No new evidence-based interventions or evaluations for new programs are currently being developed under this funding category.

Merced County is utilizing ARPA funding for (EC 6.1) – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services; EC 1, EC 2, EC 3 expenditure category reporting requirements do not apply at this time.

Performance Indicators

Key performance indicators under the Community Facilities (CF1) include monitoring timeframes related to the establishment of the project, allocation and obligation of funding, expenditure of the funding within the established timeframes of the ARPA-SLFRF program, and completion of the project within the established allocation. This project was established during the 2021 reporting period, and activities (as shown above) are continuing into the current reporting period. As of this reporting period, \$2,617,465.54 of the total allocation to this project has been spent. This amount represents 39% of the funding allocated for this project.

County staff will continue to monitor the progress of the activities under this project to ensure timely completion.

Project CF2: Community Facilities 2

Funding amount: \$11,059,500

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

Project Overview

This programming category includes building and infrastructure improvements made to public-use facilities and open park space. The list of facility projects funded during this reporting period include:

Community Facilities 2 (CF2) Project List	
HVAC: Atwater Veterans Hall	Atwater Library Public Service Counter
HVAC: Delhi Senior Citizens Center	Gustine Library Public Service Counter
HVAC: Gustine Veterans Hall	Hoffman Teen Center Construction
HVAC: Hilmar Community Hall	Delhi Shattack Park Upgrades
HVAC: Livingston Veterans Hall	Delhi Parkland Purchase
HVAC: Los Banos Veterans Hall	Atwater Library Roof
HVAC: Merced Library	Le Grand Veterans Hall Roof
HVAC: County Administration Building	Old Courthouse Museum Roof

Use of Evidence

Funds are being utilized through category EC 6.1 – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services. No new evidence-based interventions or evaluations for new programs are currently being developed under this funding category.

Merced County is utilizing ARPA funding for (EC 6.1) – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services; EC 1, EC 2, EC 3 expenditure category reporting requirements do not apply at this time.

Performance Indicators

Key performance indicators under the Community Facilities 2 (CF2) include monitoring timeframes related to the establishment of the project, allocation and obligation of funding, expenditure of the funding within the established timeframes of the ARPA-SLFRF program, and completion of the project within the established allocation. This project was established in February 2022 and is new for this reporting period. As of the end of this reporting period, \$737,964.38 of the total allocation to this project has been spent. This amount represents 7% of the funding allocated for this project.

County staff will continue to monitor the progress of the activities under this project to ensure timely completion.

Project CF3: Community Facilities 3

Funding amount: \$4,600,000

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

Project Overview

This programming category includes building and infrastructure improvements made to public-use facilities and open park space. The list of facility projects funded during this reporting period include:

Community Facilities 3 (CF3) Project List	
Community Park 42 Project	Germino Building Retrofit
Delhi Education Park Restrooms	Hagaman Park Restrooms
Franklin Beachwood Environmental and Park Design	
Santa Nella Park Environmental and Park Design	

Use of Evidence

Funds are being utilized through category EC 6.1 – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services. No new evidence-based interventions or evaluations for new programs are currently being developed under this funding category.

Merced County is utilizing ARPA funding for (EC 6.1) – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services; EC 1, EC 2, EC 3 expenditure category reporting requirements do not apply at this time.

Performance Indicators

Key performance indicators under the Community Facilities 3 (CF3) include monitoring timeframes related to the establishment of the project, allocation and obligation of funding, expenditure of the funding within the established timeframes of the ARPA-SLFRF program, and completion of the project within the established allocation. This project was established in June 2022 and is new for this reporting period. As of the end of this reporting period, no funds have been spent.

County staff will continue to monitor the progress of the activities under this project to ensure timely completion.

Project CS1: COVID-19 Support 1

Funding amount: \$302,428

Project Expenditure Category: EC 6.1, Revenue Replacement -- Provision of Government Services

Project overview

This programming category includes costs associated with County staff and other resources that were devoted to responding to the unique needs of the pandemic and certain vaccination clinics. Specific costs and activities include:

COVID-19 Support 1 (CS1) Project List	
EMFLA for employees	Administrative and Sick Leave
Data Collection Management	Outreach equipment
Personal protective equipment	Vaccination Clinics
Support costs, including: software, supplies, janitorial services	

Use of Evidence

Funds are being utilized through category EC 6.1 – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services. No new evidence-based interventions or evaluations for new programs are currently being developed under this funding category.

