

Harford County, Maryland

Recovery Plan

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
2024 Report

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

Harford County, Maryland received its full allocation of \$49.6 million from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). As of June 30, 2024 the county has spent \$41.2 million on 38 eligible projects, these would include approximately \$17 million on broadband expansion into unserved and underserved communities; \$9 million as revenue loss used towards the provision of government services; \$7 million on public health expenditures with an emphasis on mental health, substance abuse services and air quality improvement projects; \$6 million in premium pay for eligible employees who worked during the pandemic, and \$2 million to address negative economic impacts to both nonprofits and county park facilities.

As for the remaining funds, there is \$4.4 million in unspent obligations, such as purchase orders, on ARPA eligible projects. Of the remaining \$4 million it is expected that all of it will be obligated by the December 31, 2024 deadline. These funds will be used for a variety of eligible expenses, particularly in the areas of addressing public health, negative economic impacts and stormwater mitigation, as well reimbursing the county government for administrative expenses related to managing its ARPA award.

Uses of Funds

Harford County has obligated \$45.6 million and spent \$41.2 million on eligible projects detailed in the Project Inventory section below. Part of that expenditure total includes \$9 million for the provision of government services funded as revenue replacement. The county is eligible for up to \$10 million in revenue replacement and has largely opted to use those funds for public safety capital improvements and equipment for both Harford County Sheriff's Office and our volunteer fire companies.

Promoting equitable outcomes

Harford County is using the vast majority of its ARPA funding on underserved and disadvantaged communities. Broadband expansion is targeting rural areas that have no access to high-speed internet. Premium Pay is focused on employees who meet federal income eligibility requirements. Public Health funding is largely allocated to mental health and substance abuse, both of which have a disproportionate impact to disadvantaged communities.

Community Engagement

Harford County has allocated its ARPA funding through its budget process, which has numerous opportunities for community input, including virtual town halls, formal public hearings, social media, and the county's website.

Labor Practices

Harford County is compliant with all applicable Federal, State and local labor laws.

Use of Evidence

To be Determined / Varies by Project.

Performance Measurements

To be Determined / Varies by Project.

Project Inventory

Broadband

Expenditure as of 6/30/2024: \$17,011,519

5.19 Infrastructure, Broadband – Last Mile Projects

Open Project – Additional Expenditures Expected

Harford County is building off its existing public network, Harford County Metro Area Network (HMAN), to provide last mile internet connections to unserved and underserved private residences in rural areas that do not have access to high-speed service. The internet service will meet or exceed 100 mbps download and upload speeds. 763 locations out of the planned 2,990 locations are now lit or operational.

Revenue Replacement

Expenditure as of 6/30/2024: \$9,255,680

6.1 Provision of Government Services

Open Project – Additional Expenditures Expected

The county has elected to use \$10 million of its allocation as revenue loss; however, these funds were set aside and are being used to fund projects that were largely eligible under CARES but not ARPA, primarily capital improvements and public safety equipment for our Sheriff's Office and our Volunteer Fire Companies.

Harford County Public Schools (Bus Drivers and Food Service Workers) Premium Pay

Expenditure as of 6/30/2024: \$2,287,734

4.1 Premium Pay, Public Sector Employees

Closed Project – No Additional Expenditures Expected

Harford County allocated Harford County Public Schools with funding to provide \$2,000 in premium pay to all eligible bus drivers and food service workers. Eligibility based on being under 150% of the State of Maryland's average wage of \$63,426, which equates to \$95,000.

1,092 employees received this bonus in 2021. This funding assisted the school system with recruitment and retention efforts for valuable front-line workers.

Harford Crisis Center

Expenditure as of 6/30/2024: \$1,500,000

1.12 Public Health, Mental Health Services

Closed Project – No Additional Expenditures Expected

Harford County allocated funding to the Harford Crisis Center to provide mental health services throughout the county. The pandemic has created an increased demand for mental health services, and at the same time other funding sources for the Harford Crisis Center have contracted. This funding will enable crucial services to be provided, particularly in our at-risk communities.

