

City of St. Petersburg, Florida
Recovery Plan

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

2023 Report

City of St. Petersburg, Florida
2023 Recovery Plan

Table of Contents

Executive Summary 2

Uses of Funds 3

 Affordable Multi-Family Development..... 3

 Scattered Site Family Shelter..... 5

 Permanent Supportive Housing Wraparound Services 5

 Housing Administrative Expenses..... 6

 Community Support Hubs..... 7

 Food Security 7

 Youth Opportunities 8

 Impact Monitoring 8

Promoting Equitable Outcomes 9

Community Engagement 12

Labor Practices 15

Use of Evidence 15

Performance Report..... 16

PROJECT INVENTORY..... 19

 Project 19015: ARPA Housing Administration..... 19

 Project 19544: ARPA Impact Monitor..... 19

 Project 19021: Scattered Site Family Shelter 20

 Project 19027: Permanent Supportive Housing Wraparound Services..... 21

 Project 19072: Summer Food Program..... 23

 Project 19230: Multifamily Affordable Housing..... 24

 Project 19100: Healthy Neighborhood Store Program 26

 Project 19102: Coordinated Social Services – Community Support Hubs..... 28

 Project 19542: Healthy Food Action Plan 30

 Project 00001: Revenue Replacement Allowance 31

Executive Summary

In 2021, the City of St. Petersburg engaged with community for input regarding developing our spending plan for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The City held three in-person workshops, in different geographic locations, to receive community input on how the funds should be used. We also included a virtual participation option for those citizens who were unable to attend an in-person workshop. A link to the City's website with information on this public input process is below:

[American Rescue Plan Act \(stpete.org\)](http://stpete.org)

At the workshops and virtual participation options, the City outlined the following areas of impact eligible for the funds, based on the federal guidelines included in the ARPA:

1. Infrastructure (water, stormwater, sewer, and broadband),
2. Housing affordability and support,
3. Health and social equity,
4. Economic recovery/resilience, and
5. Public health/safety.

The participants ranked the areas for funding prioritization and the results from the public input were presented to City Council on August 19, 2021. Based on the ranking results, the City Administration suggested the following allocation plan of resources to City Council:

Area of Impact	Community Driven Grant Proposals	City Driven Investments	Totals
Housing Affordability/Support	\$1,000,000	\$14,137,957	\$15,137,957
Health & Social Equity	\$1,000,000	\$11,110,365	\$12,110,365
Infrastructure	\$1,000,000	\$8,082,774	\$9,082,774
Economic Recovery/Resilience	\$1,000,000	\$5,055,183	\$6,055,183
Public Health/Safety	\$1,000,000	\$2,027,591	\$3,027,591
Grand Total	\$5,000,000	\$40,413,870	\$45,413,870

During discussion at the August 19, 2021 City Council meeting, there was general agreement with the above allocation plan.

Since that time, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continued to impact City residents. The City began, and continues, to face an historic increase in rent and housing costs which has amplified the already existing strain on affordable housing. Increasingly, City residents are experiencing housing insecurity and the related health and social impacts. Emergency Rental Assistance dollars have been expended. The toll of the pandemic was beginning to snowball into more sustained effects such as an increase in violence, mental health challenges, and workforce issues. These issues have disproportionately burdened the City's communities of color.

In January 2022, the City's first Black mayor was inaugurated and established intentional equity as a major principle of his administration. In February 2022, with the pandemic impacts becoming more apparent, City Council requested City Administration to revisit the ARPA allocation plan to more substantially address the affordable housing crisis and the health and social equity impacts. The City adjusted the allocation plan and presented the following proposal to City Council in March 2022:

Areas of Impact	Previous Allocation	New Allocation
Revenue Loss Standard Allowance	\$0	\$10,000,000*
Housing Affordability/Support	\$15,137,957	\$24,303,505
Health & Social Equity	\$12,110,365	\$11,110,365
Infrastructure	\$9,082,774	\$0
Economic Recovery/Resilience	\$6,055,183	\$0
Public Health & Safety	\$3,027,591	\$0
Grand Total	\$45,413,870	\$45,413,870

*On March 3, 2022, City Council approved Resolution 2022-107 which transferred \$10M to the General Fund as part of the standard allowance for revenue loss allowed under the Final Rule. The transfer reimbursed the City for government service expenditures during Fiscal Year 2021. This transfer also freed up \$10M in the General Fund to be used for two Housing Affordability/Support projects: Deuces Housing and Community Development Project (\$6.5M) and the Affordable Housing Gap Financing Project with a focus on producing new rental units that would be affordable for households with incomes at or below 80% AMI (\$3.5M).

City Council was in general agreement with the above allocation plan.

City Administration began to identify specific projects and strategic initiatives to fund in the above two areas of impact and presented the spending plan to City Council in May 2022. There was general agreement by City Council on the spending plan.

Uses of Funds

The City identified the specific projects for use of the ARPA funds in the Housing Affordability and Support and the Health and Social Equity areas of impact as follows:

Revenue Loss

The City elected to take the standard allowance of \$10M that a local government can claim as “lost revenue” under the Final Rule. The \$10M was transferred to the City’s General Fund to reimburse the City for government services expenditures that occurred during FY21, specifically under the award eligibility period of March 3, 2021, to September 30, 2021. This transfer of funding then freed up \$10M in the General Fund to be used for additional affordable housing projects. \$6.5M went to the Deuces Housing and Community Development Project and \$3.5M to the Affordable Housing Gap Financing Project with a focus on producing new rental units that would be affordable for households with incomes at or below 80% AMI.

Housing Affordability and Support

Affordable Multi-Family Development

The City will use \$20.3M of the ARPA funds to provide gap financing for the construction of multi-family affordable housing.

The pandemic underscored the importance of having a safe place to shelter and to raise families. The selected multi-family projects will address demand for and increase the supply of affordable housing units for low- and moderate-income households in St Petersburg. In addition to providing families with greater stability, affordable housing provides households with more money to spend on necessities such as health care and adequate food.

The selected projects will be those that will produce affordable housing units for households who are presumed to have been negatively impacted by COVID by Treasury’s standards, including low- and moderate- income households, households that experienced unemployment, households that experienced food or housing insecurity, etc. The funding will come with affordability period requirements for each development. The ARPA funding allocated to this project will be utilized for units at or below 65% of the Area Median Income.

The Request for Proposal/Notice of Funding Availability was issued on June 1, 2022, with responses due on June 30, 2022. There were seven multi-family responses received through the RFP. The project review team met on August 9, 2022 to evaluate the responses received. City Council approved appropriations for the selected investments on October 20, 2022. The total request for funding for this project is \$23,803,605, \$20.3 in ARPA funds and the additional \$3.5M coming from the City’s General Fund. The City also plans to utilize Penny for Pinellas funding and HCIP funding in order to provide support to all 7 projects that applied to this RFP.

Below is a list of each development, the allocation of ARPA funds for the project, and the total number of affordable housing units being created:

- Innovare – \$3,426,166 – 50 units
- Bear Creek – \$4,000,000 – 85 units
- Vincentian Village – \$1,000,000 – 73 units
- Skyway Lofts II – \$6,500,000 – 66 units
- Burlington Post II – \$2,939,125 – 75 units
- Ed White – \$5,938,314 – 70 units
- Flats on 4th – \$0 ARPA – 64 units

See the chart below for the breakdown of affordable units by each project. Five of the 7 projects have a 50-year affordability period, with the remaining two projects at 30-year and 40-year affordability periods, respectively.

Project	At 30% AMI or Below	At 50% AMI or Below	At 60% AMI or Below	At 80% AMI or Below	Total Units
Bear Creek	18	0	42	25	85
Burlington Post	12	0	39	24	75
Skyway Lofts II	11	0	39	16	66
Innovare	4	8	38	0	50
SPHA-Ed White	42	0	14	14	70
Vincentian Village	4	11	58	0	73
Flats on 4th	10	0	44	10	64
TOTALS	101	19	274	89	483

To date, two developments have begun construction: Innovare and Bear Creek Commons. It is estimated that Vincentian Village and Skyway Lofts will commence construction by the end of 2023, and Burlington Post will commence construction by early 2024.

Scattered Site Family Shelter

The City entered into an agreement with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul South Pinellas to use \$2.5M of ARPA funds to provide scattered site family shelter to meet the need for literally homeless families with minor children experiencing a housing emergency through December 2024.

Due to the pandemic and rising housing costs, additional family shelter continues to be a tremendous need in our community. At the time of writing this report in July 2023, there are approximately 149 homeless families on the waiting list for shelter for the entire county, with 69 of those families coming from St. Pete. The desired impact of this project is to allow for safe shelter for at least 112 families during the contract period. This will be measured by the number of families being sheltered.

The intended and actual use of these funds will achieve the goals of utilizing the Housing First approach and providing safe, low-barrier, temporary shelter to literally homeless families with minor children.