Merced County is utilizing ARPA funding for (EC 6.1) – Revenue Replacement – Provision of Government Services; EC 1, EC 2, EC 3 expenditure category reporting requirements do not apply at this time.

Performance Indicators

Key Performance indicators for activities under the COVID-19 Support activities included the number of residents served by County-assisted vaccination clinics, as shown in the following table:

Facility	HF #s from County Data Report May - June
Merced County Department of Public Health	203
OptumServe dba Logistics Health-Merced & Atwater	1,552
SnapMedTech, Inc dba SnapNurse Merced	509
WellPath John Latorraca Correctional Facility	124
WellPath Merced County Jail	64
TOTALS	2,452

This project was completed during the 2021 reporting period.

Project CS2: COVID-19 Support 2

Funding amount: \$100,000

Project Expenditure Category: EC 6.1, Revenue Replacement -- Provision of Government Services

Project overview

Items included in this project are related to ARPA community engagement and outreach activities, which includes: language translation services for ARPA public meetings (languages offered were Spanish, Hmong, and Punjabi); a text messaging service to promote community survey on the use of ARPA-SLFRF funding; IT support; miscellaneous supplies; community-specific outreach to the Hmong community; and a mass mailer with return postage containing the ARPA survey and other COVID-related information. Remaining funds under this category will be used to continue to provide public information and assistance regarding the County's ARPA-SLFRF allocation and associated activities.

Use of Evidence

Funds are being utilized through category EC 6.1 – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services. No new evidence-based interventions or evaluations for new programs are currently being developed under this funding category.

Merced County is utilizing ARPA funding for (EC 6.1) – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services; EC 1, EC 2, EC 3 expenditure category reporting requirements do not apply at this time.

Performance Indicators

Key performance indicators for this project include timeframes related to the establishment of the project, allocation and obligation of funding, expenditure of the funding within the established timeframes of the ARPA-SLFRF program, and completion of the project within the established allocation. Indicators of the community engagement project also includes the number of public meetings, the response rate for the survey, and the languages provided. During this reporting period \$62,663.80 has been spent. This amount represents 62% of the total allocation under this project.

During this reporting period, the County completed an outreach process that included one (1) virtual information session and nine (9) in-person meetings providing information and requesting feedback on the County's ARPA-SLFRF allocation. Meetings provided materials and translation services in three (3) languages: English, Spanish and Hmong.

The survey included seven (7) questions requesting residents to identify project priorities within the eligibility framework set forth by Treasury. The format of the survey was offered in English, Spanish and Hmong and included multiple choice, priority ranking, as well as space for free-form text responses to allow residents to express the need in their community and desired projects. The survey was available online at the County's website. Outreach was provided through a countywide text messaging campaign, which provided mobile access to the survey as well. Additionally, a countywide mailing to residential addresses provided a hard-copy of the survey, with

return postage, to allow for alternative options of completion. Over 9,000 surveys were received from community members. Results of the survey are available online and can be viewed at:

[ARPA-SLFRF-Merced-County-Community-Survey](#)

Project CS3: COVID-19 Support 3

Funding amount: \$350,000

Project Expenditure Category: EC 6.1 Revenue Replacement- Provision of Government Services

Project overview

This project was established during this reporting period as part of Board of Supervisors action in February 2022. The allocation is effective for Fiscal Year 2022-2023, and project scope is still under development. Funds will be utilized in support of County vaccination and testing services, which includes materials, equipment, PPE, and other supportive services.

Use of Evidence

Funds are being utilized through category EC 6.1 – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services. No new evidence-based interventions or evaluations for new programs are currently being developed under this funding category.

Merced County is utilizing ARPA funding for (EC 6.1) – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services; EC 1, EC 2, EC 3 expenditure category reporting requirements do not apply at this time.

Performance Indicators

Performance indicators for this project will include monitoring timeframes related to the establishment of the project, allocation and obligation of funding, expenditure of the funding within the established timeframes of the ARPA SLFRF program, and completion of the project within the established allocation. Specific metrics and performance indicators are under development will be further specified in a later report once activities under this project are identified and a scope is finalized.

