

Larimer County Revised Recovery Plan – April 2022

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds & Emergency Rental Assistance

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GENERAL AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

Larimer County is prioritizing the use of Local Fiscal Recovery (SLFRF) funds in ways that address the health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to make investments in infrastructure that will help prevent future pandemics and improve health and economic outcomes for our residents, especially those that have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic and its effects. A secondary priority is to compensate County employees and to provide behavioral health services who work in congregate correctional settings, and to recover the County's costs that have been incurred responding to and mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in county operations.

Larimer County has identified service areas and is now engaging with state and municipal partners, plus the non-profit and philanthropic communities to obligate funds for specific projects that ***will utilize the full amount of the County's \$69.3 million SLRF allocation.*** The broad service areas in which Larimer County will invest its SLRF allocation include:

- Expanding behavioral health services to all residents, with a special emphasis on youth.
- Improving access to affordable housing and supportive housing services for residents in need.
- Improving broadband access in areas with substandard service, especially in unincorporated Larimer County.
- Workforce development projects targeted to high school students
- Making investments in infrastructure to:
 - Improve access to drinking water in rural areas, recreational facilities, and mobile home parks.
 - Enhancing air quality and our ability to respond to future outbreaks or pandemics in congregate correctional facilities through flexible spaces.

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds – Revised Plan

Uses of Funds

Larimer County is prioritizing the use of its SLFRF allocations to projects that do not represent temporary successes but instead create transformative, long-term change in our community. Because of the significant cost of these projects, the County will utilize not only direct SLFRF funding, but also reimbursement under the Lost Revenue provision (currently estimated at \$36.5 million for 2020 and 2021), reimbursement for payroll costs on these critical projects, in addition to leveraging other SLFRF funds in state and region and other grant funds. The County has taken an appropriate amount of time to evaluate project ideas that will provide the most effective return on investment of SLFRF and other funds and are now in the final stages of determining scope and funding mixes.

Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities Public Health

This is a key priority for Larimer County. Larimer County is currently engaging with state and municipal partners, along with the nonprofit and philanthropic communities to implement projects using SLFRF funds, plus additional grant funds from a variety of sources, to enact transformative change for communities that have been disproportionately impacted communities. Depending on the availability of other funds from partners and other funding

sources, the County is currently considering allocating **as much as \$60 million** of its \$69.3 million allocation to projects that serve these needs.

Based on feedback from a robust community engagement effort (see below), the County is currently prioritizing projects that would accomplish the following:

- Construction phase two of the County's Behavioral Health Facility, which would be dedicated to services for youth. Construction of phase one, which will house services for adults, is fully funded and under construction. The County plans to dedicate significant SLFRF funding to the construction of phase two of the project in order to make services for youth available much sooner than anticipated.
- Construction of a shelter for youth ages 12 to 18 who are unable to find permanent or foster care housing. The shelter will provide counseling and other services in addition to housing for this at-risk population.
- The County is currently exploring two projects that will provide affordable housing with on-site childcare and in one case an adjacent community center. Affordable housing is an acute need in Larimer County, especially in mountainous areas where a significant workforce is necessary for the tourism industry.
- Construction of a childcare facility with the goal of greatly expanding the supply of, and therefore reducing the cost of, quality childcare options within the County.
- A contribution towards the preservation of a mobile home park in Fort Collins, where the supply of affordable housing is especially acute.

In addition to these major projects, as part of its Immediate Needs Grant program, the County is providing nearly \$1 million to non-profit organizations to:

- Fund improvements to a community hall in Livermore, a rural community, that will enhance facility access for the elderly individuals with disabilities.
- Contribute to the purchase of a high-tech ambulance by a fire protection district that serves remote, rural locations that will improve its ability to provide emergency response services.
- Provide health and other service to individuals experiencing homelessness
- Provide behavioral health and substance abuse services
- Provide benefits navigation services

Broadband, Water and Sewer Infrastructure

Expanding access to quality broadband services is another key priority for Larimer County. The County has already engaged in partnerships to expand existing high-speed broadband services in municipalities into unincorporated areas of the County, with a total allocation of approximately \$1.6 million. Depending on contributions of its SLFRF allocation to other projects and the availability of other grant funds, the County currently plans to allocate **up to an additional \$10 million** of its \$69.3 million allocation to broadband expansion projects.

The County has also allocated **\$2.3 million** to water and sewer projects that will improve water quality at its parks and open spaces, mobile home parks in or near Fort Collins, and in the Town of Berthoud.

