

County of Kern Recovery Plan



**State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
Report as of July 31, 2024**

County of Kern
2024 Recovery Plan Performance Report

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Executive Summary

The County of Kern received a total of \$174,853,685 through the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) as part of the 2021 American Rescue Plan (ARPA). This report provides details of funds obligated or expended through June 30, 2024. Since the submission of the first Recovery Plan Performance Report in 2021, the County has identified specific projects that taken together, represent a once-in-a-generation opportunity for the County to make improvements in our community and to set the foundation for our residents to share in healthier and more equitable access to government services.

This report also provides an overview of the County’s plans and the areas of focus in using the funds to respond to the pandemic and promote economic recovery. The term obligated in this report represents funds that the County has approved and allocated for spending by December 31, 2026. To date, the County has obligated the full \$174.8 million of funding to a total of 50 projects.

The Kern County Board of Supervisors approved on June 8, 2021, a spending plan for the American Rescue Plan. After the Final Rule was approved, the County refined its plan to ensure that the plan complies with the uses outlined in the rule: (a) to respond to the public health emergency with respect to Coronavirus Disease or its negative economic impacts, (b) to respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers, (c) revenue replacement for the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue of the county due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, or (d) to make necessary investments in water, sewer, stormwater or broadband infrastructure. We also made changes to ensure that the investments have a direct impact on hard-hit, disadvantaged communities.

The County Board of Supervisors prioritized six funding categories after receiving recommendations from staff and the public.

Priorities	Number of Projects	Allocation
Countywide Public Services	10	\$ 65,197,575.24
Economy, Trade & Tourism	4	1,274,082.31
Homelessness & Housing	5	21,314,000.00
Park & Open Space Improvements ⁽¹⁾	12	18,253,353.00
Public Safety Initiatives	5	15,814,674.45
Pedestrian Safety and Infrastructure Improvements	14	55,000,000.00
Total	50	\$ 176,853,685.00

⁽¹⁾ \$2 million interest earnings are allocated to this priority.

The plan intends to respond to the public health emergency and related negative impacts by supporting programs that increase access to healthcare, behavioral health, substance use services, provide training for individuals in industries severely affected by the public health emergency, provide education through our countywide libraries, and make investments to restore our tourism industry. It also includes investments in neighborhoods through necessary improvements in parks, and sewer. The plan also addressed economic stability by compensating essential workers that continued to provide services despite the heightened risk created by the COVID-19 public health emergency. The public health emergency has not only affected the economic stability of

individuals in our community, but our County experienced significant budget shortfalls which affect the ability to provide services and improve the health of our community.

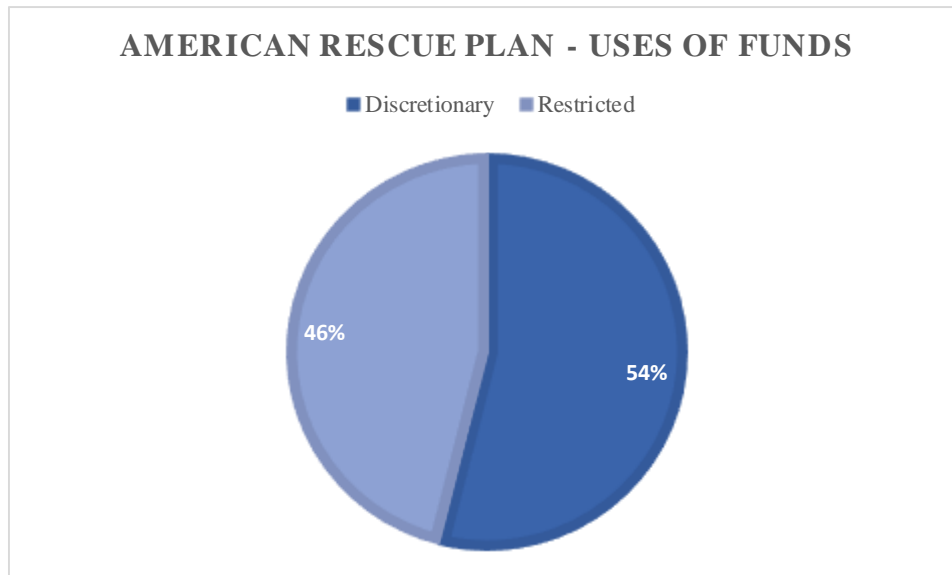
The plan provides the framework to respond to the pandemic and its economic impacts through the accountable, transparent, and careful use of the \$174,853,685 allocated to Kern County. To promote accountability and provide information for our residents, the County has developed a community investment dashboard so members of the community can see which priorities were identified, where funds have been committed and what projects are in progress or complete. The American Rescue Plan Dashboard can be found at:

<https://www.kerncounty.com/government/county-administrative-office/cao/budget-and-finance/american-rescue-plan-act>

The County’s Recovery Plan will continue to be updated annually to reflect changes in ARPA allocations. The subsequent performance reports will include progress updates on currently funded projects, as well as any adjustments to the current funding allocations.

Uses of Funds

The County has obligated all SLFRF funds received. Fifty (50) projects in discretionary and restricted ARPA funding are included in the County’s plan. The County classified ARPA funds into one of two categories: restricted or discretionary. Restricted (i.e., response and recovery efforts directly related to the pandemic and its effects on the community) funds can be spent on statutory eligible uses outlined by the U.S. Treasury’s Final Rule, whereas discretionary funds represent revenue replacement that can be used for governmental services.