Harford County Government Premium Pay

Expenditure as of 6/30/2024: \$1,426,901

4.1 Premium Pay, Public Sector Employees

Closed Project – No Additional Expenditures Expected

Harford County used ARPA funds to provide premium pay in the amount of \$1,000 to all county government eligible full-time employees and \$500 to all eligible part-time employees. Eligibility based on being under 150% of the State of Maryland's average wage of \$63,426, which equates to \$95,000. As Harford County never closed during the pandemic, and all employees were required to be on-site (no telework) as of March 1, 2021, any employee meeting the income requirement was deemed eligible for ARPA funded premium pay. 1,389 employees received ARPA premium pay on July 23, 2021.

Woodbridge Center Stormwater

Expenditure as of 6/30/2024: \$1,119,138

5.6 Infrastructure, Clean Water – Stormwater

Open Project – Additional Expenditures Expected

Emergency stormwater pipe repair was necessary in Edgewood, Maryland. Edgewood is on the Chesapeake Bay and adjacent to a large military installation. It is home to a significant number of economically disadvantaged households and has one of the county's two qualified census tracts.

Detention Center Harford County Detention Center HVAC Cell Blocks A-K

Expenditure as of 6/30/2024: \$955,520

1.4 Public Health, Prevention in Congregate Settings

Closed Project – No Additional Expenditures Expected

Installed air conditioning in cell blocks A-K in the county's detention center. The new units use scroll compressors and variable frequency drives on the blower motors and are generally more efficient to meet the energy code. The new units use R410A (environmentally friendly) refrigerant compared to the old units which used R-22. The Detention Center has approximately 160 employees and 410 inmates on an average day.

Detention Center Harford County Detention Center HVAC Inmate Housing Areas**Expenditure as of 6/30/2024: \$899,648****1.4 Public Health, Prevention in Congregate Settings****Open Project – Additional Expenditures Expected**

Installed new HVAC units in 11 different inmate housing areas of the detention center to improve air quality for the inmates incarcerated at the detention center. The 11 housing areas have a capacity to hold 190 inmates. The inmates live, eat and sleep in their housing areas 24 hours a day. The housing areas never had air filtration or conditioning prior to this project.

Harford County Public Schools (Custodians) Premium Pay**Expenditure as of 6/30/2024: \$885,000****4.1 Premium Pay, Public Sector Employees****Closed Project – No Additional Expenditures Expected**

Harford County allocated Harford County Public Schools with funding to provide \$2,000 in premium pay to all eligible custodians. Eligibility based on being under 150% of the State of Maryland's average wage of \$63,426, which equates to \$95,000. 411 employees received this bonus in 2022. This funding assisted the school system with recruitment and retention efforts for valuable front-line workers.

County Facilities HVAC Upgrade/Air Handling Unit Replacement**Expenditure as of 6/30/2024: \$875,045****1.4 Public Health, Prevention in Congregate Settings****Closed Project – No Additional Expenditures Expected**

The air handling units are being replaced in the county's main office building. The new units use scroll compressors and variable frequency drives on the blower motors and are generally more efficient to meet the energy code. The new units use R410A (environmentally friendly) refrigerant compared to the old units which used R-22. 180 employees work in the office building, and thousands of individuals visit it throughout the year.

Nuttal Avenue and Edgewood Park Construction**Expenditure as of 6/30/2024: \$812,726****2.22 Strong Health Communities, Neighborhood Features Promote Health & Safety****Closed Project – No Additional Expenditures Expected**

Project developed on the former site of military housing located in Edgewood, Maryland, which is home to a significant number of economically disadvantaged households and has one of the county's two qualified census tracts.

The Nuttal Avenue Park project was the development of 5.5 acres into a passive community park. The park includes a 40' wide gazebo, a playground, and a walking trail around the park that includes additional play features for children to use. There is a large open grass space at the park as well.