Project CS4: COVID-19 Support 4

Funding amount: \$161,070

Project Expenditure Category: EC 6.1 Revenue Replacement- Provision of Government Services

Project overview

This project was established during this reporting period as part of Board of Supervisors action in April 2022 and is in response to the impact of the COVID-19 closures to schools and business, and the need for remote work and learning. It has

long been recognized that the County includes rural and low-income areas that lack adequate broadband infrastructure and access for residents. Funds will be utilized in partnership with the City of Merced for the development of a countywide Broadband Strategic Plan which will identify critical areas of need and help position the County for greater leverage for future State and Federal broadband infrastructure funding.

Use of Evidence

Funds are being utilized through category EC 6.1 – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services. No new evidence-based interventions or evaluations for new programs are currently being developed under this funding category.

Merced County is utilizing ARPA funding for (EC 6.1) – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services; EC 1, EC 2, EC 3 expenditure category reporting requirements do not apply at this time.

Performance Indicators

Performance indicators for this project will include monitoring timeframes related to the establishment of the project, allocation and obligation of funding, expenditure of the funding within the established timeframes of the ARPA-SLFRF program, and completion of the project within the established allocation. Funding allocated under this project will be used as a contribution to the development of a Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan will be made available once completed. As of this reporting period, \$46,020 has been spent. This amount represents almost 29% of the total allocation under this project.

Project FC1: Black Rascal Creek Flood Control Project 1

Funding amount: \$7,200,000

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

Project overview

Merced County in prior years has experienced multiple flood events and property damages due to a lack of updated flood control measures. The purpose of this project is the development, improvement and operation of flood control measures in order to prevent future flooding. Funding of \$2.5 million was allocated, starting in Fiscal Year 2021-2022 and an additional allocation of \$4.7 million was allocated, starting in Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Items included in this project are county costs associated with flood control on Black Rascal Creek. Expenditures during this reporting period include applicable streambed alteration fees, studies, permitting, application, and engineering related to flood control measures and improvements moving forward for Black Rascal Creek. This is a multi-year project.

Use of Evidence

Funds are being utilized through category EC 6.1 – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services. No new evidence-based interventions or evaluations for new programs are currently being developed under this funding category.

Merced County is utilizing ARPA funding for (EC 6.1) – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services; EC 1, EC 2, EC 3 expenditure category reporting requirements do not apply at this time.

Performance Indicators

Key performance indicators under the Black Rascal Creek Flood Control Project (FC1) include monitoring timeframes related to the establishment of the project, allocation and obligation of funding, expenditure of the funding within the established timeframes of the ARPA-SLFRF program, and completion of the project within the established allocation. This project was established during the previous reporting period, and activities (as shown above) are continuing. As of this reporting period, \$120,322.34 of the total allocation to this project has been spent. This amount represents 1% of the funding allocated for this project.

County staff will continue to monitor the progress of the activities under this project to ensure timely completion.

Project PP1: Pandemic Payment 1

Funding amount: \$3,000,000

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

Project overview

The County recognizes that the COVID-19 Pandemic caused unprecedented challenges to communities, families and individuals in all aspects of everyday life. County employees are essential to the continuation of government services and day-to-day business required by the County residents. The County also recognizes the ongoing dedication and commitment to their work as demonstrated by employees while continuing to face challenges presented by COVID-19. One-time funds under this project will be allocated to current employees as part of their salary in the amount of up to \$1,500.

Use of Evidence

Funds are being utilized through category EC 6.1 – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services. No new evidence-based interventions or evaluations for new programs are currently being developed under this funding category.

Merced County is utilizing ARPA funding for (EC 6.1) – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services; EC 1, EC 2, EC 3 expenditure category reporting requirements do not apply at this time.

Performance Indicators

Key performance indicators under the Pandemic Payment (PP1) include monitoring timeframes related to the establishment of the project, allocation and obligation of funding, expenditure of the funding within the established timeframes of the ARPA-SLFRF program, and completion of the project within the established allocation. The timeline of expense for this project is anticipated to be completed in Fiscal Year 2022-2023. This project was established as of June 2022 during this reporting period. As of this reporting period, \$745,211.74 of the total allocation to this project has been spent. This amount represents close to 25% of the funding allocated for this project.

