Board of County Commissioners Leon County, Florida

FY 2022 Budget Workshop

Tuesday May 25, 2021 9:00 a.m.

Leon County Courthouse Commission Chambers, 5th Floor 301 S. Monroe Street Tallahassee, Florida 32301

The media and the public can access the meeting in real time on Comcast channel 16, Prism channels 16 and 1016-HD, the Leon County Florida channel on Roku, the County's <u>Facebook</u> page, <u>YouTube</u> channel, <u>Twitter</u> and County <u>web site</u>.

Board of County Commissioners Leon County, Florida

Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Workshop

May 25, 2021

9:00 a.m.

Item Number	Workshop Item Title		
1	Fiscal Year 2022 Preliminary Budget Overview		
2	Proposed Expenditure Plan for the County's Allocation of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act		
3	Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERA 2) Funding under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)		
4	Plan to Implement the Essential Libraries Initiative		

Leon County Board of County Commissioners

Notes for Workshop Agenda Item #1

Leon County Board of County Commissioners Budget Workshop Item #1 May 25, 2021

To:	Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board		
From:	Vincent S. Long, County Administrator		
Title:	Fiscal Year 2022 Preliminary Budget Overview		

Review and Approval:	Vincent S. Long, County Administrator
Department/ Division Review:	Alan Rosenzweig, Deputy County Administrator Ken Morris, Assistant County Administrator Wanda Hunter, Assistant County Administrator
Lead Staff/ Project Team:	Scott Ross, Director, Office of Financial Stewardship Tim Barden, Budget Manager

Statement of Issue:

This budget discussion item seeks Board guidance on the development of the FY 2022 Preliminary Budget.

Fiscal Impact:

This item has a fiscal impact based on Board direction in developing the FY 2022 Preliminary Budget.

Staff Recommendation:

See next page.

Staff Recommendation:

- Option #1: Direct staff to proceed with developing the Preliminary FY 2022 Budget.
- Option #2: Authorize the County Administrator to negotiate modifications to the current County/City Fire Services Interlocal Agreement under the terms outlined in this budget discussion item to be provided to the Board as a future agenda item.
- Option #3: Establish a minimum living wage of \$13/hour effective October 1, 2021 for all Leon County employees.
- Option #4: Approve revisions to the Leon County Personnel Policy Section 5.03.1 "Promotion".
- Option #5: Authorize the County Administrator to negotiate a contract for the replacement of the 800 MHz radios and prepare a future agenda item for Board consideration.
- Option #6: Approve Revisions to the Leon County Fiscal Policy 93-44 to align the annual lineitem funding and outside agency contract approval process.
- Option #7: Approve the Budget Amendment which creates a permanent Household Hazardous Waste drop off program at Public Works during the current fiscal year.

In addition, this item seeks any other direction the Board wishes to provide in the development of the FY 2022 Preliminary Budget.

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Report and Discussion

Executive Summary:

This budget workshop seeks Board guidance on the development of the FY 2022 Preliminary Budget.

On March 13, 2020, during fiscal year FY 2020, the United States declared COVID-19 a National Emergency. The global COVID pandemic is a human tragedy of historic proportions, which has had an unprecedented economic impact. The first quarter of 2020 saw the United States enter a recession as governments issued stay-at-home orders to control the spread of COVID. These actions cause a major decline in the economy, as workers in service industries were laid off and corporate and consumer spending slowed.

During FY 2020, in Florida, where sales taxes are a major driver of government funding, the recession caused state, and local governments to immediately see reduced revenues that fund government services. Leon County experienced revenue declines in the millions related to gas taxes, sales taxes and tourism taxes. As opposed to using reserves or laying off employees, in response to this decline, the County Administrator initiated a hiring freeze, stopped non-essential travel and training, and started implementing capital project deferrals and other operating expenditure reductions. The Board supported these actions by approving specific recommendations to reduce the FY 2020 operating and capital budgets.

In developing the FY 2021 budget, given the uncertainty of when the pandemic would end, and economic activity would begin to rebound, a significant decline in general revenues were contemplated in developing the budget. While property tax collections were not impacted, the other revenue declines required operating budget reductions, continuation of the hiring freeze, elimination of non-essential travel and training, as well as the deferral and elimination of capital projects. However, because of these proactive budget actions by the County, only a small increase in the use of the general fund balance was required (\$283,000), no reduction in levels of essential services and no County employees were laid off. In fact, the County organization responding to increased demands activated the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for 425 days, created and implemented numerous new emergency services and CARES programs for citizens, businesses and non-profit agencies in response and launched an expansive communications campaign.

The development of the FY 2022 Budget reflects a conservative fiscal approach as many forecasters do not expect economic activity to return to pre-pandemic levels until 2023. Unlike the long and slow economic recovery which took close to a decade after the Great Recession, however, the economy rebounded much more quickly from the impacts of COVID. This in large part is due to fiscal support by the Federal Government. During this crisis the Federal Government has acted unlike any other time since the Great Depression to provide economic relief to the individuals and business affected by the pandemic. The first Federal relief package providing funding to local governments came though the \$2.2 trillion "Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) act.

Of this funding total, Leon County received \$62.2 million including \$51.2 million through the State of Florida for CARES programs, and \$11.0 million from the Florida Housing Finance

Corporation (FHFC). The quick and successful implementation of the Leon CARES plan positioned the County to receive the additional \$11 million in funding from the FHFC, which allowed the County to aid thousands of more individuals, families, and local businesses in the community.

The Leon CARES plan provided funding for essential public health and safety expenditures related to COVID-19, direct assistance to individuals experiencing financial hardship, a broad range of human service needs, and critical economic relief to the local business community. Additionally, the plan reimbursed direct COVID-19-related costs incurred by the County, Constitutional and Judicial Offices, and the City of Tallahassee. Of this funding Leon County received \$5.0 million to directly off-set COVID related expenditures. This amount was also provided to the City, and \$2.5 million for the Constitutional Officers. The remaining \$38.7 million was used to support individual assistance (rent and utilities) emergency food assistance, homelessness, non-profit and business grants, and health services.

As shown in the Community Impact Report (Attachment #1), Leon CARES was intended to prevent business closures and prevent increased unemployment, provide emergency assistance to those most in need, and strengthen public health operations. In summary, Leon CARES provided \$11.4 million to 4,900 individuals and families, \$18.1 million to over 930 businesses retaining/creating over 6,600 jobs, funded \$4.0 million to provide 3.4 million meals, awarded \$4.4 million to over 300 local non-profit and human service agencies, and provided millions in funding to support public health operations. However, while the CARES funding provided critical relief to those most vulnerable, this funding did not provide local governments any support for lost revenue related to the pandemic.

Early in 2021, additional federal legislation was passed that created the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). This program provides funding to assist individuals by paying for their past and future rents and utilities if they have been impacted by job loss due to COVID. Leon Count received \$8.9 million in ERAP funding and is currently processing and reviewing applications for this program and has issued \$3.4 million for assistance to more than8 00 Leon County renters. A separate discussion item further discusses additional ERA funding that is being provided to the County.

Most recently, the Federal Government passed the American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) as the next economic support tool to assist state and local governments. According to the US Treasury, the ARPA provides \$350 billion to state, local, territory and tribal governments to remedy the increasing costs to provide critical local government services and the decline in revenues. Specifically, this program is the first funding provided by the Federal Government that allows local governments to use Federal funding to replace revenues lost because of the pandemic.

As stated in the Treasury Interim Final Rule issued on May 10, 2021 it is critical that local governments utilize the ARPA funding to mitigate drastic budget reductions, laying-off staff or raising taxes which could impede the economic recovery significantly:

During the period following the 2007-2009 recession, State and local government budget pressures led to fiscal austerity that was a significant drag on the overall economic recovery.

...the American Rescue Plan Act allows recipients facing budget shortfalls to use payments from the Fiscal Recovery Funds to avoid cuts to government services and thus enable State, local and Tribal governments to continue to provide valuable services and ensure that fiscal austerity measures do not hamper the broader economic recovery."

As will be presented in more detail in a following budget discussion item, Leon County will receive \$57.02 million in ARPA funding. A portion of these funds (\$11.3 million) are recommended to augment the FY 2022 budget and fund capital projects and tourism expenditures during the current fiscal year (FY 2021).

For FY 2022, the ARPA funding allows Leon County to mitigate revenue losses and buttress the capital infrastructure program including: restoration of prior year project deferrals; reduce the use of fund balance; avoid significant operating budget cuts like hiring freezes or layoffs; mitigates service reductions; and avoids tax or fee increases. Pending Board policy direction at the workshop, the preliminary budget is therefore tentatively balanced with no projected shortfall. The major components of the preliminary budget and budget balancing strategies are as follows:

- No increase in the Countywide or EMS property tax rate, stormwater, solid waste, and fire non-ad valorem assessments.
- No net increase in general revenue positions being added to Leon County Government. (Five new general revenue positions are offset through the elimination of existing vacancies.)
- No layoffs or furloughs of existing employees.
- New costs savings and avoidances of \$13.375 million.
- Reduced use of General Fund balance by \$1.0 million from \$1.8 million in FY 2021 to \$800,000 in FY 2022, thereby reducing the use of one-time revenues for recurring expenses.
- Support for all Constitutional Officer budget requests.
- The use of \$6.4 million in ARPA revenue loss replacement funding to augment the FY 2022 budget by:
 - Providing \$2.8 million to fund the operating budget thereby reducing the reliance on fund balance and rebuilding reserves.
 - Using \$3.6 million to ensure adequate funding of the existing maintenance capital program, including initial funding for the capital components of the Essential Library Initiative (discussed in a separate budget item).
 - Offsetting additional costs related to restoring the hiring freeze, support for EMS and Solid Waste, increased payments for Fire Services, and mitigating lower amounts of capital reserves available to support the capital program.

While \$6.4 million in ARPA revenue loss replacement is recommended to be used for FY 2022, the total revenue loss replacement is \$11.3 million. The difference in the total and the funding utilized for FY 2022 is \$4.9 million. \$2.7 million of these funds are recommended, in a separate discussion item, for immediate appropriation during the current fiscal year (FY 2021) to address the deferral of transportation and flood relief projects caused by the pandemic. \$2.2 million is also recommended for appropriation during the current fiscal year (FY 2021) to support tourism capital projects and enhanced destination marketing to mitigate the significant impacts to the tourism economy. These specific recommendations are discussed further in the ARPA budget discussion item.

As outlined in the adopted budget calendar, following this budget workshop, a ratification item will be prepared for the Board's June 8, 2021 meeting. Based on the actions taken at this workshop and any additional policy guidance provided by the Board, the next budget workshop is scheduled for June 22. At that time, preliminary property values will be available from the Property Appraiser; final values will be provided July 1. Following the June workshop, a ratification item will be prepared for the Board's July 13 meeting.

Pending the actions taken at this May workshop, if there are not any outstanding policy matters for the Board to consider, the Board may determine that subsequent June workshop may not be necessary. If this is the case, final direction regarding the County Administrator's Recommended Tentative FY 2022 budget may be considered at the July 13, 2021 Board Meeting where any additional budget adjustments based on final property values could be considered as an agenda item. Any policy direction provided today or at a future workshop will be incorporated into the two statutory public hearings on the budget scheduled for September 14 and 28, 2021.

In addition to this Budget Overview item this workshop includes a series of budget policy items for which staff is seeking Board direction for the development of the FY 22 Budget, including:

- Proposed Expenditure Plan for the County's Allocation of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act
- Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA 2) Program Funding under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)
- Plan to Implement the Essential Library Initiative

Analysis:

In preparation for this workshop, all County Departments have submitted their operating and capital budgets to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The Constitutional Officers (Sheriff, Clerk, and Supervisor of Elections) required to submit their budget to the County by May 1 have been received and are contemplated as part of this workshop. The Office of Management and Budget in coordination with the County Administrator have reviewed and analyzed these budget requests. This item provides the budget recommendations and any budget constraints pertaining to these requests. These recommendations, and previous Board budget policy guidance provided prior to this workshop are also presented. Decisions by the Board during this workshop will be included in the County Administrator's FY 2022 Tentative Budget to be presented at the

June budget workshop. Final guidance provided by the Board in June will be included in the budget presented at the two required Public Hearings in September.

Initial FY 2022 Policy Guidance

To ensure the budget is developed in a strategic and transparent manner, the Board adopted the annual Budget Calendar at the January 26, 2021 meeting. After the adoption of the Budget Calendar, the Board provided initial policy direction by establishing maximum discretionary funding levels at the March 9, 2021 meeting, including:

- Maintaining funding for the second year of the two-year Community Human Service Partnership cycle at \$1.445 million
- Maintaining \$100,000 for year three of a five-year commitment to pay for the capital construction costs of the Kearney Center which is included in the preliminary budget.
- Providing \$37,000 in Special Event Funding that is included in the preliminary budget.

In addition, the Board may wish to provide additional policy guidance at this workshop for use in preparing the FY 2022 Preliminary Budget.