This project will help support a strong and equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic by assisting those families, within the City of St. Petersburg City limits, that were disproportionately impacted with immediate emergency shelter and further, obtaining permanent housing. This is specific to families with minor children (up to 18 years of age). To qualify, families need to have either previously lived within the Qualified Census Tracts (QCT) of St. Petersburg and/or meet the income limits mandated by the Department of Treasury's final rule, 65% of AMI. The subrecipient has five staff members that will be assigned to this project: one Manager to oversee the project, a supervisor to direct staff and staff complex cases, two Family Coordinators to provide housing focused intensive case management, and one Housing Specialist to assist families with locating permanent housing. The project will utilize master leases and hotels, serving twenty-eight families in shelter at any given time. It is estimated that stays will last approximately six months per family but could be longer due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and housing affordability issues in the area. These funds will support our communities by keeping families together and ultimately, providing resources that will lead to permanent housing.

The Request for Proposal to identify and select the subrecipient was released in December 2021 and awarded on April 13, 2022. The selected subrecipient is Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Permanent Supportive Housing Wraparound Services

The City will use \$1M of ARPA funds to provide case management and wraparound services for permanent supportive housing through December 2024.

The project is specific to participants who reside in households which qualify as low- and moderate-income (at or below 65% AMI) as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the county and size of household and are residents of St. Petersburg. The subrecipient will provide case management and wraparound services for residents living in permanent supportive housing, who experience chronic homelessness, substance abuse disorders, and severe and persistent mental illness. An estimated 75

unduplicated participants will be served annually. This program is intended to increase health outcomes for participants, reduce risk to their health and safety, and assist participants with obtaining and retaining permanent housing in accordance with HUD's definition of Housing First by way of:

- a. Link individuals to resources in the community and provide a warm hand-off to services through the Continuum of Care (COC) or community providers (medical, dental, legal).
- b. Provide or arrange for transportation to services and appointments.
- c. Assist in increasing income (referrals to employment, workforce development, linkage to obtaining Social Security Disability Income, etc.)
- d. Support individuals in their interactions with other service providers.
- e. Complete subsidy applications and recertifications.
- f. Other assistance to tenants in requesting and obtaining a reasonable accommodation.
- g. Landlord mediation that may include advocating with property management and other service providers.

Case management is a significant component of permanent supportive housing and is to be participant driven. Case managers will actively engage participants in voluntary case management and service participation by creating an environment in which participants drive the case planning and goal setting based on what they want from the program. Services must include flexibility in intensity, strengths-based approach to empower participants, use of trauma-informed approaches, and application of the Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (SPDAT).

The Request for Proposal to identify and select the subrecipient was released in March 2022 and awarded on May 19, 2022, to Boley Centers, Inc. Boley Centers has been providing community-based services, treatment, and support to disabled persons, exclusively to low-income persons. The subrecipient team for this project is comprised of one Program Director, one ARNP, three Intensive Case Managers, one LPN, and one Peer Specialist. This project provides a funding source that is needed but not typically available and will work with other jurisdictions to leverage/maximize funding.

Housing Administrative Expenses

The City will use \$500K of the ARPA funds to cover the City's administrative costs for the various ARPA funded housing programs during the life of the ARPA program.

The City will use the funding to cover the salary and benefits of one full-time position hired specifically to perform duties related to the ARPA funded housing programs, plus the salaries and benefits for other housing staff who may perform duties related to the ARPA housing programs. The funding may also be used for other administrative expenses that may be deemed necessary and appropriate to efficiently and effectively manage the ARPA housing programs. The Housing and Community Development Department will follow the rules and regulations in 2 CFR Part 200 related to administrative costs.

An appropriation for this use of funds was approved by City Council on March 23, 2022.

This funding is being used for administrative costs to manage all goals and objectives included in the above Housing Affordability & Support strategies.

Health and Social Equity

Community Support Hubs

The City will identify a subrecipient for \$8.58M of the ARPA funds to establish a network of coordinated, neighborhood-based, trauma-informed community support hubs (Hubs) and establish an administrative support/shared services organization (SSO) to build capacity in local nonprofits through December 2026.

The Hubs will be located in neighborhoods that have suffered disproportionate impacts from the pandemic, which are our communities of color. The Hubs will provide trauma-informed therapy, case management, and assertive outreach as the core services available at each Hub. Each Hub will have the flexibility to add services that are responsive to community need. The Hubs will also have direct access to emergency funding to address crisis needs and stabilize the household. Services provided at the Hubs will be from local, trusted nonprofit organizations already knowledgeable of and embedded in the targeted communities.

The SSO will work with the local community nonprofits and provide an array of administrative services to build capacity in these nonprofits to scale their organizations and better prepare for funding opportunities after the ARPA funds terminate. This is a key component for sustainability of the Hubs once the ARPA funds end.

The Request for Proposal to identify and select the subrecipient was released in July 2022, with responses due in August 2022. Pinellas Community Foundation was selected as the subrecipient, and this appropriation was approved by City Council on November 3, 2022.

Since selection, the Pinellas Community Foundation has administered a competitive solicitation process to identify the Lead Nonprofit of the Hubs, who will lead the design and implementation of this series of Hubs throughout the city through 2026. A local, community-based, Black-led organization, The Well, was selected as the Lead Nonprofit by the grant review committee on June 9, 2023. This selection of the Lead Nonprofit aligns with the original intent of this project – The Well is a trusted organization embedded in the community that has been doing this work. They applied with two collaborative partners, Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services (Gulf Coast JFCS) and People Empowering & Restoring Communities (PERC), who also have a history of serving under-resourced communities in St. Petersburg.

The first Hub will be launched by Fall 2023, and the timeline allows for an iterative learning process along the way before launching the second Hub. In addition to operationalizing the first Hub, the collective Hubs team is working on launching the SSO application and selection process, structuring and forming the community advisory board for the project, and solidifying the project evaluation plan.

Food Security

The City will identify a partner to implement a Healthy Neighborhood Store Program in census tracts designated as low income, low access (LI/LA) areas. There are numerous corner/convenience stores in these census tracts, but healthy food options are not widely available to neighborhood residents. The Request for Proposals was released in July 2022, with responses due in August 2022. The St. Petersburg Free Clinic was selected as the subrecipient for this project, which was approved and appropriated by City Council on November 3, 2022. Approximately \$535,000 will be allocated to this subrecipient to design, implement, and monitor the program for a two-year period.

The St. Petersburg Free Clinic (SPFC) will collaborate with neighborhood store owners in these

low income, low access areas to incentivize these businesses to expand healthy food options at an affordable cost to their customers. SPFC will support stores in establishing infrastructure, marketing plans, and a sustainable business model to for stocking nutritious food, including fresh fruits and vegetables, low-fat proteins, whole grain items, and low-fat dairy products or dairy alternatives. SPFC will also assist in subsidizing food costs for the stores as they ramp up this programming, and will help business owners navigate the process of accepting EBT, WIC, etc. if they do not already do so. The initiative also provides for health education for store owners and surrounding community members to better understand the benefits of a healthy, balanced diet.

The first store kickoff is being planned for September 2023, and will be the first of six total stores enrolled into this pilot program through 2024.

The City has allocated \$100,000 of the ARPA funds to support the Summer Food Program over a two-year period. These funds are used to improve the capacity of City sponsored sites to implement the USDA Summer Food Service Program and to increase quality and quantity of food delivered to youth at recreation centers. This project is underway and will support the Summer Food Program over two years (summer of 2022 and 2023). In addition to providing fresh and healthy food to youth, this project has allowed the City team to obtain refrigeration equipment that expands their ability to deliver fresh food and milk items to rec centers across the city and keep those items within the safe temperature range.

Additionally, the City has allocated \$544,000 to develop and implement a Healthy Food Action Plan. This planning is necessary to chart the vision and path forward for a sustained inclusive and equitable food system in the City. These funds will be used to pay stipends to neighborhood food equity advocates living in low income, low access neighborhoods to provide their expertise to the plan and assist with community engagement; contracting with a planning consultant; and support a new City position to lead the planning process and implementation of the plan. Once the plan is created and the City has identified its priority impact areas, the team will launch a Healthy Food Community Grants cycle. Community organizations doing work in the established priority areas can apply for and receive funding to further their work in concert with one another and the City.

The City has hired a Planner II to implement this project, and they started employment in July 2023.

Youth Opportunities

The City has allocated \$946,365 for a Youth Opportunity Grants Program, a guaranteed income pilot focusing on youth aging out of foster care who do not continue engagement with the child welfare system. Too often these youth end up homeless and/or victims of trafficking. These funds will provide an economic floor for these youth and allow for better future outcomes.