Discretionary ARPA Funding: The public health emergency has not only affected the economic stability of individuals in our community, but our County experienced significant budget shortfalls which affect the ability to provide services and improve the health of our community. Based on the formula provided by the U.S. Treasury Department and after calculating the revenue loss for fiscal year 2020, the County determined that the discretionary amount available is approximately \$93.3 million. This amount will be used as provided by the Treasury guidance for governmental

services including but not limited to maintenance of infrastructure including roads, modernization of systems to improve cybersecurity, protection of critical infrastructure, and the provision of police, fire and other public safety services. This amount combined with \$2 million of estimated interest earnings represents approximately 54% of the County’s allocation.

The following discretionary ARPA funded projects were included in the County’s plan.

Priorities	Projects	Allocation
Countywide Public Services	Administrative Cost	\$ 790,000
Countywide Public Services	Technology improvements at 12 Kern County Libraries	225,801
Countywide Public Services	Countywide ERP Project	5,000,000
Countywide Public Services	Information Technology Security Upgrades	900,090
Countywide Public Services	Litter Abatement - Open Door Network	1,000,000
Countywide Public Services	Public Employees Governmental Services - Compensation	11,661,203
Countywide Public Services	Public Employees Governmental Services	10,776,052
Economy, Trade & Tourism	Better Bakersfield and Boundless Kern economic recovery	325,000
Economy, Trade & Tourism	Tourism economic recovery promotion	600,000
Park & Open Space Improvements	La Colonia/Mexican Colony Community Park Development	400,700
Park & Open Space Improvements	Fuller Acres Park Development	500,000
Park & Open Space Improvements	Casa Loma Park Improvements	1,540,000
Park & Open Space Improvements	Virginia Park Improvements	940,000
Park & Open Space Improvements	Potomac Playground Replacements	440,000
Park & Open Space Improvements	Rosamond Bathroom Repair	700,000
Park & Open Space Improvements	Sam Lynn Park Improvements	2,000,000
Park & Open Space Improvements	Replace two wells and rehabilitate five wells, pumping systems, and piping at Buena Vista Aquatic Recreational Area.	4,762,000
Park & Open Space Improvements	Rehab potable and fire water system at Camp Condor including new well, tank, and lines.	1,100,000
Park & Open Space Improvements	Construct potable water line to Camp Okihi	625,000
Park & Open Space Improvements	Public Wi-Fi at County facilities	245,653
Park & Open Space Improvements	Investment in parks and public outdoor recreation spaces - All Districts	5,000,000

Priorities	Projects	Allocation
Pedestrian Safety and Infrastructure Improvements	Sidewalks & Roads in Lake Isabella / Bodfish	3,000,000
Pedestrian Safety and Infrastructure Improvements	Sidewalks & Roads in Lake Isabella	3,000,000
Pedestrian Safety and Infrastructure Improvements	Sidewalks in Ford City	4,800,000
Pedestrian Safety and Infrastructure Improvements	Sidewalks in Rosamond	1,200,000
Pedestrian Safety and Infrastructure Improvements	Sidewalks & Roads in Oildale	6,000,000
Pedestrian Safety and Infrastructure Improvements	Sidewalks in Lamont/Woods Edition	3,000,000
Pedestrian Safety and Infrastructure Improvements	Sidewalks in Lamont - Dunsmere Street	1,800,000
Pedestrian Safety and Infrastructure Improvements	Sidewalks in Weedpatch	1,200,000
Pedestrian Safety and Infrastructure Improvements	Sidewalks in South-East Bakersfield	4,800,000
Pedestrian Safety and Infrastructure Improvements	Sidewalks in North-East Bakersfield	1,200,000
Public Safety Initiatives	District Attorney electronic case management system	731,028
Public Safety Initiatives	Public Defender electronic case management system	500,000
Public Safety Initiatives	Meto Bakersfield Graffiti Abatement	3,833,646
Public Safety Initiatives	First Responders' Equipment	10,000,000
Public Safety Initiatives	Outlying Area Graffiti Abatement	750,000
Total		\$ 95,296,173

Restricted ARPA Funding: The remaining \$81.5 million of ARPA funds were designed as restricted funds. Eligible use categories include response to the public health emergency, services to disproportionately impacted communities including improving neighborhoods through investments in sewer and stormwater, and response to workers performing essential work during the public health emergency.

A. To respond to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus disease or its negative economic impacts:

Description	Allocation
Support for homelessness, behavioral health, and substance use	\$21,314,000.00
Access to health care services through the Public Hospital	\$10,000,000.00
Improve educational opportunities through the Countywide Library System	\$ 2,450,000.00
Improve job training opportunities	\$ 349,082.31

B. To improve neighborhoods and build environment through investments in sewer and stormwater:

Description	Allocation
Flood mitigation	\$10,000,000.00
Sewer improvements	\$15,000,000.00

C. To respond to workers performing essential work during the public health emergency by providing premium pay for eligible workers:

Description	Allocation
Economic stability – Premium pay for eligible workers	\$22,394,429.50

Support for Homelessness, Behavioral Health, and Substance Use (\$15,000,000)

COVID-19 has had a clear and direct impact increasing homeless and substance abuse issues and exacerbating mental health conditions. The unsheltered population has been disproportionately impacted by the public health emergency. Many of these individuals have been unable or unwilling to seek traditional help through our homeless shelters or behavioral health services. This funding will allow for a proactive approach to engaging with those in need.