Cost Avoidance and Savings

The County systematically and strategically identifies efficiencies and cost savings year-round. This deliberate approach occurs throughout the year, not only during the formal budget process. Through specific and targeted practices, such as LEADs listening sessions, the Employee Innovation Awards Program - I2 (squared), and the SMARTIES (Specific Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Timely, Innovative, Employee Solutions) Team, employees are continuously empowered to seek and implement cost saving measures throughout the organization. For FY 2022 the total new cost savings and avoidances are \$13.375 million (Attachment #2). Current year examples of employee saving include:

- Internal implementation of the Non-Profit Assistance Grant Program: This effort used existing County resources and staff to receive and review assistance applications for non-profit organizations applying for the \$3.0 million appropriated from CARES funding. A review of the cost to outsource this effort showed it would have cost an estimated \$975,000.
- Courthouse Siding Replacement: An earlier engineering review of the exterior courthouse panels indicated replacement was required at a cost of \$15 million. Previous year budgets established a sinking fund to accumulate funding for this anticipated reconstruction. However, as part of last year's revenue decline, the sinking fund was eliminated, and a further evaluation of the panels was conducted to identify possible cost savings. Subsequent analysis shows that the panels can last an additional 10-15 years if they are routinely cleaned, sealed, and re-caulked over the next 4-year. This change provided cost savings in the amount of \$13 million.
- Public Works Roof Repair Instead of Replacement: Previously, a review of County roof repair needs indicated that the Public Works roof required a complete replacement at a cost of \$500,000. To mitigate this proposed cost, Facilities Management conducted a complete review and analysis of the existing Public Works roof to determine if an alternative

approach could be applied. The updated analysis indicates that the metal panels have extensive useful life and a modification to the existing installation (as opposed to a complete replacement) would cost \$125,000. The change in approach provides a cost avoidance of \$375,000.

• Installation of On-Board Ambulance Battery System: This pilot program for two select ambulance chassis allowed for a reduction in idling time saving an estimated \$11,000 in fuel costs. Before the installation of these systems, ambulances had to continuously idle to operate the on-board life and safety electrical systems. A review of this effort also indicated that ambulance replacement life cycles can be extended due to the substantial decrease in engine wear from constant idling which will save thousands of dollars. It is anticipated that all new ambulances will be ordered with this system.

As summarized in Attachment #3, including the above costs savings, since 2013 the County has saved or avoided costs totaling more than \$59.42 million. For FY 2022, \$13.375 million in cost savings and avoidances were identified. These cost saving efforts occur prior to any new taxes, fees, positions, equipment, etc. being brought to the Board for consideration.

Preliminary FY 2022 Budget

While the economy continues to rebound, County revenues are either still below pre-pandemic levels or are growing at rates slower than normal. Current revenue projection show that FY 2022 sales tax related revenue collections will be below pre-pandemic FY 2019 levels, and that property tax growth rates will remain below FY 2020 and FY 2021 rates.

Normal growth in expenses includes Leon County Government and Constitutional Officers personnel cost (e.g. retirement, health insurance), contractual increases, mandatory state payments, and materials and supplies. To offset these increases, the County relies on average revenue growth in property, state shared and local sale taxes, fees, and gas taxes. This revenue growth allows Leon County government to avoid increasing taxes to cover expense growth necessary to maintain adequate service levels.

In developing the FY 2022 preliminary budget recommendations, the County Administrator and OMB reviewed all departmental operating and capital budgets to identify operating costs savings and capital project reductions/deferrals. In addition, expenditures relating to mandatory state payments (e.g. Medicaid, the Department of Juvenile Justice), interlocal agreements and contracts are contemplated. OMB correspondingly analyzed revenue models including sales and gas tax activity. Given the highly volatile nature of the pandemic and continued future economic uncertainty, the preliminary budget presumes a conservative revenue forecast that contemplates an economic recovery lasting through FY 2023.

Table #1 details the preliminary forecasts for major revenue and expenditure changes from FY 2021 to FY 2022.

Preliminary Estimated Changes in Revenues	Change from Fiscal Year 2022 (in Millions)
Property Taxes with current millage rate (8.3144)	\$7,421,139
1/2 Cent Sales, State Revenue Sharing	\$4,589,688
American Rescue Plan Revenue Loss Replacement	\$2,829,682
EMS Municipal Service Tax	\$446,282
Public Service Tax and Other Municipal Services	\$425,846
Gas Taxes	\$(1,345,576)
General Fund Balance Reduction	\$(1,041,310)
Other General Revenue Decreases	\$(366,210)
Interest Earnings	\$(246,006)
Total Change in Revenue	\$12,713,535
Preliminary Estimated Changes in Expenditures	
Sheriff Personnel and Operating Expenses	\$5,013,259
County Government Personnel Costs	\$2,215,663
Fire Services Payment to City of Tallahassee	\$1,400,000
Other Constitutional Offices	\$894,193
General Revenue Transfer to Special Revenue Funds (Probation, DESM, etc.)	\$873,226
Workers Compensation/Insurance	\$774,661
Community Redevelopment (CRA)	\$599,702
Contractual Services and Repairs and Maintenance	\$582,765
Recommended New Positions (offset by corresponding position reductions)	\$373,466
Real Time Crime Center	\$277,777
Interlocal Agreements (e.g. Animal Control, Planning, 800mzh, Park & Rec.)	\$198,645
Medicaid	\$169,597
Non-Essential Travel and Training	\$156,773
Consolidated Dispatch Agency	\$126,430
Department of Juvenile Justice	\$115,128
Communication Increases	\$81,372
Living Wage	\$48,790
General Revenue Transfer to Transportation Capital	\$(657,950)
Position Reduction Savings	\$(333,136)
Fuel and Vehicle Repair	\$(196,826)
Total Change in Expenses	\$12,713,535
Budget Shortfall	\$0.000

Table #1: Preliminary FY 2022 Estimated Change inOperating Revenues and Expenditures Over FY2021

* The total recommended revenue replacement for FY 2022 is \$6.4 million (\$2.829 for operating expenses and \$3.6 million to fund capital projects). The capital funding is discussed later in this item. The remaining \$4.9 million in revenue replacement funding is recommended for budgeting this fiscal year; \$2.7 million for transportation capital projects and \$2.2 million for tourism capital projects and enhanced destination marketing.)

The following is an analysis of the revenues and expenditures outlined in Table #1.

Preliminary Estimated Changes in Revenues

The following section provides a summary of the projected changes to general revenues between the current fiscal year (FY 2021) and next fiscal year (FY 2022) as reflected in Table #1.

<u>Property Taxes (\$7.42 million)</u>: Property tax collections are calculated based on the countywide millage rate times the taxable value of all property in Leon County. Taxable values are established by the Property Appraiser and the millage rate is established by the Board. Preliminary discussions with the Property Appraiser's Office indicate values will increase approximately 5.0%. Official property value estimates will be provided on June 1, followed by final values on July 1. As presented in this item, maintaining the current millage rate results in property tax collections increasing \$7.42 million. This compares to last year's growth of \$9.2 million or a decline of \$1.8 million in growth.

The projected taxable value increase for next year is significantly less than last year's growth rate of 6.8%. The decline in growth is mainly attributable to two factors: a reduction in the Save-Our-Homes cap and a decline in commercial property values related to the impacts of COVID. The Save-Our-Homes cap is the amount homestead residential property values can increase each year. The increase for this year is 1.4% compared to last years which was 2.3% and is set by the statute. Regarding commercial values, the pandemic has had a significant impact on commercial leases, restaurants and hotels which also has contributed to the slowing of taxable values.

During the "Great Recession", with declining property values the Board maintained the millage rate resulting in less property tax collections and correspondingly passing on property tax savings to the community. Coming out of the recession, and as part of the County's deliberate and reasoned multi-year fiscal planning, the budget continues to maintain a constant millage rate to mitigate inflationary pressures and to support necessary and critical costs increase. This same approach is recommended for the FY 2022 budget.

For five years following the recession Leon County did not experience any growth until a modest 3.0% increase occurred in FY 2015 and FY 2016 followed by 4% in FY 2017, 5% in FY 2018 and 6.56% in FY 2019. In FY 2020, property values increased by 6.05% and last year they increased by 6.8%. These increased values provided funds that covered the inflationary costs of basic government service levels and allowed for increasing the recurring revenue to the capital program. Due to reduced growth in property taxes in FY 2022, the transfer to the capital program was not increased as previously planned.

<u>State Shared Revenue, ¹/₂ cent Sale Tax and CST (\$4.58 million):</u> County governments receive certain revenues from the State of Florida, which are largely based on sales tax collections. State Shared and ¹/₂ Cent Sales Tax revenues are estimated to generate \$4.74 million in additional revenue. While these sales tax related revenues have rebounded from the precipitous decline in FY 2020, the forecasts are still below the FY 2019 pre-COVID collections by \$1.0 million or 5%. These state shared revenue increases are offset by a forecasted decrease in Communication Services Taxes of \$154,611.

<u>American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Revenue Replacement (\$2.829 million)</u>: The American Rescue Plan Act is a \$1.9 trillion-dollar federal government spending package that allocates \$360 billion dollars to state and local governments to mitigate fiscal impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Leon County is scheduled to receive \$57.02 million divided equally over two years (\$28.51 million) from the ARPA.

As specifically allowed and recommended by the Department of Treasury, a portion of this funding is contemplated for general revenue replacement to offset the decline in revenue caused by decreased consumer spending related to the stay-at-home orders issued in response to the pandemic.

For the FY 2022 budget, a total of \$6.4 million of the available \$11.3 million in ARPA revenue replacement funds are recommended to assist in balancing the budget. The \$11.3 million is based on a specific formula U.S. Treasury requires counties to use in calculating revenue loss. Revenue losses are based on actual revenue collections; therefore, the \$11.3 million is the revenue loss experienced by the County in FY 2020 (the last full fiscal year of activity).

Of the \$6.4 million, \$2.829 million is recommended to augment the operating budget thereby negating the need to use additional fund balance and assists in restoring reserves. As discussed later in this item, \$3.6 is recommended to support the capital program.

Of the \$11.3 million in total revenue loss replacement, \$4.9 million is recommended for use this fiscal year (FY 2021). This revenue is recommended to restore funding for transportation and flood relief capital projects deferred as a result of the pandemic (\$2.7 million) and funding of enhanced tourism marketing and capital projects (\$2.2 million). A complete discussion of ARPA funding recommendations, including a more detailed discussion on revenue replacement, is presented as a separate budget discussion item.

<u>EMS Municipal Services Tax Unit (MSTU) (\$446,282)</u>: The MSTU revenue anticipates no change to the 0.5000 millage rate and an estimated 5.0% increase in property values. This would generate an additional \$446,282. Like property taxes discussed earlier, while this is a decrease in the growth rate by \$107,000 from last year.

<u>Public Services Tax (\$425,846)</u>: While the COVID-19 pandemic impacted other revenues, the Public Services Tax on electric, water and gas usage was less affected by stay-at-home orders and shutdowns. Since people were working from home, utility consumption did not decline. Revenues are projected to increase in FY 2022 by \$425,826 or 4.8%.

<u>Gas Taxes (-\$1.34 Million)</u>: Gasoline taxes are estimated to decrease by 10.9% or \$1.345 million. Prior to COVID, gas taxes, which are consumption based (taxes are per gallon, not a percentage of cost), were only slightly increasing year-over-year due to better vehicle fuel efficiencies and an increase in the use of electric vehicles. Stay-at-home orders and their effect on commuting dramatically affected gas tax collections. Even with the phased economic reopening, gas taxes have not rebounded, indicating that telecommuting and changed driving habits are still impacting fuel consumption. This decline is projected to continue into FY 2022. <u>Fund Balance (-\$1.041)</u>: The preliminary budget contemplates a reduction in the use of fund balance from \$1.84 million to \$800,000. If the \$2.829 million in ARPA revenue replacement were not available to assist in balancing the budget, additional fund balance would be necessary to support the budget, or expense reduction would be required. Using the ARPA funds to supplement the budget allows the County to maintain reserves for future needs such as one-time capital projects.

<u>Other General Revenues (-\$366,210)</u>: Other general revenues have also been affected by the pandemic and are expected to decrease by \$366,210. Fees related to Sheriff law enforcement (warrants) and prisoner room and board have declined. Other reductions included: parking, library fees, child support enforcement, court facility and technology fees, and the Federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes.

<u>Interest Earnings (-\$246,006)</u>: One of the measures the Federal Reserve made to address the economic impacts of COVID-19 was to decrease interest rates to near zero percent. This trend is expected to continue in FY 2022 and will cause interest and investment earnings for the County's portfolio to decrease an estimated \$246,000.

Preliminary Estimated Changes in Expenses

The following sections provide a summary of the proposed increases and decreases in general revenue supported expenditures.

Sheriff Personnel and Operating Expenses (\$5.01 million):

In accordance with Florida Statutes, most of the Constitutional Officers submit their budget requests on May 1st. As presented the Sheriff's budget increased by \$5.01 million or 6.17%. This includes the addition of ten positions, of which eight are for law enforcement and two are for corrections. These positions are identified in the preliminary staffing section below.

