Rockland County

Recovery Plan Performance Report

**County of Rockland
State and Local Fiscal
Recovery Funds**

July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023

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Executive Summary

The American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funding has provided very crucial and significant financial assistance to the County to address the multifaceted challenges from COVID-19 while also promoting the overall well-being of its many diverse communities. The infusion of ARPA funds into the County's communities has allowed for the County to drive sustainable recovery, support vulnerable populations, and invest in critical infrastructure and public services. SLFRF funding is of immense importance for Rockland County, as it empowers the County to address the pressing challenges, accelerate recovery, and build a more resilient and prosperous community. By strategically allocating these funds across key areas such as economic recovery, health and human services, small businesses and not for profits, housing, and infrastructure, Rockland can lay the foundation for long-term sustainable growth and a brighter future for its residents. As the County continues to navigate through the SLFRF expenditures, it will continue to conduct participatory meetings with various stakeholders.

The County, all branches of Government, and community members/organizations, share a common goal of successfully reviving and rebuilding the County of Rockland. Together, we will maintain a focus on promoting resilience, bridging County-wide gaps, fostering mutual working relationships, and establishing community level buy-in to build a healthier and sustainable environment within the County of Rockland for generations to come.

> *"There is not a single person who was not impacted in some way, shape or form by the COVID-19 pandemic. While we have made great progress in recovering from the multi-faceted impacts of COVID-19 we must do more to support our families, local organizations, businesses and first responders.*
>
> *To ensure our recovery stays on track, we will utilize the $63.18 million in funding Rockland is receiving from the American Rescue plan for programs encompassing everything including mental health services, food security initiatives, support for businesses and frontline workers, and affordable housing.*
>
> *These programs will help ensure our economic recovery stays on track and we encourage all eligible entities to apply as soon as possible. These last two years have been difficult for all of us and we in County government are doing all that we can to Revive and Rebuild Rockland."*

- County Executive Ed Day, County Legislature Chairman Jay Hood Jr.

Use of Funds

The County of Rockland, through the ARPA department, has maintained a clear objective to uphold a continuous emphasis of encouraging a renewed focus on human rights, equal and equitable opportunity, cultural competence, and humility when acknowledging the *Final Rule* and its forward-looking approach to a capacity building, sustainable long-term ideology in allocating SLFRF funds. Through a more holistic approach with community engagement opportunities, studies, and meta-analysis, the County has used the SLFRF funds to support a more equitable and stronger built environment; both internally and externally. Observing the issues and evaluating our solutions through the lens of the many social determinants of health within our County, we created a **Whole Person, Whole Community, Whole County** approach to reviving and rebuilding Rockland. The spending plan spans across many expenditure categories that tie into the bigger picture.

One of the most important models we identified to gain perspective through the many lenses of the social determinants of health that affected our residents, was the Socioecological Framework (pictured below).The framework acknowledges the individuals' behaviors and choices that are influenced by multiple interconnected factors, organizes factors into different levels of influence, helps identify determinants of health and well-being that may have been overlooked, and allows for a better understanding of the interplay of various factors. The framework is particularly valuable in addressing health disparities and promoting healthy equity, addressing more complex issues that cannot be addressed adequately through individual interventions alone, emphasizes the intricate relationship between individuals and the natural environment, and provides an essential lens through which to view and address the various challenges our County faced during the pandemic. By using this model, the County created interventions that are more effectively targeted to specific populations and settings.

REVIVING THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Developing Opportunities:

1. **Capacity Building and Sustainability**: ARPA funds offer a unique opportunity to invest in workforce development initiatives and infrastructure projects, to revitalize industries, create new jobs, and boost the overall economic resilience of the County.

2. **Health and Human Services**: The ARPA funding presents a lifeline for Rockland County's health and human services sector. The allocation of funds towards public health initiatives, mental health services, and healthcare infrastructure improvements can enhance the County's ability to respond to future health emergencies and improve overall community well-being.

3. **Housing**: The availability of ARPA funds enables Rockland County to address housing challenges within our many communities. By investing in affordable housing programs, the funding can help alleviate the housing crisis and provide stability to vulnerable populations.

4. **Infrastructure and Resilience**: ARPA funding offers an opportunity to invest in critical infrastructure projects that enhance the County's resilience to future challenges. This includes mitigating climate change risks and promoting sustainable development and building safer neighborhoods. Through investments in community buy-in and relationship building across various stakeholders, the projects ensure a more resilient and connected County.

5. **Small Business Support:** ARPA funds play a pivotal role in assisting small businesses and fostering entrepreneurial growth. Through grants, the funding help local businesses recover from the economic impacts of the pandemic, adapt to changing market conditions, and drive innovation.

Data, Surveys, and Research
Expenditure Category: 7: Administrative and Other

At the innermost level, the focus is on the characteristics and attributes of the individual. The individual level which looks at sex, age, education, and behavioral patterns, is influenced by and, in turn, influences the other levels of the socioecological framework. Through various data points, the ARPA Department identified the interplay of the individual to the influences of family and peers, experiences at school and within the community, and interaction with government entities. Overall, the interconnectedness and dynamic nature of the various levels is emphasized throughout the expenditure categories of SLFRF funds.

Initially, through a retrospective study, the county evaluated the Community Health Assessment (CHA), Community Health Implementation Plan (CHIP), and identified the increased levels of chronic disease (HBP, High Cholesterol, Heart Disease), severe housing problems (26%), and physical inactivity (24%), attributed to extreme vulnerability to the pandemic. Most recently, as the Mid-Hudson Region's 2022-2024 CHA was released, 2020 showed Rockland County having the highest rate of COVID-19 mortality. Rockland also leads the Hudson Valley with this highest cause of death as heart disease and the highest asthma mortality rate. The built environment issues contributing to these health problems consist of Rockland having both the highest percentage of cost burdened renter occupied units and the highest percentage of severely cost burdened households in the region at 60.7% and 22.0%, respectively. Rockland County had the highest percentage (26.0%) of households with severe housing problems. Furthermore, according to the NYS County Health Ranking, Rockland has dropped to 7th in 2023, down from 1st in 2019 and 2020. Despite high rankings in "length of life," the County ranks 39th in social and economic factors and 59th out of 62 in terms of physical environment.

Mental Health concerns also demonstrated significant increases throughout the pandemic. According to the Mid-Hudson Region Community Health Assessment 2022-2024 report, evidence shows that 64% percent of Rockland County respondents indicated that their mental health and substance use was highly impacted in the past year. This was ranked as the most pressing health issue in Rockland County for 2022 and 2023.

According to the same survey, access to mental health providers was identified as the second most pressing issue that has negatively impacted the health of Rockland County residents, with 50% of the respondents identifying this as a significant issue. The leading barrier to people achieving better health in Rockland County was the lack of knowledge of existing resources, with 57.7% of respondents indicating this as a priority. The report also indicated that 24% of those surveyed indicated that their mental health worsened over the course of the COVID pandemic.

Community Violence Interventions
Expenditure Category: 1: Public Health

Preventing and responding to Community Violence is paramount in ensuring a safe built environment. As referenced in the *Final Rule*, Community Violence is a public health challenge that was exacerbated by the pandemic and has disproportionately impacted low-income communities. Exposure to violence can create serious short-term and long-term harmful effects to health and development, and repeated exposure to violence may be connected to negative health outcomes. Addressing community violence as a public health issue may help prevent and even reduce additional harm to individuals, households, and communities. The County of Rockland has begun using SLFRF funds to invest in holistic, multi-pronged approaches in violence prevention that are rooted in targeted outreach and addressing root causes.

In 2020 the County of Rockland, led by our DSS department, surveyed the community to identify trends believed to be the cause in the uptick in community violence. Respondents varied from young adults/parents to community members/government agencies that encompassed a wide range of our towns, villages, and municipalities. The survey asked a variety of questions to determine a sense of how this current focusing event has affected our communities and asked for solutions that many believed could help alleviate the issue. While aggerating the data, the County found a large majority stated that drugs, gangs, easy access to guns, poverty, lack of youth programming, lack of social cohesion, and an unsafe built environment were the predominant contributing factors towards the increase in community violence. Solutions believed to potentially eradicate this ever-growing concern would include a focus on cultural competence, community buy-in, and constructing a better, safer built environment.

In 2023, The ARPA Department surveyed the residents again and the following trends remained:

- **Concerns**
    - Lack of social cohesion
    - Gangs/drugs
    - Easy access to guns
    - Lack of job opportunities for youth
    - Poor relationship with Law Enforcement

- **Desires**
    - Safer Neighborhoods
    - Safer school environment
    - More police presence
    - Better relationship with law enforcement

- **Partnerships**
    - Law Enforcement
    - Community Organizations

Our method uses public health frameworks and evidence-based practices to interrupt the spread of violence. *The Transformational Impacts Program* will identify the root cause of violence in individuals, households, and communities with nationally recognized, evidence-based methodologies (Community Youth Mapping, CURE Violence Global Framework). Through a better understanding of the complex interplay between the many levels of the SEF, the equity focused initiative will mediate historic and present conflicts, transform thinking and behaviors of those at the highest risk, change the norms that support violent activity, provide de-escalation training, and provide consistent and accessible support to sustain the positive transformation. Through a multi-level stakeholder (Law Enforcement, Youth, Families, Schools, Community Based Organizations, Government Entities) assessment, it is our hope that addressing and healing generational and environmental trauma will help to provide a safe atmosphere and restore a sense of trust and pride for our communities for many generations to come. This program supports our overall strategy and goal to create a stronger, resilient, more sustainable County. The following programs have been implemented or expanded to support the efforts of the Transformational Impacts Program:

- o **Expansion of the Youth Employment Program (YEP):** Since 1994, the Rockland County Youth Bureau has administered the Youth Employment Program, YEP, a workforce preparation initiative that provides employment training and job placement to eligible youth. The program's purpose is to help youth aged 14-24 gain invaluable life skills so that they can be professionally prepared and advanced for life's hurdles. The Youth Bureau operates on the principles of positive youth development. This framework focuses on strengths and positive outcomes, youth voice, and engagement, strategies that involve youth, long-term commitment, community involvement, and collaboration.