Impact Monitoring

Finally, the City has allocated \$405,000 through 2026 for a City position to manage the contracts for ARPA-funded projects, including establishing metrics to measure community impacts and systemic changes intended by these funding uses. This position will work with the subrecipients and grantees to track progress toward closing the equity gaps in the social determinants of health and establish feedback loops to ensure timely adjustments to these initiatives as lessons are learned.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes

The use of funds prioritizes and centers racial equity in its design. Local data demonstrates that COVID-19 had a disproportionate impact on our communities of color. Pre-pandemic issues related to mental health needs, violence, and cost burdened households of color have been exacerbated by the pandemic. Housing insecurity, food insecurity, and other trauma-inducing experiences are disproportionately felt by our neighborhoods of color. The use of the funds is designed to improve the health and wellness of targeted neighborhoods who have historically been under-invested and who have carried the burden of the pandemic. These targeted neighborhoods are well-known in the City yet improving community metrics in the social determinants of health has been elusive. These funds allow for the creation of a community-led systemic approach to addressing root causes of inequitable outcomes.

Housing

The pandemic disproportionately impacted residents of low-income neighborhoods, and these effects have also been exacerbated by the housing affordability crisis. As stated above, housing and related supports became even more of a priority for the City when determining the ARPA funding plan. The housing related ARPA projects all serve residents of the city who have an Area Median Income (AMI) of 65% or below, to ensure we're reaching those residents with the highest need and who have been hit hardest by the pandemic.

ARPA funding for the selected affordable multi-family housing developments will be focused on serving those impacted by developing units at or below 65% AMI. The City is using both ARPA and non-ARPA funding sources to provide gap financing for 7 affordable multi-family development projects, for a total of 483 units at or below 80% AMI: 101 units at 30% AMI, 19 units at 50% AMI, 274 units at 60% AMI, and 89 units at 80% AMI.

The Scattered Site Family Shelter project houses literally homeless families with minor children, who are at or below 65% AMI. The Permanent Supportive Housing Wraparound Services project supports clients who live in Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and have additional needs to ensure they retain their housing. Residents of PSH have experienced chronic homelessness, substance abuse disorders, and severe and persistent mental illness. Clients of this ARPA-funded program that provides wraparound support are required to be at or below 65% AMI, though 100% of the clients served to date fall under the very low-income bracket, at or below 30% AMI.

All activities will follow Fair Housing laws.

Community Support Hubs

The City released a Request for Proposal on July 1, 2022, to identify a subrecipient for \$8.58M of the ARPA funds. The selected subrecipient (Pinellas Community Foundation) will be required to identify, through a competitive bid process, a local community nonprofit organization to lead the planning, design, and implementation of a network of Community Support Hubs (Hubs). The subrecipient will be required to select a nonprofit from the local community who is an expert in trauma-informed services, embedded in the neighborhoods in need of service (i.e., a "trusted voice"), have a deep understanding of the community to be served and a track record of listening to community to design interventions. It is anticipated that services provided at and through the Hubs will be provided, in part, by the selected lead

organization, however, other neighborhood-embedded, small nonprofits will provide services as well. This provides the capacity building opportunity described below through the SSO. The subrecipient is prohibited from prioritizing a nonprofit's administrative organizational capacity as a selection criterion for the competitive process (a known systemic barrier to funding culturally competent service providers).

On June 9, 2023, the grant review committee selected The Well as the Lead Nonprofit – a local, community-based, Black-led organization. This selection of the Lead Nonprofit aligns with the original intent of this project, as The Well is a trusted organization embedded in the community that has been doing this work, led and staffed by people who represent the neighborhoods they serve. The Well applied with two collaborative partners, Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services (Gulf Coast JFCS) and People Empowering & Restoring Communities (PERC).

The Hubs will have access to emergency funds to address immediate needs. We learned through deployment of the Emergency Rental Assistance dollars that residents in these targeted neighborhoods had difficulty in accessing the funds, partly due to difficulty in navigating the system and a mistrust of the system. With the Hubs located in the target neighborhoods, and staffed by trusted known providers, the equity barriers to receiving household assistance with food, housing, transportation, and other needs are mitigated.

The Hubs are expected to employ residents from the neighborhoods being served, especially those with barriers to employment. One of the criteria required of the subrecipient for selection of the Hub lead organization is for the lead organization to have the demonstrated ability to provide peer support and manage vicarious trauma for providers and employees. The subrecipient will also be required to ensure that all employees of selected organizations provide a living wage and benefits.

The subrecipient will also be required to create a committee comprised of targeted neighborhood residents with lived experience to assist in review and recommendations related to proposals submitted for the Hubs, identify Hub locations, be a conduit for feedback loops related to service effectiveness and trends identified for service needs, and assist in community based participatory research. It is anticipated that through feedback loops, systemic barriers will be identified and the need for an equity analysis of policy, procedure, and process issues will arise to address those barriers.

It is intended that these Hubs demonstrate improvement in the lives of those served (program evaluation) and improve the neighborhood metrics in the social determinants of health (community impact). The resident committee will assist the subrecipient in identification and definition of community impact metrics. The subrecipient will measure, track, and report data on the community defined metrics. At the end of the ARPA funds, December 2026, we expect that the equity gaps in the social determinants of health of those served will be narrowed. The subrecipient, Pinellas Community Foundation, has engaged with Reed Community Consulting to lead the program evaluation component through the entirety of this project. The evaluation team is working on finalizing a logic model and evaluation plan, which includes conducting surveys to gather our own baseline data in addition to using local data sources.

Administrative support/shared services organization (SSO)

The same subrecipient Pinellas Community Foundation (discussed above) will also be required to establish, through a competitive bid process, an Administrative Support/Shared Services Organization (SSO). Local smaller community nonprofit organizations who are closest to the issues facing the communities where the Hubs are to be located are traditionally underfunded and historically underinvested.

Funders typically award dollars for service delivery but severely restrict funds for administrative infrastructure capacity building. The lack of administrative infrastructure, in turn, prevents these community nonprofit organizations from being competitive for service delivery funds. It is a cycle that impedes effective intervention to achieve the outcomes necessary to close the equity gaps in the social determinants of health. The SSO shall establish a network of administrative vendors and services, with a priority among those led by people of color, to work with community nonprofits.

Individual local community nonprofits may select some or all of the services from the SSO, depending on capacity level and needs. It is anticipated that the community nonprofits providing services at the neighborhood-based Hubs will participate in the SSO, as well as other community nonprofits who are needing to build administrative capacity to launch additional programs and develop readiness for funding.

The SSO will be expected to provide evaluation and research services. These services should allow for shared outcome metrics across participating community nonprofits to help drive effective service delivery, identify trends, and adjust service interventions to address trends.

It is anticipated that through the SSO, these nonprofits will engage in best practices for program monitoring, reporting, accounting, legal support, and other requirements for grant administration to reduce risk and encourage funders to support nonprofits who are closest to the issues that funders seek to address. These local community nonprofits will scale their programs and make a substantial impact in their communities.

The SSO has not yet been selected, however the application and selection process is underway, with an anticipated start date of November 2023 for SSO services.

Food Security

The Healthy Neighborhood Store Program is designed to bring healthy food options to census tracts designed as Low Income, Low Access (LI/LA) and to identify systemic issues that perpetuate these low food access areas. These census tracts are the same neighborhoods described above – predominantly our neighborhoods of color. The Healthy Food Action Plan will incorporate the learnings from the Healthy Neighborhood Store Program, as well as information from the neighborhood equity advocate experts, and identify root causes of and solutions to eliminate low food access and food insecurity within these targeted neighborhoods in our city.

Other Initiatives

The remaining initiatives in the Health and Social Equity space center economic equity, with intersectionality of racial equity. The Summer Food Program allocation seeks to increase the quality and quantity of food delivered to low-income youth at the City's recreation centers.

The Youth Opportunity Grants, a guaranteed income program, focus on youth aging out of foster care who are disengaged from the child welfare system. This population is low income and often youth of color. This program is in the design stage and impact metrics have not yet been identified.

Community Engagement

At the beginning of the process to develop the City's spending plan for the ARPA funds, the City felt it was important to gather input from the community before allocating these funds to specific projects due to requests from the public to be involved in the decision-making process and the emphasis on community participation noted in the ARPA itself. At the end of July 2021, the City held three in-person workshops to receive community input on how the funds should be used. They were held in three different geographic areas of the City to help ensure we received input from all citizens throughout the City.

In-Person Workshop Dates and Locations:

1. Monday, July 26, 6-8 p.m. at Enoch Davis Center (1111 18th Ave. S.)
2. Tuesday, July 27, 6-8 p.m. at JW Cate Rec Center (5801 22nd Ave. N.)
3. Wednesday, July 28, 6-8 p.m. at Willis S. Johns Rec Center (6635 Dr. MLK Jr. St. N.)

We also included a virtual participation option for those citizens who were unable to attend an in-person workshop. The public comment option was closed on Friday, August 6, 2021. A link to the City's website with information on this public input process is below:

[American Rescue Plan Act \(stpete.org\)](https://www.stpete.org)

The purpose of the series of workshops and virtual participation option for community feedback was to help prioritize which areas of impact receive funds. Feedback collected during these workshops was aggregated and directly influenced the ranking of priorities for receiving funds.