1. **Project Name:** Co-Response Homeless Engagement Teams

Identification Number: 1119-7661

Allocated Amount: \$2,500,000

Expenditures: \$1,139,857

Expenditure Category: 1.12-Mental Health Services

Timeline: January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2026

Project Description: \$2,500,000 Allocation for implementing four co-response teams pairing mental health workers and conservators with public safety to directly engage with the homeless community throughout the County. Under this program, Kern Behavioral Health and Recovery Services initiated the ROEM Team (Relational Outreach and Engagement Model) to provide street outreach to high need behavioral health and substance abuse individuals who are treatment and engagement resistant. The funding will be used to assign outreach workers to work 40 hours per week and to utilize two mobile units that will allow for services in the field including enhanced medication services, and telehealth. The mobile units afford more privacy and an air-conditioned area to meet the unsheltered individuals.

While the ROEM Program is not evidence-based, it utilizes Motivational Interviewing, which is an evidence-based practice to engage individuals. The program will also utilize the Housing First Model as well as the Harm Reduction substance use model, both are evidence-based techniques to address the needs of this population. Relating to the utilization of the above practices, our data doesn't track the specific interventions given, but tracks the outcomes such as reduction in crisis utilization, improvement in symptomology, successful placement, and successful engagement into treatment.

This program has three goals:

Goal / Outcome: Successfully engage 50% of referred homeless individuals residing at shelters and navigation centers into behavioral health services.

Output Measures / Objective: Engage and refer individuals living in shelters and navigation centers into behavioral health services by ensuring consistent staffing,

coordination and collaboration with shelter staff and maintaining a consistent and engaged presence in the facilities.

Results: Since January 2022, the engagement rate has ranged from a low of 65% to a high of 84%. Staff will continue to maintain a consistent and engaged presence in facilities to ensure that individuals are referred to the appropriate location for services.

Time Period	Number of Individuals Referred	Number of Individuals engaged in services	Percentage
January 1, 2022-March 31, 2022	75	49	65%
April 1, 2022- June 30,2022	75	58	77%
July 1, 2022- September 30, 2022	95	74	78%
October 1, 2022- December 31, 2022	72	53	74%
January 1, 2023- March 31, 2023	75	51	68%
April 1, 2023- June 30, 2023	90	76	84%
July 1, 2023- September 30, 2023	74	53	72%
October 1, 2023- December 31, 2023	97	66	68%
January 1, 2024- March 31, 2024	123	80	65%
April 1, 2024- June 30, 2024	98	65	66%
Total	874	625	72%

Goal / Outcome: Successfully engage 50% of referred homeless living on the street into behavioral health services within 6 months of initial contact.

Output Measures / Objective: ROEM team will continue utilization of ROEM model for engagement for individuals living unsheltered on the street, building rapport and trust to engage clients served into behavioral health services. Street Psychiatrist (Physicians performing services at the location where individuals reside) will support the team to provide medication services, ensuring a variety of interventions and resources are utilized.

Results: Since January 2022, the engagement rate has been approximately 54%.

Time Period	Number of Individuals Referred	Number of Individuals engaged in services within 6-months rolling time frame	Percentage
January 1, 2022-March 31, 2022	18	10	56%
April 1, 2022- June 30,2022	11	6	55%
July 1, 2022- September 30, 2022	19	8	42%
October 1, 2022- December 31, 2022	15	9	60%
January 1, 2023- March 31, 2023	18	10	56%
April 1, 2023- June 30, 2023	3	3	100%
July 1, 2023- September 30, 2023	5	3	60%
October 1, 2023- December 31, 2023	5	3	60%
January 1, 2024- March 31, 2024	22	11	50%
April 1, 2024- June 30, 2024	9	5	56%
Total	125	68	54%

Goal / Outcome: Engage 25% of individuals served through the ROEM program into housing placement within 6 months of initial contact.

Output Measures / Objective: Staff will work with existing housing and placement providers to support expanded capacity for all housing resources and ensure expedited placement access is available when needed. Additional intensive services are provided after initial placement to ensure housing stability. Services include a partnership with the conservator.

Results: Approximately 50% of individuals served through the ROEM program have been placed into housing.

Time Period	Number of Individuals Referred	Number of Individuals placed in housing within 6-months of contact	Percentage
January 1, 2022-March 31, 2022	18	8	44%
April 1, 2022- June 30,2022	11	8	73%
July 1, 2022- September 30, 2022	19	9	47%
October 1, 2022- December 31, 2022	15	8	53%
January 1, 2023- March 31, 2023	18	8	44%
April 1, 2023- June 30, 2023	3	3	100%
July 1, 2023- September 30, 2023	5	3	60%
October 1, 2023- December 31, 2023	5	2	40%
January 1, 2024- March 31, 2024	22	10	45%
April 1, 2024- June 30, 2024	9	4	44%
Total	125	63	50%

Conservator Partnership Outcomes for the period July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024

Services	Number of Individuals
Number of Clients seen by Deputy Conservator	144
Interdisciplinary Team Consults	74
ROEM Temporary Conservatorship referrals	8
Permanent Conservatorships for ROEM clients	13

2. **Project Name:** Behavioral Health Mobile Evaluation Team

Identification Number: 1119-7662

Allocated Amount: \$1,350,000

Expenditure: \$825,153

Expenditure Category: 1.12-Mental Health Services

Timeline: January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2026

Project Description: \$1,350,000 has been allocated to add four additional Mobile Evaluation Team units to increase mental health response to those in crisis including the homeless population. This program will reduce the number of unsheltered individuals, living on the streets, causing nuisance and/or unsafe behaviors for the community.