  Eligible youth submit the YEP application and are then contacted for an interview with program staff. During the interview process, youth are assessed for job readiness. Youth deemed ready for employment are placed directly with one of our employers. Young people requiring job training are invited to participate in our T.E.E.N Works program and other job readiness training workshops.

  The Youth Bureau also relies on our community partners and employers to create positive developmental relationships with our young people. Developmental relationships are created by expressing care, challenging growth, providing support, sharing power, and expanding possibilities for young people.

  Previously, YEP was funded only by the *New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance* through the *Department of Social Services*. This funding is awarded on an annual basis which allows us to run our program from May 1 through September 30 but only for young people whose families meet the TANF qualifications.

  To date, with the addition of SLFRF funding, the Youth Bureau has been afforded the opportunity to widen their audience to all impacted youth within the county and become a resource for all youth looking for employment opportunities. The YEP was able to double its size and remain a viable employment opportunity to our youth, ages 14-24, all year long. More youth from around the County have been enrolled in the T.E.E.N Works program and more employers have signed up to participate in employments opportunities. Through successful youth employment fairs, the YEP has reached youth

beyond their previous years and has offered additional financial literacy, life skills, and job training programs.

The program so far has shown successful outcomes such as:

- Increased attendance at both work and school
- Increased communication and job skills
- Improvement in grades
- Promotional job placements
- Enhanced understanding of community

o **Expansion of Youth Academy and Youth Police Initiative (YPI) Program:** Youth & Police Initiative or YPI, is a training program created by the Massachusetts-based North American Family Institute to enhance police officers and prosecutors understanding of the beliefs, values, and experiences of local youth, while ensuring that youth develop a genuine regard for the challenges that police officers face on the job.

YPI provides structured dialogue, team building and role-playing scenarios that allow all participants – youth, educators, police, and prosecutors – to tackle the real and hard issues of crime prevention and community policing. YPI is an opportunity for Rockland County's police departments to increase their visibility in their communities and to bring about positive changes in their relationships with local at-risk youth.

Throughout the Country, every YPI program is adapted to fit the specific needs of the community being served. The Village of Spring Valley's Youth and Police Initiative's objectives are:

- Discuss Social & Political issues and how these issues impact residents of all ages.
- Enhance officers' community policing skills.
- Strengthen prosecutors' knowledge of the community.
- Build long-term positive relationships between local police, prosecutors, and Rockland County's at-risk youth.
- Create links to positive, pro-social community resources by having guest speakers come to classes.
- Create possibilities for mentorship.
- Facilitate ways for youth to learn about career paths in Public Safety.

The YPI program is a six-day program that ends with a graduation gathering that includes food, fun and awards. But that is not the end. This program brings people together in a family like atmosphere that continues to support each other after graduation by continuing communication via group chats along with other bonding activities such as:

- Organized sporting events
- Movies under the stars
- Dancing under the stars
- Special guest lecturers
- Community Projects

- Trips

The Spring Valley's YPI has successfully brought youth and law enforcement together to participate in life skills training, build mutual respect, foster a better working relationship, and tear down the barriers that has led to lack of trust within communities, especially those most at risk. Expanding their nationally recognized YPI program to other municipalities, collaborating with non-profit organizations, and hosting intra-county events would help bridge the gaps between the Towns/Villages of Rockland.

o **Partner with Sheriff Department for Gun Buy Back Program**: To facilitate in reducing the number of guns in circulation, promote community safety and violence prevention, have a positive impact on public health, and garner trust between community and law enforcement, SLFRF funds will be used to hold two, gun buyback programs throughout the County.

Recovery Plan - COMMUNITY

Long-term Housing Security: Affordable Housing
Expenditure Category: 2: Negative Economic Impacts

As we begin to revive and rebuild the County through the built environment, the need for affordable passive housing is evident in both our impacted and disproportionally impacted communities. According to the most recent ARPA survey (June 2023), the second most common response to community need was affordable housing, in both availability and safe options. Our proposed programs under this expenditure will address both:

o **Affordable Passive Housing**- creating a more concerted effort on long term, environmentally sustainable options throughout all Towns and Villages in Rockland to promote better educational and economic opportunities to all.

o **Loan Flexibilities**- to aid in the long- term affordable housing investment. This will be a Collaborative effort with our Community Development Home ARP funds.

o **Predevelopment Activity and Land Acquisition-** aiding developers with a much-needed fund to fill initial cost gaps and acquiring former motels and vacant building to convert to affordable housing, increasing house options.

Through the development of new housing opportunities via our proposed SLFRF allocation, the County will evaluate and promote the following:

- Healthier population, healthier outcomes, and healthier economy
- Improved infrastructure
- Improved perception of affordable housing
- Increased opportunities for younger adults, seniors
- Increased collaboration and participation at a multi sector level

Promoting Community Health & Safety
Expenditure Category: 2: Negative Economic Impacts

Neighborhoods are key determinants to health. When understanding how to improve better health outcomes, especially at a community level, the built environment and its social characteristics can shape opportunities for barriers or promotion to overall health, especially in disproportionately impacted communities. When identifying interventions, they should be community oriented, allowing for buy-in from the residents themselves. Through creation of a more empowered and resilient community, the interventions will be more sustainable via community "ownership."

The proposed ARPA expenditure is a County- wide, all-encompassing project to improve the built environment. Defined by the CDC as all the physical parts of where we live and work (e.g., homes, buildings, streets, open spaces, and infrastructure), the built environment influences an individual and community's public health. According to the *Final Rule*:

*"Treasury recognizes the connection between neighborhood-built environment and physical health outcomes, including risk factors that may have contributed to disproportionate COVID–19 health impacts in low-income communities. The **Final Rule** also recognizes that the public health impacts of the pandemic are broader than just the COVID–19 disease itself and include substantial impacts on mental health and public safety challenges like rates of violent crime, which are correlated with a neighborhood's-built environment and features. As such, neighborhood features that promote improved health and safety outcomes respond to the preexisting disparities that contributed to COVID–19's disproportionate impacts on low-income communities."*

Through Treasury's outlined expenditure category: Negative Economic Impact and through a THRIVE model method (pictured above), the ARPA department is proposing a whole county, whole community approach through the following projects:

- **Rockland County Open Spaces:** To create sustainability, it is critical that the residents of Rockland have supportive buy-in to the revitalization project. By creating open spaces/community gardens/parks/ playgrounds, the communities'-built environments will improve and capacity to move about the County will be more accessible than ever before. More importantly, communities with have more ownership within their neighborhoods, helping in the overall concept and design of the new proposed area. These open spaces will integrate communities, fostering mutual respect of the many diverse cultures that make up the County to create a larger connection of partnerships and cultural competence, while promoting Rockland's rich history through educational programs. With development of various open space concepts/green infrastructure around the County, the following will occur:

  - Multi sector collaboration (e.g., County Departments, Municipalities, Not for Profits)
  - Educational programs year round

- Historical Tours of Rockland- link the entire county to its roots and to itself
- Outdoor activity promotion- physical activity, STEM programs
- New art and themes to each space, more representation
- Safer walkability and biking ability options throughout the County of Rockland

To date, throughout the County of Rockland, 29 parks/playgrounds have been awarded totaling $4,690,000.00. All parks/playgrounds offer equitable access, free admission, and promote healthy outcomes for all County Residents.

- **Rockland Resilient Path:** To promote healthy activities, education, and expand accessibility within the County, the project will attach a walking and bicycling path, which is also handicapped accessible, potentially catalyzing improvements that could further enhance the physical environment and related social determinants of health. The location of the path will include many Towns and Villages, from the southernmost portion of Rockland County (Palisades, NY) to the northern most portion of Rockland County (Stony Point, NY), falling directly in some of the most disproportionally impacted communities in Rockland. Throughout this pandemic, Rockland County has seen a significant increase in bike riding, walking, and running from residents as well as community members from surrounding areas in the Hudson Valley, but it was not always accessible to our own residents.

  The *Rockland Resilient Path* would be intended to integrate communities from all over Rockland, invite visitors to learn of the cultural and historical stories of our County, provide additional modes of transportation, highlight environmental sustainability, and assist in improving our economic development and supporting our small businesses. While creating a shared use path, it is important to evaluate the existing infrastructure and identify areas of low activity to determine potential Social Determinants of Health that inhibit opportunities to physical activity in certain areas.

  Currently, a feasibility study is underway to identify the socioeconomic demographics of the existing and proposed paths, while stressing a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) study to ensure safety and a more sustainable built environment. Beginning in Fall 2023, a significant amount of community outreach and stakeholder engagement will be undertaken to determine the continued need, the desire for the path, and the concern and potential obstacles.

Assistance to Small Businesses
Expenditure Category: 1: Public Health and 2: Negative Economic Impacts

Small businesses help stimulate the local economy and play a crucial role in supporting the U.S. economic recovery. The COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted many small businesses nationwide. Small businesses have experienced and continue to experience an undesirable outlook as the result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The County of Rockland utilized SRFLF funds to develop the grant opportunities below to assist our small businesses in their financial recovery:

- **Reviving Rockland Restaurants Grant Program:** The *Reviving Rockland Restaurants Grant Program* was established to combat the negative economic and employment impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, restaurants were one of the first establishments to be shut down

and the last to be open at full capacity. Results from our survey to restaurants identified that the outdoor dining option was what enabled them to stay afloat during one of their most fiscally difficult times, while keeping their entire staff, even with limited capacity. With the extreme popularity of outdoor dining options and increased capacity opportunities, the County recognized the need to keep the momentum going by creating a grant to help alleviate the additional costs of associated outdoor dining expenses. Individual grants, to reimburse past expenses or fund future expenses related to outdoor dining, have been awarded to select applicants who meet the eligibility requirements. Applicants must describe how the COVID-19 Pandemic negatively affected their business and how the eligible items helped or will help resolve the problem. They must include information about how outdoor dining sustained or helped to sustain their business, how outdoor dining helped their staff maintain employment, what percentage of their staff lives in the County of Rockland, how much their staff is paid (excluding tips), and if health benefits are available through their business for staff and their families.

