



WORK SESSION

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Session Date: February 01, 2022

Length of Time Requested: 60

Department(s): County Administrative Office

Presented by: Dorian Russell, Senior Program Administrator

Title of Topic: American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Status Update

ATTACHMENTS:

[Board Update ARPA Status Feb 01.2022 Final](#)

PURPOSE & DESIRED OUTCOME:

Advance Board member understanding of current operations and progress in developing ARPA programs.

SUMMARY OF TOPIC:

On September 7, 2021, the Board approved Washington County's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund framework and tranche one investment areas. The approved framework includes values and principles for all ARPA work as well as tranche one investments in protecting public health, community stabilization and holistic wellness, stabilizing and supporting the local economy, engaging community, ensuring continued operations, and contingency funds. This work session aims to update the board on the status of those investment areas and their community impacts.



American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Status Update

Washington County
Board of County
Commissioners

Dorian Russell, MS, ARPA Senior
Program Coordinator, County
Administrative Office

| February 1, 2022

Washington County Administrative Office

www.co.washington.or.us

Today's Purpose

Advance Board member understanding of current operations and progress in developing ARPA programs



ARPA Purpose

Address disproportionate pandemic impacts

Respond to and recover from the pandemic

Meet household and community holistic social and economic needs



Washington County's Values

“What we stand for.” These are foundational concepts for our use of ARPA funds.

EQUITY

RESILIENCE

COLLABORATION

GOOD GOVERNANCE

Washington County's Principles

“How we’ll get there.” Principles are informed by values. They are the rules that we are using for our ARPA efforts.

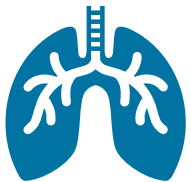


Current ARPA Strategy

Program teams are implementing multi-year strategies within the existing tranche one allocation with a focus on holistic community response and recovery.

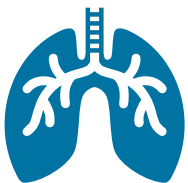
The County is serving as a convener and collaborator and leveraging partnerships with cities, special districts, school districts, and community organizations.

Developing and implementing programs with community and centered on racial equity.



ARPA Status: Programs and Contracts are in Development

- We are **five months** past Board ARPA framework adoption
- **15.2%** of tranche one spent thus far, expected to increase dramatically as contracts continue to roll out.
- Leading with collaboration and equity takes time: program design for many investment areas is ongoing.
- Five months of program development and implementation work: evaluation work is preliminary.