This program has the following goal:

Goal: Divert crisis calls involving homelessness to this specialized outreach team.

Output Measure / Objective: Respond to 9-1-1 calls involving reports of homelessness, public nuisances as a result of homelessness, and check the welfare calls involving people experiencing homelessness with behavioral health needs.

Results: The Kern Behavioral Health and Bakersfield Police Department (BPD) Co-Response team was launched on February 2, 2022, and it is establishing working collaborative relationships within the community. 1,683 calls were diverted from BPD street calls during the last fiscal year saving valuable officer time.

Services	Data
Number of call received	1,683
Unitque individuals contacted	1,491
Number of Welfare and Institurions Code 5150 written	227
Percentage of inviduals linked to services	0.06%

Opportunities: To continue and increase success, it is necessary to increase the training and materials (i.e., phone chargers, snacks, toiletries) needed to ensure the Co-response team can fully operate with the ROEM model, increase outreach and public awareness of the co-response team as a community resource available and to enhance and increase inter-agency collaboration with all partners to ensure the team is able to fully coordinate care for individuals served.

- Project Name:** Rapid Response
Identification Number: 1119-7660
Allocated Amount: \$4,000,0000
Expenditures: \$3,301,239
Expenditure Category: 1.14-Other Public Health Services
Timeline: January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2026
Project Description: \$4,000,000 was allocated for funding rapid response teams to respond to unsafe and illegal encampments and mitigate the public health and safety risk to the community. The goal of this program is to engage with individuals living in encampments to reduce the health risk associated with this setting. The Kern County General Services Division and the Kern County Public Works Rapid Response teams are tasked with contacting individuals living on the streets and engaging them with non-profit entities that provide housing, and other health services. They will also post notices and clean up the unmanaged encampment areas, leaving them in a clean and safe condition.

For Fiscal Year 2023-2024, the Public Works Department engaged 1,825 individuals, of which 482 accepted assistance. 1649 encampments were cleaned. The General Services Division cleaned up encampments and engaged 257 individuals, of which 104 accepted assistance.

- Project Name:** Safe Camping and Parking
Identification Number: 1119-7663
Allocated Amount: \$2,050,000
Expenditure: \$2,049,261.79
Expenditure Category: 1.14- Other Public Health Services

Timeline: May 1, 2022 – December 31, 2026

Project Description: \$2,050,000 was allocated to create and operate safe camping and parking spaces to provide alternatives for unsafe and illegal encampments for those unwilling or unable to go into a shelter or navigation center. The Safe Camping and Parking project provides unsheltered homeless individuals a safe place to reside that includes restrooms and 3 meals a day and is located adjacent to the County’s Navigation Center. The project holds 42 camping spaces and 10 parking spaces. Individuals are provided a tent, bedding/sleeping bag, and a canopy. The area includes artificial turf, restroom facilities, water, light case management, security, and more. This project provides a safe place to reside, allows pets, and is low barrier for entry. Clients can access services and are encouraged to seek placement in the navigation center and/or permanent housing. The goal of the project is to move individuals into temporary or permanent housing.

Measurement	Goal	Actual Results
		July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024
Clients moved to Emergency Shelter	24	19
Client Exits to Permanent Housing	36	15
Average Client Census	42	40

Project Name: Non-Congregate Navigation Center

Identification Number: 1119-7664

Allocated Amount: \$11,464,000

Expenditure: \$5,310,418

Expenditure Category: 1.14-Other Public Health Services

Timeline: May 2022- December 31, 2026

Project Description: \$11,464,000 has been allocated to create new temporary housing solutions where substance abuse and behavioral health services can be administered for individuals not able to function in congregant settings. This program will include the construction of a supportive village that will provide non-congregate shelter to homeless individuals experiencing mental illness. With approximately 60 beds, the operator of this village will work hand in hand with Kern County Behavioral Health and Recovery Services to identify the appropriate clients. The village is meant to house those homeless clients where their mental illness prevents them from being successful in a congregate setting.

This village began accepting clients at the end of March 2024 and quickly filled up. Although equipped with fifty (50) sleeping cabins, 10 cabins hold two beds to accommodate couples or family members wanting to remain together for a total maximum capacity of sixty (60). Currently, the village remains full and provides behavioral care, animal services, and housing navigation. Next year should include services such as medical care and employment services, and other programming.