- o Eligible entities are Rockland based businesses that are not permanently closed, have the capacity for outdoor dining, and include businesses where the public or patrons assemble for the primary purpose of being served food or drink including, Restaurants, Food stands, food trucks, Bars, saloons, lounges, taverns, Bakeries, Delis, Cafes, Breweries, Wineries and/or microbreweries, Other similar places of business in which the public or patrons assemble for the primary purpose of being served food or drink.

- o The **_Reviving Rockland Restaurants Grant Program_** aims to provide funding for Rockland County restaurants by reimbursing qualified restaurant expenses that were or will be used for outdoor dining to aid in the prevention of the spread of COVID-19. This equipment includes, but is not limited to tents, heat lamps or other electric heating equipment, additional tables and chairs for outdoor dining, market umbrellas, plexiglass shields, tarps, patio fencing, other items related to outdoor dining, such as construction of outdoor seating and cleaning materials may be considered.

  To date, the **_Reviving Rockland Restaurants_** Grant Program has served 24 restaurants and distributed a total of $442,025.04 in support.

- o **Small Business Rescue Reimbursement Grant Program:** The ARPA Department is currently administering the **_Rockland Small Business Rescue Grant Program_** to combat the negative economic and employment impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Individual grants to reimburse past expenses, will be awarded to select applicants who meet the eligibility requirements (outlined below). All Applicants will be required to describe how the COVID-19 Pandemic negatively affected their business and how the eligible items helped alleviate the financial hardships experienced during the pandemic. They must include information about how this funding could help them offset revenue loss, maintain their staff employment, and (if applicable) a list of increased costs.

- o Eligible businesses are Rockland County based privately owned micro-businesses, small businesses, enterprises, or sole proprietorships, that offer fee-based goods or services and have fewer than 500 employees and annual revenues up to $1 million.

- o Businesses include but are not limited to Indoor Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation, Pet Grooming, Boarding, and Walking, Restaurants, Eateries, Food Stands and Food Trucks, Bars, Bakeries, Cafes, Breweries/Wineries Catering, Delis, etc., Bookstore/Stationary, Housekeeping, Fitness Centers, Florists, General Retail, Salons/Spas, Bicycle shops, Other Consumer Service Firms (i.e., Architectural, Design, Marketing). Eligible business expenses include but are not limited to Commercial/Retail Rent (up to 6 months), Safety Investments (Including PPE and Cleaning Supplies), Software Fees, Marketing Fees (advertising and promotion), Credit Card Processing Fees (up to $5,000.00), Supplies (operational items not inventory).

  To date, the *Small Business Rescue Reimbursement* grant has served 35 small businesses and distributed a total of $1,287,333.40 in support.

Assistance to Nonprofit Organizations
Expenditure Category: 1: Public Health and 2: Negative Economic Impacts

Nonprofits play a fundamental role in creating more equitable and thriving communities. Throughout the lifecycle of the ARPA expenditures, not for profit participation will be integrated through grant opportunities. In addition to adding funding opportunities throughout the proposed expenditure categories listed, a few individual grant opportunities will be developed:

- o **Food Security Grant Program:** This grant was established to reimburse Rockland Based organizations that distributed food to communities in the County of Rockland that have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Individual grants to reimburse past expenses were awarded to select applicants who met the eligibility requirements below. All Applicants described how the COVID-19 Pandemic negatively affected the organization and how the eligible items helped resolve the problem. They were required to include information about the statistics of the percent increase of the need for food, how the need fell in communities with socioeconomic disadvantages and a quantifiable increase in need.

  Eligible entities were Rockland County Based organizations that were not permanently closed. These entities included but were not limited to Food Pantries, Food Banks, Community-based organizations, Faith-based organizations, Non-profit organizations. Reimbursing qualified expenses incurred from March 3, 2021, to the date of contract, that were used to assist communities and individuals in the County of Rockland experiencing food insecurities due to COVID-19. Eligible expenses include, but are not limited to barriers/partitions, cleaning supplies, food distribution space/pantry rental, vehicle rental.

  The *Food Security Grant Program* closed for new applications on February 1, 2023. To date, the grant has served a total of 4 Nonprofit organizations and distributed $81,240.80 in support.

- o **Nonprofit Rescue Reimbursement Grant Program:** Developed to combat the negative economic and staffing impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Individual grants, to reimburse past expenses or fund future expenses will be awarded to select applicants who meet the eligibility requirements. All Applicants will be required to describe how the COVID-19 Pandemic negatively affected their organization and how the eligible items helped alleviate the financial hardships experienced during the pandemic. They must include information about how this funding could help them offset revenue loss, maintain their staff, and (if applicable) a list of increased costs.

  Eligible Not-Profits must be Rockland based. Eligible expenses include but are not limited to Rent (up to 6 months), Safety Investments (Including PPE and Cleaning Supplies), Software Fees, Increased Costs for Supplies (operational items, not inventory).

  The *Nonprofit Rescue Reimbursement Grant Program* officially opened on April 1, 2023. While we have not awarded any Nonprofit Organizations at this time, we have four applications pending final approval and three open applications.

Public Health Projects

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE Bags)
Expenditure Category: 1: Public Health

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, it was emphasized that basic hygiene practices were one of the most simple and effective ways to prevent the spread of the disease. Providing individuals who were disproportionately impacted with the tools to maintain basic hygiene may help them from contracting or spreading the disease known as COVID-19 and its variants.

o The County of Rockland used SLFRF funding to purchase and distribute Personal Protective Equipment to various individuals and community organizations between March 3, 2021, and December 31, 2021, throughout all of Rockland County.

o Hygiene Packs were also distributed during the Point in Time count in January 2023 when volunteers and not for profit organizations across the County went out to count the homeless/unhoused population throughout the County. 100 Hygiene Packages, complete with soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, tissues, and hand sanitizer were prepared and distributed county-wide.

Public Health Capacity in our Hospitals
Expenditure Category: 1: Public Health

Good Samaritan Hospital located in the Town of Ramapo, which is a Low and Moderate-Income Community. The New York State Low-to Moderate-Income Census Population Analysis Tool statistics show the Low/Mod Percentage to be 55.81%, 4.81% higher than the Low to Moderate Income criteria. The Town of Ramapo is a highly diverse area, with varying ethnicities, cultures, and sub-cultures- this space will serve as a place for all ages, races, ethnicities, and incomes. Its patient population includes significant numbers of medically vulnerable demographic groups, including elderly adults, residents living below the Federal Poverty Level, people with a disability, foreign-born residents, and households where English is not the dominant language spoken.

During the Pandemic, there was a State declared disaster emergency as well as a shortage of PPE. NYS Governor Executive Order 202.10 issued all Elective surgeries to be cancelled, and existing bed capacity was increased 50% to care for COVID-19 patients. Rockland County had the fastest growing number of cases and the highest per capital rate of infection in NYS, and among the highest in the country. In addition, New York State directives were in place to ensure that hospitals sustain a 15% available capacity to be able to handle a surge. Rockland County was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic which has recorded over 121,176 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 988 deaths related to the virus since the onset in March of 2020. The impact on the healthcare system in Rockland County was significant.

The demand for hospital beds, medical equipment, and personnel surged as the number of COVID-19 cases increased. Hospitals and medical facilities faced shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE), such as masks and gloves, and ventilators. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Good Samaritan Hospital and the Bon Secours Charity Health System has performed over 131,000 COVID-19 tests with over 21,000 resulting positive with large patient populations centering around Spring Valley, Monsey, Suffern, New City, and Nanuet in Rockland County.

Overall, the COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the healthcare system in Rockland County and healthcare providers have been working tirelessly to respond to the challenges posed by the pandemic.

- o **Reimbursement for Equipment Not Covered by FEMA:** Good Samaritan Hospital is reputable for providing exquisite patient care and support to the diverse population of Rockland County. The equipment requested was/is needed to treat and monitor patients with COVID-19 patients. Unfortunately, FEMA did not cover the full cost of these vital pieces of equipment, leaving Good Samaritan Hospital an additional expense during a vulnerable time.

  $364,318.39 was utilized to provide reimbursement to Good Samaritan Hospital for the equipment used to treat and monitor COVID-19 patients.

- o **Safety and Communications Projects:** Throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic, Good Samaritan Hospital has remained dedicated to equitably serving the Rockland County with an emphasis on operational readiness to support the needs and treatments of the community in a safe and efficient manner. Good Samaritan is developing several projects that maintain an emphasis on further reducing the potential for community transmission of COVID-19 and/or improves both internal and external communications.

  The ARPA Department will assist Good Samaritan Hospital by providing them with reimbursements for eligible expenses on the to be determined projects.

Mental Health
Expenditure Category: 1: Public Health

While the need for mental health care and substance use treatments rapidly increased throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic, there was a shortage of mental health professionals. This created a new barrier to accessing mental health and substance use disorder services. The Pandemic's negative impact on access to mental health and substance use services also emphasized pre-pandemic access barriers. Prior to the pandemic, there was limited access and resources to mental health and substance use services particularly for those who were not insured.

o **Restructuring Rockland's Resources- 911 Diversion Program:** A 911 Diversion program is an essential initiative aimed at diverting certain emergency calls away from traditional law enforcement or emergency response services to more appropriate and specialized resources. Several important key factors to consider:

- **Resource allocation**: Emergency services, such as police and ambulance, are often stretched thin and have limited resources. By implementing a diversion program, less critical calls can be redirected to appropriate agencies for services, ensuring that emergency responders can focus on situations that truly require immediate attention.
- **Faster response times**: With non-emergency calls being redirected to appropriate agencies, emergency responders can respond more quickly to genuine emergencies.
- **Enhanced Community Safety**: The diversion program allows for a more tailored response to different types of incidents. By involving social workers, mental health professionals, or other specialized teams, the program can address underlying issues that may contribute to non-emergency calls, such as mental

health crises or substance abuse problems. By addressing these root causes, the program can help prevent future emergency situations and enhance overall community safety.