Washington County is a Best Practice Leader for ARPA

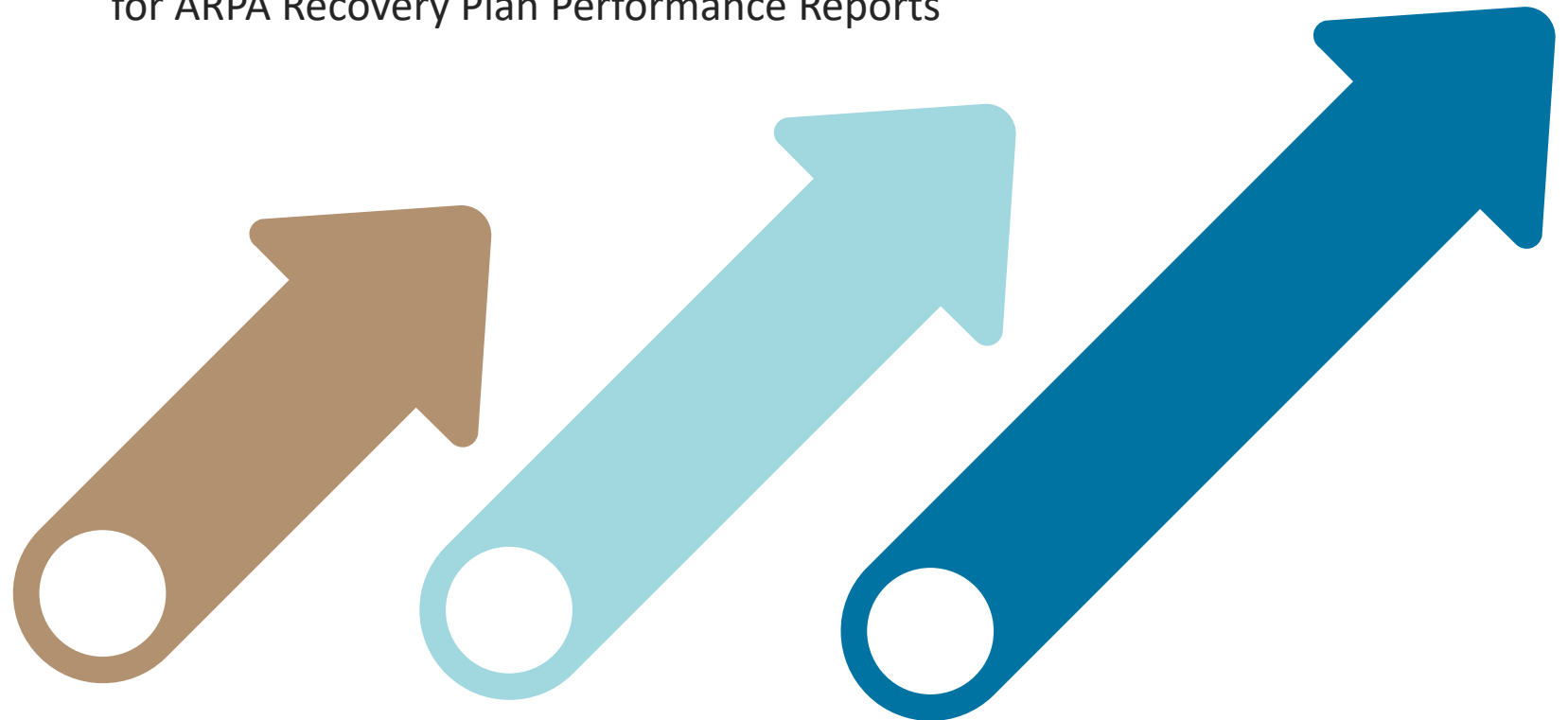
Washington County was one of

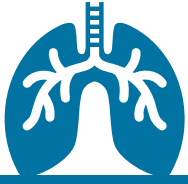
four counties nationally

to receive a

perfect score

in Results for America's Data, Evidence, and Outcomes Provisions Assessment
for ARPA Recovery Plan Performance Reports





Protecting Public Health

KEY TAKEAWAY: We are holistically supporting businesses, schools, communities, families and individuals directly impacted by COVID-19 with life-saving services, resources and referrals.

Financial Status

- Strategic multi-year program timelines
- Total expenditures: 20.3% spent (28M yet to spend)
- Contracts continue to roll out

Programmatic Impacts

- Identified **20,000+** COVID-19 positive community members and provided services to reduce disparities
- Investigated and provided infection control support to **1400+** at-risk settings including at schools, daycares, high-risk workplaces, long-term care facilities, and more
- Outreach and education in **25 languages** and connections to mental health, food security, and economic support services
- Contracts with trusted culturally-specific CBOs for **trauma-informed** services including vaccinations and testing
- **1,390+** referrals for other support services for households in quarantine, with 62% of supports serving Latinx families

POSITIVE IMPACT STORY

WCPH team member Hector B.'s response to two parents and their six children exposed to COVID-19

The first thing the mother asked me was *“how long do I have to stay home from work?”*

The parents would likely have to miss several weeks of work to care for six sick children. The mother began to cry. She explained that she did not have a stable job, was undocumented, and did not have any support from her family.

I sent a resource needs referral and an urgent food request. The moment that captured my heart was when she thanked me (in Spanish). She said, *“Wow, what a blessing and a miracle. Thank God for people like yourself who not only work for the community, but also enjoy the work they do.”*

Her comment empowered me, and it inspired me to ask more qualifying questions when it comes to offering resources. Her immense gratitude reminded me why I love helping others and why I do the work that I do. It truly makes a difference.