Detention Center Video Cameras**Expenditure as of 6/30/2024: \$738,885****1.4 Public Health, Prevention in Congregate Settings****Closed Project – No Additional Expenditures Expected**

Replaced and upgraded the video camera system in the detention center in order to promote social distancing and limit physical interaction between the inmates and the correctional officers.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)**Expenditure as of 6/30/2024: \$454,446****2.1 Negative Economic Impact, Household Assistance Food Programs****Closed Project – No Additional Expenditures Expected**

Provided meals during the summer months to FARM (Free and Reduced Meals) students and their families. Approximately 500 households were served with this funding. On July 23, 2023 the State of Maryland refunded \$374,294 from the original allocation of \$828,740 to the county as the project had sufficient funding. Those funds will be reallocated to other ARPA eligible projects.

Ashley Clubhouse**Expenditure as of 6/30/2024: \$450,000****1.13 Public Health, Substance Abuse Services****Closed Project – No Additional Expenditures Expected**

Harford County allocated funding to Ashley Addiction Treatment, a provider of substance abuse treatment, to construct a facility to expand its services. The pandemic has created an increased demand for substance abuse treatment, and at the same time other funding sources for Ashley have contracted. This funding will enable crucial services to be provided, particularly in our at-risk communities.

Harmer's Town Art Center**Expenditure as of 6/30/2024: \$350,000****2.34 Negative Economic Impacts, Assistance to Impacted Nonprofits**

Harmer's Town Art Center, Inc. exists to create, develop, support, and promote a vibrant ecosystem of creativity - in the form of an art center, artist park, and associated facilities - in which artists can live, work, create, perform, and market their art, all while preserving and celebrating the history and traditions of Havre de Grace, Maryland.

This project was initiated before the pandemic and its trajectory was negatively impacted. This project has significant outdoor space to mitigate airborne diseases. In addition, it is located in a mixed income community along the Route 40 corridor and will service disproportionately impacted communities, both among the artists in residence and the patrons.

ARC of Northern Chesapeake Region**Expenditure as of 6/30/2024: \$300,000****2.34 Negative Economic Impacts, Assistance to Impacted Nonprofits****Closed Project – No Additional Expenditures Expected**

Harford County allocated funding to the ARC of Northern Chesapeake Region, who provide a range of services to the developmentally disabled community. The funding was used to address recruitment and retention staffing issues at the arc by increasing wages, particularly at the lower end of their salary scale. As with other nonprofits, the ARC's ability to fundraise was significantly reduced during the pandemic.

Highland Community Center HVAC Upgrade/Air Handling Unit Replacement**Expenditure as of 6/30/2024: \$288,500****1.4 Public Health, Prevention in Congregate Settings****Closed Project – No Additional Expenditures Expected**

The air handling units are being replaced in the county's Highland community center. The new units use scroll compressors and variable frequency drives on the blower motors and are generally more efficient to meet the energy code. The new units use R410A (environmentally friendly) refrigerant compared to the old units which used R-22. This center provides childcare as well as services to the elderly.

Harford County Sheriff's Office (New Hire) Premium Pay**Expenditure as of 6/30/2024: \$255,000****4.1 Premium Pay, Public Sector Employees****Closed Project – No Additional Expenditures Expected**

Harford County provides a one-time hiring bonus of \$5,000 for deputies and correctional officers for recruitment purposes. Eligibility based on being under 150% of the State of Maryland's average wage of \$63,426, which equates to \$95,000. 51 new hires received this bonus as of June 30, 2023. ARPA funding for this project was discontinued when the National State of Emergency ended on April 10, 2023; however, the bonus program will continue with County funds due to the challenges of recruiting public safety officers.

Sexual Assault/Spouse Abuse Resource Center (SARC)**Expenditure as of 6/30/2024: \$200,000****1.12 Public Health, Mental Health Services****Closed Project – No Additional Expenditures Expected**

Harford County allocated funding to SARC, who provide support to the victims of domestic violence, to renovate a safehouse that provides a temporary and secure living environment. The pandemic has created an increased demand for domestic violence support services, and at the same time other funding sources for SARC have contracted. This funding will enable crucial services to be provided, particularly in our at-risk communities.