Measurement	Goal	Actual Results
		March 26, 2024 - June 30, 2024
Client Exits to Permanent Housing	35	11
Clients with employment	10	1
Average Client Census	45	47

Access to Health Care Services through the Public Hospital (\$10,000,000)

1. **Project Name:** Access to Health Care Services – Public Hospital

Identification Number: 1119-7565

Allocated Amount: \$10,000,000

Expenditures: \$10,000,000

Expenditure Category: 1.6-Medical Expenses (including Alternative Care Facilities)

Timeline: Completed

Project Description: Since 1867, the County’s public hospital, Kern Medical, has served as an integral part of the community, caring for the most underserved in Kern County. As a safety net and designated public hospital, Kern Medical has the unique opportunity to serve the most vulnerable populations. As an academic institution, their role in the community is critical for important health issues residents face. In addition to being the only trauma center, Kern Medical operates 11 outpatient clinic sites that provide primary care services and most physician specialty services. Nearly all of Kern County is in a medically underserved area and as the safety net and largest healthcare service provider for the County, Kern Medical has a pivotal role in delivering affordable, accessible, quality care to the most vulnerable populations of our community. The patient population (e.g., underserved, undocumented, unsheltered, incarcerated, impoverished, linguistically isolated) is often uninsured or underinsured with a payer mix of over 50% Medicare and Medicaid (Medi-Cal).

Since the beginning of the public health emergency, Kern Medical has been providing several COVID-19 related services to all residents, including housing and medical care for COVID-19 patients that required isolation, drive-thru testing sites, and mobile vaccination clinics for farmworkers and other high-risk populations. Since then, Kern Medical has made large strides in increasing vaccine accessibility to Kern County’s most vulnerable populations. Kern Medical’s mobile clinic team has been working diligently to improve access to vaccination throughout different areas of Kern County, including some of the most underserved areas such as Wasco, Taft, Lamont, and Arvin.

The proposed allocation seeks to continue with the existing efforts to address the medical needs of the community as a result of COVID-19, including the long-term medical effects of the virus, Valley Fever awareness, mental health awareness and navigation services, preventative screening, and mobile vaccination sites for COVID-19, all free for our community.

Improve Educational Opportunities through the Countywide Library System (\$2,450,000)

1. **Project Name:** Improve Educational Opportunities – Countywide Libraries
Identification Number: 1119-8851-2
Allocated Amount: \$2,450,000
Expenditures: \$2,337,248
Expenditure Category: 3.2 – Public Sector Workforce: Rehiring Public Sector Staff
Timeline: July 1, 2021- December 31, 2026
Project Description: The Kern County Library system includes 24 branches and two bookmobile routes across the County. As a result of the pandemic, operations at all locations were impacted due to capacity and social distancing guidelines, coupled with budgetary and staffing concerns. Due to loss of revenue, only 12 branches remained open for public use.

The proposed plan allocates \$2.45 million in funds to be used within three years to backfill for positions lost during the Coronavirus pandemic. This funding is being used to hire employees to run operations at 22 branches across the County. Each branch has a team of staff providing dedicated service to each individual community. With this additional funding and through the libraries reopening plan, the county is able to provide full indoor services at 22 library branches across the county. Restoring and expanding library services provide community members of all ages access to programs in various forms. This improved service is all for the shared goal to continue providing reading and other educational opportunities to communities across the County.

The County has hired 43 positions that were lost due to the pandemic.

Improve Job Training opportunities (\$750,000)

1. **Project Name:** ETR/BAS Job Training
Identification Number: 1119-7163
Allocated Amount: \$138,840
Expenditures: \$138,840
Expenditure Category: 2.10-Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers
Timeline: November 31, 2021- December 31, 2026
Project Description: \$138,840 has been allocated to make improvements to a restaurant training facility. The restaurant industry was especially hard-hit during the pandemic. Many restaurants closed and those that remained opened had to adapt quickly to the impacts of the public health emergency. Although restaurants' operations have normalized the restaurant workforce is not the same. Many employees left for other jobs and are not returning to this industry. This project proposes using the existing training program to reintroduce individuals to this restaurant business.

The training provides career opportunities and require mastery of entry-level skills, including knowledge and professional attitude related to food preparation and service. Students are given career-oriented hands-on experience in the planning, preparation, and delivery of meals in the on-campus restaurant by serving the community, as well as through community classroom events and internship training.

With the proposed allocation, improvements to the training facility will provide training in the digital world which is instrumental to hiring within the restaurant business. These improvements will provide additional equipment and online learning library materials.

The socio-economic backgrounds of students are varied. The overwhelming majority of students have barriers to employment including criminal records or prior substance use issues. This program provides students the opportunity to gain confidence and enter the workforce of an industry in need of employees. The goal of the program is to enroll 50 students per session.

This program began in late April 2022 with 8 individuals. While capacity is greater this small group provided the opportunity to begin the program and refine the training for the next group. During Fiscal Year 2023-2024, two groups were trained.

2. **Project Name:** ETR Transitional Jobs Program

Identification Number: 1119-8851-3

Allocated Amount: \$210,242

Expenditures: \$210,242

Expenditure Category: 2.10-Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers

Timeline: July 1, 2021- December 31, 2026

Project Description: \$210,242 was allocated for transitional jobs programs. The County will work with three non-profits to provide training to the chronically unemployed that have been significant barriers to employment and have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. The program will pair short-term training programs with intensive support and a wage. This program began in April 2022. Since inception this program has had 48 individuals enrolled in office occupations and safe food handling programs. This program transitioned to a different funding source in FY 2023-24.