POSTIVE IMPACT STORY

WCPH team member Jillian P. reflects on the team's daily work of providing crisis guidance for long-term care facilities

An example, a large long term care facility in our community notified our team that six staff had tested positive for COVID and they needed assistance with testing supplies and PPE.

We provided crisis staffing guidance and PPE including 400 N95 masks, 200 face shields and 4000 gowns to the facility. During their outbreak, they had daily check ins with Washington County.

We notified the licensing agency of the potential staffing issue and contacted the state testing team to request an additional shipment of rapid test kits to support this facility who was required to test all staff and residents twice a week.

The outbreak was closed after **19 positive staff** and **26 positive residents** recovered with no other positive cases identified.

SERVICE INNOVATION

Community outreach team member Genevieve E. describes combining services for broader impact and trust building

Living Islands hosted two large food drives in conjunction with a vaccine clinic. It is more effective to reach people with vaccine education when the organization is also providing a hot meal and a food box. This CBO was able to reach **650+ families** with food and vaccine information.

Lutheran Community Services NW, which serves immigrant and refugee communities in Washington County, is leading a trauma-informed approach for their vaccine clinics, by offering art supplies and an art therapy table to families that come to get a vaccine. At their vaccine clinics, they were able to reach **660+ people** for the vaccine.



Community Stabilization and Wellness

KEY TAKEAWAY: We are developing targeted, inclusive programs to impact social, physical, and economic wellbeing

Financial Status

- Strategic multi-year program timelines
- Most work currently in design and contracting phases
- Total expenditures: 3% spent (9.4M yet to spend)

Programmatic Impacts

- Partnerships for suicide prevention; gun lock distribution
- Youth resilience in schools – social emotional learning curriculum, wellness supplies, and staff training
- Stabilization for disproportionately impacted households, including people with disabilities, people of color, and older populations.

POSITIVE IMPACT STORY

Behavioral Health Team member Cynara B.'s reflections on youth resilience and recovery

One significant success was the collaborative effort between school districts and the County to address the multiple layers of concerns regarding our K-12 youth.

Information from school staff, parents, and youth led to the County working strategically with school districts to effectively respond to the urgency of youth mental health through:

- Social emotional learning curriculum
- Wellness supplies, including new classroom infrastructure - “calming corners”
 - Staff training



Stabilize and Support the Local Economy

KEY TAKEAWAY: We are serving small businesses, micro-enterprises, and workforce needs through strategic partnerships and targeted support

Financial Status

- Small business support continues via BRCs and new contracts with CBOs.
- Solicitation for workforce investments launched
- RFP launched for Broadband Investment Strategy
- Total expenditures: 5.5% spent (\$5.3 yet to spend)

Programmatic Impacts

- Conducted outreach to thousands of businesses across the entire county
- Distributed PPE to hundreds of small businesses, allowing them to stay open
- Held dozens of trainings and workshops (primarily online) to help businesses learn how to evolve in the pandemic
- Provided targeted one-on-one technical assistance like legal, marketing, and business finance to businesses in need
- Pursued intentional and culturally specific outreach to disproportionately impacted communities
- Helped businesses access millions of Federal grant dollars