- **De-escalation and Conflict Resolution**: Emergency responders, especially law enforcement, may not always have the necessary training to handle certain non-emergency situations effectively. By diverting such calls to professionals with expertise in conflict resolution and de-escalation techniques, potential confrontations can be minimized, leading to better outcome for everyone involved.
- **Improved Public perception:** Utilizing a diversion program shows that the community and local authorities are committed to finding effective and compassionate solutions to the diverse needs of their residents. This can lead to improved public trust in law enforcement, fostering a better working environment.

The 911 diversion program is crucial for optimizing emergency response, addressing underlying mental and behavioral health issues, improving community safety, and promoting a more efficient and compassionate approach to handling diverse situations that arise within a community. It reflects a proactive effort to meet the needs of the public while ensuring that emergency services can focus on situations where their expertise is most required. SLFRF funding will be utilized to implement a new digital platform for better mental health first response and trainings for all staff members.

- **Crisis Assistance Helping Out On The Streets (CAHOOTS)**: Through the new 911 Diversion program, the *Mobile Crisis Stabilization* unit can be dispatched to provide immediate stabilization in case of urgent medical need or psychological crisis, assessment, information, referral, advocacy and, in some cases, transportation to the next step in treatment. An expansion of the program, including any additional trainings will be funded through SLFRF funds.

Administrative/Studies
Expenditure Category: 7: Administrative and Other

Administration is paramount for the continued evaluation of the proposed projects/programs to ensure the objective to maintain an emphasis on equity, community engagement, and compliance exceeds expectations. The ARPA Department will also collaborate with various intra-County departments to initiate additional County-wide need assessments and feasibility studies based on community feedback. The qualitative and quantitative data from these assessments and studies will provide evidence and support to bridge the current and historical gaps throughout the County of Rockland.

Studies and Software

- **County of Rockland Comprehensive Plan:** Rockland County is taking an important step in guiding its future with the decision to undertake an update to its Comprehensive Plan. Since the previous plan was adopted in 2011, there have been significant changes in development trends, demographics, policies, and procedures. The Plan update has three main goals: to develop a vision for Rockland County as a whole, guide future sustainable development and investment within the County and protect the County's

natural resources. The Comprehensive Plan will provide a framework for decision making at the County level, which in turn will prioritize Countywide capital improvements and provide guidance on resource allocation.

- o **Land Use Study:** In a collaborative effort with the County's Community Development Department, the ARPA Department will utilize SLFRF funds to participate in a Land Use Study. This study will help to determine if it would be beneficial for the County to develop and maintain a Land Bank and which properties would be most valuable to acquire at the inception of the Land Bank development.

- o **AmpliFund:** For efficient tracking and reporting by the ARPA Department, a Grant Management System Software (AmpliFund) was procured.

- o **Regional eSourcing Software:** This software will benefit the County of Rockland's ARPA Department as well as many additional departments in the mission to Revive and Rebuild Rockland. Expanding the eSourcing Procurement software from solely County-wide to Regional creates a Regional online marketplace for all local governments and non-profits to access contracts awarded by five counties. A central repository for such information will save participants time, enforce accountability, and provide a unified structure for the procurement process. These highlights will attribute to fair, innovative, and cost-efficient procurement solutions.

Recruitment and Training

- o **Recruitment:** The fundamental objective is to address a growing concern, which is shared across New York State: the declining number of individuals enrolling for civil service exams, especially in public safety including law enforcement and public health. We also have a higher-than-average number of vacancies and an increase in position growth and need. This major shift in the job market was a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This has resulted in numerous vacant positions across multiple departments within County and local government (towns, villages, schools and special districts), including, but not limited to, positions in law enforcement, social services, and public health. A comprehensive strategy is still in the development phase, but the following goals have been preliminarily outlined:

  - Enhanced Online Public Awareness and Position Search
  - Direct In-Person Engagement and Website Creation and Improvements
  - Job Specification Updates

  It is our hope that more modernized advertising, outreach, and job specifications will attract a more diverse candidate base. The Personnel Department is committed to ensuring that the pool of potential employees accurately mirrors the diversity of the County. To this end, we plan to provide education about the importance and benefits of a diverse workforce.

- o **Training:** Recruitment and training complement each other. With the hiring of new employees and cross training being a cornerstone of our departmental strategy; training our existing and new staff is imperative to promote diversity, equity, belonging and inclusion as well as fostering leadership at every level. The training and development of

the current and future workforce will support the County's ability to retain employees, provide employees with opportunities for advancement, have a voice in the workforce that is heard and allow for succession planning.

The County of Rockland is developing a three-prong approach to support our recruitment, staffing and retention by providing training. A comprehensive strategy is still in the development phase, but the following training goals have been preliminarily outlined:

- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging
- Professional Development
- Lean-Continuous Improvement
- Employee Engagement Surveys

Promoting Equitable Outcomes

Promoting equitable outcomes with ARPA funds is essential to ensure that vulnerable and marginalized communities in Rockland receive the support they need to recover and thrive. The ARPA Department developed many tools that helped ensure equity and opportunity were at the helm of our responsiveness to the funding:

1. **Equity Lens in Allocation**: Use of an equity lens while allocating ARPA funds to identify communities and populations disproportionately impacted by the pandemic and historical inequities. Prioritize funding for projects and programs that directly address their specific needs and challenges.

2. **Targeted Outreach and Engagement**: Conduct targeted outreach and engagement efforts to reach underserved communities and gather their input on how ARPA funds should be allocated. Engaging with community leaders and organizations have helped identify their priorities and ensure that funds are used effectively.

3. **Addressing Health Disparities**: Allocate funds to improve access to healthcare services and address health disparities among disadvantaged communities. Invest in public health initiatives and outreach programs targeting often hard to reach communities.

4. **Environmental Equity**: Enhancing green spaces and building affordable housing in marginalized communities.

5. **Language Access**: Ensure that information about ARPA-funded programs and services is available in multiple languages to reach non-English speaking communities and enhance accessibility.

6. **Data Collection and Evaluation**: Collect disaggregated data to track the impact of ARPA-funded initiatives on different demographic groups. Regularly evaluate the outcomes to identify disparities to promote equitable distribution of resources.

7. **Collaboration with Community Partners**: Collaborate with community- based organizations and advocacy groups that have expertise in addressed equity issues. Their insights can help shape effective strategies to promote equitable outcomes.

8. **Cultural Competence**: Improve sensitivity to the unique needs of diverse communities and foster better service delivery.

By prioritizing equity and inclusivity throughout the allocation and implementation of ARPA funds, Rockland can work towards reducing disparities and building a more just and resilient community for all its residents.

Community Engagement

As discussed in promoting equitable outcomes, The ARPA Department continues to remain mindful to the community's emerging needs while also fostering the County's collaborative efforts with CBO's and faith-based organizations. All fliers, Public Service Announcements (PSA's), surveys, and outreach efforts have been translated to the multiple languages that reflect the diversity within the County. Intergovernmental relationships have been paramount to ensure community voices are heard, and collaborations with both County Departments (DSS, DMH, DOH, Disabilities, Youth Bureau, etc.), and all of our Towns and Village officials have fostered more opportunities to gain insight into the real need of the people. Community collaborative meetings are held monthly, with ARPA giving updates on opportunities and gaining feedback on limitations and concerns. In addition, ARPA has performed additional in-person outreach to gain community buy-in and establish trust.

Recognizing the geographic, cultural, structural, and language limitations of its various community members, the County has continued to direct outreach specifically related to SLFRF to communities that have been historically underserved. A Comprehensive Plan on potential projects that are eligible for the use of SLFRF funds was created and distributed to the Legislature, all branches of Government, intergovernmental departments, and Nonprofit organizations to gain feedback.

Throughout the engagement process, the County continues to conduct a fair and just process of data collection and assessment of need. Our outreach to community members continues through multiple avenues that include in person contact and telecommunication, as well as other digital capabilities to ensure a larger, often underrepresented resident base will allow an equal opportunity to convey their concerns and ideas on the use of the SLFRF funds. With full transparency throughout the entire process, the County is approaching all funding allocation categories with a logic model and Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Time-based (SMART) goals to assess equitable outreach and services to communities and continues to be open and upfront with the public and other intergovernmental departments. Furthermore, a lean strategy to any evidence-based interventions using a Plan, Do, Study, Act (PDSA), SWOT, and CATWOE framework to ensure the County is measuring outcomes and identifying possible unintended consequences throughout the process to avoid a loss of opportunity, inequitable practices, and allow for scalable improvements. In doing so, the County achieves the following:

- The County of Rockland's ARPA Department ensures that all flyers/advertising is translated into the various languages that represent the very diverse communities that reside in the County.
- A user-friendly grant portal, that can be translated in multiple languages, to assist in a more streamlined application process and more effective monitoring and compliance.
- Free Uniform Guidance training from our Procurement department to ensure compliance with all Federal Regulations.
- Continuous IT training and technical support held via in person, virtual meetings, or telephone.
- More interdepartmental Collaboration- ensuring current trends are evaluated, data is relevant, and needs are met across the board.

- Multiple iterations of a full ARPA Comprehensive Plan, determine the acute needs of the community/County.
- Multiple in person site visits/ meetings with other local government entities, local businesses and organizations, and various individuals and families that represent the whole of the County.

With the use of multiple types of outreach opportunities, on foot advertising, email blasts, digital correspondence, culturally aware in translating – flyers, website, portal; our goal for continued community voice and buy-in is ever present. Multiple meetings with other government agencies, not for profits and faith-based organizations, attending collaboratives, walking through communities, hosting in person community focus groups, we have seen an increase in interest in our existing grants and future expenditure plans. We will continue this outreach and expand our efforts to more groups and individuals as we continue to move forward with other proposed expenditures.

Identifying obstacles of completing applications or difficulty acquiring certain required documentation, the County has been focused on making sure enough capacity training is available to our applicants for a more streamlined process. With more outreach and support offered, more applications have been started and a new opportunity for dialogue between applicant and County has developed. Through an analysis of the application process, the County found both impacted and disproportionately impacted applicants had difficulty with the application process. Once dialogue and training were established, applicants found the portal easier to apply, the County created check lists to offer a starting point and more guidance, provided multiple channels of communication, and hosted meetings and focus groups.

