

Madison County, Alabama

# **Recovery Plan Performance Report**

Madison County Commission

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds**

2023 Report



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**2023 Recovery Plan**

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## GENERAL OVERVIEW

### **Executive Summary**

The Madison County Commission was awarded \$72,433,202 of State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. The Commission received the first 50% payment of \$36,216,601 on June 17, 2021. The County received the second 50% payment of \$36,216,601 on June 21, 2022. Expenses must be incurred by December 31, 2024, and expended by December 21, 2026.

The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide a substantial infusion of resources to help turn the tide on the pandemic, address its economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery.

The goal is to equitably distribute the funds to restore government services to the same level of operation prior to the pandemic. We are successfully meeting this challenge through inquiry, observation, and application. We have identified several qualifying beneficiaries through this process.

We have successfully allocated approximately 85% of the funds received. Through application and inquiry, we have either obligated or expended about 9% of the funds to nonprofit organizations that were negatively impacted, about 15% to the public health sector, and anticipate spending about 45% for water and infrastructure. The remainder of the funds are anticipated to be used on revenue replacement and administrative costs.

Through the county budget process, Madison County developed and continues to refine the following budget priorities and allocation amounts beginning in the 2021 fiscal year:

- *Public Health: \$9.2 Million*
- *Negative Economic Impacts: \$8.5 Million*
- *Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure: \$28 Million*
- *Revenue Replacement: \$10 Million*
- *Administrative: \$4 Million*

The biggest challenge has been ensuring that we comply with CFR 200 and the final rule. Another challenge has been making sure the funds are equally distributed based on the need.

## **Uses of Funds**

Within the categories of eligible uses, Madison County has broad flexibility to decide how best to use this funding to meet the needs of our communities.

### **Supporting the public health response**

Mitigating the impact of COVID-19 continues to require an unprecedented public health response from local governments. Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide resources to meet these needs through the provision of care for those impacted by the virus and through services that address disparities in public health that have been exacerbated by the pandemic.

Madison County recognizes the importance and necessity of supporting public health and the severity of the impact the pandemic has brought on the environment. We have used this funding to address a broad range of public health needs across COVID-19 mitigation, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and public health resources.

We are in the process of procuring a new medical emergency vehicle for the Madison County Rescue Squad and have already purchased lifesaving medical equipment for HEMSI-Huntsville Emergency Medical Service, Inc., which is a business that provides ambulance services for citizens of Madison County. These projects total over \$600,000.

In addition, we have provided \$1,000,000 to help with mental and behavioral health as a result of the effect of the pandemic.

### **Addressing the negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency**

The COVID-19 public health emergency resulted in significant economic hardship for many Americans. As businesses closed, consumers stayed home, schools shifted to remote education, and travel declined precipitously. To help alleviate the economic hardships caused by the pandemic, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds enable local governments to provide a wide range of assistance impacted industries, in addition to enabling governments to rehire public sector staff and rebuild capacity.

We have allocated \$5.7 million to non-profit organizations including our local volunteer fire departments that were negatively impacted by the pandemic. As a result, these non-profit organizations will be able to continue in operation and serve and revitalize the community.

### **Serving the hardest-hit communities and families**

While the pandemic has affected communities across the country, it has disproportionately impacted low-income families and has exacerbated systemic health and economic inequities. Low-income and socially vulnerable communities have experienced the most severe health impacts.

### **Investing in water and sewer infrastructure**

Madison County is using this funding to invest in an array of drinking water infrastructure projects, such as building or upgrading facilities and transmission, distribution, and storage systems, including the replacement of lead service lines.

Madison County has allocated approximately \$7.3 million for an improvement in water tank distribution. The tank will yield the following benefits within the community: stability of distribution pressure and flow, reduction of high system pressure, redundancy of storage for other service areas, and redundancy of supply for the community.

## **Promoting equitable outcomes**

Madison County's programs are designed to promote equitable outcomes, advancing equity and support for underserved communities and vulnerable populations. Information on Qualified Census Tracts and the Center for Disease Control's Social Vulnerability Index is currently being evaluated. Madison County will focus its efforts on providing services and programs to address the negative economic impacts of the pandemic through strategic targeted programming.

Through assessments and County-wide announcement, we were able to allow the application for all non-profits organization that were impacted by the pandemic. We received over 50 applications from a varied economical and adversely affected group.

All applicants were required to complete the same form to provide equal opportunity for receipt of funds. We have identified approximately 40 that are beneficiaries and will receive funding from the pool of funds allocated for non-profits.

## **Community Engagement**

Madison County will conduct various methods of community engagement through interest forms, longstanding community organizations, meetings with elected officials across the county, department heads, and staff, and other forums to create a plan well suited to meet the needs of Madison County.