Negative Economic Impacts

The County created an "Immediate Needs" grant program in late 2021 designed to help small businesses, non-profit organizations and individuals mitigate the economic impacts of the

COVID-19 pandemic. As a result of this program, the County is making grants ***totaling \$2 million*** to mitigate revenue losses by small businesses, non-profits, and units of local governments (including a recreation district and a sanitation district); contribute to food banks; provide rentable information technology resources; provide mobile library outreach services; provide eviction prevention services; and to support small businesses owned by the Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) community.

Premium Pay

The County is recognizing employees who have faced a significant amount of stress due to their work in congregate correctional settings. These 230+ employees have shown incredible dedication to their jobs that help keep our residents safe while being placed in close proximity to individuals who are not always cooperative and whose COVID-19 status can often be uncertain. To recognize their service and dedication, the County is dedicating \$2.3 million to provide premium pay as allowed by the SLFRF.

Lost Revenue

The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact on the economy of Larimer County which has resulted in slower revenue growth than during the pre-pandemic period. Based on the formula provided by the U.S. Treasury Department in the Final Rule, the County will be claiming reimbursement for lost revenue of \$9.3 million for 2020 and \$27.2 million for 2021. It is important to note that, while the Final Rule allows the County to utilize these funds for traditional government services that are not necessarily related to COVID-19 recovery, ***Larimer County is dedicated to utilizing these funds for projects that will make transformative change in our community, especially for those disproportionately impacted by the economic and health consequences of the pandemic.***

Promoting equitable outcomes

In the initial Community Engagement effort (see below), Larimer County acted as a primary facilitator for the Recovery Collaborative, used a triple bottom line approach to developing recovery plans and strategies. This is evident in [our plan](#) with equity being one of the primary principals of our efforts, and we highlight equity as an opportunity to improve. Additionally, to ensure that equity efforts were community-led, the Larimer Recovery Collaborative stood up the Community Support and Equity Advisory Board, which is made up of members of the community and community-rooted organizations that represent marginalized communities that provide consistent feedback to the recovery process from an equity perspective. This group will continue to be engaged and help to develop community engagement strategies that ensure marginalized voices are elevated in providing feedback to long-term recovery efforts.

Since that initial effort in the summer, the County focused its Community Engagement efforts on determining the priorities of hard-to-reach and traditionally underserved communities through a variety of methods, including community connectors and multi-lingual surveys.

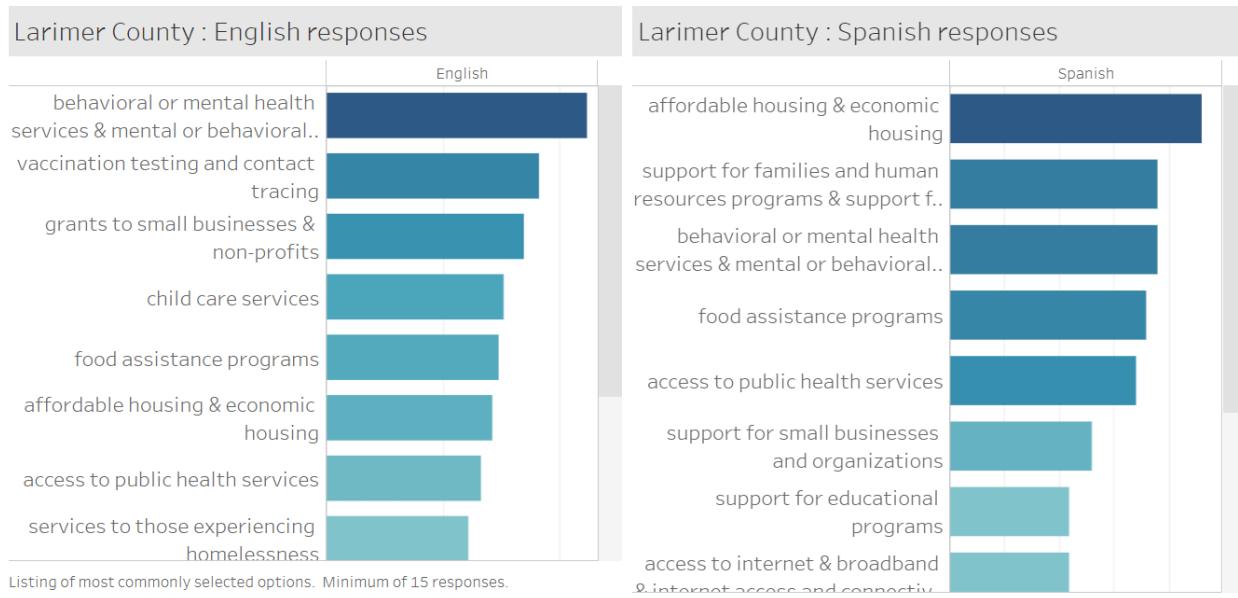
Community Engagement

Larimer County engaged in a robust community engagement process in the summer and fall of 2021 to determine which eligible uses were most important to our residents. The community outreach effort included:

- Hosting in-person and virtual meetings with various stakeholder groups and the public at which the purpose and eligible uses of SLFRF funds were described and feedback was received. These meetings included “root cause” analyses of several issues that SLFRF seeks to alleviate, including access to affordable housing and childcare, workforce development, behavioral health services, and pandemic recovery.
- The County engaged “community connectors” who were familiar with groups that the County had not previously engaged with successfully, such as low-income families and members of the BIPOC (black, indigenous and people of color) communities to gather their feedback.
- The County created two online tools and collaborated with municipalities to collect their survey data on community priorities. One tool allowed community members to submit to the County how they would allocate the County’s SLFRF funds to broad service categories (behavioral health, housing, etc.). A more robust survey tool, combined with surveys implemented by Larimer County municipalities, [resulted in 3,300+ survey responses that provided the following priority information](#) that can be broken out between municipal and unincorporated residents as well as by English and Spanish-speaking respondents:

EN ES

Areas where response and recovery funds should be allocated



Labor Practices

Larimer County will follow all applicable federal, state and local laws related to labor practices on capital (infrastructure) projects, including the Keep Jobs in Colorado Act (8-17-101(1), Colorado Revised Statutes) which states, “Whenever any public works project financed in whole or in part by funds of the state, counties, school districts or municipalities of the State of Colorado are undertaken in this state, Colorado labor shall be employed to perform at least 80% of the work”. In many cases Larimer County is making a contribution to an infrastructure project that is managed by another entity.

Use of Evidence

Larimer County will track qualitative and quantitative data on its projects as they are finalized.

Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category

The table below shows year-to-date expenditures by the County (as of March 30, 2022) in each of the categories as defined by the U.S. Treasury Department. It is important to note that these figures only represent funds that have actually been spent. They do not represent amounts committed by the County for all projects.

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
1	Expenditure Category: Public Health		
1.1	COVID-19 Vaccination		
1.2	COVID-19 Testing		
1.3	COVID-19 Contact Tracing	\$56,702	\$0
1.4	Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, etc.)	\$182,216	\$116,190
1.5	Personal Protective Equipment		
1.6	Medical Expenses (including Alternative Care Facilities)		
1.7	Capital Investments or Physical Plant Changes to Public Facilities that respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency		
1.8	Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)		
1.9	Payroll Costs for Public Health, Safety, and Other Public Sector Staff Responding to COVID-19	\$5,246,198	\$3,266,825
1.10	Mental Health Services	\$88,427	\$86,127
1.11	Substance Use Services	\$9,975	\$9,975
1.12	Other Public Health Services	\$280,000	\$280,000
2	Expenditure Category: Negative Economic Impacts		
2.1	Household Assistance: Food Programs		
2.2	Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid		
2.3	Household Assistance: Cash Transfers		
2.4	Household Assistance: Internet Access Programs		
2.5	Household Assistance: Eviction Prevention		
2.6	Unemployment Benefits or Cash Assistance to Unemployed Workers		
2.7	Job Training Assistance (e.g., Sectoral job-training, Subsidized Employment, Employment Supports or Incentives)		