With a concentration of equity and a more accessible and easier to use guide to apply, the current SLFRF allocations have been distributed throughout the various towns, villages, and municipalities. With the recent allocation of funds to beneficiaries and subrecipients, the word of mouth from community members has increased and more small businesses and not for profits have reached out to apply. With a renewed focus on open dialogue and fostering a mutual working relationship with our county community, we have built more trust and increased our opportunities to serve all in the County.

Flyers Promoting the 2023 ARPA Community Survey
Languages: English, Spanish, Creole, Yiddish

Snapshot from 2023 ARPA Community Survey

‹Rockland County

What areas have you experienced challenges in recovering from
the COVID-19 pandemic?

☐ Financial

☐ Employment

☐ Physical Health

☐ Mental Health

☐ Childcare

☐ Other (please specify)

Select the top 3 areas you would like to see the County of
Rockland prioritize for ARPA funding:

☐ Childcare

☐ Climate Change Mitigation

☐ Community Beautification Projects

☐ Food Insecurity

☐ Parks and Open Spaces

☐ Investments in Housing

☐ Public Transportation

☐ Transportation Infrastructure

☐ Emergency Services

☐ Mental and Behavioral Health

☐ Small Businesses

☐ Nonprofit Organizations

☐ Tourism

☐ Workforce Development

Labor Practices

At this time, the County has not procured any Infrastructure projects, but will ensure compliance with all requirements applicable to any potential future project.

Each grant and program opportunity developed by the County of Rockland's ARPA Department has defined metrics and objectives. Through regularly scheduled collaborative meetings, quarterly reporting, annual reporting, and continuous tracking of the open grants in our Grant Management Portal, the success of these opportunities is closely monitored.

The ***Food Security, Reviving Rockland Restaurant, Small Business Rescue Reimbursement,*** and ***Nonprofit Recovery*** grant programs are monitored in real-time. The metrics and objectives are outlined within the individual grant applications. Each application is carefully reviewed to determine if the beneficiary is eligible for award. If the application is eligible, a detailed list of reimbursement items is created and attached to a contract that is signed by the beneficiary and County Representatives. The contract is to emphasize the award is a one-time reimbursement.

The ***Food Security Grant Program*** was opened for one year with an unfortunately, minimal response. It was determined that there was an unintended consequence in having such a specific focus in this grant opportunity. Many of the Food Pantries had received or were receiving funding for the eligible items outlined in the grant. This posed a high-risk in the potential of duplication of funds. This risk led the ARPA Department to sequester feedback from the Food Pantries and other Nonprofit organizations. Their responses were received through a 2022 Nonprofit Survey as well as in-person/virtual meetings. It was determined that the lens of the program must be expanded to include expenses that were no longer or never had funding opportunities. With the responses and the needs of the Nonprofit organizations at hand, the ***Food Security Grant Program*** was closed, and the ***Nonprofit Recovery Grant Program*** was opened.

In addition to the previously mentioned grant programs, the ARPA Department also offers the ***Rockland Resilient Recreation Grant Program***. This program was so successful that the $5 million in funds that was allocated for this opportunity were increased to $10 million to meet the demand of the funds requested. The response to this program demonstrated the dire need to create, repair, or enhance Urban Green Spaces throughout the County. Similar to the other grant programs, the metrics and objectives are outlined within the individual grant applications. However, the metrics and objectives are outlined by the applicant and approved (after discussion if necessary) but the ARPA Department. The applicants are required to submit a Logic Model (see picture below) to layout the *Inputs, Activities, Outputs, and Outcomes* (short-term, intermediate, and long-term) of the proposed project.

These Logic Models are included in the Subrecipient contract that is signed but the applicant and County Representatives. The contract highlights the scope of the project, the approved activities, and the applicable ***Uniform Guidance*** requirements.
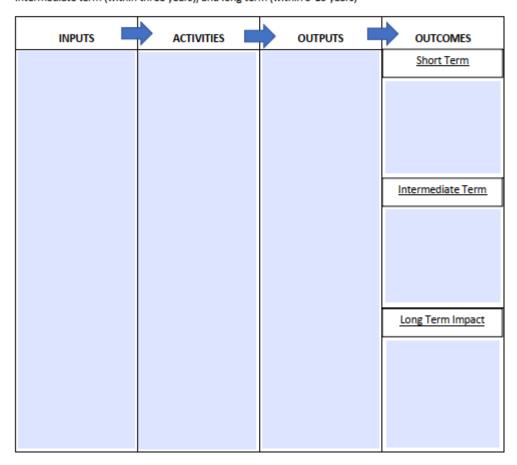
The following template reflects a logic model intended to outline the implementation plan associated with each project. Consider the following definitions when completing the logic model:

Inputs: All of the material and resources needed in order to carry out the project (ex. stakeholders, land, physical materials, etc.)

Activities: Each action item that must be completed from start to finish in order to successfully carry out the implementation plan (ex. meet with town supervisor, purchase equipment, etc.)

Outputs: Measurable successes after each activity has taken place (ex. Number of surveys completed, community buy-in, etc.)
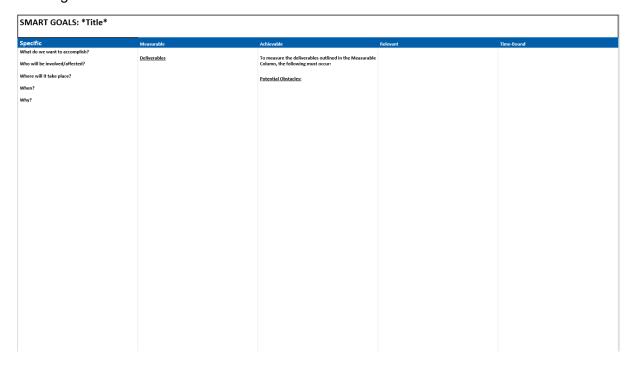
Outcomes/Sustainability: Goals and impact of the project on a short term (within 12 months, intermediate term (within three years), and long term (within 3-10 years)

INPUTS	ACTIVITIES	OUTPUTS	OUTCOMES
			Short Term
			Intermediate Term
			Long Term Impact

To ensure compliance with Federal Requirements, the ARPA Department requires all Subrecipients to attend (free) Uniform Guidance training, provides a Pre and Post Contract letters, and Project Checklists. The Logic Models and Checklists assist greatly in maintaining a streamlined monitoring process in accordance with 2 CFR 200.331 – 2 CFR 200.333. The ARPA Department also understands that the Federal Requirements differ from the State and County requirements that our Subrecipients are familiar with. In the interest of providing inclusivity and transparency, the ARPA Department welcomes an open line of communication to ensure all projects are in compliance and on track.

As part of the monitoring process, the ARPA Department will review any and all quotes, bid documents, and decisions made by the Subrecipients to confirm compliance requirements have been met. Both scheduled and non-scheduled site-visits will also occur to determine that the project objectives and metrics are met.

For programs funded with SLFRF funds such as the Youth Employment (YEP), Youth Police Initiative (YPI), and Gun Buy Back programs, the ARPA Department Collaborates with intra-County departments and key Community stakeholders. During the development and planning meetings, Learning Agendas and SMART Goals are created for each program. The Learning Agendas act as a living document throughout the project's lifecycle and are updated as results and new information are obtained. SMART Goals (template pictured below) help to define the more specific objectives and measurable outcomes. The ARPA Department uses the SMART Goals to enter a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the program administrator. In the MOU the frequency of check-in meetings, reporting, and site visits are established. Reporting templates are also customized to each program to ensure consistent and effective tracking of the measurable outcomes.

SMART GOALS: *Title*				
Specific	**Measurable**	**Achievable**	**Relevant**	**Time-Bound**
What do we want to accomplish? Who will be involved/affected? Where will it take place? When? Why?	Deliverables	To measure the deliverables outlined in the Measurable Column, the following must occur: Potential Obstacles:		

The ARPA Department is currently in contract with Buckhurst, Fish, & Jacquemart Inc. (BFJ) to conduct a feasibility study for the proposed **Rockland Resilient Path** (page 13). BFJ was procured through a formal bid process. As a requirement, BFJ established a project timeline with set deliverables that were included in their contract with ARPA Department. Bi-weekly meetings are held with BFJ to discuss the deliverables and provide updates. The contract is used to ensure the deliverables are provided on time and includes all the assured information and data.

Project Inventory

Project PH – 001 - Personal Protective Equipment

Funding Amount: $20,378.89
Project Expenditure Category: 1-Public Health – 1.5 Personal Protective Equipment

Project Overview

The County of Rockland used SLFRF funding to purchase and distribute Personal Protective Equipment to various individuals and community organizations between March 3, 2021, and December 31, 2021, throughout all of Rockland County.

Goal

- To provide PPE to communities that were directly impacted by the COVID-19 virus in Rockland varied from seniors, low to moderate income households, multi-generational households, the homeless, and the sick and homebound.

Use of Evidence

- Through our partnerships with our local not for profits, faith-based organizations, food pantries, community centers, and other county departments, we were successful in reaching a higher percentage of community members.
- We set up giveaway events, partnering with our local Department of Health during their vaccination pods, had drive-thru events with our OFA, dropped off PPE packages to senior housing complexes, held events at our local community centers, and delivered PPE to soup kitchens for the homeless population.
- Serves Disproportionately Impacted Low-income Households and populations, Impacted low- or moderate-income Households and populations, Disproportionally Impacted Nonprofits operating in Qualified Censes Tracts

Performance Report

- As we distributed our PPE, throughout all of 2021, specifically in the QCT, we saw more community engagement/support, as well as reduction in COVID cases. Our proactive approach provided much needed solace to individuals and families who could not afford PPE.