As requested by the Board at this year's retreat, the Sheriff has evaluated the need to create a separate mental health officer position to assist deputies responding to calls where mental health may be a concern. To address this matter, rather than adding one position, the Sheriff's budget request includes the implementation of three mental health crisis teams. These teams will allow a trained deputy to pair with contracted mental health professionals when responding to calls where mental health may need to be assessed.

Additional deputies are requested for the Sheriff to continue his law enforcement and detention initiatives including "All in Leon" which addresses crime prevention, violent crimes, and re-entry programs at the detention facility. The correction staffing increases are requested to maintain adequate coverage ratios between correctional officers and inmates.

<u>Leon County Employee General Revenue Related Expenses (\$2.22 million)</u>: The largest operating expense in the budget is associated with personnel costs. These costs include performance raises, health insurance, retirement contributions and worker's compensation. In total, projected increases are \$2.22 million, which includes the restoration of the FY 2021 six-month hiring freeze. The budget contemplates continuing to support the County's pay for performance structure with

an increase of 0 - 5%, with an average of 3% based on performance. Also included are health care costs estimated to increase 6.0%. Final health insurance rates will be received in late July or early August. To address the actuarial unfunded liability in Florida Retirement System (FRS), the legislature continues to increase the cost to participate in the FRS. This year the regular retirement rate increased by 8.2%.

Fire Services Payment to the City (\$1.4 million): As part of the adopted FY 2020 long-term fiscal plan, rather than increasing fire service rescue fees, debt service savings were planned to pay for the increased cost of fire rescue services. Due to the budgetary impacts of COVID, the City and County deferred a fire rescue service fee study and increasing funding in FY 2021. However, based on current fires services expenses, which increase annually, the costs to pay the City for fire rescue services in the unincorporated area is estimated to increase by \$1.4 million in FY 2022. A complete analysis of this funding request, including a request to modify the current County/City Fire Services Interlocal Agreement, are discussed later in this item.

Supervisor of Elections, Clerk, Property Appraiser and Tax Collector (\$894,193):

The Supervisor of Elections budget increased by \$439,185. While this in a non-presidential preference election cycle, this is a census redistricting year with related cost increases in implementing voting redistricting requirements such as a countywide mail out and new voter ID cards. In addition, there are some residual costs associated with the pandemic and new voting legislation passed during the 2021 legislative session. These changes include: increased mail ballots requests; the required staffing of drop-off ballot box locations; and voter education costs associated with recent legislative changes regarding vote-by-mail ballots.

Other Constitutional Officer increases include:

- The Clerk of Courts and Comptroller: The submitted budget request increased by \$170,202. To improve the accounts payable process, the Clerk's budget includes the addition of a new Accounts Payable Supervisor position.
- Tax Collector's Office: Funding for the Tax Collector is through commissions based on the amount of property tax collected on behalf of the County and the statutory requirement that the County pay commissions for the Leon County School Board's ad valorem collections. Based on the estimated 5.0% increase in property values, this budget will increase by \$149,714.
- Property Appraiser's: This budget is submitted to directly to Department of Revenue for approval and is not due until July 1. The anticipated increase to cover for the costs of personal and operating expenditures is \$135,092.

<u>General Revenue Transfer to Special Revenue Funds (\$873,226)</u>: Increases in transfer to Special revenue funds include:

• \$801,056 for Probation/Pretrial to support general operations and a \$196,849 contract increase for GPS monitoring services. Additionally, increased funding is necessary to offset the decline in probation and pre-trial fees directly impacted by COVID, as well as reduced client visits at the Office of Intervention and Detention Alternatives.

- \$351,546 increase in support for the Emergency Medical Services fund to maintain current levels of services without increasing fees or property taxes. The multi-year fiscal contemplated transferring additional general revenue to support EMS services. Using available EMS fund balance reduced the amount of the recommended transfer. Without the use of the fund balance the transfer would have been almost \$400,000 greater.
- \$215,514 for the Solid Waste Fund to support increases to the County recycling contract, the operation of the rural waste services centers, and the hauling and disposal contract.
- \$27,734 for the Grant Fund to support increases in operating grant match funding for Emergency Management and the DEP Storage Tank Program.
- (\$522,624) decrease in Development Service and Environmental Management because of projected increases in site plan and environmental fee revenue due to an increased level of development activity in the unincorporated area of the County.

<u>Workers' Compensation/Insurance (\$774,661)</u>: Leon County continues to have an aggressive safety and risk avoidance program, including required trainings and post-accident evaluations to avoid similar occurrences. To ensure that adequate reserves are maintained to pay outstanding claims, an annual actuarial analysis is done to ensure adequate funding is available to pay outstanding and future claims. Based on the year ending FY 2020 analysis, an additional \$600,000 is needed to fund current claim liability. The additional \$174,661 covers anticipated increases in insurance premium coverages which are competitively procured by the County's insurance broker on an annual basis.

<u>Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) (\$599,702)</u>: Values in both the Frenchtown and Downtown area are anticipated to increase between 15%-17%. The County will receive the formal growth values from the Property Appraiser on July 1. Based on this projection, the preliminary budget includes a \$599,702 payment increase to the CRA.

Contractual Obligations and Maintenance and Repairs (\$582,765): Total increases include:

- Parks and Recreation mowing, burning contract (Lake Lafayette lake bottom and greenway management plans), trail maintenance, and tree trimming on greenway and park trails (\$268,560).
- County software maintenance licensing agreements including: the NEOGOV Human Resources management system, Microsoft Office 365 licensing, Adobe Acrobat, Banner Document Management, cyber security enhancements, and voice applications that allow citizens to utilize Alexa and Google for Commission Meetings. (\$165,095).
- Funding to support the approved Maintenance Agreement between the Florida Department of Transportation and Leon County for the County to maintain the right-of-way on North Monroe from 1-10 to the Gadsden County Line. The agreement and funding support the North Monroe Street Corridor (\$96,000).
- Annual contractual increase in Facilities Management, for security, custodial and grounds maintenance services (\$102,777).

- Medical Examiner fees related to autopsy and pathology services and an additional rack system at the morgue (\$74,680).
- County share for maintenance to the Public Safety Complex (\$26,444).
- Replacement of equipment of the Public Works Sign Shop (\$23,600).

<u>Recommended New Positions (\$373,466)</u>: As discussed in more detail in a following section on preliminary position changes, three park positions, an Assistant County Attorney and a Mechanical/Electrical Engineer are recommended. These five positions are offset by a reduction in five positions described later this section.

<u>Real Time Crime Center (RTCC) (\$277,777)</u>: As approved at the March 9, 2021 meeting, the Leon County Sheriff's Office Real Time Crime Center project is for the development of a joint centralized criminal intelligence information sharing center in partnership with County, City, and Florida State University. The total estimated cost is \$2.5 million to be split evenly among the three agencies. The County share is \$833,333 to be paid over three years. The FY 2022 budget contemplates the first-year payment of \$277,777. An agenda item will be presented at a future Board meeting to consider the final memorandum of agreement with FSU and the City.

<u>Interlocal Agreements (\$198,645)</u>: Funding includes annual inflationary increases related to County interlocal agreements with the City of Tallahassee for the Animal Shelter (\$31,633), and the Parks and Recreation agreement (\$63,934). In addition, the Radio Communications budget increased to address system repairs (\$89,641). The preliminary budget also includes an increase in the Planning Department budget (\$13,437) which is jointly funded between the County and the City.

<u>Medicaid (\$169,597)</u>: The County is required by Florida Statute 409.915, to contribute to the State's share of matching funds for the Medicare Program. The annual contribution is projected to increase 5.0% or \$169,597.

<u>Travel and Training Increase (\$156,773)</u>: In response to the COVID pandemic and to reduce expenses, the FY 2021 budget included a six-month non-essential travel and training freeze, which saved \$250,000. FY 2022 preliminary budget restores 75% of the reduction.

<u>Consolidated Dispatch Agency (CDA) (\$126,430)</u>: Pursuant to an Interlocal Agreement, the County and City jointly fund the CDA. The CDA budget is projected to increase by 3.99%, which is primarily related to personnel costs and the Motorola Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system contract.

<u>Department of Juvenile Justice Payment (DJJ) (\$115,128)</u>: The County is statutorily required to make certain payments to the Department of Juvenile Justice. The preliminary budget estimates the DJJ payment will increase by \$115,128. Leon County will receive formal notice from DJJ in July 2022 detailing the actual mandated payment.

<u>Communication Costs (\$81,372)</u>: Inflationary costs related to communications include the County's phone system maintenance, internet services and conferencing applications such as Zoom and are projected to increase \$81,372.

<u>Living Wage (\$48,790)</u>: This funding supports increasing the County living wage to \$13/hr. effective October 1, 2022. A complete discussion on the Living Wage is presented later in this item.

<u>General Revenue Transfer to Transportation Capital (-\$657,950)</u>: As presented in the capital funding section of this item, \$2.7 million of the ARPA revenue replacement is recommended to immediately fund transportation projects during the current fiscal year, thereby mitigating the need for general revenue support next year.

<u>Position Reduction Savings (-\$333,136)</u>: Position reduction savings in the amount of \$335,591 related to the County Attorney's Office, Fleet Maintenance and the Mosquito Control Program are detailed further in the Preliminary Position Changes section of this item.

Fuel, Fleet Maintenance and Utilities Costs (\$-196,826): Fuel costs are anticipated to decrease by \$62,346, and fleet repair and maintenance costs are projected to decrease \$134,480. Fuel costs are declining due to fuel prices staying within budgeted forecasts and a more fuel-efficient fleet.

Preliminary Staffing Discussion

Leon County government continues to approach the annual budget process by identifying opportunities to constrain budgetary growth and to ensure the limited resources of the County continue to be aligned with the highest priorities of the Board. In developing the FY 2022 Preliminary Budget, staff continues to build upon this effort by annually reviewing positions to ensure the organization is optimizing the use of personnel resources. Prior to recommending adding positions to the budget, an organizational review occurs to determine if there are available efficiency measures in the requesting Department's organization such as whether other positions, especially vacant positions are still needed. Table #2 reflects the position changes currently being considered as part of the FY 2022 preliminary budget. *In summary, there is no net increase in general revenue positions being recommended.*

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Division	Change	+/-	(Savings)/Increase
General Revenue Positions			
County Attorney's Office	Assistant County Attorney	1.0	\$97,940
	Legal Assistant	-1.0	(\$65,978)
	Administrative Associate III	-1.0	(\$55,793)
Total County Attorney		-1.0	(\$23,832)
Public Works	Mechanical Engineer	1.0	\$128,124
	Crew Chief	-1.0	(\$52,156)
	Fleet Admin V	-1.0	(\$73,504)
Total Public Works		-1.0	\$2,528
Resource Stewardship - Parks	Park Attendant	1.0	48,444
	Crew Chief	1.0	49,410
	Maintenance Technician	1.0	49,484
Total Resource Stewardship		3.0	\$147,338
Development Services	Planner II	-1.0	(\$85,704)
Total Development Services		-1.0	(\$85,704)
General Revenue Total		0	\$40,330
Non-General Revenue Positions			
DSEM (Building Inspection)	Building Inspector	1.0	\$71,725
EMS	Medical Supply Technicians	2.0	\$96,656
Total Non-General Revenue		3.0	\$168,381

Table #2: Preliminary Position Changes

As presented, while five new general positions are recommended there is an equal reduction of five general revenue funded positions. The net fiscal impact of these position changes is \$40,330.

As a result, of the County continuing to significantly increase park acres available to the public (Apalachee Regional Park, St. Mark's, Broadmoor Park, two dog parks, etc.) a new two-person Park Crew and park attendant position are recommended to maintain adequate service levels. The crew was requested during last year's budget process but was deferred due to the impacts of COVID. The new park attendant has been planned to coincide with the completion of the new cross-country track amenities at the Apalachee Regional Park.

The County Attorney requested an additional Assistant County Attorney position to properly address the County's legal needs. This additional position is offset after a workload review indicated two vacant administrative positions are no longer needed to support the attorneys and are recommended for deletion.

A Public Works Mechanical and Electrical Engineer is recommended to support the workload associated with building mechanical and electrical systems, as well as on-going retrofits of various

County buildings. The addition of this position is offset by the elimination of a vacant Crew Chief previously supporting a portion of the mosquito control program and a vacant Fleet Administrative Associate position.

In addition, due to an increase in new construction, a new Building Inspector position is recommended to ensure inspection timelines are met. This position is funded through building fees.

Currently, EMS has two EMS Supply Technicians to provide 24/7 logistical coverage for all EMS operations. These Supply Technicians provide support and supplies to the ambulance fleet and EMTs and Paramedics. When the Supply Technicians are unavailable due to leave, EMTs provide shift back up to allow for continuous logistical support. Adding the two new Supply Technicians will allow EMTs to be available for additional ambulance coverage. These positions are funded through ambulance fees.

<u>Recommended Position Reclasses:</u> As part of the annual budget process, the Office of Human Resources reviews requests for position reclassifications to determine if the positions duties have changed or been modified by more than 50%. During the hiring freeze, some existing employee workloads, and duties changes significantly. Table #3 shows nine positions reclassifications recommended for FY 2022 with a net fiscal impact of \$46,793.

