

Montgomery County, Texas
Recovery Plan

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

As of July 27, 2023 Report

Montgomery County, Texas
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Recovery Plan

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

The Montgomery County Commissioners Court has allocated American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) since its inception to address the impact and recovery of the COVID-19 pandemic and address opportunities needed to prepare for future such events in alignment with U.S. Treasury Rules. Of the \$117.96 Million received by the County \$98.78 Million has been encumbered or spent with \$19.18 Million left to be allocated to various strategies for recovery.

As of June 30, 2023, \$98.78 million have been spent or encumbered to address the immediate needs of the county to stop the spread of COVID-19 and respond to the needs of the public during the ongoing public health emergency.

As the county continues to recover from the major effects of COVID-19, the virus continues to be persistent and spread throughout the community exists as of the date of this report. As a result, the County Commissioners Court has methodically utilized SLFRF funds to ensure we have adequate resources to address the pandemic for the entirety of the performance period.

Current major challenges is the rapid spread of the Omicron variant and sub variants that are highly infections and transmissible. This requires constant adjustments to the County's response to help limit impact before additional recovery can move forward. As such, the county's plan for utilizing SLFRF funds in on track and on time.

Uses of Funds

Montgomery County's encumbrance of funds has provided direction to County staff on projects that need to be developed and implemented over the American Rescue Plan applicable period. Each category has specific projects to be developed. A general project identification for the allotments already approved by the Commissioners Court are:

Nursing Staff for Hospitals - \$10,758,719 (Completed Project)

The Delta Variant began to become the prevalent strain of COVID-19 in Montgomery during the Month of July 2021. As the surge of patients began to hit our county hospitals, the hospitals became stressed with the larger volume of patients. The need for temporary surge staffing was identified and approved by the Commissioners Court. Contracts with a staffing agency have been approved. As of July 2023 \$10.7 Million has been spent or encumbered on surge staffing at local hospitals. The project ended in December of 2021 and since such time hospital staffing has been adequate to address the number of COVID-19 patients. Currently a surge of cases is underway and the county will continue to monitor and evaluate the need for staffing within our communities hospitals. At this time surge staffing is not expected to be needed, but should a new variant or sub-variant emerge, surge staffing could be needed across Montgomery County.

Procurement of Medical Supplies and Protective Equipment- \$ 536,111.20

Montgomery County Commissioners Court has authorized the Montgomery County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management to procure any necessary medical supplies and protective equipment needed to address the ongoing pandemic throughout the county. MCOHSEM will identify any needs within the county at all of our first responder organizations both internal and external and support local healthcare facilities as needed on an emergency supply basis.

Behavioral Health Initiative- \$25.9 million

Montgomery County Commissioners Court has made addressing the ongoing behavioral health crisis a top priority. The court has identified providing funding for our county's mental health authority and provider to increase staffing and provide additional treatment capabilities across the broad spectrum of behavioral health care. Additionally, the Court recognized the immediate need for additional crisis intervention officers to be able to respond to 911 calls for mental crisis. Additional Behavioral Health Initiatives are underdevelopment as of the of this report.

Increased support staff for Sanitizing, Vaccine Distribution and Medical Facilities-
\$100,000

Montgomery County Commissioners Court has previously approved the use of overtime for additional custodial personnel to make additional cleaning rounds throughout county buildings during the business day. In addition to keeping, our buildings sanitized while the public are able to access them each operational day, the court has increased the use of traffic control and crowd control measures at our vaccine distribution events and ongoing Monoclonal Antibodies infusion center. These deputies are there to ensure the safety of patients and staff alike, while keeping traffic moving for ease of use.

Emergency Response Equipment- \$ 3,572,892

Montgomery County Commissioners Court recognizes the immediate needs of the county and first responder organizations to have adequate emergency response equipment to address the demands of our population. The Court has approved the County to facilitate the acquisition of specialized emergency response equipment and mobile emergency operations centers to better address the response capabilities of the county and our law enforcement, emergency medical services and fire agencies throughout the county.

Emergency Rental Assistance Administrative Cost- \$40,000

Commissioners Court identified an online application portal, which provides applicants easier access to ERA funds and quicker turnaround for application processing.

Revenue Replacement- \$10 Million

Montgomery County Commissioners Court elected to utilize the standard revenue replacement calculation afforded by ARPA Final Rule. To date the majority of these funds have been unspent and a portion of funds spent to date can be found in the Expenditure Table below.

Tamina Water and Sewer Project- \$21 Million (Encumbered)

Montgomery County recognizes the importance of clean water and sewer and the availability of ARPA funds to be utilized on these types of projects was made a priority in 2022. Historically the Tamina Community has had running water but no sanitary sewer. The water system became outdated and in severe need of replacement with the possibility of total failure. Due to Texas law, Montgomery County has had to collaborate with a municipality to provide the services required to complete this project. In 2022, the County Judge made the replacement of Tamina's water system and addition of the sanitary sewer a top priority. Shenandoah agreed to provide the services and act as the project manager to complete a total new water and sewer system to the historic community of Tamina. This project is expected to cost \$21 million and will be complete by the end of 2026.

Unallocated and Under Review - \$19.18 million

In the midst of the Omicron variant it has become increasingly obvious the needs to continually review the use of ARPA – SLFRF to best address COVID-19 will be required. Montgomery County Commissioners Court wishes to ensure the use of these funds maximize the community's needs to mitigate, respond and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. Future projects and strategies will be identified in the coming months as the community recovers from another surge caused by the Omicron variant and sub variants.