Project 1.8 – RRR: Reviving Rockland Restaurant Grant Program

> **Funding Amount:** $500,000.00
> **Project Expenditure Category:** 1-Public Health – 1.8 COVID-19 Assistance to Small Businesses

Project Overview

> Restaurants in particular have experienced and continue to experience an undesirable outlook as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic Many restaurants may have faced periods of closure reduced capacity and saw declining revenues as customers were unable to dine-in. These closures also had significant negative impacts on restaurant employment and the economy.

> The County of Rockland has established the Reviving Rockland Restaurants Grant Program to combat the negative economic impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic As restaurants began to reopen in June 2020 they were limited to only 25 capacity indoors further exacerbating the economic stress of recovering from the financial hardships imposed by the pandemic In an effort to safely recoup the additional customer capacity base and bring them back to safe operations outdoor dining became a staple for our restaurants The addition of outdoor dining brought back Rockland based employees comforted loyal patrons to return and kept restaurants from closing Unfortunately in order to operate outdoor dining additional expenses were incurred perpetuating the economic strain to remain open The Reviving Rockland Restaurant Grant Program will aid our restaurants to offset increased outdoor expenses and maintain sustainable outdoor dining opportunities Individual grants to reimburse past expenses or fund future expenses ranging from $5000.00 - $25,000.00 will be awarded to select applicants who meet the eligibility requirements below and will continue until the total grant amount of $500,000.00 is expended.

> Eligible entities are Rockland based businesses that are not permanently closed have the capacity for outdoor dining and include businesses where the public or patrons assemble for the primary purpose of being served food or drink including but not limited to:

- o Restaurants
- o Food stands/food trucks
- o Bars, saloons, lounges, taverns
- o Bakeries
- o Delis
- o Cafes
- o Breweries, Wineries, and/or microbreweries
- o Other similar places of business in which the public or patrons assemble for the primary purpose of being served food or drink

- Link: https://rocklandgov.com/departments/county-executive/reviving-and-rebuilding-rockland/grants/#RRRGP

Goal

- To provide reimbursement assistance to restaurants who shifted their operation to include outdoor dining to increase capacity and promote safe return for their customers

and employees, while also recovering financial profit loss. Through this program, restaurants would be given a sustainable opportunity to continue outdoor dining as a permanent option as well as buffer the financial burden of the winter months resulting in the closed use of outdoor spaces.

Use of Evidence

- In May 2020, US employment in restaurants was 37% lower than in May 2019, a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. 54% of NY restaurant operators said it was unlikely their restaurant will still be in business six months from now, if there are no additional relief packages from the federal government. This assistance also safely returns Rockland based, low/mod income employees back to the workforce, ensuring financial stability in their home.
- Serves Impacted Small Businesses that experienced a negative economic impact and Disproportionately Impacted Low-income Households and Populations
- Total project spending that is allocated towards evidence-based interventions: $500,000.00.
- Please see **Use of Evidence** Section **1.8 COVID-19 Assistance to Small Businesses (Reviving Rockland Restaurant Grant)** – for additional evidence-based data

Performance Report

- This grant has currently assisted 24 Restaurants.
- The aggregate of the grant awards is $442,025.04.

Project 2.22 – RRROS: Rockland Resilient Recreation Grant Program

Funding amount: $10,000,000.00
Project Expenditure Category: 2 – Negative Economic Impact – 2.22 Strong Health
Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

Project Overview

The negative public health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have fallen most severely on economically disadvantaged communities, exacerbating pre-existing disparities in health outcomes. The built environment, and risk factors associated with them, play a key role in determining public health outcomes. As defined by the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the built environment includes all the physical parts of where people live and work (e.g., neighborhoods, streets, open spaces, buildings, etc.). Research has shown that disparate health outcomes could be attributed to increased risk factors of the built environment (population density, spatial patterns, etc.), placing economically disadvantaged communities at an increased risk during the pandemic. Aside from the COVID-19 disease itself, the public health impacts of the pandemic include substantial impacts on mental health and public safety challenges, which are also correlated with the built environment.

The SLFRF program has recognized the connection between the built environment and public health outcomes and has acknowledged the need for investments in the built environment of economically disadvantaged communities. The *Final Rule* includes enumerated eligible uses in disproportionately impacted communities for developing neighborhood features, such as urban green spaces, that promote improved health and safety outcomes. These investments in urban green spaces, including parks, green spaces, and recreational facilities, will directly respond to the disproportionate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic by improving built environments and promoting equitable public health outcomes.

The County of Rockland has established the Rockland Resilient Recreation Grant Program, with ARPA funds, to reduce health inequities in the county by developing and enhancing public urban green spaces in communities that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Rockland Resilient Recreation Grant Program will foster coordination between municipalities and nonprofit organizations and maximize the potential of these equity-focused investments in public urban green spaces.

$10 million will be made available through the Rockland Resilient Recreation Grant Program, which will foster these equity-focused investments in impacted communities. Individual reimbursement grants, ranging from $5,000 up to $200,000, will be awarded to local governments to carry out projects that develop or enhance quality public urban green spaces that will be available to all Rockland County residents. The success of these equity-focused investments has the potential to reduce social inequities, expand economic opportunities, build resilient communities, and improve health quality throughout the county.

- Link: https://rocklandgov.com/departments/county-executive/reviving-and-rebuilding-rockland/grants/#rrrp

Goal

- Collaboration with municipalities and nonprofits is critical for this program's goal of developing or enhancing accessible public urban green spaces. This reimbursement grant will provide funding to municipalities and nonprofits to partner on projects of equity-focused investments in public urban green spaces to improve the built environment and foster equitable health outcomes for all residents of the county.

Use of Evidence

- Through retrospective meta-analysis, quantitative and qualitative assessment, and ongoing community outreach, the ARPA department identified the need for accessible, well-maintained, and safe open spaces. The addition of new and upgrades to existing open spaces expands the opportunity for outdoor recreation while promoting health and safety in our neighborhoods.
- Serves Disproportionally Impacted Low Income Households and populations, Impacted Low- or moderate-income Households and populations, and Impacted General Public
- Total project spending that is allocated towards evidence-based interventions: $10,000,000.00.
- Please see **Use of Evidence** Section **2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health & Safety (Rockland Resilience Restoration Grant)**– for additional evidence-based data.

Performance Report

- There are currently 24 approved open space projects throughout the County of Rockland.

Project 15 - HP Hygiene Packs

Funding Amount: $248.90
Project Expenditure Category: 1-Public Health – 1.5 Personal Protective Equipment

Project Overview

The Point-In-Time is an annual, nation-wide survey that occurs on a single evening in January. The survey is community lead to count the number of sheltered, and unsheltered persons who are experiencing homelessness. The ARPA Department was contacted by the Haverstraw Community Center (the Center) who is a stakeholder in the County of Rockland's Point-In-Time survey. The Center opens their gymnasium to those who are experiencing homelessness to offer food, clothing, medical, and social services at no cost to the individual and their children. Adjacent to the Center, there are trailers that provide the opportunity for grooming and bathing. Hygiene Packages, complete with soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, tissues, and hand sanitizer were prepared and distributed to those in need at the county-wide event.

- Link: There is currently no link for this project.

Goal

- To support the Center with the increased demand in assisting this disproportionately impacted community with their hygiene needs.

Use of Evidence

- Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, it was emphasized that basic hygiene practices were one of the most simple and effective ways to prevent the spread of the disease. Providing these individuals with the tools to maintain basic hygiene may help them from contracting or spreading the disease known as COVID-19 and its variants.
- Through our partnerships with our local not for profits, faith-based organizations, food pantries, community centers, and other county departments, we were successful in reaching a higher percentage of community members.
- Serves Disproportionately Impacted Low-income Households and populations, Impacted low- or moderate-income Households and populations, Disproportionally Impacted Nonprofits operating in Qualified Censes Tracts

Performance Report

- 100 Hygiene Packages, complete with soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, tissues, and hand sanitizer were prepared and distributed to those in need at the county-wide event.

Project 2.29 – SB: Small Business Rescue Reimbursement Grant Program

Funding Amount: $2,000,000.00
Project Expenditure Category: 2 – Negative Economic Impact – 2.29 Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship (Small Business Rescue Reimbursement Grant Program)

Project Overview

Small businesses are the backbone of the U.S. economy, 99% of all businesses in the U.S. are small businesses. A 2019 report found there were 2.2 million small businesses in New York State, employing 4.1 million employees – 50.2% of the New York State workforce.

Small businesses help stimulate the local economy and play a crucial role in supporting the U.S. economic recovery. The COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted many small businesses nationwide. Small businesses have experienced and continue to experience an undesirable outlook as the result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since March 2020, many small businesses have suffered from periods of closure and revenue loss. A March 2021 report by the New York State Comptroller found that 4 out of 5 small businesses in New York continue to report negative economic impacts caused by the pandemic. Additionally, an October 2021 report from the Comptroller found that only 1 in 5 small businesses have reported a return to "normal operations."

The County of Rockland has established the $2 million Small Businesses Rescue Reimbursement Grant Program, with ARPA funds, to accelerate economic recovery by providing Rockland County small businesses with reimbursement funds for eligible expenses incurred during, and related to, the COVID-19 pandemic. Individual reimbursement grants, ranging from $5,000.00 - $50,000.00 will be awarded to select applicants who meet the eligibility requirements and will be awarded until the total funding amount is expended.

- Link: https://rocklandgov.com/departments/county-executive/reviving-and-rebuilding-rockland/grants/#sbrr

Goal

- The Rockland Small Businesses Rescue Reimbursement Grant Program aims to provide funding for Rockland County small businesses and micro-enterprises, who can demonstrate revenue declines or unexpected operating cost deficits after March 3, 2021, up to the contracted date, to offset increased expenses or revenue loss caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Use of Evidence

- As of Q3 2021, Rockland County Small Business employment numbers have still not yet reached pre-pandemic levels. With the rising costs for real estate and operational materials, it is our hope that the grants to Small Businesses will mitigate financial hardship, restore normal operations, and safely return Rockland based, low/mod income employees back to the workforce, ensuring financial stability in their home.
- Serves Impacted Small Businesses that experienced a negative impact, and Disproportionally Impacted Small Businesses operating in Qualified Census Tracts

- Total project spending that is allocated towards evidence-based interventions: $2,000,000.00.
- Please see **Use of Evidence** Section **2.29 Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship (Small Business Rescue Reimbursement Grant Program)**– for additional evidence-based data.