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
2.8	Contributions to UI Trust Funds*		
2.9	Small Business Economic Assistance (General)	\$425,403	\$425,403
2.10	Aid to nonprofit organizations	\$110,000	\$110,000
2.11	Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality		
2.12	Aid to Other Impacted Industries	\$26,267	\$26,267
2.13	Other Economic Support		
2.14	Rehiring Public Sector Staff	\$6,538	\$6,538
3	Expenditure Category: Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities		
3.1	Education Assistance: Early Learning		
3.2	Education Assistance: Aid to High-Poverty Districts		
3.3	Education Assistance: Academic Services		
3.4	Education Assistance: Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Services		
3.5	Education Assistance: Other		
3.6	Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care		
3.7	Healthy Childhood Environments: Home Visiting		
3.8	Healthy Childhood Environments: Services to Foster Youth or Families Involved in Child Welfare System		
3.9.	Healthy Childhood Environments: Other		
3.10	Housing Support: Affordable Housing		
3.11	Housing Support: Services for Unhoused persons		
3.12	Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance		
3.13	Social Determinants of Health: Other		
3.14	Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators	\$6,238	\$6,238
3.15	Social Determinants of Health: Lead Remediation		
3.16	Social Determinants of Health: Community Violence Interventions		
4	Expenditure Category: Premium Pay		
4.1	Public Sector Employees	\$1,288,385	\$1,288,385
4.2	Private Sector: Grants to other employers		
5	Expenditure Category: Infrastructure		
5.1	Clean Water: Centralized wastewater treatment		
5.2	Clean Water: Centralized wastewater collection and conveyance		
5.3	Clean Water: Decentralized wastewater		
5.4	Clean Water: Combined sewer overflows		

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
5.5	Clean Water: Other sewer infrastructure		
5.6	Clean Water: Stormwater		
5.7	Clean Water: Energy conservation		
5.8	Clean Water: Water conservation		
5.9	Clean Water: Nonpoint source		
5.10	Drinking water: Treatment		
5.11	Drinking water: Transmission & distribution	\$21,275	\$21,275
5.12	Drinking water: Transmission & distribution: lead remediation		
5.13	Drinking water: Source		
5.14	Drinking water: Storage		
5.15	Drinking water: Other water infrastructure		
5.16	Broadband: "Last Mile" projects		
5.17	Broadband: Other projects		
6	Expenditure Category: Revenue Replacement		
6.1	Provision of Government Services		
7	Administrative and Other		
7.1	Administrative Expenses	\$70,655	\$65,631
7.2	Evaluation and data analysis		
7.3	Transfers to Other Units of Government	\$63,788	\$63,788
7.4	Transfers to Nonentitlement Units (States and Territories only)		

Project Inventory

Below is an inventory of projects the County has either allocated funds to or for which it is considering allocations.

Behavioral Health Facility – Phase 2

Project: Behavioral Health Facility Phase 2

Funding amount: Up to \$30,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.10 – Behavioral Health Services

Project Overview: The County is currently constructing a new facility that will provide critical behavioral health and substance abuse services to adults. An envisioned second phase of the facility would provide similar services for youth. The current estimate for the cost of this phase is approximately \$30 million, for which the County would need to accumulate dedicated sales tax revenues for several years to fund. The County is evaluating a contribution of SLFRF funds of up to \$30 million to accelerate construction of this phase of the project.

Affordable Housing with Onsite Childcare

Project: Affordable Housing with Onsite Childcare

Funding amount: Up to \$14,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 3.10 – Housing Support, 3.6 – Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care, and 3.9 – Health Childhood Environments: Other

Project Overview: The County is currently exploring two projects that will provide affordable housing with on-site childcare and in one case an adjacent community center. Affordable housing is an acute need in Larimer County, especially in mountainous areas where a significant workforce is necessary for the tourism industry.

Childcare Facility Construction

Project: Childcare Facility Construction

Funding amount: Up to \$2,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 3.6 – Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care

Project Overview: The County is considering options for the construction of at least one childcare facility with the goal of greatly expanding the supply of, and therefore reducing the cost of, quality childcare options within the County.

Youth Shelter with Wraparound Services

Project: Youth Shelter with Wraparound Services

Funding amount: Up to \$15,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 3.10 - Housing Support: Services for Unhoused persons

Project Overview: The County is considering options for the construction of a shelter for youth ages 12 to 18. The shelter will provide counseling and other services in addition to housing for this at-risk population.

Larimer County Broadband Partnerships

Project: LC21A022 – Larimer County Broadband Partnerships

Funding amount: Up to \$12,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 5.16 – Broadband “Last Mile” Projects

Project Overview: Larimer County has reached agreements utilizing a total of \$1.6 million in SLFRF funds for four broadband expansion projects, described below. The County has been actively engaged in broadband expansion efforts since before the pandemic and one estimate of the cost to expand broadband services to populated areas of unincorporated Larimer County is \$236 million. The County is seeking additional partnership and grant opportunities to further expand broadband to underserved areas and has dedicated an additional **\$10 million** of its SLFRF allocation to complete additional projects.