Department/Current Position	Recommended Reclass	Increase*
Public Works		
Administrative Associate III	Administrative Associate IV	\$1,589
Sr. Administrative Associate I	Operations Analyst	\$2,485
Engineering Intern	Design Engineer	\$6,943
Facilities Project Coordinator	Construction Manager II	\$21,717
Office of Information & Technology		
Office Coordinator	Cyber Security Manager	\$3,669
Library Services		
Information Professional	Community Resources Specialist	\$5,195
Human Services & Community		
Partnership		
Human Service Analyst	Human Service Analyst**	\$5,195
Development Support & Env. Services		
Sr. Environmental Engineer*	Engineer Intern	\$0
Environmental Inspection Supervisor*	Env. Inspection Supervisor**	\$0
Total		\$46,793

Table #3: Recommended FY 2022 Position Reclassifications

* Due to vacancies through promotion and retirement, the reclassification of these positions has no fiscal impact ** These are paygrade adjustments and are based on workload and position market analysis.

<u>Emergency Medical Services</u>: As part of last year's budget (FY2021), a new crew (ten positions) was added to the EMS budget to support transports for Capital Regional Medical Center's (CRMC) two new emergency room locations. After this approval, CRMC petitioned the County to perform their own patient transports. Based on this request, EMS did not hire the new ambulance crew. However, as previously anticipated and based on increased call demand and call volume analysis, EMS is recommending filling these positions and basing an ambulance in the northeast area of the County.

Other Pay Adjustment Items

This section provides an analysis of the recommendation to increase the County's living wage from the current \$12/hour to \$13/hour, as well as other pay plan adjustments.

Living Wage

As part of the FY 2018 budget process, to address the Board's Strategic Priority of Governance, the Board adopted a Living Wage based on the following:

• (G4) Retain and attract a highly skilled, diverse, and innovative County workforce, which exemplifies the County's Core Practices.

The supporting adopted Strategic Initiative is:

• Evaluate establishing a living wage for County employees and continue to provide opportunities for industry certifications and training for those employees in skilled craft, paraprofessional, and technician positions. (2016-44)

During the initial 2018 analysis, according to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) living wage calculator, the living wage in Leon County was \$11.15/hour. In the absence of neither a state nor federal government living wage, the use of the MIT calculator is considered an industry best practice to determine a living wage. Rather than adopt the MIT living wage, the Board opted to establish the living wage at \$12.00/hour.

An annual review of the living wage has occurred every year since the adoption of the \$12/hour living wage. While the MIT living wage for Leon County has increased each year (\$11.45 in 2019, and \$11.91 in 2020), it remained below the Leon County established \$12/hour living wage. During last year's budget process, raising the living wage to \$13/hour was considered; however, with a State of Florida \$15/hour minimum wage on the November 2020 ballot, and because the Leon County living wage still exceeded the MIT living wage calculator, the \$12/hour living wage was maintained.

This year MIT's calculator reflects a living wage of \$13.98 for Leon County. This increase from \$11.98 is due to MIT making significant changes to their methodology including adding societal communication inputs into their calculator including costs associated with civic engagement, cell phones and broadband costs.

In addition, since the last review of the living wage at the July 2020 budget workshop, a referendum was approved implementing a new minimum wage for Florida. Beginning on

September 30, 2021, the new Florida minimum wage will be \$10/hour. This wage will increase annually by \$1.00 until September 30, 2026 when a \$15/hour minimum wage will be achieved.

Leon's County current living wage exceeds the required state minimum wage of \$10 beginning September 30, 2021 by \$2/hour. Conversely, due to the changes the MIT calculator the current living wage is below the MIT suggested living wage by \$1.98. Prior to this year's increase, annually the MIT living wage has increased at a rate below \$0.50/hour (\$0.30 in 2019 and \$0.46 in 2021.) It is anticipated that updates to the model will return to more normal growth rates unless the model's methodology is revised again.

Increasing the living wage to \$14.00 to meet the current MIT living wage would have a fiscal impact of \$188,071 to the FY 2022 budget. As the economy and the County budget are still recovering from the impacts of COVID, this item recommends increasing the living wage to \$14/hour over the next two fiscal years: \$13/hour for FY 2022 and \$14/hour beginning in FY 2023. The cost to increase the living wage by \$1/hour to \$13/hour in FY 2021 is \$41,814.

Additionally, by increasing the living wage to \$13.00 in October, the County will far exceed the new Florida minimum wage of \$10.00 per hour. Based on the current review of the MIT living wage calculator, it is anticipated the County will reach a \$15.00 living wage before the State of Florida \$15.00/hour minimum wage takes effect in September 2026. At the time the County reaches the \$15/hour living wage, the Board may choose to have a broader policy discussion on whether to continue having a separate Leon County living wage or remain consistent with the State of Florida minimum wage requirements.

To implement the recommended increase in the living wage to \$13/hour, this item also recommends adjustments to the Pay Plan to address the revised entry level salary. Certain positions would also be placed in updated paygrades with a minor fiscal impact of \$6,976. In addition, modifications to HR policies to continue to incentive career advancement for existing County employees is also recommended as reflected in Attachment #4. In making these recommendations, Human Resources reviewed other comparable jurisdictions to determine best practices for pay adjustments related to internal promotions. Existing policy caps internal promotions at 5% or the minimum of the new paygrade; however, often the total pay increase is less than adequate (less than \$0.60/hr.) to incentive internal candidates to seek promotion. The recommended policy revision authorizes pay increases of 5% or \$2,000 (approximately \$1.00/hr.) for career service employees being promoted one paygrade. Existing policy already authorizes a 10% pay increase for promotions of two paygrades. In addition, in recognizing the additional responsibility, knowledge and skills, if a career service employee is promoted to a senior management position, a pay increase of 15% will be provided. Likewise, for senior management employees being promoted, the pay would be increased 10% or the minimum of the new paygrade whichever is greater.

As this is a living wage adjustment and not a full market analysis of the market value of positions, the budget does not contemplate addressing compression issues within existing paygrades and therefore does not consider raising all salaries. To summarize, the total fiscal impact for the implementing a \$13/hour living wage and adjusting the paygrades is \$48,790, which has been included in the FY 2022 preliminary budget.

Constitutional Position Changes

Table #4 summarizes the positions requested by the Constitutional Officers, specifically ten for the Sheriff, one for the Clerk of Courts and Comptroller Finance Division, and one for the Supervisor of Elections.

Sheriff	
Sworn Deputies	3
Crime Scene Specialist	1
Digital Forensic Examiner	1
Community Relations Specialist	2
Sworn Correctional Officers	2
Total Sheriff	10
Clerk of Courts and Comptroller	
Account Payable Supervisor	1
Total Clerk of Courts and Comptroller	1
Supervisor of Elections	
Voter Services Specialist	1
Total Supervisor of Elections	1
Total Constitutional Officers	12

Table 4:	FY 20	22 Constitu	utional Po	sition l	Requests
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Fund Balances

Consistent with best governmental financial practices, Leon County Policy 07-2 "Reserves" establishes fund balance policy levels sufficient for cash flow and emergency purposes. As property tax revenues are received two months after the start of the fiscal year, fund balances allow the County adequate cash flow to eliminate the need for short-term borrowing in October and November to cover payroll and required budget transfers to the Constitutional Officers.

As recognized by bond rating agencies like Fitch and Moody's, sufficient fund balances are considered a sign of fiscal stability and influence bond ratings. In addition, as noted in Policy 07-2, the use of fund balance more than the policy minimums should support one-time capital project funding and/or other one-time expenditures to address unforeseen revenue shortfalls. Moving toward the elimination of using recurring fund balance aligns with industry best practices, is consistent with County policy, and provides greater long-term financial stability for the County. However, given the revenue shortfalls associated with the pandemic, using some fund balance is consistent with County policy.

Even with the continued economic uncertainty surrounding COVID, due to long-term fiscal planning, before and during this unparalleled challenge, Leon County government has maintained its fiscal viability. As recognized by Moody's Investor Service in its February 5, 2021 annual release, Leon maintained a Aa2 credit rating, and did "not see any material immediate credit risk to the County."

General Fund

Due to the proposed use of ARPA revenue replacement, the preliminary budget reduces the use of general fund balance from \$1.84 million to \$800,000, or by \$1.04, million, the lowest level since FY 2010 or more than a decade. This reduction will allow for the replenishment of general revenue reserves. Depending on final revenue and expenditure estimates, the amount of recommended fund balance could be adjusted to balance the budget and would be presented to the Board at the June workshop.

The County's general revenue fund balances have historically grown at a rate of \$4 to \$5 million a year. This is due to State budget requirements that counties budget 95% of expected revenues, and the nominal under expenditure of Board and Constitutional Officer's budgets. Hence, \$4 to \$5 million has not been an unreasonable amount to budget given the constraints placed on County resources. However, when this level of fund balance is used to offset the operating budget (\$4 to \$5 million), fund balances do not grow year over year, but rather stay at the same level. When fund balance use is reduced (like during the current budget process), fund balances can start to grow. When the fund balances are allowed to grow, they accumulate, and can be used as part of a "fund balance sweep" to fund one-time capital projects (i.e. Consolidated Dispatch Center and Branch Libraries). Alternatively, without general fund balance accumulation, the County would need to consider issuing debt to support future capital project needs.

Increasing the use of the general fund balance annually is an unsustainable practice. If the use of fund balance grew by only \$2 million each year (e.g., \$4.0 million FY 2022, \$6.0 million FY 2023, etc.), it would only take four or five years to deplete the entire fund balance. This occurs because the use rate would be much higher than the replenishment rate. This practice would further diminish the County's ability to provide fund balances for future capital projects or to maintain the catastrophe reserves, which were used in three consecutive years to fund the cleanup of Hurricanes Hermine, Irma, and Michael. Last year these reserves were used to mitigate the impacts of COVID on the community by purchasing personal protective equipment and emergency overtime staffing.

Other Operating Budget Fund Balance Use

Based on current revenue and expenditure forecasts, except for the Emergency Medical Services Fund, the preliminary budget does not anticipate using fund balances accumulated in special revenue funds that receive general revenue support.

Furthermore, funds that are entirely supported by fee revenue, and do not receive general revenue support, sometimes use accumulated fund balances to support special projects or continued operations from balances accumulated in previous years. These fund types include court related functions and Building Inspection.

Due to revenue declines in traffic citations, the Judicial funds (e.g., Teen Court) will use available fund balances to continue to support their operations. Also, to continue with technology upgrades purchase vehicle replacements and a new inspection vehicle, it is recommended to use \$290,000 in available Building Inspection fund balance. These funds are available due to increased revenues generated during FY 2021, related to the robust construction market. In addition, the preliminary budget contemplates appropriating \$360,000 in available fund balance in the Emergence Medical

Services fund. Using this amount of fund balance will still leave the EMS reserves above policy limits. If this fund balance is not appropriated the general revenue transfer to this fund would need to be increased or expenses reduced.

Capital Program

Each fiscal year, pursuant to Florida Statutes and County policy, the County is required to adopt a five-year capital improvement plan. The capital improvement budget, the first year of the five-year plan, is how the county funds and maintains the County's core infrastructure, including road resurfacing, stormwater facilities, parks and greenways, technology infrastructure and upgrades to the detention facility. In addition, the capital budget includes new infrastructure projects such as the construction of new park facilities, major building improvements and vehicles.

The capital budget differs from the operating budget in that expenses are one-time in nature, or an asset such as a vehicle or heavy equipment to be used over an extended period. The operating budget covers recurring annual expenses such personnel costs, and the funding of day-to-day operating services. Capital budgets, however, can impact the operating budget as a new facility may require additional personnel to operate and maintain it, such as the routine mowing of a new park or the custodial and utilities to support a new building.

General Infrastructure Maintenance

Ideally, to provide adequate funding to the capital program, annual recurring general revenue should be between \$9.0 to \$11.0 million; this amount continues to increase as construction inflation grows. Following the great recession, the County had taken deliberate action and over several years increased the general revenue support for capital to \$7.3 million by FY 2020. However, because of the pandemic and the associated negative fiscal impacts, the general revenue support was reduced in FY 2021 to \$5 million.

The reduction in general revenue support in FY 2021 was offset through one-time budget reductions which provided \$2.0 million in capital fund balance. Given the continued financial impacts of the pandemic, there is not County funding available to increase the general revenue transfer to the capital program. Therefore, the preliminary budget contemplates maintaining the general revenue support at \$5.0 million. However, to ensure the County's aging infrastructure is adequately maintained and funded, the FY 2022 budget contemplates using \$3.6 million in ARPA funding to balance the capital budget.

The capital budget is focused on maintaining the County's building infrastructure, including the Detention Facility, stormwater systems, the technology environment, and parks. Allocating these ARPA funds for capital projects, allows for the maintenance of the County's infrastructure, while waiting for the economy and the County's revenue streams to rebound. To increase the transfer to adequate levels, the five-year capital plan contemplates increasing the general revenue transfer as property values and other revenues return to normal levels. A complete discussion, on the use of ARPA funds for the capital program is presented in a separate budget discussion item.