Performance Report

- This grant has currently assisted 35 Small Businesses.
- The aggregate of the grant awards is $1,287,333.47.

Project 2.34 – FS: Food Security Grant Program

> **Funding Amount:** $81,240.80
> **Project Expenditure Category:** 2 – Negative Economic Impact – 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview

According to a new nationally representative survey of more than 2,000 U.S. adults by Consumer Reports, about 1 in 5 American grocery shoppers (19 percent) have used a food pantry, food bank, or community food distribution at some point since the pandemic began. What is more, about half of them said they didn't use these food programs in the year leading up to the COVID-19 outbreak in the U.S. Therefore, with the prevalence of the COVID-19 outbreak, many community organizations have been using their own funds in meeting the food demands in marginalized communities.

The County of Rockland established the Food Security Grant Program to reimburse Rockland Based organizations that distributed food to communities in the County of Rockland that have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Individual grants to reimburse past expenses ranging from $5,000.00 - $25,000.00, were awarded to select applicants who met the eligibility requirements below.

Eligible entities are Rockland County Based organizations that are not permanently closed, assist in distributing food to communities and individuals in the County of Rockland who experience food insecurities:

- o Food Pantries
- o Food Banks
- o Community-based organizations
- o Faith-based organizations
- o Non-profit organizations

- Link: https://rocklandgov.com/departments/county-executive/reviving-and-rebuilding-rockland/grants/#fsgp – This grant is now closed and will no longer accept new applications.

Goal

- To provide reimbursement assistance to Rockland-based Food Pantries, Food Banks, Community-based/Faith-based/Non-profit organizations for qualified expenses incurred to assist with an increased need for food distribution due to the pandemic and promote a safe return for their clients. Through this program, these organizations would be given a sustainable opportunity to continue to assist communities and individuals in Rockland experiencing food insecurities while maintaining an emphasis on safety.

Use of Evidence

- Through meta-analysis, quantitative and qualitative assessment, and ongoing community outreach, the ARPA department identified the exponential increase of individuals who suffered from food insecurity due to the COVID-19 pandemic i.e., being

laid off, being quarantined, hospitalization, etc. Adding to the already exacerbated need for food, Nonprofits reevaluated their operational structure and increased their scope of work to accommodate the increased food need of their local communities.

- Serves Disproportionately Impacted Low-income Households and Populations, Impacted Nonprofits that experienced a negative impact, and Disproportionally Impacted Nonprofits operating in Qualified Census Tracts
- Total project spending that is allocated towards evidence-based interventions: $81,240.80.
- Please see **Use of Evidence** Section **2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted) (Food Security Grant Program)** – for additional evidence-based data.

Performance Report

- This grant has currently assisted 4 Nonprofit.
- The aggregate of the grant awards is $81,240.80.

Project 2.22 – SUP: Shared Use Path

Funding amount: $23,000,000.00
Project Expenditure Category: 2 – Negative Economic Impact – 2.22 Strong Health
Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

Project Overview

To promote healthy activities, education, and expand accessibility within the County, the project will attach a walking and bicycling path, which is also handicapped accessible, for persons walking, bicycling or in wheelchairs from the southernmost portion of Rockland County (Piermont, NY) to the northern most portion of Rockland County (Stony Point, NY), along or near the Hudson River whenever possible.

The *Shared Use Path* (also known as *Rockland Resilient Path*) will also assist in improving our economic development and supporting our small businesses. As stated in the *Final Rule* "The *Final Rule* includes enumerated eligible uses in disproportionately impacted communities for developing neighborhood features that promote improved health and safety outcomes, such as parks, green spaces, recreational facilities, sidewalks, pedestrian safety features like crosswalks, projects that increase access to healthy foods, streetlights, neighborhood cleanup, and other projects to revitalize public spaces".

The proposed ARPA expenditure is a County- wide, all-encompassing project to improve the built environment. Defined by the CDC as all the physical parts of where we love and work (e.g., homes, buildings, streets, open spaces, and infrastructure), the built environment influences a person's level of physical activity).

- Link: There is currently no link for this project.

Goal

- Neighborhoods are key determinants to health. When understanding how to improve better health outcomes, especially at a community level, the built environment and its social characteristics can shape opportunities for barriers or promotion to overall health, especially in disproportionately impacted communities that were the most impacted by COVID-19. Collaboration with municipalities is critical for this project's goal of developing, enhancing, and sustaining accessible public urban green spaces.

Use of Evidence

- Through retrospective meta-analysis, quantitative and qualitative assessment, and ongoing community outreach, the ARPA department identified the need for accessible, well-maintained, and safe open spaces. The addition of new and upgrades to existing open spaces expands the opportunity for outdoor recreation while promoting health and safety in our neighborhoods.
- Serves Disproportionally Impacted Low Income Households and populations, Impacted Low- or moderate-income Households and populations, and Impacted General Public
- Total project spending that is allocated towards evidence-based interventions: $23,000,000.00.

- Please see **Use of Evidence** Section **2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health & Safety (Shared Use Path)**– for additional evidence-based data.

Performance Report

- In an effort to evaluate the existing infrastructure and identify low activity areas to determine potential Social Determinants of Health and stressing a Crime Prevention through Environmental Design, SLFRF funds will be used for a feasibility study to ensure safety and accessibility for all. This project is currently undergoing the feasibility study phase.

Project 2.34 – NFPRR – Nonprofit Recovery Reimbursement Grant Program

Funding Amount: $1,000,000.00
Project Expenditure Category: 2 – Negative Economic Impact – 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview

The County of Rockland has established a Nonprofit Recovery Reimbursement Grant program with ARPA funds, to mitigate financial hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, by providing Rockland County nonprofits with reimbursement funds for eligible expenses incurred since January 1, 2022.

Nonprofit Recovery Reimbursement Grant Program is available to eligible, Rockland County based Nonprofit Organizations with 501(c)(3) status who can demonstrate a negative economic impact, to apply for individual grants, to reimburse for eligible expenses, to offset increased expenses or revenue loss caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible organizations must be an established nonprofit organization based in the County of Rockland since January 1, 2020, that has been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eligible expenses for reimbursement include but are not limited to:

- Rent
- Utilities (Electric/Gas Service, Water, Garbage)
- Internet
- Software

Individual reimbursement grants, ranging from $5,000 - $50,000 will be awarded to select applicants who meet the eligibility requirements and will be awarded on a rolling basis. The application submission period will close on September 15, 2023.

- Link: https://www.gotomygrants.com/Public/Opportunities/Details/6a584f9b-bbda-4ad5-aabf-200772d7a95a

Goal

- Nonprofit Organizations were met with an unfathomable obstacle in assisting impacted and disproportionately impacted communities with an array of safety restrictions enforced and funding limitations. Many Nonprofits are still striving to return to their pre-pandemic financial status. This grant is to provide reimbursement assistance to those Nonprofits who experienced a negative economic impact due to COVID-19 pandemic.

Use of Evidence

- Through meta-analysis, quantitative and qualitative assessment, and ongoing community outreach, the ARPA department identified the exponential increase of individuals who suffered from food insecurity due to the COVID-19 pandemic i.e., being laid off, being quarantined, hospitalization, etc. Adding to the already exacerbated need for food, Nonprofits reevaluated their operational structure and increased their scope of work to accommodate the increased food need of their local communities.

- ARPA's 2022 Nonprofit Survey Results. The ARPA Department surveyed the Nonprofit Organizations. Those who provided feedback indicated that the Organization experienced a negative economic impact due to COVID-19. Based on the response and comparison of requested expenses to that which is eligible in the ***Final Rule***, it was determined that reimbursement for costs such as rent, utilities, and software would assist the Organization with their financial recovery.
- Serves Disproportionately Impacted Low-income Households and Populations, Impacted Nonprofits that experienced a negative impact, and Disproportionally Impacted Nonprofits operating in Qualified Census Tracts
- Total project spending that is allocated towards evidence-based interventions: $1,000,000.00.
- Please see **Use of Evidence** Section **2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted) (Nonprofit Rescue Reimbursement Grant Program)** – for additional evidence-based data.

Performance Report

- The ***Nonprofit Rescue Reimbursement Grant Program*** officially opened on April 1, 2023. While we have not awarded any Nonprofit Organizations currently, we have four applications pending final approval and three open applications.

Project 1.11 – TI – Transformation Impacts Program

Funding Amount: $2,000,000.00
Project Expenditure Category: 1 – Public Health – 1.11 Community Violence Interventions

Project Overview

Preventing and responding to Community Violence is paramount in ensuring a safe built environment. Community Violence is a public health challenge that was exacerbated by the pandemic and has disproportionately impacted low-income communities. Exposure to violence can create serious short-term and long-term harmful effects to health and development, and repeated exposure to violence may be connected to negative health outcomes. The County of Rockland plans to use SLFRF funds to invest in holistic approaches in violence prevention that are rooted in targeted outreach and addressing root causes. The proposed *Transformational Impacts Program* will identify the root cause of violence in individuals, households, and communities, mediate historic and present conflicts, transform thinking and behaviors of those at the highest risk, change the norms that support violent activity, and provide consistent and accessible support to sustain the positive transformation.

- Link: There is currently no link for this program.

Goal

- To prevent inequities in public health outcomes by reducing community violence and promoting safe environments in communities, especially those disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The program will provide grants to the development of public safety initiatives in disproportionally impacts neighborhoods ranging from evidence-base community mapping and outreach programs to guns buyback programs, encouraging collaboration between community and county.

Use of Evidence

- Our method will use meta-analysis and evidence-based practices (Community Youth Mapping and Community Violence Interrupters) to interrupt the spread of violence by addressing community violence as a public health issue may help prevent and even reduce additional harm to individuals, households, and communities. It is our hope that addressing and healing generational and environmental trauma will help to provide a safe atmosphere and restore a sense of pride for our communities.
- Serves Disproportionately Impacted Low-income Households and Populations, Impacted Nonprofits that experienced a negative impact, and Disproportionally Impacted Nonprofits operating in Qualified Census Tracts
- Total project spending that is allocated towards evidence-based interventions: $2,000,000.00.
- Please see **Use of Evidence** Section **1.11 Community Violence Services (Transformational Impacts Program)** – for additional evidence-based data.