Project Description Flood Mitigation (\$10,000,000)

1. **Project Name:** Lamont Stormwater Mitigation

Identification Number: 2800-8106

Allocated Amount: \$10,000,000

Expenditures: \$5,460

Expenditure Category: 5.6-Clean Water: Stormwater

Timeline: July 1, 2021- December 31, 2026

Project Description: The Lamont Stormwater Mitigation Infrastructure Project will divert and mitigate hazardous stormwater delivered from the Caliente and Walker Basin Creeks that has been the source of regular flooding in Lamont, California, and surrounding communities. The intent is to create the most natural landform and geomorphology possible in the Caliente Creek riparian area, to spread and slow flows of flood water, maximizing flood mitigation of a 500-acre portion of land, and protecting the communities from stormwater using landform and vegetation. Stormwater mitigation will ensure roads remain open for emergency services, workplaces, schools, and commercial needs for economic sustainability, as well as reducing potential damages, hazardous contamination, and loss of life or property for these already economically burdened communities. The communities served include census tracts (CT) 62.01, 62.02, 60.04, 64.01, 64.03, and 64.04. The census tracts are predominantly Hispanic or Latino (of any race), estimated at 89.16% of the

population (2019 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates, table DP05). The identified census tracts have an average California Healthy Places index of 10.9, or worse conditions than 89.1% of other census tracts in the State of California for clean environments. The census tracts have a Disadvantaged Community Percentage (DAC) of 74.17, meaning 74.17% of these census tracts are disproportionately burdened by exposure to multiple sources of pollution and heightened social and economic vulnerability. An average of 31.82% of the census tracts' residents live below the poverty line (2021 FFIEC Geocode Census Report). This project has received significant public input. A feasibility study was completed, and multiple public meetings were conducted to review the outcome of the study. A hydrology consultant provided the County with a draft conceptual basin report. The County will review report to confirm details of acquiring the land to the northeast of Panama Road and Malaga Road.

Sewer Improvements (\$15,000,000)

Three projects are proposed (one for new and two for repair) to reduce/remove the disproportionate economic and environmental burden of future sewer backup/failure and resulting property and roadway damages in the unincorporated communities of east Bakersfield, Ford City/Taft Heights, and western Rosedale.

The purposeful planning and careful implementation of these projects has prioritized the economic, social, and racial equity of disadvantaged communities in Kern County to reduce the burden that insufficient or outdated water and sewer infrastructure have on these traditionally marginalized communities. These projects serve residents in areas identified as disadvantaged, low income, and unhealthy. A CalEnviroScreen 3.0 report was used to determine that most of the census tracts these projects serve, or benefit are disadvantaged, with high levels of exposure to pollution and increased vulnerability to the adverse effects of pollution. The Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council (FFIEC) report was used to determine that most of the census tracts the projects serve are also significantly below the poverty line (5% - 38% below the poverty line). The California Healthy Places Index was used to determine that every community that these projects serve have the top 20% worst environment conditions in the entire State. Equity is and will continue to be measured by access to sufficient sewer infrastructure.

1. **Project Name:** Sewer – Ford City-Taft Heights

Identification Number: 9145-8109

Allocated Amount: \$7,000,000

Expenditures: \$100,023

Expenditure Category: 5.5 - Clean Water: Other Sewer Infrastructure

Timeline: July 1, 2021- December 31, 2024

Project Description: This project is intended to design and construct approximately 12,505 feet of sewer replacement in the Ford-City Taft Heigh area. This community is a low-income community with household income ranging from \$17,975 to \$44,939. The goal of the project is to reduce economic and public health burden from sewer damages.

The project is in the middle-to-late stages of design, with the design portion of the projects ranging from 60% to 90% complete. It is anticipated that construction will begin within the fourth quarter of calendar year 2024 and the first quarter of calendar year 2025 for all the projects.

2. **Project Name:** Sewer – East Bakersfield/KSA

Identification Number: 9143-8108

Allocated Amount: \$2,000,000

Expenditures: \$1,268,379

Expenditure Category: 5.5 - Clean Water: Other Sewer Infrastructure

Timeline: July 1, 2021- December 31, 2024

Project Description: This project is intended to design and construct approximately 3,652 feet of sewer replacement in the unincorporated metropolitan area, east of the Bakersfield City. This community is a low-income community with household income ranging from \$17,686 to \$44,217. The goal of the project is to reduce economic and public health burden from sewer damages.

The project is in the middle-to-late stages of design, with the design portion of the projects ranging from 60% to 90% complete. It is anticipated that construction will begin within the fourth quarter of calendar year 2024 and the first quarter of calendar year 2025 for all the projects.

3. **Project Name:** Northwest Bakersfield CSA 71

Identification Number: 9329-8110

Allocated Amount: \$6,000,000

Expenditures: \$136,422

Expenditure Category: 5.5-Clean Water: Other Sewer Infrastructure

Timeline: July 1, 2021- December 31, 2026

Project Description: The western Rosedale project is designed to reduce the disproportionate burden of old or nonexistent sewer infrastructure by providing access to sewer facilities which reduce cost and risk to homeowners for septic failure and associated economic and environmental health concerns.

The project is in the middle-to-late stages of design, with the design portion of the projects ranging from 60% to 90% complete. It is anticipated that construction will begin within the fourth quarter of calendar year 2024 and the first quarter of calendar year 2025 for all the projects.