Essential Libraries Initiative

As part of the Essential Library Initiative, a process of re-envisioning of the Leon County Public Library System to address the changing needs of residents and trends in library use. The FY 2022

capital budget includes \$400,000 in support of this initiative. Pending approval of the initiative by the Board at the workshop, current year (FY 2021) funding will be used to engage an architectural firm to being space planning and design for the Main Library. The FY 2022 funding includes \$300,000 for space improvements at the main library and the construction of a walking trail at the Ft. Braden Library which has been delayed due to the pandemic. Out-year funding totaling \$1.2 million (\$300,000 each year) will provide for additional improvements at the main and branch libraries. A separate budget discussion item on the entire Essential Library Initiative will be presented later in the workshop.

Sheriff Evidence Facility

As part of the FY 2021 budget, funding was allocated to move the Sheriff's evidence to the County owned Tharpe Street storage facility. The current evidence facility located at the Sheriff's campus is undersized and does not provided enough space for the long-term evidence storage required by Florida Statutes. Using an existing facility for this effort will save the County \$10.0 million instead of building an entire new facility as originally requested by the Sheriff's Office. Last year the estimated cost to remodel the Tharpe Street building for evidence storage was \$1.9 million. Given the significant increases in construction inflation and based upon preliminary design and engineering, the cost of the project has increased by \$500,000 to \$2.4 million. To address this increase, an additional \$500,000 has been added to this project.

Transportation

As a result of the pandemic certain capital projects in both FY 2020 and FY 2021 were eliminated or deferred. To bolster the transportation capital program, and fund critical road/flooding projects that were delayed or not considered because of COVID, \$2.7 million in ARPA replacement revenue funding is recommended to shore up the transportation capital program. These projects include:

- Baum Road Drainage Improvements \$926,000
- Ben Boulevard Flood Relief \$850,000
- Miccosukee Road Bridge Replacement 25% FDOT match \$567,500
- Maylor Road Flood Relief Final Construction Funds \$356,500

Rather than including these projects in the FY 2022 budget, the ARPA revenue replacement funds will allow these projects to be reinstated and moved forward this fiscal year (FY 2021). The necessary budget actions required to fund these projects in FY 2021 is presented in the separate ARPA discussion item.

Tourism Capital

In FY 2019, Leon County sold the previous Tourism Division building located at 106 E. Jefferson Street. Proceeds from this sale were programmed to construct a new Tourism Office in the Historic Tallahassee Train Station. This construction effort was targeted to begin after Community Services and Human Partnerships (CSHP) were relocated to their new location on Paul Russel Road. This relocation happened earlier this year, and construction plans for the new Tourism Division Offices are nearing completion. The original budget established for this project was \$2.4 million. Due to significantly inflated industry wide construction costs, final estimates for the

building renovations are \$3.5 million. The County had applied for a State historical restoration grant to offset this increase, but unfortunately the grant was not awarded. \$1.1 million in ARPA revenue recovery is recommended to offset the increase.

\$350,000 in ARPA funds are also recommended to continue the development of the Apalachee Regional Park master plan implementation.

Other Budget Considerations

The following section provides additional updates and recommendations for other departmental budgets and policy items.

Outside Agency Funding

At the March 9, 2016 meeting, the Board reviewed agencies that provided contracted services to the County to ensure that the services provided aligned with County priorities and initiatives and to provide budget oversight and contract compliance. To ensure outside agency contracts receive continuous oversight, Fiscal Policy No. 93-44 requires that as part of the annual budget process a mid-year performance report is presented (Attachment #5). Table 5 shows the outside agency funding recommendations for the FY 2022 Preliminary Budget.

Outside Agency	FY 2021	FY 2022	
	Funding	Recommendation	
Legal Services of North Florida	\$257,500	\$257,500	
DISC Village	\$222,759	\$222,759	
Tallahassee Senior Citizens Foundation	\$179,000	\$179,000	
St. Francis Wildlife Association	\$71,250	\$71,250	
Tallahassee Trust for Historic Preservation	\$63,175	\$63,175	
Whole Child Leon	\$38,000	\$38,000	
Domestic Violence Coordinating Council	\$25,000	\$25,000	
United Partners for Human Services	\$23,750	\$23,750	
Oasis Center Commission on the Status Women & Girls	\$20,000	\$20,000	
Apalachee Regional Planning Council (Sustainability	\$8,800	\$8,800	
Compact Administrator)	\$0,000		
Total	\$909,234	\$909,234	

Table #5: FY 2021 Adopted Outside Agency Funding & FY2022 Recommendations

At the March 9, 2021 meeting, the Board approved the proposed outside funding agency contracts at the funding levels reflected in Table #5.

Based on recent practice it is recommended that for future budget cycles the contract funding for outside agencies that provide County services be done in conjunction with the Discretionary Funding process, which occurs prior to March 31 of each year. To codify this procedure, updating the County's Fiscal Planning Policy is recommended as reflected in Attachment #6. As has been done the past two fiscal years, the funding level for these contracts will be presented at the same

time the Board establishes the funding levels specified in the Discretionary Funding Ordinance. The agency annual reports will also be provided as part of the annual establishment of this funding.

Fire Services

Leon County has had a long history of contracting with the City of Tallahassee for the provision of fire rescue services to serve the unincorporated area of the County. A contract for services was originally entered into in March 1988. That agreement was amended a number of times through 2005. In April 2009 a new Interlocal Agreement for five years was executed. As part of this agreement a joint rate study was adopted to uniformly charge properties for fire services in both the City and unincorporated areas of the County. The interlocal agreement contemplates five-year rate studies to ensure that fire rescue services are property funded. The last rate study was adopted in 2016.

The fire rescue service fees are established as a "flat" rate to be the same amount levied each year over a five-year period. This approach provides consistency and certainty to taxpayers and provides revenue assurances for the fire department. The fire rescue service fees are collected from property owners through City utility billing if the property uses City utilities, and if serviced by Talquin, the residents pay through either quarterly billing or a non-ad valorem assessment on the property tax bill. Since the adoption of the 2016 study, the County has paid the City an average of \$8.1 million/year for these services.

As part of the FY 2020 budget development process, the Board approved the implementation of a multi-year fiscal plan to avoid anticipated tax and fee increases. The multi-year fiscal plan built on over ten years of budget discipline, sound financial planning and an organization-wide focus on innovation, cost avoidance and efficiency that positioned the County for long-term fiscal stability. This fiscal strategy demonstrated sensitivity of taxpayers. During tough economic times, the County maintained fees and passed on significant property tax savings.

Aligned with the multi-year fiscal plan, the adopted FY 2017 – FY 2021 Strategic Plan includes a 5-year target to reduce the County's outstanding debt by 60%. The County is on pace to achieve this target. The multi-year fiscal plan presented approaches to utilize the reduced debt service payments beginning in FY2021. Specifically, the plan contemplated using a portion of the debt service savings to pay for an increase in the fire services payment to the City of Tallahassee beginning in FY 2021. This approach allows the debt service savings to be used in place of any increase in the Fire Services fee charged to unincorporated area residents.

Because of the pandemic, and as previously discussed in this item, the development of last year's budget (FY 2021) considered significant declines in revenue, budget reductions, capital project deferrals and increased use of fund balances. In addition, the City of Tallahassee recommended, and the County concurred, to delay any increase in the Fire Services fee for one year. Pursuant to the multi-year fiscal year plan, the County intended to use the debt service payment in place of raising the Fire Services fee. The delay in increasing the fire services payment to the City allowed the debt service savings (\$1.6 million) to be used to offset revenue losses due to the pandemic during the current fiscal year (FY2021).

For next fiscal year (FY 2022), the City, working closely with County OMB, has completed a detailed review and analysis of the fire departmental budget. Over the past six years, the cost of services has increased primarily associated with personnel, the replacement of firefighting equipment, and the construction of a fire station. In total, the annual recurring costs have increased approximately 15% over the six-year period or approximately \$1.4 million for the County.

Per the existing interlocal agreement, a complete fire study would normally be conducted to formalize the fee increases. However, since the County approved the multi-year fiscal plan and intended to utilize the debt service savings to pay for any increases, a fire study was not needed at this time. Therefore, for next fiscal year (FY 2022), the recommended budget includes redirecting the debt service savings in support of the \$1.4 million increase in the fire services payment to the City. The City has previously approved increasing the fire services fee for City residents to pay for their share of the increased costs.

In discussions with the City, the interlocal agreement also contemplates future annual increases in the fire services payment tied to an inflationary amount. This is intended to support personnel and operating cost increases associated with the Fire Department budget. For the following fiscal year (FY 2023), a portion of the debt service savings are still available to pay for this projected increase of approximately \$200,000. However, beginning in FY 2024, without a rate study or fee increase, any additional annual increases would need to be considered using general revenue.

To provide the Board the option of considering a rate increase in the future, this item recommends conducting a joint fire services fee study with the City in FY 2023, with any recommendations regarding the fee being presented to the Board during the FY 2024 budget process. Rate studies provide a legally defensible methodology for applying the fees uniformly across different property categories including residential, commercial, warehouses and governments. The studies also allow the for the legal placement of the fees as a non-ad valorem assessment on the property tax bill should a property owner refuse to pay their quarterly billing.

To formalize this arrangement for the payments during next year (FY 2022) and the following year (FY 2023), as well as conducting a joint rate study to be presented as part of the FY 2024 budget process, this item recommends the Board authorize the County Administrator negotiate an amendment to the fire rescue interlocal agreement with the City and be presented to the Board for approval.

800 MHz Radios

The FY 2022 Preliminary Budget also contemplates, the replacement of the County's 800 MHz radios in FY2022, one year sooner than originally planned. In summary, the replacement can be accomplished one year earlier with no general revenue fiscal impact as preliminary discussions with Motorola indicate favorable financing terms that delay any payments for at least one full fiscal year (FY 2023) and the planned use of EMS and Volunteer Fire special revenue fund balances.

The jointly owned City/County 800 MHz system has been in place since July 1999. Public safety radio systems (such as those used by police, firefighters, and emergency medical services) operate in several portions of the 800 MHz band. There are approximately 3,200 radios authorized

to access the system. These radios are used by 16 various city departments, seven County departments, the Sheriff's Office, FSU, FAMU and Tallahassee Community College. Prior to the installation of the current 800MHz System, there were instances where law enforcement agencies in Leon County could not communicate with each other via radio communications. This created a public safety issue for personnel responding to emergency incidents from the Sheriff's Office, Tallahassee Fire Department, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Management, Public Works and Facilities Management.

In July 1999, the City, County and Sheriff entered an interlocal agreement to join the system. In 2009, after an investment of almost \$20 million dollars (approximately \$10 million each from the County and City) and significant upgrades to the system were implemented, the Sheriff and the County became 50% owners of the system. The current annual operating costs to support the 800 MHz system is \$3.2 million with the County paying \$1.6 million.

In 2017, a joint City and County replacement plan for the 800MHz radios was established to ensure that the functionality of the radios in the County's inventory was maintained. In conjunction with the County, the City Radio Communications Shop began purchasing radio replacement parts (face plates, knobs, and antennas) and after-market used radios from Motorola. The intent was to begin using the replacements parts and used radios to avoid the need to purchase new radios until FY 2023.

There are several factors that have caused a re-evaluation of the radio replacement timeline.

- Age of the existing inventory. Most of the radios in the system were purchased in 2009 and are past the average seven to ten-year useful life. Most of the radios used by the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) were purchased in 2003 when the County took over the ambulance service from Tallahassee Memorial Hospital
- Motorola support of the existing radios. Motorola advised that after April 2021, batteries for several of the radio models in the system inventory would not be able to be purchased any longer from Motorola
- Motorola offering a volume discount for the County and City to simultaneously replace their respective radio inventories
- Motorola has offered the City and County the ability to expedite the radio replacement timeline by deferring any payment until at least FY 2023 and offering favorable financing rates

Given the age of the radios, and in consideration of overall public safety, it is prudent for the City and the County to explore the option to accelerate the replacement timeline. The total number of radios in the County inventory is 1,180. A review of the County and Sheriff radio inventories and current usage shows that the number of new radios can be reduced to 1,073 saving the replacement costs of 107 units.

The County's estimated total costs is dependent upon the choice of financing scenarios and total number of radios purchased, buy back credits applied for the existing parts and the used radios

inventory, and an additional credit for implementation of the joint Real Time Crime Center mentioned previously in this item.

County and City staff have preliminarily met with Motorola representatives concerning the cost of replacing all radio units. An initial cost proposal totaling \$14.9 million was provided by Motorola for all radios to support the County, Sheriff, and the City. The County and Sheriff's share of the one-time radio replacement cost is an estimated \$5.2, and the City's an estimated \$9.7 million.

To reduce the impact to the County financing of new radio units, fund balances in the Fire Fund and the Emergency Medical Service Fund have been intentionally accumulated to purchase the Volunteer Fire Department and the EMS radios. The use of these fund balances will reduce any equipment financing by \$2.0 million, from \$5.2 million to \$3.2 million. Based on current favorable market conditions and the deferral of any payments until the following fiscal year, the annual payments would be an estimated \$400,000 a year for nine years beginning in FY 2023. This cost would be considered as part of subsequent budget processes.