Performance Report

- There are currently 22 Youth Employees enrolled in the Youth Employment Program. The number of participants will increase greatly starting July 1, 2023, as the T.E.E.N Works program will commence. The ARPA Department is also working closely with the Sheriff's Department, Local Law Enforcement Departments, and Nonprofit Organizations to develop or expand additional programs.

Project 1.7 – GSH Equipment - GSH Equipment Expenses Not Covered by FEMA

> **Funding Amount:** $364,318.39
> **Project Expenditure Category:** 1 – Public Health – 1.7 Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)

Project Overview

Good Samaritan Hospital (GSH) which is part of the Bon Secours Charity Health System and the Westchester Medical Center network, located in Suffern, NY within Rockland County and supports a total population of 338,329 as of 2020 census data with additional patients traveling to GSH for higher acuity levels of care from neighboring Orange County, NY as well as from Bergen County, NJ. This project supports the treatment of patients with COVID-19 by increasing the medical staff's abilities to continuously monitor patient's vitals and other key aspects of their care while admitted to GSH's critical care unit (CCU), special care unit (SCU), cardiovascular intensive care unit (CVICU), and 4 North unit.

In addition, this project supports protecting patients and staff from the community spread of COVID-19 by significantly decreasing the amount of time necessary for medical staff to be physically in the patient's room to review vital values and monitor their patients. All equipment components installed at GSH and submitted for this project are an entirely new submission and not part of any other project submitted by the BSCHS.

During the Pandemic, there was a State declared disaster emergency as well as a shortage of PPE. NYS Governor Executive Order 202.10 issued all Elective surgeries to be cancelled, and existing bed capacity was increased 50% to care for COVID-19 patients. Rockland County had the fastest growing number of cases and the highest per capital rate of infection in NYS, and among the highest in the country. In addition, New York State directives were in place to ensure that hospitals sustain a 15% available capacity to be able to handle a surge.

The Bon Secours Charity Health System leadership team determined that expanding the telemetry capacity at GSH, was of vital need to support both needs of higher acuity patients and to protect the workforce to ensure that the organization is doing all it can to mitigate the community transmission of the disease and limit the potential for severe adverse outcomes. Furnishing those beds with patient monitoring equipment was necessary to support the needs of higher acuity patients that COVID-19 infections brought to our hospital, where continuous monitoring allowed for the early identification of patient status changes and therefore the mitigation of worsening disease. Continuous monitoring of vital signs such as: heartrate and rhythm, respiratory rate and oxygenation rate (pulse oximetry) were vital in our ability to support patients to better outcomes. COVID-19 is an infectious disease caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus. Patient's that require hospitalization for the treatment of the virus are most vulnerable to the respiratory and cardiac effects of COVID-19. Because of the rapid decline that can be experienced, and which often leads to death, it was necessary to provide patient monitoring (telemetry) to increase the hospitals capacity for rapid diagnosis of decline.

To date BSCHS has discharged close to 3,000 COVID-19 patient's home and back to their families because of the close monitoring they received. The remote monitoring allowed for the attainment of key vital sign measures without requiring additional time at the COVID-19 patient's bedside therefore allowing our nursing staff to safely care for a group of patients and limited their exposure of Infectious patients and thus protecting the staff. The 4North unit, a 7-bed medical surgical unit, was identified as the second of two inpatient units at GSH to install

telemetry equipment to provide the level of monitoring needed to appropriately monitor and care for the increase in acuity of COVID -19 patients treated. This unit was not previously equipped with this patient monitoring equipment and the critical need arose for this level of monitoring as the COVID pandemic continued. The telemetry capability was installed on the unit, which allows for the remote monitoring of all 7 patient beds, with a centralized bank of monitors located at an isolated nursing station within the Unit.

- Link: There is currently no link for this project.

Goal

- Throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic, Good Samaritan Hospital remained dedicated to equitably serving the Rockland County with an emphasis on providing exquisite patient care and support. The equipment requested was/is needed to treat and monitor patients with COVID-19 patients. Unfortunately, FEMA did not cover the full cost of these vital pieces of equipment, leaving Good Samaritan Hospital an additional expense during a vulnerable time. With the expansion of telemetry monitoring in the 4North unit staff was able to increase the number of patients being actively monitored this allowed the continuous display of important vital signs of heart rate and pulse oximeter as well as continuous cardiac waveforms monitoring that allowed for early detection of abnormal rhythms. This allowed for timely recognition of worsening patient status and reduced time spent in patient rooms, and additionally protected their staff.

Use of Evidence

- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) supports the use of patient monitoring equipment in the treatment of patients with COVID-19. A published letter from Chief Scientist Denise M. Hinton to Ms. Sunny Yi, she states that the use of IntelliVue Patient Monitors is effective for remotely monitoring the physiological parameters of patients in hospitals and reduces the risks of exposure for community transmission of COVID-19 amongst health care workers. Further, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH), and the Office of Product Evaluation and Quality (OPEQ), state in their guidance for industry and FDA staff in June 2020, that:

    "The leveraging of current non-invasive patient monitoring technology will help eliminate unnecessary patient contact and ease the burden on hospitals, other health care facilities, and health care professionals that are experiencing increased demand due to the COVID-19 pandemic as it relates to diagnosis and treatment of patients with COVID-19"

- Additionally, in the journal article "Validating and implementing cardiac telemetry for continuous QTc monitoring: A novel approach to increase healthcare personnel safety during the COVID-19 pandemic" written by Nicholas Kasis M.D. in the Journal of Electro cardiology; the author's findings support implementing patient monitoring systems as an effective means of treating patients with COVID-19 as well as protecting staff from the community transmission of COVID-19. The author's findings state that:

    "*Using a novel "no-touch" telemetry-based approach to QTc monitoring, our primary findings are twofold: 1) telemetry-based QTc measurements are highly*

accurate relative to gold-standard 12-lead ECG, and precise among three trained independent operators competent in measuring cardiac intervals; 2) initially validated in a general hospitalized population, this method can be successfully implemented in the clinical setting as demonstrated by its utilization in COVID-19 patients who experienced a significant increase in QTc after treatment with hydroxychloroquine or azithromycin. Our results lend credence to telemetry as a valid clinical tool for QTc monitoring in place of standard 12-lead ECG, thereby minimizing direct patient contact and mitigating infectious risk among healthcare personnel and patients alike."

- Serves Disproportionately Impacted Low-income Households and Populations, Impacted Nonprofits that experienced a negative impact, and Disproportionally Impacted Nonprofits operating in Qualified Census Tracts

Performance Report

- Rockland County, NY, was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic which has recorded over 121,176 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 988 deaths related to the virus since the onset in March of 2020. The impact on the healthcare system in Rockland County was significant. The demand for hospital beds, medical equipment, and personnel surged as the number of COVID-19 cases increased. Hospitals and medical facilities faced shortages of personal protective equipment (PPE), such as masks and gloves, and ventilators. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in March of 2020, Good Samaritan Hospital has discharged a total of 3,424 patients admitted due to COVID-19. This equipment helped to ensure proper monitoring of patients and promoted prevention of the spread of the disease to staff.

Use of Evidence

As the County continues to gather data from community engagement and multi departmental collaboration, all allocation categories and current and proposed use of funds are based on both qualitative and quantitative data analysis. These sources of data have been developed and assessed via a Learning Agenda, logic model, and the use of SMART goals, allowing the County to identify gaps, organize proper methods of evidence and evaluation, build capacity, and develop trainings, foster collaboration, and evidence-based sharing, and reinforce organizational change. The County has reviewed both internal and possible external sources in our approach for using evidence and evaluation that will support the overarching efforts to create an evidence-based strategy for more sustainable interventions.

For every current and future expenditure, The County of Rockland has decided to consider for SLFRF funds, multiple evidence-based practices and research has been conducted prior to establishing a project in the Comprehensive Plan. Once all data and statistics are obtained, the ARPA Department Logic Models, SWOT, CATWOE, and balancing and reinforcing feedback loops are completed to ensure there are no unintended consequence and any risk of duplication of funds.

The Links have been used for each active grant opportunities/projects. Please note that the PPE Bag, Hygiene Packs, and GSH Reimbursement of Equipment not Covered by FEMA projects do not have a list of evidence-based links as these projects were in direct response to the prevention and treatment of COVID-19

Evidence Resources by Expenditure Expense Category

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3. The Effects of Summer Jobs on Youth Violence
4. How can summer jobs reduce crime among youth?
5. Summer jobs lower violent-crime rate for urban teens
6. How youth summer jobs can help drive down crime and launch careers
7. Crime and Summer Youth Employment Programs
8. Summer Jobs Reduce Violence Among Youth Facing Barriers to Opportunity in the United States
9. Summer jobs reduce violence among disadvantaged youth
10. When Scale and Replication Work: Learning from Summer Youth Employment Experiments
11. Adult and Youth Workforce Development Programs' Role in Supporting Community Violence Interventions
12. How Do Summer Youth Employment Programs Improve Criminal Justice Outcomes, and for Whom?
13. Crime-Fighting Lessons from Summer Youth Employment Programs
14. Young workers hit hard by the COVID-19 economy
15. WORKING FOR A BETTER FUTURE: How expanding employment opportunities for D.C's youth creates public safety benefits for all residents.
16. COVID-19 Wreaks Havoc on Youth Employment
17. https://villagespringvalley.org/village-departments/police-department/youth-police-initiative/
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2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health & Safety (Rockland Resilience Recreation Grant)

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6. Green Spaces and Mortality: A systematic Review and Meta-analysis of Cohort Studies, 2019
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8. Resiliency and Equity in a Time of Crisis: Investing in Public Urban Green Space is Now More Important Than Ever in the U.S.

2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health & Safety (Shared Use Path)

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