

# **County of Norfolk**

## **Recovery Plan**

### **State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds**

#### **2021 Report**

# County of Norfolk 2021 Recovery Plan

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## **GENERAL OVERVIEW**

### **Executive Summary**

The County of Norfolk ("the County") recognizes the significant impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had within our community and the historic opportunity State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide to address that challenge.

When the American Rescue Plan Act became law in March of 2021, the County began the process of participating in a variety of webinars hosted by the White House, the National Association of Counties, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the Government Finance Officers Association to gain a thorough knowledge of the eligible uses of these funds and the corresponding reporting requirements. The County of Norfolk applied for, and was awarded, \$137,282,760 and received its first tranche of \$50,618,689 in July of 2021.

From the outset the County Commission sought input from stakeholders in each of its 28 constituent communities, discussing the issue weekly at their Commission meetings, meeting with the Norfolk County Managers Association and with local Select Boards and Mayors as well as hearing from individual community service organizations. The County quickly decided to equitably distribute the funds to each of its 28 communities on a per capita basis. The County retained an accounting firm to establish a secured web-based application process to facilitate the review, auditing, and accounting process for the firm and applicants. Preliminary discussions with the community leaders of the 28 municipalities within the County have outlined the need to explore uses that support public health, including and mental health, broadband infrastructure, education assistance, premium pay for essential workers, and revenue losses in Fiscal Year 2020 and beyond.

The County of Norfolk is committed to a collaborative, transparent process that will address the negative impact of COVID-19 in all of its 28 municipalities and is grateful for the opportunity to partner with the federal government to provide much needed assistance to our mutual Constituents.

## **Uses of Funds:**

The County of Norfolk will employ the \$137,282,760 it will be receiving in American Rescue Plan Act funds in compliance with the guidance received from the US Treasury. The guidance provides for the following general categories:

*Public Health.*

*Negative Economic Impacts.*

*Premium Pay.*

*Revenue Loss.*

*Investments in Water, Sewer and Broadband Infrastructure.*

The County of Norfolk is committed to a collaborative, transparent process to determine the use of funds that will address the negative impact of COVID-19 in all 28 of its constituent municipalities.

## **Promoting equitable outcomes**

Equity, diversity, and inclusion will and must drive all of the decision making in our County. As the County works through the establishment of a comprehensive application and multi-tiered review process, all steps will be taken to ensuring equitable outcomes. Additional feedback from the community, as well as required qualitative and quantitative data, will be utilized to monitor our equity goals. We will be proactive to ensure the most underserved and hardest hit communities receive the assistance, services, and county administrative support they require to navigate our recover programs.

## **Community Engagement**

The County is initiating a robust community engagement process, through its municipal leaders, for the allocation of its funds. It has already undertaken a number of webinars with the Norfolk County Managers Association, individual communities, local Select Boards and Mayors as well as frequent dialogs with nonprofit community service entities and the County's Advisory Board on Expenditures.

## **Labor Practices**

At this time, the County of Norfolk has not outlined the use of any specified amount of the funding for any infrastructure projects. It is our belief and understanding, however, that many of our community partners are in the process of determining their priorities for their applications for these funds. We also note that being located in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the County and Municipalities must operate within some of the most stringent and protective labor regulations within the County which will go a long way to ensure compliance to best practices.

## **Use of Evidence**

Subsequent reports will identify whether ARPA funds are being used for evidence-based interventions and/or if projects are being evaluated through rigorous program evaluations that are designed to build evidence. The County is currently exploring the creation of a multi-tiered evaluation mechanism to ensure that each project has enough supporting information and evidence to meet the strictures of this Federal Program. Subsequent reports will describe the overall approach for using evidence and evaluation.

## Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category

	Category		Cumulative expenditures to date(\$)
1	Expenditure Category: Public Health	\$0.00	
1.1	COVID-19 Vaccination	\$0.00	
1.2	COVID-19 Testing	\$0.00	
1.3	COVID-19 Contact Tracing	\$0.00	
1.4	Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, etc.)	\$0.00	
1.5	Personal Protective Equipment	\$0.00	
1.6	Medical Expenses (including Alternative Care Facilities)	\$0.00	
1.7	Capital Investments or Physical Plant Changes to Public Facilities that respond to the COVID19 public health emergency	\$0.00	
1.8	Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)	\$201,000.00	
1.9	Payroll Costs for Public Health, Safety, and Other Public Sector Staff Responding to COVID-19	\$0.00	
1.10	Mental Health Services	\$0.00	
1.11	Substance Use Services	\$0.00	
1.12	Other Public Health Services	\$0.00	
2	Expenditure Category: Negative Economic Impacts	\$0.00	
2.1	Household Assistance: Food Programs	\$0.00	
2.2	Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid	\$0.00	
2.3	Household Assistance: Cash Transfers	\$0.00	
2.4	Household Assistance: Internet Access Programs	\$0.00	
2.5	Household Assistance: Eviction Prevention	\$0.00	
2.6	Unemployment Benefits or Cash Assistance to Unemployed Workers	\$0.00	

	Category	Cumulative expenditures to date(\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
	Job Training Assistance (e.g., Sectoral job training, Subsidized Employment, Employment Supports or Incentives)		
2.7		\$0.00	
2.8	Contributions to UI Trust Funds*	\$0.00	
2.9	Small Business Economic Assistance (General)	\$0.00	
2.10	Aid to nonprofit organizations	\$0.00	
2.11	Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality	\$0.00	
2.12	Aid to Other Impacted Industries	\$0.00	
2.13	Other Economic Support	\$0.00	
2.14	Rehiring Public Sector Staff	\$0.00	
	Expenditure Category: Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities		
3		\$0.00	
3.1	Education Assistance: Early Learning	\$0.00	
3.2	Education Assistance: Aid to High-Poverty Districts	\$0.00	
3.3	Education Assistance: Academic Services	\$0.00	
	Education Assistance: Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Services		
3.4		\$0.00	
3.5	Education Assistance: Other	\$0.00	
3.6	Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care	\$0.00	
3.7	Healthy Childhood Environments: Home Visiting	\$0.00	
	Healthy Childhood Environments: Services to Foster Youth or Families Involved in Child Welfare System		
3.8		\$0.00	
3.9	Healthy Childhood Environments: Other	\$0.00	
3.10	Housing Support: Affordable Housing	\$0.00	
3.11	Housing Support: Services for Unhoused persons	\$0.00	
3.12	Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance	\$0.00	
3.13	Social Determinants of Health: Other	\$0.00	
	Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators		
3.14		\$0.00	
3.15	Social Determinants of Health: Lead Remediation	\$0.00	
	Social Determinants of Health: Community Violence Interventions		
3.16		\$0.00	
4	Expenditure Category: Premium Pay	\$0.00	
4.1	Public Sector Employees	\$0.00	
4.2	Private Sector: Grants to other employers	\$	

	Category	Cumulative expenditures to date(\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
5	Expenditure Category: Infrastructure	\$0.00	
5.1	Clean Water: Centralized wastewater treatment	\$0.00	
5.2	Clean Water: Centralized wastewater collection and conveyance	\$0.00	
5.3	Clean Water: Decentralized wastewater	\$0.00	
5.4	Clean Water: Combined sewer overflows	\$0.00	
5.5	Clean Water: Other sewer infrastructure	\$0.00	
5.6	Clean Water: Stormwater	\$0.00	
5.7	Clean Water: Energy conservation	\$0.00	
5.8	Clean Water: Water conservation	\$0.00	
5.9	Clean Water: Nonpoint source	\$0.00	
5.10	Drinking water: Treatment	\$0.00	
5.11	Drinking water: Transmission & distribution	\$0.00	
5.12	Drinking water: Transmission & distribution: lead remediation	\$0.00	
5.13	Drinking water: Source	\$0.00	
5.14	Drinking water: Storage	\$0.00	
5.15	Drinking water: Other water infrastructure	\$0.00	
5.16	Broadband: "Last Mile" projects	\$0.00	
5.17	Broadband: Other projects	\$0.00	
6	Expenditure Category: Revenue Replacement	\$0.00	
6.1	Provision of Government Services	\$0.00	
7	Administrative and Other	\$0.00	
7.1	Administrative Expenses	\$0.00	
7.2	Evaluation and data analysis	\$0.00	
7.3	Transfers to Other Units of Government	\$0.00	
7.4	Transfers to Nonentitlement Units (States and Territories only)	\$0.00	

### Project Inventory

At this time, no projects have been undertaken but the County expects local municipalities to begin applications soon after the program is stood up.