Economic Stability – Premium Pay for Eligible Workers (\$22,429,954)

1. **Project Name:** Economic Stability – Premium Pay for Eligible Public Employees

Identification Number: 1119-8851-1

Allocated Amount: \$22,394,429

Expenditures: \$22,394,429

Expenditure Category: 4.1-Public Sector Employees

Timeline: December 27, 2021

Project Description: The County of Kern continued to operate at all times throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic. While some offices temporarily closed or reduced on-site staffing, core functions of County government and services to the public continued. County employees continued to work in some degree during the pandemic (outside of office closures or leaves of absence). Many employees fell ill with COVID-19 or had family members or friends affected by the disease. Some employees assisted with efforts (including local, state, and federal programs) to test or vaccinate the general public locally during the pandemic. Employees continued to make sure the public was being served and protected, while dealing with their own risks, stresses, and difficulties related to working and living through the global pandemic. The County paid premium pay of \$3,000 for 6,933 of our public eligible employees.

This project is complete.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes

The County received funding from other sources that have been instrumental in response efforts and assisting the community. Similar to those efforts, the ARPA funding will enable us to ensure equitable outcomes of each project. Our community is considered disadvantaged. In particular, the population living in the unincorporated areas of the County have been negatively impacted by the ability of the County to provide the same level of service that many residents in the incorporated areas of the County receive. Parks and roads are some areas that we clearly see a difference between incorporated and unincorporated areas. The following strategies are utilized to ensure that we are providing the most equitable distribution of funds:

- Engagement of community groups by listening to their concerns: Our projects focus on areas identified to have inadequate conditions. Community groups have been engaged in the dialogue with our departments and members of the Board of Supervisors.
- Operate with urgency and accountability: The proposed projects were selected as urgent to support more equitable distribution of resources in our community.
- Data driven: This is one of the most challenging strategies for governments. While cost benefit analysis is used for most county activities, we will need to use data in a manner that identifies measurable and articulable outcomes to be responsible to those benefitting from these projects.

The key ARPA-funded initiatives to promote equitable outcomes are 1) homelessness and mental health, 2) workforce development for unemployed or underemployed and 3) infrastructure development in severely and disproportionately impacted communities.

Community Engagement

The County incorporates multiple methods to engage the community. The proposed projects balance community goals and public master planning activities. The County has a demonstrated history of working with disadvantaged communities and advocacy groups, community-based organizations, and residents. Management of our different operational departments meet regularly with community groups and disadvantaged communities to hear their concerns, resulting in their influence on these selected projects.

In addition, regular and special public meetings with the Board of Supervisors and Parks and Recreation Commission have facilitated public outreach and community discussion parks facilities and projects.

Labor Practices

For all infrastructure projects, the County requires contractors and subcontractors to pay workers no less than the applicable prevailing wage. Local and State funded infrastructure projects require compliance with wage determinations set by the Director of the California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR), whereas federally funded projects require compliance with wage determinations set by the U.S. Secretary of Labor in accordance with the Davis-Bacon Act.

The County contracts for construction services through the competitive bidding process as outlined in Public Contract Code. These requirements ensure full compliance with competitive bidding statutes as a means of protecting the public from misuse of public funds; provide all qualified bidders with a fair opportunity to enter the bidding process, thereby stimulating competition in a manner conducive to sound fiscal practices; and eliminate favoritism, fraud, and corruption in the awarding of public contracts.

The County requires all contractors to comply with labor non-discrimination. Contractors shall not discriminate in the employment of persons upon public works on the basis of race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical disability, mental disability, medical condition, marital status, sex, age, or sexual orientation, except as otherwise provided in Section 12940 of the Government Code.

Use of Evidence

Each project prior to its implementation is evaluated for a cost benefit analysis. Details are included in the narrative of each project above.

Project Inventory

See Attached.

American Rescue Plan Act - State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds - County of Kern