The four projects for which the County has reached agreements to begin implementation include:

- In partnership with the Loveland Pulse municipal broadband provider and Thompson School District, we provided funding to complete fiber to the premise expansion to communities where the school had children unable to get internet connectivity to participate in remote learning.
- Connected over 300 unserved resident homes in the Lago Vista Mobile Home Park in Larimer County with a high at-risk student population.
- Connected over 200 premises in the Drake community in the Big Thompson canyon with Fiber to the Home service to support the educational needs of that community. The Drake community was only able to get internet services from expensive satellite internet providers.
- The Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch area at the base of the Big Thompson canyon with limited connectivity options and surrounding neighborhood with unmet internet connection needs. This project includes an intergovernmental agreement with Loveland to enable future projects and partnerships for expansion using additional SLFRF support.

Immediate Needs Grants

Project: LC21A035 – Immediate Needs Grants

Funding amount: \$3,046,204

Project Expenditure Categories: This project has multiple expenditure categories:

- 1.10 – Mental Health Services: \$321,143
- 1.11 – Substance Abuse Services: \$20,000
- 1.12 – Other Public Health Uses: \$280,000
- 2.10 – Assistance to Non-Profits: \$767,955
- 2.12 – Aid to Other Impacted Industries: \$50,000
- 2.13 – Other Economic Support: \$100,000
- 2.5 – Household Assistance: Eviction Prevention: \$125,000
- 2.7 – Job Training Assistance: \$60,000
- 2.9 – Small Business Assistance: \$645,248
- 3.11 – Housing Support: Services for Unhoused Persons: \$145,000
- 3.14 – Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators: \$98,000
- 5.11 – Drinking Water: Transmission & Distribution: \$132,500
- 5.14 – Drinking Water: Storage: \$35,000
- 7.3 – Transfers to Other Units of Government: \$266,358

Project Overview: Larimer County implemented a program to provide grants to the community, including small businesses, non-profit organizations, other units of local government, and other appropriate organizations. The County issued a grant application in November 2021 and ultimately awarded 53 grants to various organizations. These grant programs include:

- \$1.2 million to small businesses, non-profit organizations and local governments to mitigate lost revenues and improve safe operating conditions
- Assistance to non-profit organizations and local governments to provide:
 - Behavioral health and suicide prevention programs
 - Benefits navigation
 - Legal services to prevent eviction
 - Meals for children in need
 - Sobriety programs
 - Medical services for the homeless

- Enhancing Hispanic-focused service for a local chamber of commerce
- Improved physical access for the elderly and individuals with disabilities to a community hall
- Drinking water improvements at mobile home parks
- Improved access to internet and technology
- Mobile library services
- A new ambulance for a rural fire protection district
- Drinking water system improvements

Office of the District Attorney – Complex Case Prosecutor

Project: LC21A031 – District Attorney Complex Case Prosecutor

Funding amount: \$450,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.14 – Rehiring Public Sector Staff

Project Overview: In analysis of our case data, discussions with our attorneys, conversations with law enforcement, and other study of state and national trends, it has become apparent to the District Attorney's Office that four case types have grown or been substantially impacted during the COVID pandemic (March 2020-present): Drug Task Force (fentanyl distribution) cases, Domestic Violence cases, Economic Crimes, and Violent Crimes. As a result the County will utilize \$450,000 of its SLFRF allocation to hire an additional prosecution position to assist in the backlog of criminal cases.

Use of Evidence: Locally, there has been an incredible uptick in fentanyl quantities over the last 20 months of the pandemic. In the first three quarters of 2021 alone, the Northern Colorado Drug Task Force (NCDTF), of which the District Attorney's office is a member, seized more than 123,000 fentanyl pills. While accurate data is not available to compare previous years, by all accounts this is a dramatic and exponential rise over pre-pandemic conditions. Fentanyl investigations are concurrently becoming much larger and more complex. For example, where a defendant may have possessed 15 pills for distribution previously, the County is now seeing individuals with 1,000 pills. In 2020 the County had 3,735 domestic violence victims in the system, as of October 30th, 2021 the total was already 3,878.

Natural Resources Water Improvement Projects

Project: LC21A029 – Natural Resources Water Improvement Projects

Funding amount: \$1,980,000

Project Expenditure Category: 5.15 -Drinking Water – Other Water Infrastructure

Project Overview: The County is utilizing SLFRF funds to make drinking water improvements at several of its open space and park locations. Projects include upgrading vault toilets, construction of a new dump station and wastewater treatment system, and a well system upgrade. An additional project would make improvements to a day use area that may be recategorized as 3.13 – Social Determinants of Health – Other.