The City outlined the following areas of impact eligible for the funds, based on the federal guidelines included in the ARPA:

1. Infrastructure (water, stormwater, sewer, and broadband),
2. Housing affordability and support,
3. Health and social equity,
4. Economic recovery/resilience, and
5. Public health/safety.

Through the three in-person meetings and the online public input, the City received feedback from 557 citizens. The number 557 consisted of:

- 26 total tables at the three in-person meetings (each table counts as one)
- 157 individual cards collected at these meetings (each card counts as one)
- 374 participants online (each online submission counts as one)

The citizens were asked to provide rankings of the five areas of impact: Infrastructure (water, stormwater, sewer, and broadband), housing affordability and support, health and social equity, economic recovery/resilience, and public health/safety. The categories were ranked from 1 to 5 with 1 being the highest rank and 5 the lowest.

Based on citizen ranking here are the results as a weighted average score:

CATEGORY	SCORE
1. Housing and Affordability Support	2.25
2. Health and Social Equity	2.66
3. Infrastructure	2.82
4. Economy Recovery/Resilience	3.41
5. Public Health/Safety	3.86

In addition to the ranking of the five areas of impact, the City also allowed for qualitative feedback on the comment card and online. The following issues were seen in many of the responses:

- Housing/Homelessness
- Phillis Wheatly Rise to Reading
- Sickle Cell
- Reproductive Health
- Increased Bus Service
- Childhood Development
- Gun Violence
- Food Access
- Flooding
- Mental Health
- Streets, Sidewalks, and Alleys
- Climate Change, Seawalls
- Job Training/Income
- Individual Grants

Some examples of the qualitative feedback are included below:

“The cost of rent in the area has gotten completely out of hand. We need more affordable housing.”

“We want our City officials to stay focused on the health, safety, and economic security of our communities, particularly people of color working to make ends meet....”

“A very meaningful share of funding should be allocated NOW to accelerate completion of the Southside’s many current community-based designed improvement projects as embodied in their Warehouse Arts District/Deuces Live Joint Action Plan.”

“Need more funds going to early childhood development.”

“Following President Biden in his effort to ensure ARPA funds make a measurable difference in the Black and Brown Community. How will St Pete ARPA be evaluated for effectiveness?”

“Case managers for families and individuals trying to access services for adults with disabilities, especially adults who move to St Pete (mental and behavioral health)”

“It is very important to focus on bread and butter issues. Jobs, income and housing that is affordable.”

“Our City seems to be economically recovering on its own. Housing, housing, housing., (affordable that is)”

The result of the initial community engagement meetings showed that affordable housing and permanent supportive housing services were of the highest need, along with the related health and social equity consequences of the pandemic. Our Housing Consolidated Plan public hearings and City Council meetings have identified that affordable housing is a high community need. Also, the Housing Consolidated Plan needs assessment survey supported affordable housing as being one of the highest needs.

Case management is a significant component of the permanent supportive housing wraparound services project and is to be participant driven. One of the goals of the program is to provide

City of St. Petersburg, Florida 2023 Recovery Plan Performance Report

case management and wraparound services to 75 unduplicated participants annually. Case managers will actively engage these participants in voluntary case management and service participation by creating an environment in which participants drive the case planning and goal setting based on what they want from the program. Services include flexibility in intensity, strengths-based approaches to empower participants, use of trauma-informed approaches, requiring case managers to understand the impact of trauma and stress on participants' emotional, behavioral, and cognitive capacity, and application of the Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (SPDAT). The subrecipient is also required to maintain accurate and up-to-date agency and program data with the Pinellas County Homeless Leadership Board, Inc. and participate in the Pinellas Homeless Management Information System (HMIS).

Those with lived experience are the experts and know the barriers and the solutions to address the equity gaps in the social determinants of health. The above Use of Funds section describes the community driven nature of Affordable Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing Wraparound Services, Scattered Site Family Shelter, the Community Support Hubs, SSO, Healthy Neighborhood Store Program, and Healthy Food Action Plan. Community driven initiatives cannot be transactional – seeking only input. There must be a shared ownership, and shared power, to design, implement, and measure impact to truly make systemic change and close the equity gaps. The community driven feedback loops are imperative to identify systemic barriers and to solve them timely.

The Community Support Hubs project will require the subrecipient to create a committee comprised of targeted neighborhood residents with lived experience to assist in review and recommendations related to proposals submitted for the Hubs, identify Hub locations, be a conduit for feedback loops related to service effectiveness and trends identified for service needs, and assist in community based participatory research. It is anticipated that through feedback loops, systemic barriers will be identified and the need for an equity analysis of policy, procedure, and process issues will arise to address those barriers.

The Youth Opportunity Grants (guaranteed income) initiative is in the design stage. Two focus groups were conducted with young adults ages 18-32 who had prior involvement in the foster care system (15 total participants). The sessions were held on site at a non-profit that provides support to these young adults (Ready For Life), who also provided gift card incentives to encourage the young adults to participate. The intent of these sessions was to get their input on the idea of doing a guaranteed income pilot, what elements they thought would be important for program design, and learn more about their experiences in life after exiting the foster care system. They shared openly and had a robust discussion. There was consensus that this type of program would help them “maneuver a lot better” financially, “get on their feet,” “it would be a blessing,” and that it felt good to see their population be recognized and prioritized in this way. They shared that if they were program participants, they would spend the money on paying bills, paying rent, buying groceries, save up for a car, pay for childcare, and be able to pay for unexpected emergencies without the cascade effect throughout their budget. A theme also emerged that there are youth who have significant history in the foster care system, but if they don't meet the legal classification of officially ‘aging out’ then they aren't eligible for many of the post-foster care support programs. That information has helped guide the program design process significantly, as the City is creating additional eligibility criteria for those young adults who face the same barriers coming out of foster care but may not exactly meet the typical criteria.

Now that the spending of ARPA funds has commenced, community engagement will be an integral part of each project. Not including the \$10M standard amount for revenue loss, \$2,908,092.54 has been spent on ARPA programs as of June 30, 2023. The funds have been

spent in the following program areas: Scattered Site Family Shelter, Permanent Supportive Housing Wraparound Services, Multi-Family Affordable Housing, Healthy Neighborhood Stores Program, Summer Food Program, Community Support Hubs, ARPA Impact Monitor, and Housing Administrative Expenses. There are two remaining projects that will have expenditures in the coming months: Healthy Food Action Plan work has started in July 2023, and Youth Opportunity Grants planning is underway for an early 2024 launch. We will provide more information in this section in future Recovery Plan Performance Reports as the programs get underway and additional data is available.

The City's Administration also provides status reports periodically to City Council on the ARPA plan and allocation at City Council meetings. The public has the opportunity to provide public comment at these meetings.

Labor Practices

The City has not allocated any ARPA funding to an infrastructure project or capital expenditures at this time. This section will be completed in future reports if applicable.

Use of Evidence

The programs described in the Use of Funds section incorporate evidence-based interventions and/or program evaluation. Additional detail on the use of evidence is included in the individual project inventories later on in this report.

The programs in the housing initiative category will measure the number of affordable units produced and number of eligible households served. Specifically for the Scattered Site Family Shelter, the project will be measured by the number of families being sheltered. The project will utilize the Housing First approach and provide safe, low-barrier, temporary shelter to literally homeless families with minor children. These are families that have previously lived in the City of St. Petersburg's Qualified Census Tract, and/or are at 65% AMI, understanding that they have been disproportionately affected by the impacts of COVID-19. Utilizing scattered site family shelter, with the intent to have some families shelter in place, is a moderate, evidence-based intervention and a best practice particularly, to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The Permanent Supportive Housing Wraparound Services project also utilizes a Housing First approach. The subrecipient, Boley Center, uses a best practice model of Supportive Housing where staff use evidence-based practices in their method of service delivery including techniques from Critical Time Intervention, Motivational Interviewing, and States of Change. These practices increase housing stability, increase motivation, and strengthen commitment among participants to engage in these supportive services. The PSH Wraparound Services project tracks number of participants served, the types of supportive services they receive, and the housing retention rate among their participants.

The programs launching in the Health and Social Equity initiative category incorporate program evaluation and evidence-based interventions. The subrecipient for the Community Support Hubs (Hubs) project, Pinellas Community Foundation, will be required to identify a lead nonprofit organization to design and implement the Hubs. These Hubs will be designed using evidence-based interventions such as the Trauma Recovery Center Model. The subrecipient will also be required to establish an Administrative Support/Shared Services Organization (SSO) who will provide, among other services, program evaluation of the Hubs. The subrecipient will be required to conduct community impact evaluation to measure whether neighborhood metrics (to be defined by the resident/lived-experience committee) are improving. In addition, the subrecipient will be required to evaluate the performance of the SSO and its

impact on capacity building and readiness for competitive funding of these local, underinvested nonprofit organizations.