POSITIVE IMPACT STORY

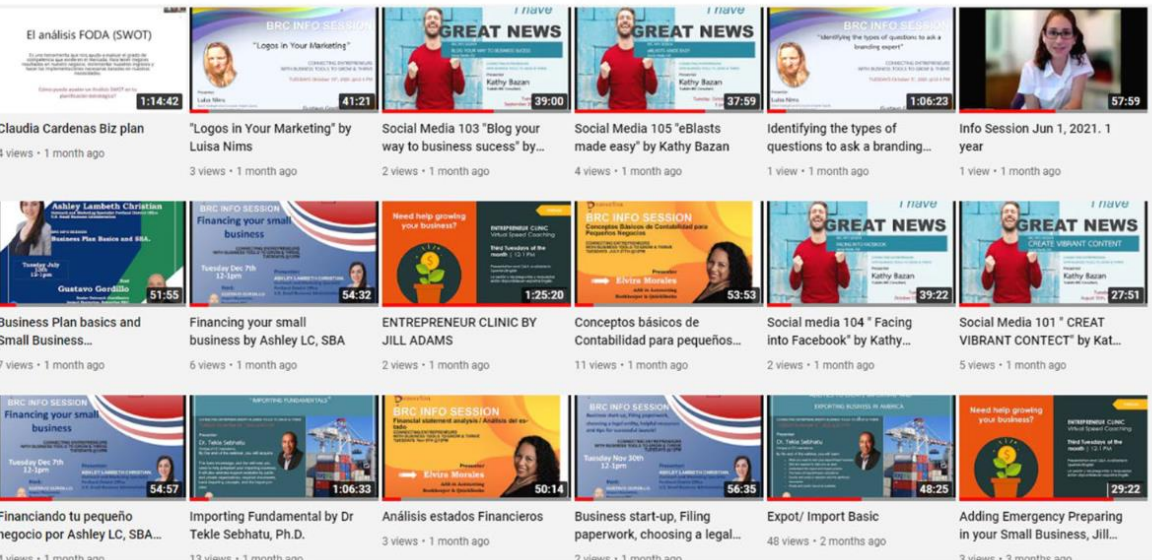
Business owner Olivia Villasenor of Olivia's Fine Foods reflects on how Business Recovery Centers are making a difference in the local economy

Adelante Mujeres – Western Washington County BRC Business Testimonial

"Por la pandemia hay menos clientes que quieren venir a comer en el restaurante. Con el subvencion que me ayudaste conseguir, pagamos nuestros debos para fortalecer laz finanzas del negocio."

English translation:

"Because of the pandemic, there are less customers who want to come to eat inside the restaurant. With the grant that you [Business Recovery Center] helped me get, we paid our debts to strengthen our businesses finances."



Virtual BRC trainings and workshops for local businesses



Community Engagement

KEY TAKEAWAY: We are centering equity priorities through cross-jurisdictional approaches co-designed with community leaders

Financial Status

- Scope of work for community engagement under cross-jurisdictional review
- Preparing for RFP process
- Total expenditures: All work is in the co-designing phase. Expenditures expected this quarter.

Programmatic Impacts

- Continued engagement with the COVID-19 Racial Equity Advisory Work Group, which is guiding community engagement plan design
- Reducing duplicative efforts, preventing CBO overburden, reducing administrative needs through collaboration

INNOVATION

Deferring to community on how to best engage genuinely and with transparency

Washington County and partner cities are collaborating with community-based organizations to identify **engagement best practices** and develop a shared **multijurisdictional engagement plan** that centers populations disproportionately impacted by the pandemic





Continued Operations

KEY TAKEAWAY: We continue providing essential services with resilient and flexible operations.

Financial Status

- 26.6% spent (\$3.1M remain)

Programmatic Impacts

- Providing continuity of government without gaps in service delivery
- Serving community directly in our County facilities



Contingency

KEY TAKEAWAY: Contingency funding remains available for unexpected needs

Financial Status

- \$2.7M

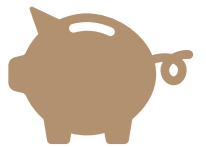
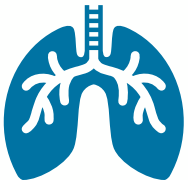
Future Status

- Evaluating continuity of government operations needs
- Evaluating needs for ARPA program capacity
- Possible unexpected needs

Continued Conversation

Evaluation work for current investments is ongoing. Next steps:

- Understand **pandemic projections** and key considerations for decisions grounded in science
- Review **best practice frameworks** in holistic recovery
- Develop an investment priority **evaluation tool** to assess and rank Board priority investment options
- Develop a more comprehensive and refined **data assessment and reporting tool** to measure long-term outcomes



Continued Conversation: This Thursday

Today's conversation is **part one of two** this week

On February 3 we will interpret current **pandemic trends and future models** for the Board to support your continued use of science in decision making

We will discuss the ways in which scientists are interpreting **challenging realities** and holding **optimism** for the future