This item recommends the County continue to work with the City and Sheriff's Office to negotiate the best price and terms for the replacement of the 800 MHz radios. Based on these negotiations final options will be presented for Board consideration.

Household Hazardous Waste Program Service Enhancements

To enhance services for the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) program, a new centrally located drop off site is proposed. The newly proposed site would be centrally located at the Public Works complex off Blair Stone and Miccosukee Road. Current operations provide full-service at the Solid Waste Facility off Apalachee Parkway, and the drop off locations at the rural waste sites in Woodville, Ft. Braden, and Miccosukee communities. The Hazardous Waste Facility off Apalachee Parkway is full-service supporting residential household chemical items and electronics, as well as commercial customers. As an added convenience, the rural waste sites accept the most common household items and electronics.

Prior to COVID service interruptions, the Hazardous Waste program hosted a monthly remote collection event for residential customers. This event occurred once a month (September through May) in the parking lot of the Public Works complex to provide a convenient central drop-off option. The event was popular, with several hundred participants on any given month. Due to COVID, these monthly events were canceled. Although the HHW Center and the Rural Waste sites remained open, over all participation numbers dipped in the first few months of COVID. However, by summer 2020 overall program participation numbers returned to pre-COVID levels with customers traveling to the HHW Center and making greater use of the rural waste sites. Despite the overall leveling of participation, staff examined opportunities to continue a centrally located drop off feature for the added convenience.

A solution has been identified allowing for drop off seven-days a week at Public Works, a vast service enhancement from the prior once a month offering. The existing services at the HHW Center and rural waste sites will continue unchanged. With this enhanced service approach, a small building will be placed in the lower Public Works complex, near Fleet Management allowing citizens to drop off materials. The building will be relocated from another County facility,

avoiding construction costs, and routinely serviced by HHW staff, transporting the items back to the central HHW Center.

To provide for the enhanced service, a Hazardous Waste Technician is proposed. Funding for this position is provided through the tipping fee and will also be offset by a \$28,000 reduction in program overtime no longer necessary to fund staffing for the monthly collection events. Since the monthly hazardous waste collection events were canceled for public safety during COVID, it is recommended that this service enhancement and position commence this fiscal year. A resolution and budget amendment needed to create and fund this position is shown as Attachment #7.

Tourism Marketing

The financial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Tourism industry in Tallahassee-Leon County has been devastating and although Tourism is slowly coming back, the industry continues to be impacted and the County is not anticipating a full recovery until late 2022, at the earliest. While the Tourist Development Tax (TDT) revenue collections continue to trend in the right direction, collections are down 33% year-over-year and have not yet made a full recovery to prepandemic levels. As a result, the Division of Tourism's Marketing/Advertising budget was drastically reduced by 48% in FY 2021 and is recommended to still be down by 41% in FY 2022 compared to pre-pandemic funding levels to align with projected shortfalls.

Use of \$750,000 of the ARPA revenue replacement funding is vitally important and will augment the Division of Tourism's Marketing/Advertising budget by aggressively targeting drive-market travelers showcasing Tallahassee-Leon County as a naturally scenic mid-sized community in Florida that is not saturated with large crowds and has an abundance of parks, greenways, inspirational art, safe events, outdoor dining options, a favorable business climate and outdoor recreation including more than 700 miles of trails for biking, hiking, paddling, and equestrian activities. To reach the targeted audience, the Division of Tourism will heavily utilize media/advertising, sports bids and events, concerts, creative asset development, and media to convey the undeniable beauty of the area and the unexpected nature of our community is better than ever.

The necessary budget action to address this funding is presented in the ARPA budget discussion item.

Conclusion

As discussed in this item, the global COVID-19 pandemic is a human tragedy of historic proportions, which has had an unprecedented economic impact that resulted in a global recession. Due to previous fiscal planning, Leon County has been able to continue to provide essential services, while keeping the community safe. By reducing spending at the beginning of the pandemic, producing a fiscally constrained FY 2021 budget and the targeted and intentional use of Federal ARPA funding, the County is positioned to consider an FY 2022 budget with no tax or fee increases, no net increase in general revenue positions, reduced use of fund balances, growing reserves, enhancing service delivery, no operating reductions, maintaining and strengthening the County's capital infrastructure and continuing to invest in making the community stronger by leveraging partnerships and supporting those most in need.

While the economy is recovering more quickly than after the Great Recession, a full recovery is not anticipated until 2023. Through best fiscal practices, the County's strong financial foundation was established over many previous budget cycles by using budget discipline, sound financial planning and an organization-wide focus on innovation, cost avoidance and efficiency. During previous recessions and downturns in the economy, the County maintained fees and passed on significant property tax savings to citizens. Similarly, the FY 2022 preliminary budget does not include any tax or fee rate increases.

Similar to when the Country came out of the Great Recession, the County again is addressing significant fiscal issues in a deliberate and fiscally constrained manner. It bears repeating that these recommended actions provide the necessary resources to continue maintaining the County as a financially viable organization with the ability to withstand the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Even with the continued economic uncertainty surrounding COVID, due to this long-term fiscal planning, before and during this unparalleled challenge, Leon County government fiscal resilience has not gone unrecognized. As acknowledged by Moody's Investor Service in its February 5, 2021 annual release Leon maintained a Aa2 credit rating while many other state and local governments have experienced volatility in credit ratings.

With the continued leadership of the Board, the dedication of our talented employees and the active engagement of citizens and partners, Leon County government continues to be as well positioned as any organization to continue to meet the current and foreseeable challenges and opportunities facing our organization and community.

To prepare the FY 2022 Tentative Budget for the September 14, 2021 Budget Hearing, several policy discussion items are presented for Board consideration:

- Proposed Expenditure Plan for the County's Allocation of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act
- Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA 2) Program Funding under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA_
- Plan to Implement the Essential Libraries Initiative

The remainder of this workshop presents these discussion items.

Options:

- 1. Accept staff's report on the preliminary budget overview.
- 2. Authorize the County Administrator to negotiate modifications to the current County/City Fire Services Interlocal Agreement under the terms outlined in this budget discussion item to be provided to the Board as a future agenda item.
- 3. Establish a minimum living wage of \$13/hour effective October 1, 2021 for all Leon County employees.
- 4. Approve revisions to the Leon County Personnel Policy Section 5.03.1 "Promotion."
- 5. Authorize the County Administrator to negotiate a contract for the replacement of the 800 MHz radios and prepare a future agenda item for Board consideration.
- 6. Approve Revisions to the Leon County Fiscal Policy 93-44 to align the annual line-item funding and outside agency contract approval process.
- 7. Approve the Budget Amendment which creates a permanent Household Hazardous Waste drop off program at Public Works during the current fiscal year.
- 8. Board direction.

Recommendation:

Options #1 - #7, and any other direction the Board wishes to provide in the development of the FY 2022 Preliminary Budget.

Attachments:

- 1. CARES Community Impact Report
- 2. I2 Summary
- 3. Cost Savings Summary Matrix
- 4. Revised Personnel Policies and Procedures Section 5.03.1
- 5. Outside Agency Midyear Performance Reviews and Report
- 6. Revised Fiscal Planning Policy 93-44
- 7. Resolution and Budget Amendment for Hazardous Waste Technician



I² Award - Cost Savings Breakdown (Since Inception)

Fiscal Year	Project Title	ial Cost ings*	e Time : Savings
FY21	Virtual Health Fair	\$ -	\$ -
FY21	In-house Printing of BoCC Envelopes	\$ 4,984	\$ -
FY21	(In-house) Business Card Printing	\$ 6,700	\$ -
FY21	(In-house) BoCC Letterhead Savings	\$ 475	\$ -
FY21	Pilot Program - Ambulance On-Board Battery System	\$ 11,000	\$ -
FY21	Nonprofit Assistance Grant Program - Internal Implementation	\$ -	\$ 975,000
FY20	Leon CARES Rollout	\$ -	\$ -
	Leon CARES Individual Assistance Program Citizen Outreach and		
FY20	Payment Process	\$ -	\$ -
FY20	Census 2020	\$ -	\$ -
FY20	Physical Distancing Gator Graphic	\$ -	\$ -
FY20	Sign Truck Cost Savings	\$ -	\$ 21,000
FY20	Woodville Branch Library Renovation	\$ -	\$ 10,088
FY20	Leon County Historical Scavenger Hunt	\$ -	\$ -
FY20	Launch of Virtual Learning and NEOGOV Learn	\$ -	\$ -
FY20	Deep Cleaning	\$ -	\$ 75,545
FY20	"Always Open" Web page	\$ -	\$ 6,312
FY20	Leon County HSCP - Neighborly Online Platform Integration	\$ 10,671	\$ -
FY20	COVID-19 Work from Home Technology Team	\$ -	\$ -
FY20	Radio Control Airfield Relocation	\$ -	\$ 180,000
FY20	Sunset Landing	\$ -	\$ 3,290
FY20	Virtual Commission Meeting Team	\$ -	\$ -
FY20	County Staging for Coronavirus Response	\$ -	\$ -
FY20	Launch of the NEOGOV Perform Appraisal System	\$ -	\$ -
FY20	Step Up Challenge	\$ -	\$ -
FY20	Right Sizing the Library's Collection, Creating Local and Regional Benefits	\$ -	\$ -
FY20	Solid Waste Liner Repair	\$ -	\$ 262,518
FY20	Big Picture Planning	\$ -	\$ -
FY20	Equitable Fire Services Billing	\$ 185,000	\$ -
FY19	CosmicCon 2019	\$ -	\$ -
FY19	Operation Millings Savings	\$ 100,000	\$ -
FY19	Collaborative Reuse with Habitat for Humanity/Smarter Sorting	\$ -	\$ -
FY19	Expanded IDA Alcohol Testing Hours	\$ 4,878	\$ -
FY19	Transfer Station Power Loss	\$ -	\$ 15,850
FY19	Storm Damage Fee Refund Program	\$ -	\$ -
FY19	Going the Extra Mile for Those in Need	\$ -	\$ -
FY19	DSEM DBPR Internship for Inspectors and Plans Examiners	\$ -	\$ -
FY19	Protecting Our Most Vulnerable Population Before Hurricane Season	\$ -	\$ -
FY19	Outlook and Employee ID Photo Project	\$ -	\$ 4,000
FY19	Stay and Play	\$ -	\$ -
FY19	Vermicomposting Pilot Project	\$ -	\$ -
FY19	Citizens Committee Tracking Application	\$ 18,000	\$ -
FY19	Building Permit ICU	\$ -	\$ -
FY19	Natural Bridge Sidewalk Project	\$ -	\$ 11,122
FY19	Campground Reservation System	\$ 35,379	\$ 50,000

FY19	Developing an Alternative for the Library Card Digitization Project	\$ -	\$ 27,800
FY19	Permit Routing Consistency Manual	\$ _	\$
FY19	Sidewalk Inventory & ADA Compliance Reporting	\$ -	\$ -
FY19	#WOWWednesday	\$ -	\$ -
FY19	Disaster Technology	\$ -	\$ -
FY19	Souper Bowl	\$ -	\$ -
FY18	Ambulance Refurbishment Project	\$ 135,000	\$ -
FY18	Class 3 East and Class 3 West Closure Project	\$ -	\$ 176,969
FY18	Bike Month 2018	\$ _	\$ -
FY18	Record Household Hazardous Waste Collection Season	\$ -	\$ -
FY18	Created Equal	\$ -	\$ -
FY18	Emergency Mapping of Northeast Multi-Use Trail	\$ -	\$ -
FY18	Initial Damage Assessment Tools	\$ -	\$ -
FY18	IV vs. IO Research Project by EMS	\$ -	\$ -
FY18	Leon County LINK Contract with Democrat	\$ 53,763	\$ -
FY18	Oracle Licensing Savings	\$ -	\$ 282,150
FY18	Partnership w/ CareerSource for Summer Youth Training Program	\$ 40,000	\$ -
FY18	ReNew Latex Paint Program	\$ 3,200	\$ _
FY18	Separating the Landfill Closure contract	\$ -	\$ 3,600,000
FY18	Solid Waste Stormwater Pond Construction (Landfill Closure)	\$ -	\$ 313,000
FY18	Developing Apalachee Regional Park Signage In-House	\$ _	\$ 10,000
FY18	IDA Employment and Community Resource Fair	\$ -	\$ -
FY18	Renovation of Refuge House	\$ -	\$ 133,349
FY18	Local Update of Census Addresses	\$ _	\$ -
FY18	Bluecat DNS Server	\$ 2,500	\$ 14,937
FY18	Leon Learns Training Portal	\$ -	\$ -
FY17	Citizen Rescue at Miles Johnson Road	\$ -	\$ -
FY17	Leon County Kickball	\$ _	\$ -
FY17	EMS Safety Fair	\$ _	\$ _
FY17	Reducing Costs for Public Notifications	\$ 13,200	\$ -
FY17	2017 Leon County Disaster Survival Guide	\$ -	\$ -
FY17	Enhanced Citizens Connect App - Emergency Info Push Notifications	\$ _	\$ _
FY17	EOC Mini-Video Wall	\$ _	\$ 12,500
FY17	Creative Space Utilization - Sheriff's Office	\$ 19,200	\$ 75,000
FY17	DSEM Digital Signage	\$ -	\$ 10,000
FY17	Development Proposal Notification Sign Purchases	\$ 1,200	\$ -
FY17	Clerk Phone System Upgrade	\$ -	\$ -
FY17	Library Telescope Lending Program	\$ -	\$ -
FY16	Wakulla Bus Crash	\$ -	\$ -
FY16	Orchard Pond Parkway	\$ -	\$ -
FY16	Natural Bridge Replacement	\$ -	\$ -
FY16	Library Tree	\$ -	\$ -
FY16	Intervention and Detention Alternatives Point of Sale Solution	\$ -	\$ -
FY16	Intersection Safety Improvement	\$ -	\$ -
FY16	Leachate Treatment and Disposal Overbilling Correction	\$ 432,000	\$ -
FY16	Hazardous Waste Program	\$ -	\$ -
FY16	Leon Trees Cost Avoidance	\$ 46,000	\$ -
FY16	Green Infrastructure	\$ -	\$ -
FY16	Animal Control Schedule Modifications Cost Savings	\$ 108,706	\$ -
FY16	Water Consumption Analysis - Overbilling Correction	\$ 6,120	\$ 21,528
FY16	Operation Save - Overbilling Correction	\$ -	\$ 6,700
FY16	Special Event Grant Online Application Staff Time Savings	\$ 11,000	\$ -
FY16	Kinhega Roundabout - Signal Maintenance Cost Avoidance	\$ 6,000	
FY16	9/11 Day of Remembrance	\$ -	\$ -