The Lead Nonprofit has been identified, and the SSO selection process is underway. This project is designed to provide flexibility and community-driven identification of service components and metrics. Once both the Hubs and the SSO organizations are identified, evaluation measures and community impact metrics will be defined, collected, and reported. The subrecipient will be required to create feedback loops to ensure a continuous learning environment for this initiative. The subrecipient has engaged Reed Community Consulting to lead the program evaluation component through the entirety of this project. The evaluation team is working on finalizing a logic model and evaluation plan, which includes conducting surveys to gather our own baseline data in addition to using local data sources.

The Healthy Neighborhood Stores Program is an evidence-based intervention utilizing tools from the Nutrition Environment Measures Survey developed by the University of Pennsylvania. The organization selected to lead this initiative, St. Petersburg Free Clinic, will be required to create an evaluation to assess enrolled neighborhood store capacity and performance. The selected organization will also be required to provide information to the City on barriers and challenges identified, and lessons learned through implementation of this program in the low income, low access areas in the City. This information will be utilized in the City's strategic Healthy Food Action Plan development process and priority programs from the plan will be implemented. The ultimate goal of these initiatives is to eliminate low food access areas in the City. Data will be collected to monitor progress toward that goal. The kickoff for the first enrolled store has not yet launched, more information will be shared through later reports about progress in this project.

The Youth Opportunity Grants (guaranteed income program) is currently in the design and development phase. However, there will be a research and evaluation component in the program to be conducted by an organization already engaged in evaluation of these types of programs across the country. *Mayors for a Guaranteed Income* has providing technical assistance on program design and evaluation resources.

Performance Report

These funds are targeted toward closing the equity gaps existing in the social determinants of health for residents of our City. A disproportionate number of our Black residents are housing cost burdened and there is a large equity gap in the rate of homeownership. A disproportionate number of our Black neighborhoods carry the burden of experiencing violence, food insecurity, educational gaps, and employment gaps. Local trusted nonprofit organizations who are closer to these issues are underinvested and unable to build capacity to compete for funding to provide needed services. The various initiatives described in this report work together to address these equity gaps. For example, as more affordable housing is developed, the trauma of housing insecurity and threat of eviction or fear of homelessness is alleviated. The Hubs address trauma issues to stabilize individuals and families and create a stable foundation for housing, employment, child safety, and future goal attainment. The services provided through the Hubs are only effective if culturally competent "trusted voices" are providing those services. The SSO initiative supports those providers. The Food Systems initiatives seek to eliminate low food access areas in these same neighborhoods. Together, these initiatives improve the community metrics for targeted neighborhoods across the social determinants of health and improve the health and safety of these neighborhoods. At the end of the ARPA funding (December 2026),

residents served in these historically underinvested and challenged neighborhoods will see marked improvements in social determinants of health outcomes and move closer to the metrics of white counterparts in the City.

The majority of the City's ARPA projects have only recently (Q1-Q2 of 2023) launched or begun substantial work in moving the initiative forward. Impact metrics and intended outcomes are in development for many, both on an individual project level and on an overarching holistic level. As these initiatives get further designed and implemented, output measures and outcome measures will be defined, and data collected.

The Housing Affordability and Support initiatives will collect data on the number of affordable housing units developed through these funds, the number of families served, the number of families who exit to permanent housing, and the number of participants retaining their housing.

The Youth Opportunity Grants project will include a research and evaluation component, which will measure the impact that the additional funds each month has on the participants' income volatility and mental well-being.

Once corner stores are enrolled in the Healthy Neighborhood Stores Program, data will be collected on their business operations as it pertains to procuring and selling healthy food, and the impact the store has on increasing access to healthy, affordable food options within those neighborhoods. This information will feed into the Healthy Food Action Plan initiative, which will also gather data and community input to identify the path forward for a sustained inclusive and equitable food system in the City.

For the Community Support Hubs project, as stated above, once both the Hubs and the SSO organizations are identified, and the community advisory board is established and convened, evaluation measures and community impact metrics will be defined, collected, and reported. The subrecipient will be required to create feedback loops to ensure a continuous learning environment for this initiative to monitor impact and make any needed adjustments. Research and evaluation are built into this project on multiple levels.

Additionally, the City is utilizing ARPA funds for a full-time staff member dedicated to tracking performance measures and community impact and incorporating those measures in the City's overarching goals for closing the equity gaps across the social determinants of health. This staff member, titled ARPA Impact Monitor, directly manages four of the eight ARPA-funded projects and maintains frequent communication with the points of contact for the remaining ARPA projects. This allows the ARPA Impact Monitor to have a bird's eye view of how these projects overlap and can work synergistically for highest impact. The ARPA Impact Monitor will also create public facing tools to be utilized by community for continuous improvements on the projects and for tracking progress toward closing these equity gaps. They will also be responsible for the feedback loops described herein and utilizing lessons learned and trends identified to address policy and practice inequities in the City and in the region where appropriate (i.e., county run systems). These feedback loops, data collection, and community impact monitoring will provide the City with information related to gaps and future investment opportunities. For systems change to occur, and truly moving the equity needle, it is important that these initiatives are not evaluated in silos, but are pieces of the big picture where, if working together, sustainable change can occur. This position is key to maintaining that big picture. The above-mentioned deliverables are in process as many of these ARPA projects are working through initial implementation stages – links will be provided in future reports.

The vast majority of these initiatives being implemented through the use of the funds are new to the City of St. Pete. These are designed, in part, because of other initiatives of the City that have

highlighted barriers to equitable access and/or gaps in interventions. It is through the availability, and strategic use, of these funds that the City can make progress towards its vision of opportunities for all who live in St. Petersburg.

PROJECT INVENTORY

Project 19015: ARPA Housing Administration

Funding amount: \$500,000

Project Expenditure Category: 7.1 - Administrative Expenses

Project Overview

The City will use \$500K of the ARPA funds to cover the City's administrative costs for the various ARPA funded housing programs during the life of the ARPA program.

The City will use the funding to cover the salary and benefits of one full-time position hired specifically to perform duties related to the ARPA funded housing programs, plus the salaries and benefits for other housing staff who may perform duties related to the ARPA housing programs. The funding may also be used for other administrative expenses that may be deemed necessary and appropriate to efficiently and effectively manage the ARPA housing programs. The Housing and Community Development Department will follow the rules and regulations in 2 CFR Part 200 related to administrative costs.

An appropriation for this use of funds was approved by City Council on March 23, 2022.

This funding is being used for administrative costs to manage all goals and objectives included in the above Housing Affordability & Support strategies.

Use of Evidence

This project will not be used for evidence-based interventions, the goal is to support programs as outlined above.

Performance Report

The mandatory performance indicators for projects under the Housing Assistance (2.2), Long-Term Housing Security (2.15) and Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance (2.18) Expenditure Categories are not applicable to this project due to this project being administrative in nature and not providing direct assistance to individuals/families.

Project 19544: ARPA Impact Monitor

Funding amount: \$405,000

Project Expenditure Category: 7.1 - Administrative Expenses

Project Overview

The City has allocated \$405,000 through 2026 for a City position to manage contracts for ARPA-funded projects, including establishing metrics to measure community impacts and systemic changes intended by these funding uses. This position will work with the subrecipients and grantees to track progress toward closing the equity gaps in the social determinants of health and establish feedback loops to ensure timely adjustments to these initiatives as lessons are learned.

Use of Evidence

This project will not be used for evidence-based interventions, the goal is to support programs as outlined above.

Performance Report

There are no mandatory reporting measures for this project as it is administrative in nature.

Project 19021: Scattered Site Family Shelter

Funding amount: \$2,500,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.16 Long-Term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons

Project Overview

The Scattered Site Family Shelter project will meet the emergent need of literally homeless families with minor children in the household. The project has the following objectives:

- a. To provide a decent, safe, and sanitary shelter for homeless families in accordance with federal, state, and local guidelines.
- b. To provide service delivery across the program that accentuates the importance of treating persons experiencing homelessness with respect, displaying sensitivity, acknowledging the trauma and state of crisis being experienced by those who are homeless.
- c. To provide and participate in client centered case management services to assist them in becoming self-sufficient and to connect them with the appropriate agencies and available services, including permanent housing.

The project commenced on April 13, 2022, and currently has an end date of December 31, 2024. Families will be sheltered utilizing master leased units and/or hotel/motel rooms with the focus of exiting shelter and entering permanent housing.

Use of Evidence

Families served will be literally homeless with a minor child in the household meeting the income criteria of 65% AMI and/or having their last previous address within a QCT.

The goal of this project is to utilize the Housing First approach and provide safe, low-barrier, temporary shelter to literally homeless families with minor children. The families are provided with case management and a housing specialist working towards securing permanent housing or in some cases, sheltering in place at the leased units. These are families that have previously lived in the City of St. Petersburg's Qualified Census Tract, and/or are at 65% AMI, understanding that they have been disproportionately affected by the impacts from Covid-19. Utilizing scattered site family shelter, with the intent to have some families shelter in place, is a moderate, evidence-based intervention. The following are citations and/or links to articles where this has been studied and/or recommended as best practice particularly, to mitigate the spread of Covid-19.