Promoting equitable outcomes

Commissioners Court has identified one major Clean Water and Sewer project that is in design and permitting phases at this time. This project would highly promote equitable outcomes and serve a large low to moderate income subset of the county. Community engagement occurred in most of 2022 with the project being out for procurement through our partners with the City of Shenandoah.

Community Engagement

The Tamina Community for years has been plagued with poor water quality and faulty water systems. In 2022, the County Judge identified utilizing ARPA funds to replace the water system and upgrade the community to have a working sewer system as a top priority. During the year community leaders and stakeholders were engaged on the feasibility of a water and sewer system being designed and built out with ARPA funds. Due to Texas laws Montgomery County cannot be in the water and sewer business and therefore the City of Shenandoah, the adjacent municipality to Tamina was engaged to be a partner on this project. As of December 31, 2022, \$21 million has been allocated to allow Shenandoah to build out a new water plant in Tamina, add sanitary sewer lines and connect every home at no cost to the homeowner to both new systems. Shenandoah will provide water and sewer in perpetuity at in-city rates to the community. This project is expected to be complete by the end of 2026.

Labor Practices

Projects for infrastructure will address labor practices in their plans if identified and awarded by Commissioners Court.

Use of Evidence

Projects in categories requiring an evidence based approach will be provided in the project plans during adoption by Commissioners Court.

Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
1	Expenditure Category: Public Health	\$23,756,901.14	\$8,446,454.61
1.1	COVID-19 Vaccination		
1.2	COVID-19 Testing	\$36,790.80	0.00
1.3	COVID-19 Contact Tracing		
1.4	Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, etc.)		
1.5	Personal Protective Equipment	\$220,666.31	\$65,145.44
1.6	Medical Expenses (including Alternative Care Facilities)	\$10,758,719.66	\$0
1.7	Capital Investments or Physical Plant Changes to Public Facilities that respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency		
1.8	Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)	\$171,217.50	\$0
1.9	Payroll Costs for Public Health, Safety, and Other Public Sector Staff Responding to COVID-19	\$96,551.43	\$6,487.32
1.10	Mental Health Services	\$10,069,861.58	\$6,153,329.47
1.11	Community Violence Interventions	\$2,069,102.17	\$2,069,102.17

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
1.12	Other Public Health Services	\$333,991.69	\$152,390.21
2	Expenditure Category: Negative Economic Impacts	\$0	\$0
2.1	Household Assistance: Food Programs		
2.2	Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid		
2.3	Household Assistance: Cash Transfers		
2.4	Household Assistance: Internet Access Programs		
2.5	Household Assistance: Eviction Prevention		
2.6	Unemployment Benefits or Cash Assistance to Unemployed Workers		
2.7	Job Training Assistance (e.g., Sectoral job-training, Subsidized Employment, Employment Supports or Incentives)		
2.8	Contributions to UI Trust Funds*		
2.9	Small Business Economic Assistance		

	(General)		
2.10	Aid to nonprofit organizations		
2.11	Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality		
2.12	Aid to Other Impacted Industries		
2.13	Other Economic Support		
2.14	Rehiring Public Sector Staff		
3	Expenditure Category: Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities	\$0	\$0
3.1	Education Assistance: Early Learning		
3.2	Education Assistance: Aid to High-Poverty Districts		
3.3	Education Assistance: Academic Services		
3.4	Education Assistance: Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Services		
3.5	Education Assistance: Other		
3.6	Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care		
3.7	Healthy Childhood Environments: Home Visiting		
3.8	Healthy Childhood Environments: Services to Foster Youth or Families Involved in Child Welfare System		
3.9	Healthy Childhood Environments: Other		
3.10	Housing Support: Affordable Housing		
3.11	Housing Support: Services for Unhoused persons		
3.12	Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance		
3.13	Social Determinants of Health: Other		

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
3.14	Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators		
3.15	Social Determinants of Health: Lead Remediation		
3.16	Social Determinants of Health: Community Violence Interventions		
4	Expenditure Category: Premium Pay	\$0	\$0
4.1	Public Sector Employees		
4.2	Private Sector: Grants to other employers		
5	Expenditure Category: Infrastructure	\$4,455,030.00	\$4,200,000.00
5.1	Clean Water: Centralized wastewater treatment		

5.2	Clean Water: Centralized wastewater collection and conveyance		
5.3	Clean Water: Decentralized wastewater		
5.4	Clean Water: Combined sewer overflows		
5.5	Clean Water: Other sewer infrastructure		
5.6	Clean Water: Stormwater		
5.7	Clean Water: Energy conservation		
5.8	Clean Water: Water conservation		
5.9	Clean Water: Nonpoint source		
5.10	Drinking water: Treatment		
5.11	Drinking water: Transmission & distribution		
5.12	Drinking water: Transmission & distribution: lead remediation		
5.13	Drinking water: Source		
5.14	Drinking water: Storage		
5.15	Drinking water: Other water infrastructure		
5.16	Broadband: "Last Mile" projects	\$255,030.00	\$0.00
5.18	Water and Sewer: Other	\$4,200,000.00	\$4,200,000.00
6	Expenditure Category: Revenue Replacement	\$5,128,806.82	\$3,048,004.51
6.1	Provision of Government Services	\$5,128,806.82	\$3,048,004.51
7	Administrative and Other	\$644,557.84	\$418,443.59
7.1	Administrative Expenses	\$644,557.84	\$418,443.59
7.2	Evaluation and data analysis		
7.3	Transfers to Other Units of Government		
7.4	Transfers to Nonentitlement Units (States and Territories only)		

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