FY15	Bucket List Book Club	\$ -	\$ -
FY15	Library Public PC Refresh Project Cost Avoidance	\$ 277,605	\$ -
FY15	Printer Consolidation and Copier Management	\$ 195,879	\$ -
FY15	Waste Stream Tire Elimination	\$ 108,000	\$ -
FY15	DV,SV,Stalking Workplace Training	\$ -	\$ -
FY15	Chaires Park Drainage Project - Schedule Cost Savings	\$ -	\$ 36,573
FY15	William Campground Renovations	\$ -	\$ -
FY15	Killearn Lakes-Pitter Partnership Mobilization Cost Avoidance	\$ -	\$ 10,000
	Subtotal	\$ 1,836,460	\$ 6,345,231
	Total Cost Savings	\$ 8,181,691	

*Note: Annual Cost savings is adjusted to reflect total annual cost savings since the date it was awarded.

Attachment #3 Page 1 of 1

Cost Avoidance Efforts		FY13	FY14		FY15	FY16	FY17		FY18	FY19	FY	20	FY21		Summary
Courthouse Sealant and Softwash													\$ 13,000,000		13,000,000
Public Works Building Roof Repair													\$ 375,000	\$	375,000
Sheriff Evidence Building											\$ 10,0	00,000		\$	10,000,000
Boat Ramp Maintenance by State DEP											\$4	00,000		\$	400,000
Sheriff Training Facility										\$ 800,000				\$	800,000
Capital Building Maintenance Approach avoidance								\$3	,100,000					\$	3,100,000
Career Source Partnership								\$	84,000					\$	84,000
Insurance Savings								\$	54,253					\$	54,253
EMS Billing Savings								\$	100,000					\$	100,000
Landscape Mulching								\$	6,600					\$	6,600
PSC Regulate Water Utilities								\$	100,000					\$	100,000
Orchard Pond Parkway Multi-Use Trail								\$	615,000					\$	615,000
Landfill dirt hauling, closing cells, stormwater								\$3	,600,000					\$	3,600,000
Chaires Ballfield								\$ 1	,000,000					\$	1,000,000
IDA Credit Cards								\$	25,000					\$	25,000
Evidence Vault								\$	50,000					\$	50,000
County Financial System Replacement Avoidance							\$ 5,000,000							\$	5,000,000
Homeland Cyber Security Program							\$ 75,000							\$	75,000
Fuel Savings						\$ 318,000								\$	318,000
Debt Savings(refinance)				\$	170,000	\$ 300,000								\$	470,000
Utility Savings				\$	500,000									\$	500,000
Co-locate Probation and Pre-Trial Programs				\$	75,000									\$	75,000
Cross Training of Environmental and Engineering Inspectors				\$	110,980									\$	110,980
Facilities Management Maintenance Reorganization			\$ 105,825											\$	105,825
Reduce Library Book Mobile and Courier Services			\$ 72,353											\$	72,353
Cross Departmental Team Equipment Sharing			\$ 250,000											\$	250,000
Mahan Drive Right of Way Maintenance			\$ 290,000											\$	290,000
Centralized Printing			\$ 52,293											\$	52,293
Construction of Consolidated Supervisor of Elections Office	\$	10,000,000												\$	10,000,000
Opening Expanded Branch Libraries with Existing Staff	\$	260,978												\$	260,978
Human Services/Veteran's Services Reorganization	\$	51,597												\$	51,597
Realignment of Solid Waste Staff to Parks and Recreation	\$	82,503												\$	82,503
Purchasing Division Reorganization	\$	60,000												\$	60,000
Consolidation of Administrative Functions	\$	92,414												\$	92,414
Veteran's Direct Emergency Assistance	\$	10,000												\$	10,000
Consolidation of Community and Media Relations Functions	Ś	53,135												Ś	53,135
	\$	10,610,627	\$ 770,471	\$	855,980	\$ 618,000	\$ 5,075,000	\$8	,734,853	\$ 800,000	\$ 10.4	00,000	\$ 13,375,000	\$	51,239,931
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I squared to date														Ś	8,181,691
i squared to date														ş	0,101,091

Total Cost Avoidance and I squared savings

8,181,691 59,421,622

\$

5.03 Changes in Pay

5.03.1 Promotion

Upon a promotion of one grade level, the employee will receive 5% or will be placed at the new grade minimum whichever is greater. Upon a promotion of two grade levels, the employee will receive 10% or will be placed at the new grade minimum whichever is greater.

<u>Career Service</u> – Upon a promotion of <u>one</u> grade level, the employee will receive \$2,000 added to their base pay **or** 5% added to their base pay **or** the new pay grade minimum, whichever is greater;

Upon a promotion of <u>two</u> grade levels, the employee will receive 10% added to their base pay **or** the new pay grade minimum, whichever is greater;

Upon a promotion to a Senior Management position, the employee will receive 15% added to their base pay **or** the new pay grade minimum, whichever is greater.

<u>Senior Management</u> – Upon a promotion, the employee will receive 10% added to their base pay **or** the new pay grade minimum, whichever is greater.

In no case will the promotional increase place an employee's salary above the maximum of the assigned pay grade, even if this results in less than a 5% increase.

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Leon County Government Mid-Year Report: Outside Agency Contract Funding

Background:

As part of the FY 2017 Budget process, outside agencies funding was categorized into one of the following three categories:

- Community Human Services Partnership (CHSP)
- A special event agency sponsorship
- A contractual relationship to provide a specific service to the County with measurable reporting requirements

Providing funding in these three categories ensures that County funds are expended and aligned with County ordinances, policies and Board priorities. This approach is consistent with the County Discretionary Funding Ordinance which excludes agencies applying for direct County funding if the agencies program is eligible for CHSP funding. Not-for-profit, humans service organizations providing services for groups such as emergency and basic needs (homelessness, hunger, and emergency care, e.g., children, and persons with disabilities, can apply for funding through the CHSP process. This ensures that funding requests are reviewed as part of a holistic community-based process in an equitable and competitive manner with proper oversight.

For one-time payments for unique events such as Celebrate America (4th of July), or the Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration, the Board has determined that these events are beneficial to the community and warrant County sponsorship. The funds assist in promoting and running these events. Alternatively, events that qualify for Tourist Development funding, such as the New Year's Eve Celebration, annually apply through a competitive process with the Tourist Development Council.

The users of the specific agency services may vary, but the agencies provide an overall community benefit. For many of the entities, the level of service would not exist without local government support. To confirm outside agency contracts receive oversight, Fiscal Policy No. 93-44 requires that as part of the annual budget process, staff prepare a budget discussion item providing a midyear performance report.

Analysis:

Table #1 lists the outside agencies and funding levels for the current fiscal year. As required by their contract, each agency is required to submit a midyear report. These reports are included.

Outside Agency	FY21 Funding	FY22 Recommendation
Legal Services of North Florida	\$257,500	\$257,500
DISC Village	\$222,759	\$222,759
Tallahassee Senior Citizens Foundation	\$179,000	\$179,000
St. Francis Wildlife Association	\$71,250	\$71,250
Tallahassee Trust for Historic Preservation	\$63,175	\$63,175
Whole Child Leon	\$38,000	\$38,000
Domestic Violence Coordinating Council	\$25,000	\$25,000
United Partners for Human Services	\$23,750	\$23,750
Oasis Center in support of the Commission on the Status Women & Girls	\$20,000	\$20,000
Sustainable Tallahassee/Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC)	\$8,800	\$8,800
Total	\$909,234	\$909,234

Table #1: FY 2021 Adopted Outside Agency Funding & FY 2022 Recommendations

FY 2021 Agency Midyear Report Highlights and Funding Recommendations

This item recommends all 10 of the agencies receive level funding. Additionally, In October 2020, Sustainable Tallahassee sent a letter to the County notifying that due to staffing and organizational structure, Sustainable Tallahassee no longer has the capacity to serve as the Sustainability Compact Administrator. As result, at the November 17, 2020 meeting, the Board approved providing Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) \$4,970 of the \$8,800 allocated to Sustainable Tallahassee to serve in the Compact Administrator role for the remainder of FY 2021. The remaining balance of \$3,830, was provided as one-time funding for Sustainable Tallahassee to assist them through their new strategic planning process. All mid-year performance summaries and metrics listed below represent activities performed during the reporting period of October 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021.

The Following Agencies are Recommended at the Current Contract Funding Level:

Legal Services of North Florida (\$257,500)

Funding Requirement: \$132,500 in base funding is statutorily required. \$125,000 is optional.

Service Provided: Legal Service of North Florida provides legal assistance to low income individuals to ensure equal access to the court system.

Midyear Report Analysis:

- Provided civil legal representation to 1,570 Leon County residents
- Obtained 46 Protective Orders between October 1, 2020 and February 28, 2021
- Successfully defended 8 evictions
- o Obtained dissolution of 58 domestic violence-related marriages
- Obtained/Maintained custody of 4 children
- Avoided 7 foreclosures through filing of chapter 13 Bankruptcy, mortgage modifications and court defenses.

DISC Village (\$222,759)

Funding Requirement: \$222,759 required funding.

Service Provided: DISC Village maintains the operations of the Juvenile Assessment and Receiving Center (JARC) by providing the mandatory onsite security and supervision of arrested youth. If Leon County did not fund DISC Village for this service, funding would need to be provided to the Sheriff to create a juvenile assessment center.

Midyear Report Analysis:

- Served 62 participants in the Civil Citation Program
- Ages of participants in civil citation program: Under 12=9.7%; 12 to 15=61.3%; and 16 to 18=29.0%
- o Served 308 participants in the Juvenile Assessment Center
- o 95% of youth were assessed and engaged in program sanctions within the first month.

Tallahassee Senior Citizens Foundation (\$179,000)

Funding Requirement: Funding is optional.

Service Provided: The Tallahassee Senior Citizen Foundation hosts a variety of classes, workshops and support groups for senior citizens in the rural, unincorporated communities of Leon County at the County's six community centers (Ft. Braden, Miccosukee, Lake Jackson, Woodville, Chaires, and Bradfordville Community Center/NE Library).

Midyear Report Analysis:

- Number of Participants in the Leon County Senior Outreach Program: 1,052
- 6 monthly drive-thru events were held at the Tallahassee Senior Center parking lot. GaP families drove through to pick up lunches for the grand-family and a bag of resource material. An average of 38 participants attended the drive-thru each month.
- o 10 virtual GaP meetings were held via Zoom with educational presentations each month.
- 15 meetings of an evening support group in collaboration with the Circle of Parents program were held virtually via Zoom. Meetings were originally held monthly, but due to COVID-19, the frequency has increased to every other week. Attendance at these meetings has increased and new people are joining. An average of 8 participants attended each meeting.
- Small outdoor classes started in December and include one art and two fitness classes. These classes are limited in size and follow COVID-19 safety protocols such as wearing masks and social distancing.
- o 146 unduplicated participants registered in "Grandparents as Parents" (GAP)

St. Francis Wildlife Association (\$71,250)

Funding Requirement: Funding is optional.

Service Provided: St. Francis responds to calls regarding injured or nuisance wildlife in the unincorporated area of Leon County.

Midyear Report Analysis:

- Logged over 105 animal intakes and attempted rescues and included in that number, 30 were Rabies Vector Species of raccoons, foxes, and bats
- Each week, SSFW staff posts new patient stories and updates, and educational messages. Several young animal videos have received over 5,000 views and are considered to be "viral".
- Maintains a 24/7 rescue staff that responds to calls for animal assistance and a facility that can accommodate a maximum of about 200 animals

Tallahassee Trust for Historic Preservation (TTHP) (\$63,175)

Funding Requirement: Funding is required.