- o **Citation:** Somers JM, Moniruzzaman A, Patterson M, Currie L, Rezansoff SN, Palepu A, et al. (2017) A Randomized Trial Examining Housing First in Congregate and Scattered Site Formats. PLoS ONE 12(1): e0168745. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0168745>
- o <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/COVID-19-Homeless-System-Response-Alternative-Approaches-to-Isolation-and-Quarantine-Spaces.pdf>
- o <https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/COVID-19-Homeless-System-Response-Rehousing-Out-of-Non-Congregate-Shelter-Maximizing-Placements.pdf>

The total dollar amount of \$2.5 million will be allocated towards this evidence-based intervention.

Performance Report

The mandatory performance indicators (below) for projects under the Long-Term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons (2.16) Expenditure Category are not applicable to this project due to the nature of services provided.

1. Number of households receiving eviction prevention services (including legal representation) N/A
2. Number of affordable housing units preserved or developed N/A

The below are the key performance indicators for this project. The desired impact is to allow for safe shelter for at least 112 families during the contract period. This will be measured by the number of families being sheltered.

- Goal: Number of families to be served annually: 56
 - **Actual number of families served to date (May 2022 – June 2023): 87 families**
- Goal: Number of families served nightly: 28
 - **Average number of families served nightly (most recent quarter): 28**
- Goal: Length of days a family will be enrolled in the Project: 90 days
 - **Average length of time a family is enrolled in the project to date: 106 days**
- Number/percentage of unduplicated families/persons that have exited to a permanent housing destination: **63 families → 72% of participants to date**
- Number of families that have been connected to mainstream resources: **87**

Project 19027: Permanent Supportive Housing Wraparound Services

Funding amount: \$1,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.18 Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance

Project Overview

The City will use \$1M of ARPA funds to provide case management and wraparound services for residents living in permanent supportive housing through December 2024.

The project is specific to participants who reside in households which qualify as low- and moderate-income (at or below 65% AMI) as defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the county and size of household and are residents of St. Petersburg. The subrecipient will provide case management and wraparound services for residents living in permanent supportive housing, who experience chronic homelessness, substance abuse disorders, and severe and persistent mental illness. An estimated 75 unduplicated participants will be served annually. This program is intended to assist participants with obtaining and retaining their housing, by providing a wide range of case management and wraparound supports.

The Request for Proposal to identify and select the subrecipient was released in March 2022 and awarded on May 19, 2022, to Boley Centers, Inc. Boley Centers has been providing community-based services, treatment, and support to disabled persons, exclusively to low-income persons. The subrecipient team for this project is comprised of one Program Director, one ARNP, three Intensive Case Managers, one LPN, and one Peer Specialist. This project provides a funding source that is needed but not typically available and will work with other jurisdictions to leverage/maximize funding.

Use of Evidence

Individuals and families served will be residents of Permanent Supportive Housing units in the City of St. Petersburg, who experience chronic homelessness, severe and persistent mental illness, and substance abuse. They will meet the income criteria of 65% AMI and/or having their last previous address within a QCT. The desired impact is to provide intensive case management services to at least 75 individuals annually during the contract period, for a total of 150 clients served over the full 2-year period. The goal is for 90% of clients to maintain their housing throughout the program.

The intent of this project is to utilize the Housing First approach to provide intensive wraparound case management services to the individuals and families identified above, who need that intensive support and on-site psychiatric treatment in order to obtain and maintain stability with their mental illness and substance abuse, so they can maintain their housing stability long-term. Each client is provided with a multidisciplinary team consisting of a Program Director, ARNP, LPN, Case Manager, and Peer Specialist. Once referrals are made, the team will engage with the resident to build rapport, assess their unique needs, meet each client where they're at, and develop a Housing Stabilization Plan that outlines the services the client needs. The case manager will make community referrals as needed, ensure the client has transportation to any of those appointments, assist the client in applying for benefits, and advocate for the client along the way. The case manager will support and encourage the client to meet with the ARNP team to discuss treatment options. The peer specialist will assist the case manager in providing transportation, providing referrals, and be a support to the client by mentoring, teaching skills, and being a role model (as the peer specialist has a mental illness and as obtained the treatment needed to live independently and maintain employment). The ARNP and LPN will manage the medication process for clients, with the added support from the LPN to also assist with routine medical inquiries and assist clients in accessing medical and dental providers.

Per Boley's RFP Proposal, "Boley uses a best practice model of Supportive Housing where staff use evidence-based practices in their method of service delivery including techniques from Critical Time Intervention, Motivational Interviewing, and States of Change. These practices increase housing stability, build motivation and strengthen commitment among participants." "All staff are trained to provide Trauma Informed Care, a best practice approach that recognizes trauma symptoms and integrates their information into treatment planning and delivery."

Per HUD's report 'The Applicability of Housing First Models to Homeless Persons with Serious Mental Illness' (<http://www.huduser.org/portal/publications/hsgfirst.pdf>), they have "shown that Housing First permanent supportive housing models result in long-term housing stability, improved physical and behavioral health outcomes, and reduced use of crisis services such as emergency departments, hospitals, and jails."

According to the National Low Income Housing Coalition's report 'The Case For Housing First' (<https://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/Housing-First-Research.pdf>), "Housing First is a proven model for addressing homelessness that prioritizes access to permanent, stable housing, linked with voluntary services as needed. Housing First recognizes that stable housing is a prerequisite for effective psychiatric and substance abuse treatment and for improving quality of life. Once stably housed, individuals are better able to take advantage of wrap-around services – to help support housing stability, employment, and recovery. Without stable housing, attaining these goals

becomes much more difficult.”

“Housing First rapidly ends homelessness, is cost-effective, and positively impacts quality of life and community functioning. This model is particularly effective among people who have been homeless for long periods of time and have serious psychiatric disabilities, substance use disorders, and/or other disabilities. Housing First results in higher rates of housing retention.”

The total dollar amount of \$1 million will be allocated towards this evidence-based intervention.

Performance Report

The mandatory performance indicators (below) for projects under the Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance (2.18) Expenditure Category are as follows:

- Number of households receiving eviction prevention services: N/A – not applicable to this project due to the nature of services provided.
- Number of affordable housing units preserved or developed: N/A - not applicable to this project due to the nature of services provided

The goal is for at least 90% of participants to retain their housing ongoing and for the program to have a less than 10% discharge rate.

From October 2022 (when reporting started) through June 2023:

- 97.7% retention rate to date
- 2.3% discharge rate from the program to date

The intent of the program is to serve an estimated 75 unduplicated participants annually. The current number is at 44 unduplicated participants served to date.

Project 19072: Summer Food Program

Funding amount: \$100,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.1 Household Assistance: Food Programs

Project Overview

To provide services to disproportionately impacted children in our recreation centers (childcare facilities), refrigeration units will be purchased, and supplemental food expenditures will be used to increase access to healthy food for children. The refrigeration units enable recreation centers (childcare facilities) to store non-shelf stable foods safely and offer supplemental nutritional snacks and meals promoting a healthy childhood environment.

The project will support the Summer Food program over two years (summer of 2022 and 2023).

Use of Evidence

The goal of this project is to use the ARPA funds to improve the capacity of City sponsored sites to implement the USDA Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), and to increase quality and quantity of food delivered to youth at recreation centers. Utilization of summer feeding programs, particularly SFSP, has drastically increased, this can be contributed to rising food needs during, and as a continuing effect from, the COVID-19 pandemic. Food service programs have become an essential component of the nationwide nutrition safety net, allowing millions of children to continue receiving vital nutrition. This project will ensure children in the community receive access to food during out-of-school time. This project is intended to enhance the USDA Summer Food Service Program, to ensure that the nutritional needs of vulnerable children are met.

met in order to avoid exacerbating disparities in health.

The total project spending that is allocated towards this evidence-based intervention is \$100,000.

Citations:

Soldavini J, Franckle RL, Dunn C, Turner L, Fleischhacker S. Strengthening the Impact of USDA's Child Nutrition Summer Feeding Programs During and After the COVID-19 Pandemic. Durham, NC: Healthy Eating Research; 2021. Available at: <http://healthyeatingresearch.org>.

Dunn CG, Kenney E, Fleischhacker SE, Bleich SN. Feeding low-income children during the Covid-19 pandemic. N. [Engl. J. Med. 2020;382\(18\):e40. doi:10.1056/NEJMp2005638](https://doi.org/10.1056/NEJMp2005638).