Public Safety Employee Premium Pay

Project: LC21A026-Larimer County Jail Civilian Staff Premium Pay and LC21A027-Community Justice Alternatives Premium Pay.

Funding amount: \$2,350,000

Project Expenditure Category: 4.1 – Premium Pay

Project Overview: Premium pay is being provided to civilian employees in the Larimer County Jail and the Community Justice Alternatives Department (formerly the Criminal Justice Services Department) to recognize the significant risks they are undertaking and resulting stress they endure by working in a congregate correctional setting. These individuals' jobs require them to be in close contact with clients who are not always cooperative and whose COVID-19 status is often uncertain. Approximately 230 employees are receiving this benefit from September 2021 to June 2022.

Use of Evidence: This benefit is being provided to recognize the special role these employees play. While it is not possible to gather exact data, it is hoped that this benefit will reduce employee turnover.

Payroll Costs for County Employees Responding to COVID-19

Project: LC21A010-Office of the Coroner Payroll, LC21A011-Office of the Sheriff Payroll, LC21A016-Community Justice Alternatives Payroll, and LC21A019-Health Department Payroll.

Funding amount: \$7,157,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.9 – Payroll Costs for Public Health, Safety, and Other Public Staff Responding to COVID-19

Project Overview: Larimer County operations have been significantly impacted by COVID-19 during the eligible period beginning in March 2021 and, as a result, staff have been performing duties other than those for which they are intended. Examples include:

- In the Office of the Sheriff, command staff and jail staff are required to isolate inmates who exhibit symptoms or who test positive for COVID-19, resulting in additional staffing time for pods that would otherwise not be open and escorts to medical appointments.
- In the Community Justice Alternatives Department, staff are required to keep clients in cohorts depending on when they entered the facility, on symptoms and COVID-19 status. Staff must also provide programming, checks or monitoring virtually as public health orders have required the facility to release clients who would otherwise be residing in the facility.
- Staff in the Office of the Coroner must take extra precautions to avoid exposure to COVID-19 for all death investigations as the COVID-19 status is initially unknown.
- Staff in the Health Department who would have otherwise provided other services during 2021 were required to perform COVID-19 related duties such as case management and contact tracing. In many cases this resulted in a loss of grant revenue for the programs they could no longer operate.
- Note that these costs **do not** include premium pay.

Use of Evidence: These offices and departments have made general estimates, per the requirements of the Interim Final Rule and Final Rule, of employees' staff time that has been dedicated to operating differently due to COVID-19.

Administration of SLFRF Funds and Community Outreach

Project: LC21A018-Community Outreach and LC21A004-Administration of SLFRF Funds

Funding amount: \$240,000

Project Expenditure Category: 7.1 – Administrative Expenses

Project Overview: Larimer County has hired one Fiscal Recovery Manager to ensure compliance with all laws, guidance, etc. related to the expenditure of SLFRF funds and to assist policymakers and stakeholders in prioritizing the use of SLFRF funds. The County has also utilized one limited-term position for approximately 50% of their time to manage the Community Outreach process described in the “Community Engagement” section.

Red Feather Lakes Water System Feasibility Study

Project: LC21A012 – Red Feather Lakes Water System Feasibility Study

Funding amount: \$150,000

Project Expenditure Category: 5.11 – Drinking Water: Transmission & Distribution

Project Overview: Red Feather Lakes is a community in northern unincorporated Larimer County that currently relies on well systems for drinking water. The community is approaching the size and density level of a town where a robust drinking water transmission and distribution system may be desirable and/or necessary. This project is utilizing a consultant to determine the feasibility of constructing such a system.

Use of Evidence: This County and the Red Feather Lakes community will use the professional opinion of the consultant to determine a future course of action.

Larimer County Health Department Case Management System

Project: LC21A015 - Larimer County Health Department Case Management System

Funding amount: \$56,702

Project Expenditure Category: 1.3 – Contact Tracing

Project Overview: During the initial stages of the pandemic, the Larimer County Department Health & Environment (LCDHE) utilized the Larimer County Information Technology Department (IT) to build an automated Contact Information and Case Management (CICM) System. This system was designed to replace an existing system made up of cumbersome spreadsheets to track COVID-19 case information. The project completed prior to the Fiscal Recovery Fund eligible date (March 3, 2021) cost approximately \$125,000. During the spring of 2021, LCDHE utilized IT, which had custom developed the original CICM system, to add more functionality to the CICM tool, including communications components to ensure timely, accurate, and comprehensive communications to both patients and the public at large, tracking of vaccination information, and integrations with similar systems developed by the State of Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Larimer County IT spent approximately 630 hours on software development to improve the tool, at which it billed LCDHE for \$90 per hour for the work performed.