Office of Mental Health**Expenditure as of 6/30/2024: \$161,112****1.12 Public Health, Mental Health Services****Closed Project – No Additional Expenditures Expected**

Provides funding for peer-to-peer counselors to provide substance abuse counseling at the Office of Mental Health/Core Service Agency of Harford County.

Detention Center Food Pass Doors**Expenditure as of 6/30/2024: \$154,589****1.4 Public Health, Prevention in Congregate Settings****Open Project – Additional Expenditures Expected**

The food service doors at the Harford County Detention Center are being upgraded to enhance security measures as well as to safely monitor the inmate population and encourage social distancing. This upgrade will allow non-contact monitoring to help curb the spread of disease.

McFaul Activity Center HVAC Upgrade/Air Handling Unit Replacement -Phase 2**Expenditure as of 6/30/2024: \$151,646****1.4 Public Health, Prevention in Congregate Settings****Closed Project – No Additional Expenditures Expected**

The air handling units are being replaced in the county's McFaul Activity Center, which primarily serves senior citizens. The new units use scroll compressors and variable frequency drives on the blower motors and are generally more efficient to meet the energy code. The new units use R410A (environmentally friendly) refrigerant compared to the old units which used R-22. The center has six employees and 350 senior citizen visitors per day.

Vaccine Public Service Announcements**Expenditure as of 6/30/2024: \$144,475****1.7 Public Health, Other Covid-19 Public Health Expenses****Closed Project – No Additional Expenditures Expected**

Production of a vaccine public service announcement (PSA) and placements of that PSA. This PSA campaign targets young adults who have not been vaccinated, and it ran between July 2021 and September 2021. The total 11-week campaign generated 3.5 million impressions through 295 tv spots and an additional 200,000 digital impressions through web-based placements. There are no future planned PSA campaigns; however, that is subject to change.

Boys and Girls Club – Transportation**Expenditure as of 6/30/2024: \$123,800****2.34 Negative Economic Impacts, Assistance to Impacted Nonprofits****Closed Project – No Additional Expenditures Expected**

Harford County allocated funding to the Boys and Girls Club to provide a Club on the Go – a mobile club that can be transported directly to at-risk communities. Services provided include STEM and other educational programs. The pandemic has created increased demand for youth services, and at the same time other funding sources for the Boys and Girl's Club have contracted.

Harford County Fire and EMS Foundation Premium Pay

Expenditure as of 6/30/2024: \$90,426

4.2 Premium Pay, Private Sector

Closed Project – No Additional Expenditures Expected

Harford County allocated the Fire and EMS Foundation with funding to provide \$1,000 in premium pay to all eligible employees. The Foundation provides paid paramedics to staff volunteer fire company ambulances. Eligibility based on being under 150% of the State of Maryland's average wage of \$63,426, which equates to \$95,000. Ninety-nine employees received this bonus in 2021. This funding assisted the Foundation with recruitment and retention efforts for these essential workers.

Mount Zion United Methodist Church Food Bank

Expenditure as of 6/30/2024: \$60,000

2.1 Negative Economic Impact, Household Assistance Food Programs

Closed Project – No Additional Expenditures Expected

Funded the construction of a food storage space for a local food bank that serves at risk families. It is estimated that 225 families are served at this location.

Fallston Activity (Senior) Center HVAC Upgrade/Air Handling Unit Replacement

Expenditure as of 6/30/2024: \$43,630

1.4 Public Health, Prevention in Congregate Settings

Closed Project – No Additional Expenditures Expected

The air handling units are being replaced in the county's Fallston Activity Center, which primarily serves senior citizens. The new units use scroll compressors and variable frequency drives on the blower motors and are generally more efficient to meet the energy code. The new units use R410A (environmentally friendly) refrigerant compared to the old units which used R-22.