Performance Report

Below are the key performance indicators for this project:

- a. Number of children served by childcare and early learning (pre-school/pre-K/ages 3):
6100
- b. Number of households served (by program if recipient establishes multiple separate household assistance programs): **6900**

Project 19230: Multifamily Affordable Housing

Funding amount: \$20,303,505

Project Expenditure Category: 2.15 Long-Term Housing Security: Affordable Housing

Project Overview

This project provides gap funding for the development of new affordable multi-family housing in order to facilitate the production of 483 affordable housing units by the end of 2024. The City will combine other funding sources to fund 7 multifamily affordable housing proposals from developers. The selected projects will be those that will produce affordable housing units for households who are presumed to have been negatively impacted by COVID by Treasury's standards, including low- and moderate- income households, households that experienced unemployment, households that experienced food or housing insecurity, etc. The funding will come with affordability period requirements for each development. The ARPA funding allocated to this project will be utilized for units at or below 65% of the Area Median Income.

The Request for Proposal/Notice of Funding Availability was issued on June 1, 2022, with responses due on June 30, 2022. There were seven multi-family responses received through the RFP. The project review team met on August 9, 2022 to evaluate the responses received. City Council approved appropriations for the selected investments on October 20, 2022. The total request for funding for this project is \$23,803,605, \$20.3 in ARPA funds combined with the additional \$3.5M coming from the City's General Fund. The City also plans to utilize Penny for Pinellas funding and HCIP funding in order to provide support to all 7 projects that applied to this RFP.

Below is a list of each development, the allocation of ARPA funds for the project, and the total number of affordable housing units being created:

- Innovare – \$3,426,166 – 50 units
- Bear Creek – \$4,000,000 – 85 units
- Vincentian Village – \$1,000,000 – 73 units
- Skyway Lofts II – \$6,500,000 – 66 units
- Burlington Post II – \$2,939,125 – 75 units
- Ed White – \$5,938,314 – 70 units
- Flats on 4th – \$0 ARPA – 64 units

See the chart below for the breakdown of affordable units by each project. Five of the 7 projects have a 50-year affordability period, with the remaining two projects at 30-year and 40-year affordability periods, respectively.

Project	At 30% AMI or Below	At 50% AMI or Below	At 60% AMI or Below	At 80% AMI or Below	Total Units
Bear Creek	18	0	42	25	85
Burlington Post	12	0	39	24	75
Skyway Lofts II	11	0	39	16	66
Innovare	4	8	38	0	50
SPHA-Ed White	42	0	14	14	70
Vincentian Village	4	11	58	0	73
Flats on 4th	10	0	44	10	64
TOTALS	101	19	274	89	483

Use of Evidence

The pandemic underscored the importance of having a safe place to shelter and to raise families. The selected multi-family projects will address demand for and increase the supply of affordable housing units for low- and moderate-income households in St Petersburg. In addition to providing families with greater stability, affordable housing provides households with more money to spend on necessities such as health care and adequate food.

No evaluation is being conducted on this project.

Performance Report

The mandatory performance indicators for projects under the Long-Term Housing Security: Affordable Housing (2.15) Expenditure Category are listed below:

- Number of households receiving eviction prevention services (including legal representation) – Not applicable due to the nature of this project. This project is providing funding for the creation of affordable housing units, not providing services to residents.
- Number of affordable housing units preserved or developed – the intent is that 483 units are developed, see chart above for breakdown by project and by AMI.

To date, two developments have begun construction: Innovare and Bear Creek Commons. It is estimated that Vincentian Village and Skyway Lofts will commence construction by the end of 2023, and Burlington Post will commence construction by early 2024.

Project 19100: Healthy Neighborhood Store Program

Funding amount: \$535,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

Project Overview

St. Petersburg Free Clinic, Inc, a local agency, will develop and implement a Healthy Neighborhood Store Program in designated Qualified Census Tracts and USDA-designated “low income, low access” (LI/LA) census tracts of St. Petersburg to improve healthy food access and improve food security by establishing partnerships with small food retailers. The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted lower-income families and BIPOC communities, including those living in low income/low access areas (LI/LA) as designated by the US Department of Agriculture Food Access Research Atlas (USDA FARA), widening existing inequities.

The St. Petersburg Free Clinic (SPFC) will collaborate with neighborhood store owners in these low income, low access areas to incentivize these businesses to expand healthy food options at an affordable cost to their customers. SPFC will support stores in establishing infrastructure, marketing plans, and a sustainable business model to for stocking nutritious food, including fresh fruits and vegetables, low-fat proteins, whole grain items, and low-fat dairy products or dairy alternatives. SPFC will also assist in subsidizing food costs for the stores as they ramp up this programming, and will help business owners navigate the process of accepting EBT, WIC, etc. if they do not already do so. The initiative also provides for health education for store owners and surrounding community members to better understand the benefits of a healthy, balanced diet.

The first store kickoff is being planned for September 2023, and will be the first of six total stores enrolled into this pilot program through 2024.

Use of Evidence

The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted lower-income families and BIPOC communities, including those living in low income/low access areas (LI/LA) as designated by the US Department of Agriculture Food Access Research Atlas (USDA FARA), widening existing inequities.

According to the HHS, nationwide, low-wage workers lost jobs at nearly five times the rate of middle-wage workers and nearly half of lower-income families report that they or someone in their household had lost a job or taken a pay cut as the result of the pandemic. The losses in reliable income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated long-standing disparities in access to healthy food for many families, particularly those dependent on regular income and access to reliable transportation.

The goal of this project is to develop and implement a Healthy Neighborhood Store Program, to encourage existing neighborhood stores to improve the food retail environment, increase access to healthy food for families, increase the ability for families to make healthy food purchases in their neighborhood, improve dietary habits, and address food insecurity for families disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. The city will partner with a subrecipient who will implement the project. The program will target Small Food Retailers in Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs) and USDA FARA LI/LA access areas. The program aims to build relationships with store owners and asks them to make gradual changes to sell and promote healthy foods with support and training.

According to the US Department of Agriculture. Food and Nutrition Service, Healthy Corner Stores have the power to positively impact the health of community members by providing greater access to healthy foods, such as fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables, whole grain snack items, and low-fat dairy products. Encouraging and supporting corner stores to stock and sell healthier food and beverage items has become an important goal of many public health stakeholders.

There is moderate evidence to support this evidenced-based community health intervention. This project intends to strengthen and support neighborhood features that promote health, safety, and equity and respond to the negative impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Citation: Access to Healthy Food Stores Modifies Effect of a Dietary Intervention

Nicole M. Wedick, MS, ScD, Yunsheng Ma, PhD, Barbara C. Olendzki, RD, MPH, Sherry L. Pagoto, PhD, Thomas G. Land, PhD, Wenjun Li, PhD, Published: October 06, 2014
Clinical Trial Registration Number: NCT00911885

[https://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797\(14\)00487-5/fulltext](https://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797(14)00487-5/fulltext)

Citation: Rose D, Richards R. Food store access and household fruit and vegetable use among participants in the US Food Stamp Program. Public Health Nutrition. 2004;7(08)

Food store access and household fruit and vegetable use among participants in the US Food Stamp Program - PubMed (nih.gov)

Citation: A Cheadle 1, B M Psaty, S Curry, E Wagner, P Diehr, T Koepsell, A Kristal PMID: 2057471
DOI: 10.1016/0091-7435(91)90024-x Community-level comparisons between the grocery store environment and individual dietary practices Prev Med. 1991 Mar;20(2):250-61.

<https://www.aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/2021-09/low-income-covid-19-impacts.pdf>

Performance Report

There are no mandatory reporting requirements under the expenditure category 2.22.

Key performance indicators of the project include the following goals to be met by the end of 2024:

- Develop a Healthy Neighborhood Store technical assistance program: 1
- Enroll small food-retailers located within QCTs and LI/LA areas: 6
- Minimum number of stores enrolled throughout the project period: 6

- In partnership with the city create a “Certified Healthy Neighborhood Store Program”: 1
- Sub-recipient will assist stores in procuring and stocking healthy food products: 6
- Sub-recipient will assist stores in registering as a SNAP/WIC retailer: as applicable
- Sub-recipient will create a community engagement model: 1
- Sub-recipient will create a sustainable model for annual enrollment: 1

This project has been in early planning and implementation stages, however the subrecipient is prepping to launch this program at the first store in early September 2023. Actuals for the above KPIs will be available in future reports as the stores each get up and running.

Project 19102: Coordinated Social Services – Community Support Hubs

Funding amount: \$8,580,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.37 Economic Impact Assistance: Other

Project Overview

The City will identify a subrecipient for \$8.58M of the ARPA funds to establish a network of coordinated, neighborhood-based, trauma-informed community support hubs (Hubs) and establish an administrative support/shared services organization (SSO) to build capacity in local nonprofits through December 2026.

The Hubs will be located in neighborhoods that have suffered disproportionate impacts from the pandemic, which are our communities of color. The Hubs will provide trauma-informed therapy, case management, and assertive outreach as the core services available at each Hub. Each Hub will have the flexibility to add services that are responsive to community need. The Hubs will also have direct access to emergency funding to address crisis needs and stabilize the household. Services provided at the Hubs will be from local, trusted nonprofit organizations already knowledgeable of and imbedded in the targeted communities.