Use of Evidence: This project enabled the LCDHE to utilize real-time case data to allocate resources and determine the necessity of public health orders.

Health Services for Larimer County Jail Inmates

Project: LC21A020 – Health Services for Larimer County Jail Inmates

Funding amount: \$241,278

Project Expenditure Category: 1.4 – Prevention in Congregate Settings

Project Overview: Additional costs paid to Larimer County Jail inmate medical services contractor for ongoing COVID-19 testing on a monthly basis (approximately \$16,000 per month)

Small Business Development Center Contribution

Project: LC21A024 – Small Business Development Center Contribution

Funding amount: \$10,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.10 – Aid to Nonprofit Organizations

Project Overview: The County made a \$10,000 contribution to Larimer County Small Business Development Center towards its effort to support small businesses in Larimer County through consulting, classes, and other training.

Pre-Trial Services Limited Term Employee

Project: LC21A025 – Pre-trial Services Limited Term Employee

Funding amount: \$71,509

Project Expenditure Category: 2.14 – Rehiring Public Sector Staff

Project Overview: During the pandemic, Pretrial Supervision caseloads increased by nearly 43% to release as many individuals as possible from the jail & ensure community safety by assigning them to pretrial supervision. This increase in jail releases resulted in a 400% increase in the number of high-risk defendants ordered to GPS monitoring. This increase has strained our Intake & Supervision staff as GPS monitoring requires added staff time to install & maintain the equipment & 24/7 monitoring of violation alerts. Due to this increase in activity, the County is utilizing SLFRF funds to hire one limited-term employee in the alternative sentencing program area.

Keep NoCo Open

Project: LC21A030 – Keep NoCo Open

Funding amount: \$100,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.10 – Aid to Nonprofit Organizations

Project Overview: The County has allocated \$100,000 to the Economic and Workforce Development department to implement a "Keep NoCo (Northern Colorado) Open" campaign to encourage residents to get vaccinated and engage in other mitigation strategies such as social distancing and mask wearing. The budget included production of audio and video messages in English and Spanish, social media promotion, other advertising, and community outreach to support culturally-appropriate messaging.

Vicarious Trauma Training for Community Justice Alternatives Department (formerly known as the Criminal Justice Services Department)

Project: LC21A006 - Vicarious Trauma Training for Community Justice Alternatives Department

Funding amount: \$25,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.10 – Mental Health Services

Project Overview: Larimer County is utilizing FRF funds to provide vicarious trauma training to staff in the Community Justice Alternatives Department. This training is designed to improve the mental health of employees who have been put in an exceptionally difficult situation by the COVID-19 pandemic. These employees work in a 24/7 congregate facility with individuals coming into and out of the criminal justice system. During the pandemic, staff have come to work each day in a congregate setting while most other people, especially in the initial stages of the pandemic, were safely at home. Staff were afraid of being infected at work while providing mentally and emotionally draining services such as addiction and other trauma therapy to clients, sometimes in a new way such as online. This program helps employees deal with the behavioral traumas of the jobs to which they are dedicated.

Emergency Rental Assistance Program Update

Emergency Rent Assistance Program (ERAP) Summary, as of March 31, 2022

Larimer County created an Emergency Rent Assistance Program (ERAP) upon receiving HR 133 – The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 federal Emergency Rental Assistance funding April 1, 2021. The ERAP is serving all of Larimer County and its eligible residents – in all the incorporated and unincorporated communities. The Larimer County community can learn about the ERAP program on our website, www.larimer.org/erap.

Larimer County applied for ERAP funds on January 11, 2021. We were notified of the CARES Act funding award in early March 2021. Larimer County was awarded \$10,740,667.90 for ERAP 1. Larimer County received an ERAP 2 award through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in May 2021 in the amount of \$11,745,359.00

Larimer County has not held an active role in housing stability prior to this award. Our community is home to several dozen nonprofits and housing authorities who provide critical housing stability such as housing vouchers, homelessness services, case management, housing navigation, affordable housing developments, permanent supportive housing units, and more. As our county population grows, and our housing market becomes more and more unattainable for some of our community, the County government is seeing its role expand. The CARES Act ERAP 1 and ARPA ERAP 2 funding is providing much needed funds to begin the steps to create roles and responsibilities within housing stability work.