County staff will continue to monitor the progress of the activities under this project to ensure timely completion.

Project HS1: Homeless Services 1

Funding amount: \$4,000,000

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

Project overview

The County recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic caused unprecedented challenges to communities, families and individuals in all aspects of everyday life. This includes exacerbating the challenges faced by individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at-risk for homelessness. As part of the outreach efforts, the County received feedback from its residents that homelessness was a key need and priority within its communities. The County currently operates a Homeless Navigation Center that provides emergency shelter services, as well as resources and referrals to mental health services, job search assistance and financial assistance. This project was established in February 2022 and is new for this reporting period. Funding has been set aside beginning in Fiscal Year 2022-2023 with additional allocations in Fiscal Years 2024-2025, and 2025-2026. The scope and activities to be funded under this allocation are currently under development and will include support for the Homeless Navigation Center operations and existing county funded emergency shelter projects.

Use of Evidence

Funds are being utilized through category EC 6.1 – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services. No new evidence-based interventions or evaluations for new programs are currently being developed under this funding category.

Merced County is utilizing ARPA funding for (EC 6.1) – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services; EC 1, EC 2, EC 3 expenditure category reporting requirements do not apply at this time.

Performance Indicators

Key performance indicators under the Homeless Services (HS1) include monitoring timeframes related to the establishment of the project, allocation and obligation of funding, expenditure of the funding within the established timeframes of the ARPA-SLFRF program, and completion of the project within the established allocation. As of this reporting period, no funding has been spent, as the allocation was set-aside for future years.

Performance indicators and population information are currently under development will be outlined once the project planning phase is completed.

Project PS1: Public Safety 1

Funding amount: \$6,500,000

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

Project overview

As part of the Board Action in February 2022, the County allocated \$6,500,000 to support ARPA eligible public-safety costs in Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Funds allocated under this project will be used towards employee salaries and benefits, and other eligible costs in Sheriff Operations and Corrections.

Use of Evidence

Funds are being utilized through category EC 6.1 – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services. No new evidence-based interventions or evaluations for new programs are currently being developed under this funding category.

Merced County is utilizing ARPA funding for (EC 6.1) – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services; EC 1, EC 2, EC 3 expenditure category reporting requirements do not apply at this time.

Performance Indicators

Key performance indicators under the Public Safety (PS1) will include monitoring timeframes related to the establishment of the project, allocation and obligation of funding, expenditure of the funding within the established timeframes of the ARPA SLFRF program, and completion of the project within the established allocation. As of this reporting period, no funding has been spent, as the allocation was set-aside for a future year.

Project RD1: Roads 1

Funding amount: \$10,000,000

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

Project overview

As part of the Board Action in June 2022, the County allocated \$10,000,000 to support Road improvement costs beginning in Fiscal Year 2022-2023. This allocation was made in response to the dire road repair needs throughout county communities. Local road repair was consistently reported as a high priority throughout the survey results compiled during the County’s community outreach efforts, and feedback from residents in favor of road repairs is ongoing. Funds allocated under this project will be used for road repairs in each of the five County districts. Allocation of funding to each of the districts was based the number of maintained miles in each district as a percent of the total, as follows:

Roads (RD1) Project Allocation			
District	Maintained Miles	% of Miles	Allocation by Miles
1	395.7	22.9%	\$2,290,000
2	39.7	2.3%	\$230,000
3	105.8	6.1%	\$610,000
4	690.7	40%	\$4,000,000
5	495.9	28.7%	\$2,870,000
TOTAL	1727.8	100.0%	\$10,000,000

Use of Evidence

Funds are being utilized through category EC 6.1 – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services. No new evidence-based interventions or evaluations for new programs are currently being developed under this funding category.

Merced County is utilizing ARPA funding for (EC 6.1) – Revenue Replacement Provision of Government Services; EC 1, EC 2, EC 3 expenditure category reporting requirements do not apply at this time.

Performance Indicators

Key performance indicators under the RD1 project will include monitoring timeframes related to the establishment of the project, allocation and obligation of funding, expenditure of the funding within the established timeframes of the ARPA-SLFRF program, and completion of the project within the established allocation. Monitoring will include the identification of individual road repairs (activity) for each District, and the expenditure of the funds per district.

As of this reporting period no funding has yet been spent.