The SSO will work with the local community nonprofits and provide an array of administrative services to build capacity in these nonprofits to scale their organizations and better prepare for funding opportunities after the ARPA funds terminate. This is a key component for sustainability of the Hubs once the ARPA funds end.

The Request for Proposal to identify and select the subrecipient was released in July 2022, with responses due in August 2022. Pinellas Community Foundation was selected as the subrecipient, and this appropriation was approved by City Council on November 3, 2022.

Since selection, the Pinellas Community Foundation has administered a competitive solicitation process to identify the Lead Nonprofit of the Hubs, who will lead the design and implementation of this series of Hubs throughout the City through 2026. A local, community-based, Black-led organization, The Well, was selected as the Lead Nonprofit by the grant review committee on June 9, 2023. This selection of the Lead Nonprofit aligns with the original intent of this project – The Well is a trusted organization embedded in the community that has been doing this work. They applied with two collaborative partners, Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services (Gulf Coast JFCS) and People Empowering & Restoring Communities (PERC), who also have a history of serving under-resourced communities in St. Petersburg.

The first Hub will be launched by Fall 2023, and the timeline allows for an iterative learning process along the way before launching the second Hub. In addition to operationalizing the first Hub, the collective Hubs team is working on launching the SSO application and selection process, structuring and forming the community advisory board for the project, and solidifying the project evaluation plan.

Use of Evidence

There has been a recognition of the importance of providing access to culturally competent, trauma informed professionals who can respond in real time emergency challenges facing residents. Neighborhood based intervention services are a key element to addressing barriers to access which underserved communities experience when in crisis. The increased stigma in communities of color to mental health and social services coupled with barriers to accessing these services increase negative outcomes in the social determinants of health in underserved communities. Neighborhood based, culturally competent, trauma informed wraparound services meet individuals in an environment where they are comfortable, provides relief quickly, and provides appropriate culturally competent care and support by local organizations who are known and trusted by neighborhood residents.

The funds provided to the Subrecipient under this Agreement shall be used to establish Coordinated Social Service Hubs (“Hubs”) located in neighborhoods where there is the highest need for stabilization and to establish an Administrative Support/Shared Services Organization (“SSO”) to support and build capacity in community nonprofits. The Hubs will provide multidisciplinary teams including trauma informed therapy, case management and assertive outreach, will provide coordination across complex systems, and identify and overcome barriers that residents face to receive assistance. Hubs will have access to emergency funds to quickly alleviate crisis situations in order to stabilize the individual or family and allow for clinical interventions to occur. Subrecipient shall set aside funds for these emergency needs and will manage these emergency funds either directly or through a contract with a nonprofit organization with experience in managing federal dollars for such purpose.

It is intended that these Hubs demonstrate improvement in the lives of those served (program evaluation) and improve the neighborhood metrics in the social determinants of health (community impact). Program evaluation shall occur through assistance by the SSO: The SSO must provide evaluation and research services. These services should allow for shared outcome metrics across participating community nonprofits to help drive effective service delivery, identify trends, and adjust service interventions to address trends. Community impact research and evaluation is to be conducted by the Sub-recipient either directly or through a contract with an experienced and competent local organization. Community impact research is required to be community driven with community identification and definition of impact metrics. All of these requirements are built into the contract with the sub-recipient.

This program design is largely based on the Trauma Recovery Centers model:
<https://allianceforsafetyandjustice.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/TRAUMA-RECOVERY-CENTERSAddressing-the-Needs-of-Underserved-Crime-Survivors.pdf>

Performance Report

There are no required performance indicators for this expenditure category. When the sub-recipient, lead nonprofit, and partners get Hub operations ramped up and an evaluation design is finalized, this section will be updated to reflect the identified performance metrics. On a micro level, metrics that will likely be tracked include: time from referral to appointment, number of clients served, number of sessions per client and per time period (or units, or hours of service, or other identified metric that demonstrates level of service being provided – counseling, case management, etc.), other services referred or provided (and type, any follow up), type of service(s) provided to each client, percent of successful completion of treatment plan (as determined by

client/clinician/provider). On a macro level, metrics will also include community-wide outcomes related to the social determinants of health, that are to be determined by the specific community as the Hub operations are in full swing and multi-way feedback loops (such as the community advisory board) are in place.

Project 19542: Healthy Food Action Plan

Funding amount: \$240,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

Project Overview

A strong local food system is a critical resource to address national and global food supply chain disruptions and its long-term resilience is vital to the City's recovery and ongoing food needs. The City's intentional investment in food systems planning will ensure equitable physical and economic access to safe, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food in all areas of our community, especially in communities disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

The City is utilizing \$544,000 of ARPA funding to develop and implement a Healthy Food Action Plan. The Healthy Food Action Plan will chart the vision and path forward for an inclusive and equitable food system in St. Petersburg. Driven by stakeholder collaboration, the plan will consider the vision, goals, strategies, and priorities of the community. The Healthy Food Action Plan is a tool that will guide short and long-term strategies, seek partnerships (government and non-government), and examine policies, programs, and projects to strengthen systems and remove barriers. The desired goal of operationalizing a Healthy Food Action Plan is to create a fair and sustainable food system that benefits our local economy, our health, and all people. The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted lower-income families and communities of color, including those living in low income/low access areas (LI/LA) as designated by the US Department of Agriculture Food Access Research Atlas (USDA FARA), widening existing inequities. The plan will inform decision-making to improve food security and access, increase community participation in shaping the food system, address critical gaps in community food security, increase the sustainability of the community food system. The City is starting with a Food Systems Planner and contracted services for community engagement in the planning process before a subrecipient agreement is executed. An additional \$300,000 will be allocated to this project at that time and added to this report.

Use of Evidence

The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted lower-income families and People of Color, including those living in low income/low access areas (LI/LA) as designated by the US Department of Agriculture Food Access Research Atlas (USDA FARA), widening existing inequities. According to the HHS, nationwide, low-wage workers lost jobs at nearly five times the rate of middle-wage workers and nearly half of lower-income families report that they or someone in their household had lost a job or taken a pay cut as the result of the pandemic. The losses in reliable income as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated long-standing disparities in access to healthy food for many families, particularly those dependent on regular income and access to reliable transportation.

The goal of this project is to develop and implement a Healthy Food Action Plan is increase community food security and access, address gaps in the food system, examine and improve public policy affecting the food system, increase community participation in shaping the food system, increase the sustainability and resiliency of the community food system. M.W. Hamm and A.C. Bellows defines community food security as follows, "Community food security exists when

all citizens can obtain a safe, personally acceptable, nutritious diet through a sustainable food system that maximizes healthy choices, community self-reliance and equal access for everyone.” According to the USDA, more than 34 million people, including 9 million children, in the United States are food insecure. The pandemic has increased food insecurity among families with children and communities of color, who already faced hunger at much higher rates before the pandemic.

The American Planning Association (APA), its Chapters and Divisions, and planners support a comprehensive food planning process at the community and regional levels. In the APA Policy Guide on Community and Regional Food Planning it outlines the multiple and complex links among food system activities and between food and planning activities such as land use, transportation, and economic development planning. Community concerns about health, economic development, ecological sustainability, social equity, and cultural diversity are also intricately linked to food system issues and to each other. Achieving community-food objectives requires collaborations between groups representing diverse interests such as anti-hunger, nutrition, farming, and environmental issues; span separate government agencies; and include multiple levels of government in dialogues. For these reasons it is imperative that St. Petersburg initiate a community driven healthy food action planning process.

There is moderate evidence to support this evidenced-based food systems planning intervention. This project intends to conduct this critical analysis of information to guide and inform decisions on complex, public health issues, involve stakeholders to ensure shared ownership of the process and results to ultimately promote health, safety, and equity and respond to the negative impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The total dollar amount of \$540,000 will be allocated towards this evidence-based intervention for the project term.

Performance Report

The Food Systems Planner started work on 7/17/23. They will engage with neighborhood food advocates and community stakeholders around the creation of the Healthy Food Action Plan, and the steps needed to create a sustainable and equitable food system in the city. The community will inform the metrics that will be tracked through this process, as will the data gathered by the Planner. Once this project is more significantly underway, these metrics will be selected, available, and reported.

Project 00001: Revenue Replacement Allowance

Funding amount: \$10,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

The City elected to take the standard allowance of \$10M that a local government can claim as “lost revenue” under the Final Rule. The \$10M was transferred to the City’s General Fund to reimburse the City for government services expenditures that occurred during FY21, specifically under the award eligibility period of March 3, 2021, to September 30, 2021. Governmental service expenditures include public labor and services costs (police and fire departments) and other general fund governmental services to support the general public like parks and recreation, libraries and general support services. This transfer of funding then freed up \$10M in the General Fund to be used for additional affordable housing projects. \$6.5M went to the Deuces Housing and Community Development Project and \$3.5M to the Affordable Housing Gap Financing Project with a focus on producing new rental units that would be affordable for

households with incomes at or below 80% AMI.

Use of Evidence

N/A

Performance Report

N/A