Edgewood Community Support Center – Epicenter

Expenditure as of 6/30/2024: \$30,000

2.34 Negative Economic Impacts, Assistance to Impacted Non-Profit

Closed Project – No Additional Expenditures Expected

Harford County allocated the Edgewood Community Support Center with funding to assist approximately 50 children with their transportation needs to the Center. The center provides a range of community support services, including childcare, food assistance and blood drives. Edgewood is home to a significant number of economically disadvantaged households and has one of the county's two qualified census tracts.

ARPA Consultants**Expenditure as of 6/30/2024: \$26,615****7.1 Administrative, Administrative Expenses****Open Project – Additional Expenditures Expected**

Harford County has procured consulting services to assist with determining project and expenditure ARPA eligibility.

Harford County Health Department (Health Care Employees) Premium Pay**Expenditure as of 6/30/2024: \$22,000****4.1 Premium Pay, Public Sector Employees****Closed Project – No Additional Expenditures Expected**

Harford County allocated the Health Department with funding to provide \$2,000 in premium pay to all eligible health care employees. Eligibility based on being under 150% of the State of Maryland's average wage of \$63,426, which equates to \$95,000. Eleven employees received this bonus in 2021. This funding assisted the Health Department with recruitment and retention efforts for these essential workers.

Bond Street Office Building HVAC Upgrade/Air Handling Unit Replacement**Expenditure as of 6/30/2024: \$12,690****1.4 Public Health, Prevention in Congregate Settings****Closed Project – No Additional Expenditures Expected**

The air handling units are being replaced in the county's Bond Street Office. The new units use scroll compressors and variable frequency drives on the blower motors and are generally more efficient to meet the energy code. The new units use R410A (environmentally friendly) refrigerant compared to the old units which used R-22.

County Government Conference Room HVAC and Air Handling Units**Expenditure as of 6/30/2024: \$11,340****1.4 Public Health, Prevention in Congregate Settings****Closed Project – No Additional Expenditures Expected**

Additional improvements to the HVAC and air handling units were necessitated as part of the renovation and expansion of the conference room at the main county office building. The primary HVAC upgrade at the County Office Building was funded out of a separate ARPA project (County Facilities HVAC Upgrade/Air Handling Unit Replacement) listed above.

Rage Against Addiction**Expenditure as of 6/30/2024: \$11,000****1.13 Public Health, Substance Abuse Services****Closed Project – No Additional Expenditures Expected**

Improvements to the housing areas of sober living facility for women.

Transit Ductless System Replacement (HVAC/Air Handling)

Expenditure as of 6/30/2024: \$9,685

1.4 Public Health, Prevention in Congregate Settings

Closed Project – No Additional Expenditures Expected

The ductless HVAC/Air Handling Units are being replaced at the county's transit facility.

The Sharing Table Food Bank

Expenditure as of 6/30/2024: \$7,000

2.1 Negative Economic Impact, Household Assistance Food Programs

Closed Project – No Additional Expenditures Expected

Provided funding to a local food bank to assist 100 at-risk families.

Lake Serene

Expenditure as of 6/30/2024: \$5,839

5.6 Infrastructure, Clean Water – Stormwater

Open Project – Additional Expenditures Expected

The Lake Serene Comprehensive Dam Safety Review (CDSR) is a highly detailed inspection involving qualified and experienced Professional Engineers in dam construction, inspection and remediation. This provides a benefit to the nearby and especially downstream residents who live in the flow path of a potential dam breach scenario. This report will detail any deficiencies with the structure of the dam and recommend repair options if needed. Lake Serene provides stormwater management for the surrounding residents which helps to limit downstream erosion that would lead to the Chesapeake Bay.

Vaccine Tracking Software

Expenditure as of 6/30/2024: \$4,750

1.7 Public Health, Other Covid-19 Public Health Expenses

Closed Project – No Additional Expenditures Expected

Harford County purchased software to account for vaccine status and the number of Covid-19 in its workforce in order to comply with expected federal mandates. As the mandates were not officially implemented by the Federal Government due to court challenges, the software has not been utilized.