Madison County intends to partner with Alabama County Commission Association (ACCA) to better identify the needs of the community and the appropriate opportunities to equitably to distribute the funds.

Madison County has allotted approximately \$35 million to ACCA to help identify areas and communities that will best benefit from the remainder of the funds. We recognize that ACCA has experience in executing federal funds in the most effective and efficient manner.

## **Labor Practices**

Madison County uses strong labor practices that promote safe, effective, and efficient work environments for all employees. All infrastructure projects will be staffed utilizing workers that

meet or exceed all local, state, and federal guidelines to provide strong employment opportunities for workers.

Currently, we anticipate a major infrastructure project of \$7 million beginning in the next quarter. We have employed a consultant to ensure all labor practices are adhered to and comply with the Fair Labor Standard Act.

## **Use of Evidence**

Madison County's commitment to an equitable economic recovery includes the use of evidence-based interventions in situations where program evaluations are not conducted. If applicable, detailed evidence information will be provided for each project in the Project Inventory section below.

## **Performance Report**

Projects are currently being tracked and monitored using performance reports. Due to the limited number of expenditures, no reports will be attached at this time. Performance reports will be made available once the projects have made progress on their key performance indicators.

# PROJECT INVENTORY

## Law Enforcement Projects

**Funding Amount \$7,471,159**

### 1.11 Public Health – Community Violence Intervention

- Patrol Vehicle Fleet Improvements - Budgeted: \$1,966,158
  - Adding new patrol vehicles and enhancements to the equipment inside of the patrol vehicles will allow for more deputies to be seen across the county and aid in our Community Oriented Policing initiatives. The equipment in these vehicles will assist deputies in finding unlawfully possessed weapons in vehicles in an effort to reduce the number of stolen or unlawful weapons used while committing crimes. This initiative will help to foster a safer community and will have an impact on the level of violent crimes committed with firearms.
  - Other Projects will be announced at a later date.
- Law Enforcement Tasers- \$5,505,000
  - Respond to the public health emergency by purchasing equipment for preventing and responding to violence due to the increase in violent domestic and gun crimes.
  - Upgrade current equipment in order to respond to violent crime more timely.

## Premium Pay

**Funding Amount - \$ 5,236,618.35**

### 4.1 Public Sector Employees

- Premium Pay for Eligible Workers: to respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers who are performing such essential work.

## **Non-Profits**

**Funding Amount - \$5,750,000**

### **2.34 Assistance to Non-Profits**

#### **2.35 Aid to Impacted Industry**

- The Madison County Commission (MCC) approved a set amount of ARPA funding to be made available as grants to nonprofits that have faced economic hardship resulting from the public health emergency. Such grants could include funds to cover a loss of earnings, decline in revenues, or impacts of cancelled fundraising events during periods of closure or limited operations due to public health orders; unexpected expenses related to an increased demand for services or mitigation efforts to contain the spread of COVID; and/or other necessary expenditures related to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

## **Medical Equipment**

**Funding Amount - \$775,000**

### **1.14 Other Public Health Services**

- The County has purchased certain equipment, which it will lease, in order to aid it in responding to the public health emergency pursuant to the terms and conditions provided in the American Rescue Plan Act, as well as Treasury Department regulations pertaining to the use of SLFRF Funds; the lease of the equipment will benefit the public health, safety, and general welfare.

## **Wellstone Behavioral Health**

**Funding Amount - \$1,000,000**

### **1.12 Mental Health Services**

- The County desires to provide and the Beneficiary desires to receive grant funds from the County to aid in its negative economic impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic and to support the Beneficiary's mission of providing behavioral health services to the citizens of North Alabama.



## **Infrastructure**

**Funding Amount - \$28,000,000**

### **5.11 Drinking Water, Transmission, & Distribution**

#### **5.14 Drinking Water Storage**

- The Madison County Water Department recently performed a hydraulic simulation of its water system to ascertain the effect certain improvements within the distribution system may have. The results of that simulation were used to plan the proposed water tank and related appurtenances in a manner that will yield the following benefits within the community: stability of distribution pressure and flow, reduction of high system pressure, redundancy of storage for other service areas, and redundancy of supply for the community. The County has identified and is in the process of securing land for the tank site.

## **Administrative**

**Funding Amount - \$3,736,022**

### **7.1 Administrative Expenses**

- Funds used to contract with outside consulting firm to provide guidance to help execute contracts with beneficiaries.

## **Revenue Replacement Projects**

**Funding Amount - \$10,000,000**

### **6.1 Provision of Government Services**

- Madison County has identified several projects under this category that are in the process of implementation.