<https://www.larimer.org/about-larimer-county/vital-statistic-census-information/larimer-county-housing-living-statistics>

Number of Households: 139,000

Median Household Income: \$71,091

Median Property Value (2018): \$398,300

Median Home Sale Price (2021): \$475,000

Renters (2018): 36%

In order to distribute 90 percent of the ERAP funds to eligible households, we partnered with Neighbor to Neighbor (www.n2n.org), a forty-year old nonprofit in Fort Collins and Loveland which serves 5,000 individuals each year with renter and affordable housing programs, homeownership programs, and efforts to prevent and end homelessness. Larimer County and Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N) signed an MOU on March 11, 2021. An extension of the MOU is planned to be signed April 12, 2022 in order for Neighbor to Neighbor to continue assistance distribution on behalf of the County.

Larimer County has only expended a small amount of ERAP 2 funds. In September 2021, Neighbor to Neighbor had nearly exhausted the County's ERAP 1 funds and needed an advance in ERAP 2 funds. The ERAP 1 funding gap was going to be filled by the State's ERAP 1 budget, however logistics was delaying its arrival. During a public hearing with our Larimer County Commissioners on September 2, 2021, the Board of County Commissioners approved a small advance of Larimer County's ERAP 2 funds. \$1,515,000 was distributed to Neighbor to Neighbor in order to continue assistance and avoid a backlog of applications and maintain their housing navigation staff rather than letting them go for several weeks, just to rehire them once the State's funds had arrived.

Larimer County hired a new, limited-term position to be the liaison between N2N and the Treasury Department, and to research other county housing stability programs. This person has spent 15 years in the County working in large community initiatives and engagement projects. She was the primary contact for the ERAP funds and submitted reports to the Treasury and follows Treasury guidelines for compliance. A new individual will be hired to fill the position, which was extended after the County received the ERAP 2 funds, in order to continue the great work in progress.

ERAP funding prioritization was developed with leadership from N2N and Larimer County. Knowing we had limited dollars, and demand estimated at ten times the amount awarded (as our area was hit hard by COVID-19 closures and layoffs), the leaders decided to prioritize qualifying households with incomes 50 percent or less of the area median income. The second priority is for those with an imminent threat of eviction. The community can learn more about eligibility and how to apply for ERAP funds at www.larimer.org/erap.

We income qualify borrowers by collecting their tax return, monthly paystubs, or benefit award letters for government assistance (SNAP, TANF, LEAP, etc.). In the case that they provide a benefit award letter, they are "categorically eligible." The reasoning is that another government agency already looked at the household income and deemed that they were below 80% AMI, so we use their approval to qualify for the County ERAP as well.

Larimer County ERAP Accomplishments

During the first six months of 2021, Larimer County applied for ERA Program funds, and was awarded \$10,740,667.90 to implement a County-wide emergency rent and utility assistance program using the Treasury Department's specific applicant eligibility and the State of Colorado's Neighborly application portal. The County signed an MOU with Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N), a well-respected and high performing nonprofit who has been helping our community with rent assistance and home ownership for forty years. Between April and July 2021, Neighbor to Neighbor awarded 1,323 households with \$5,981,052.63 in combined rent and utility assistance. By October 2021, Neighbor to Neighbor had spent all the funds earmarked for rent and utility assistance provided to them by the County. Between October 2021 and May 2022, Neighbor to Neighbor used State of Colorado ERA 1 funds to fill the funding gap until Larimer County releases its ERAP 2 funds in the middle of this year. Larimer County and Neighbor to Neighbor will be signing an agreement in April 2022 to obligate the remaining ERAP 2 funds.

Larimer County has spoken with several Colorado Division of Housing leaders and learned that our implementation is steps ahead of other Colorado cities and counties – due to our sub-recipient, N2N's, expertise and deep knowledge. During the first two months of distribution ERAP I, Larimer County accounted for 35% of all Colorado emergency rent assistance funds. N2N is professional and have English and bilingual housing navigation staff. They have clear, consistent protocols for applicant communication, case notes, and eligibility review. Neighbor to

Neighbor has years of experience in filtering applicants by benefit to avoid duplication of resources. As a constant community partner, Larimer County and Neighbor to Neighbor meet regularly to review program barriers, program successes and other Treasury updates to the ERAP. During our meetings we reaffirm ERAP funding priorities, discuss Utility providers and their systems for paying arrear accounts, and we discuss how landlord engagement and communication is working. In total, ERAP has assisted nearly 3,500 households in Larimer County from April 2021-March 2022.