Project	Community Served	Project Description	Expenditure Category	Intended Outcomes	Delivery Mechanisms	Estimated Project Timeline	Cost Estimate	Funding Allocated	Census Tracts (CT) Benefitted	(California Healthy Places Index) - Clean Environment Percentile Ranking (These census tracts have worse conditions than ___% of other census tracts in the State of California for Clean Environments category)	Disadvantaged Community (DAC) % (CalEnviroScreen 3.0) - These census tracts are disproportionately burdened (___%) by exposure to multiple sources of pollution and heightened social and economic vulnerability	Average % of Census Tract below Poverty Line
Support for Homelessness	Countywide	Proactive approach for engaging homeless population by co-response teams, crisis mobile units, expansion of capacity at navigation centers, temporary housing for individuals unable to function in congregant settings and creation of safe alternatives for unsafe and illegal encampments.	1.12 Mental Health Services	This project is designed to reduce the impact of COVID-19 in the homeless population and address the behavioral health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.	Implementation of co-response teams pairing mental health workers, conservators and public safety to directly engage	Project plan development will be completed by December 2021, implementation and hiring of staff by March 2021, full implementation will begin April 2021	Initial cost \$20,462,052 ongoing cost beyond the ARPA funding will be covered with existing resources or through the allocation of loss revenue.	\$20,462,052	All	All	All	Countywide
Support for Public Hospital	Countywide	Financial support for public hospital to continue providing services to medically underserved population.	1.6 Medical Expense	Ensure the stability of the public hospital. Continue with existing programs to mitigate the public health emergency.	Will deliver medical care to the medically indigent population. Testing and vaccination to the entire community.	This project is an extension of the existing services currently being provided by the hospital.	Support will be limited to \$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	All	All	All	Countywide
Library system- Rehire Staff	Countywide	Will rehire staff to the pre-pandemic levels to open libraries that were closed and provide educational opportunities across the entire community.	3.2 Public Sector Workforce	The County will rehire 43 staff that were reduced due to the economic impacts due to the pandemic. The County will utilize staff to reopen library branches and provide educational opportunities across the entire community.	The County will rehire staff and will begin the reopening phase of the 22 libraries. Services to the communities will be based on the specific needs.	Rehiring of staff began in July 2021, reopening of libraries will begin Mid September 2021, with completion of reopening no later than November 2021.	\$2,450,000	\$2,450,000	All	All	All	Countywide
Job Training Opportunities	Countywide	Will provide training in the restaurant industry for individuals that have difficulty obtaining employment.	2.10 Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed	Train a minimum of 50 individuals per semester.	In-person training, classroom activities and operation of the County café and with training providers	Project development in progress. Purchase of necessary material completed by September 2021. Training beginning began August 23, 2021. This program has two semesters per years.	\$349,082	\$349,082	All	All	All	Countywide
Caliente Creek	Lamont	Design and construction/acquisition for stormwater/flood mitigation activities to reduce flooding experienced from Caliente Creek.	5.6: Clean Water: Stormwater	Reduced economic and public health burden from stormwater damages. Increased public health and safety by promoting equal opportunities, implementing sustainable development, and promoting growth and better quality of life.	In house design. Construction contract.	Design - complete in 12-18 months, Construction/Acquisition - start in 18-24 months, complete 36-48 months.	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	62.01, 62.02, 60.04, 64.01,64.03, 64.04	(94.65)	74.17	31.82
Ford City - Taft Heights (FCTH) Sanitation District -	Ford City & Taft Heights	Design and construction of approximately 12,505 ft of sewer replacement	5.5: Clean Water: Other Sewer Infrastructure	Reduced economic and public health burden from sewer damages. Increased public health and safety by promoting equal opportunities, implementing sustainable development, and promoting growth and better quality of life.	In house design. Construction contract.	Design - complete in 6-9 months, Construction - start in 12 months, complete 24 months.	\$7,000,000.00	\$7,000,000.00	34.00, 35.00, 36.00	(83.10)	75.83	27.87
Kern Sanitation Authority (KSA)	Southeast Bakersfield	Design and construction of approximately 3,652 ft of sewer replacement	5.5: Clean Water: Other Sewer Infrastructure	Reduced economic and public health burden from sewer damages. Increased public health and safety by promoting equal opportunities, implementing sustainable development, and promoting growth and better quality of life.	In house design. Construction contract.	Design - complete in 6-9 months, Construction - start in 12 months, complete 24 months.	\$2,008,600.00	\$2,000,000.00	7.00, 9.04, 9.05, 9.09, 11.03, 12.01, 12.02, 13.00, 14.00, 15.00, 23.01, 23.02, 24.00, 25.00, 30.00	(98.94)	78.17	38.36

American Rescue Plan Act - State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds - County of Kern

Project	Community Served	Project Description	Expenditure Category	Intended Outcomes	Delivery Mechanisms	Estimated Project Timeline	Cost Estimate	Funding Allocated	Census Tracts (CT) Benefitted	(California Healthy Places Index) - Clean Environment Percentile Ranking (These census tracts have worse conditions than ___% of other census tracts in the State of California for Clean Environments category)	Disadvantaged Community (DAC) % (CalEnviroScreen 3.0) - These census tracts are disproportionately burdened (___%) by exposure to multiple sources of pollution and heightened social and economic vulnerability	Average % of Census Tract below Poverty Line
County Service Area (CSA) 71	Western Rosedale	Design and construction of approximately 21,900 ft of new sewer trunk line construction	5.5: Clean Water: Other Sewer Infrastructure	Reduced economic and public health burden from septic maintenance and failure. Increased public health and safety by promoting equal opportunities, implementing sustainable development, and promoting growth and better quality of life.	In house design. Construction contract.	Design - complete in 6-9 months, Construction - start in 12 months, complete 24 months.	\$19,046,500.00	\$6,000,000.00	38.03, 38.09, 38.13	(98.83)	29.17	5.31
Economic Stability Premium pay for eligible public workers	Countywide	The county is proposing one-time premium pay for our public eligible employees.	4.1 Public Sector Employees	Provide economic stability to eligible public workers.	Payment of one-time premium pay.	Estimated payment before end of December 2021.	\$22,429,954	\$22,429,954	All	All	All	Countywide
Revenue Loss for the provision of governmental services	Countywide	Governmental Services	6.1 Provision of Governmental Services	The County is in the process of completing the revenue loss calculation.	The County will utilize the funding to provide governmental services.	The County will finalize its calculation by mid-September 2021 and will prepare a plan for the use of the funds.	\$93,296,173	\$93,296,173	All	All	All	Countywide