Service Provided: Pursuant to Policy 1.1.1 of the Comprehensive Plan, the trust provides technical support for the identification, documentation, evaluation, preservation and protection of historic resources. Provides staffing for the Architectural Review Board and performs the required reviews in support of the County's Historic Preservation Ordinance.

Midyear Report Analysis:

- Inclusion on the Tallahassee-Leon County Local Register of Historic Places, the Lake Hall School House. The Lake Hall School House is significant as one of the few historic black schools in the state of Florida that remains on its original site.
- Inclusion on the Local Register of Historic Places, Roberts-Landers Frenchtown Shopping Center/Economy Drug, located at 301-329 N. Macomb Street and 469 W. Virginia Street. The shopping center is one of the few remaining structures which allow for connection with the history of the community and the historic built environment.
- Online outreach and education via social media outlets. Outreach has been limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic which has not allowed for in-person outreach activities. Currently, outreach includes successful and well received driving tours of historic districts and sites.
- TTHP staff are conducting an ongoing architectural survey project of Mid-Century Contemporary architecture. Outreach has begun in neighborhoods to provide education regarding the project, it's meaning and potential outcomes.
- Maintains a list to provide a forum and informational service for historic property owners.
- TTHP staff have provided training and support to members of the Old Town Neighborhood Association for ongoing architectural survey of the Old Town Neighborhood.

Whole Child Leon (\$38,000)

Funding Requirement: Funding is optional.

Service Provided: Whole Child Leon provides referrals to human service agencies for children with special needs.

Midyear Report Analysis:

- Whole Child Leon has created a forum where issues concerning children and family wellbeing are presented, followed by facilitated discussion around service delivery issues affecting children and families. There were 358 total attendees throughout 5 forums.
- Conducted Early Childhood Education and Empowerment Workgroups each month.
- o 142 unduplicated clients serviced in a six-month period

 Status of the Child and Community report was presented, and it highlights key indicators on the conditions of children birth to age 5 and beyond in Leon County. By providing highquality data trend analysis, seeking to enrich local and state discussions concerning better ways to secure a brighter future for all children. The report also serves as a critical advocacy tool to raise the visibility of children's issues through a nonpartisan, evidence-based lens.

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (\$25,000)

Funding Requirement: Funding is optional.

Service Provided: The Domestic Violence Coordinating Council is the area's task force on domestic violence and provides a coordinated community response to domestic violence, as well as, public awareness and education events.

Midyear Report Analysis:

- October Facing the Facts on Abusive Relationships feat. survivor Kisha Wilkinson. Our first Livestream, this event drew about 85 viewers live and the video has subsequently been viewed 125 times. This event was professionally produced and featured an interactive discussion with viewers posing questions to our panel of experts following the survivor speaker.
- November the DVCC held its final zoom meeting of the year. DVCC welcomed many new members and interns who continually discuss ways of improving the community's response to domestic violence. DVCC faced a significant challenge this year due to the pandemic. In spite of the rising number of domestic violence cases during long quarantines, members found creative ways to locate and help those in need. DVCC continually offered ideas and best practices to one another and worked more closely than ever to be sure the community has a well-coordinated community response to victims, even during lock downs.
- Peer Advisor Workshops After much consideration and enforcement of strict health and safety guidelines the DVCC provided two in-person Peer Advisor workshops in October and November. They were successful even though interaction had to be limited and teens were spaced apart from one another. This led to the ongoing development of a series of shorter online dating abuse lessons to be used in intervals as training tools. Two additional workshops were offered via Zoom.
- PSAs the DVCC has developed a short promotional video on domestic violence and a second one on dating abuse aimed at students aged 13-25. These have been shared extensively around DVCC social media and YouTube channels, and will soon be airing on local television stations.

United Partners for Human Services (\$23,750)

Funding Requirement: Funding is optional.

Service Provided: United Partners for Human Services is a coalition of human service providers and supporting partners working together to improve the delivery of human services in the Big Bend.

Midyear Report Analysis:

- United Partners for Human Services has hosted over 26 workshops, trainings and forums.
- Assisted over 120 UPHS Member Agencies technical assistance with applying and receiving Leon CARES Funding totaling more than \$3.2M for human service organizations.
- Collaborated with COCA, INIE and Sachs Media to develop and reveal the findings of a recent local survey on the Big Bend community's awareness of the significant role and impact that nonprofits have on our local economy.
- Established formal partnerships with the Leon County Sheriff's Office, Tallahassee Police Department, Public Defender's Office and Leon County Schools to further advance of mission of enhancing the delivery of human services.
- United Partners for Human Services added 19 new agencies to its membership in the last 6 months.

Oasis Center for Women & Girls -Commission on Status of Women and Girls (\$20,000)

Funding Requirement: Funding is optional.

Service Provided: Oasis Center serves as the agency staffing the Tallahassee-Leon County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls (CSWG). The Commission provides policy recommendations to the County and the City on issues that impact women and girls in the community. Annually, at the end of the fiscal year, CSWG/Oasis provides an update to the Board during a regularly scheduled Commission meeting. In addition to outreach and awareness events activities planned by Oasis on behalf of the CSWG for FY 2021 include:

- Partnered with 12 local girls service agencies to research the impact of the pandemic on Tallahassee-Leon County female students.
- Facilitated local experts presenting at every 2020-2021 CSWG committee or Commission meeting to expand the knowledge of current services, programs, and Needs.
- Increased communications with Leon County Commissioners, meeting at least once annually one on one with each elected official
- Conducted extensive research on national and state level best practices for pandemic-specific support services for young women
- Partnered with Leon County Schools to research and plan expanded access to free menstrual products in local middle and high schools.

Sustainable Tallahassee/Apalachee Regional Planning Council (\$8,800)

Funding Requirement: Funding is optional.

Service Provided: Sustainable Tallahassee assisted with the transition of services provided by Apalachee Regional Planning Council. ARPC serves as the Administrator of meetings which involve public awareness of local food initiatives; individual, civic, and community involvement in the growing, selling, buying, and consumption of local foods; and increasing home gardening in the City and County.

Midyear Report Analysis:

- Normalized schedule for the year.
- Hosted 6 meetings for the year.
- Set goal for Steering Committee to have Greenhouse Gas inventories created by end of the year.
- One-on-one meetings with Steering Committee members throughout the year.
- Presented CASC Charter amendments at April 15, 2021 meeting.

Legal Services of North Florida

EXHIBIT B

(October - March)

Agency Performance Report Format & Instructions

Agency Name: Legal Services of North Florida

Please provide the following information and please keep the report to a maximum of five pages. (Not including attachments)

- 1. Program Name: Legal Services of North Florida
- 2. Program Objective: To provide free legal representation to individuals and families primarily with incomes under 125% of the federal poverty guidelines.
- 3. Services provided: Legal representation with priority emphasis on preservation of the home and promotion of home ownership; support for families and improved outcomes for children; promotion of employment, economic security, and health; promotion of safety and stability; and protection of vulnerable populations.
- 4. Services Delivery Strategy: To work collectively through partnering with community-based organizations and social service agencies. LSNF provides public education and outreach on legal issues in a variety of substantive areas and sponsors regular clinics to enable the working poor to have access to attorneys. LSNF also provides direct legal assistance to individuals who apply through our various intake or referral processes.
- 5. Target Population: Leon County residents whose adjusted income does not exceed 125% of the federal poverty guidelines who are experiencing a variety of civil legal problems.
- 6. Method used to effectively reach target population: LSNF regularly visits or provides services at many partner organizations, including the Refuge House, senior citizen centers, and the Kearney Center/Hope Community Center. We hold low-income tax workshops and distribute brochures describing our services to many social and community service agency offices and at community events. We also provide information on our website: www.LSNF.org.
- 7. Program Resources: Attachment A (Input: Resource including \$ amount directly related to program. Ex: employees, volunteers, materials, etc.)
- 8. Program Capacity: The program provides hope and justice for all though a multilingual, multicultural, dedicated staff including 10 attorneys; 4 paralegals, secretarial staff, and a pro bono pool of over 300 active members. Oversight of the project is provided by the Executive Director (26 years of experience); Director of Litigation (46 years of experience); and Managing Attorney (27 years of experience).
- 9. Number of Participants: <u>1,570</u> Cost per Participant: <u>\$98.87</u>
- 10. List 5 highlights your agency has performed in the past six months:

- In the wake of the pandemic, LSNF's deliberate focus on building relationships with community partners to improve outcomes for clients proved its value. With so many residents facing threat of eviction or foreclosure, barriers to accessing unemployment compensation, barriers receiving stimulus checks, and employment issues, LSNF staff were able to work directly with staff at other human services agencies to coordinate services and find the best solution for each person. We worked closely with Leon County staff to ensure as much understanding of the Leon CARES rental assistance process and to voice concerns and barriers faced by our clients in the process. We successfully recruit students from the FSU College of Law's Business Law classes to assist clients in these applications, under the supervision of an attorney, as part of them better understanding business processes. These students learned more about client interviewing skills, the challenges of poverty, and how an administrative process works. At the same time, their help allowed LSNF to provide assistance to many more tenants.
- Ms. Smith* is a single mother of two teenage children who was facing eviction at the time she contacted our office, after being laid off during the pandemic. Ms. Smith had also been in and out of the hospital due to personal health issues, so she was unable to actively participate in a lot of her eviction proceedings. We were able to appear on her behalf, continue the case, instruct her on the use of a CDC Declaration to protect her, along with assist her in applying for Leon CARES benefits, to help Ms. Smith receive the rental assistance she needed to pay her rent and end the eviction action. Her landlord was extremely abrasive, and we were able to act as a go-between with respect to the negotiations and dismissal of the case.
- Mr. Jones* had received a 15-day notice from his landlord. He was behind on rent due to job loss from COVID. LSNF reached out to opposing counsel and negotiated a settlement agreement. The landlord accepted Leon CARES for back rent and is allowing client to continue tenancy for the rest of the year. Mr. Jones and landlord have the option to continue the tenancy with no additional costs to the tenant. Mr. Jones was approved for financial assistance through Leon CARES.
- LSNF learned of the Richardson* Family who was facing a writ of possession and removal from the home the next morning. The family was caring for their elderly mother who was under hospice care. They had withheld rent due to a caving in roof and sewage backed up into their yard. Our attorney worked quickly to file a motion to stay the writ of possession. The entire eviction case was dismissed, with demands made for the landlord to repair the property, and our attorney is now working on helping the family relocate to a safer home.
- LSNF advocate helped Ms. Browning* who had been denied Social Security disability three times. She tried to work part time to make ends meet but her health conditions made it very difficult. Once COVID hit, finding work as a substitute teacher was impossible. LSNF represented Ms. Browning in her Social Security hearing and she received a favorable outcome from the Administrative Law Judge who decided that her medical conditions along with the national economy in the wake of COVID meant she would be unable to continue working. The ALJ in her remarks praised LSNF's advocate and LSNF for their work on behalf of the less fortunate.

*All names have been changed to protect confidentiality.

11. Program Goals:

- a. Short-term: Short-term: Provide 1,600 Leon County residents with legal advice, referrals or brief legal services only. LSNF has completed service, through advice, referral, and brief services to 556 households, with ongoing services to 930 residents.
- b. Intermediate: Deliver 216 extended representation services to Leon County residents within one year after case acceptance. LSNF has completed extended representation to 49 residents. We determine level of service at time of closure and ongoing services continue for 930 residents. Many eviction and foreclosure actions remain on hold with the court.
- c. Long-term: Deliver 184 extended representation services to Leon County residents after one year from the date of case acceptance. LSNF has completed extended services beyond a year to 35 residents. We determine level of service at time of closure and ongoing services continue for 930 residents.
- 12. Objectives (Intended impact/outcome results)
 - a. Activities Provided civil legal representation to 1,570 Leon County residents
 - b. Time Frame: October 1, 2020 February 28, 2021
 - c. Key Performance Indicators (Quantifiable) Statistically driven Measurables
 - d. Outcome Measures: **Attachment B** (*Benefits or changes for participants during and after their involvement with the program*)
- 13. Data Collection Method: Case Management System
- 14. Number of Participants that left or were dropped from the program: 367 Rejected (of which 218 had been accepted for representation)
- 15. Provide Participants demographic data:

RACE:	Veterans: 80
Arabic: 1	Limited English Speaking: 61
Asian: 13	
Black: 872	Male: 438
Group: 18	Female: 1,069
Hispanic: 68	Group: 18
Multi-Race: 19	
Native: 8	Disabled: 539
White: 500	
Other: 71	Homeless: 115

- 16. If possible, please provide participant program satisfaction data (surveys, etc.): We provide survey upon completion of cases. Since October 1, 2020, we have averaged a 95% satisfaction rating in Leon County. Survey Tools attached as **Attachment C**.
- 17. List any agency partnerships and collaborations related to this program. Attachment D

7. Program Resources:

Actual Expenditure Detail	Leon County Funding	Other Revenue Sources	Total	
Compensation and Benefits	\$136,373	\$358,079	\$494,452	
Professional Fees	\$1,524	\$3,996	\$5,520	
Occupancy/Utilites/Network	\$5,231	\$13,734	\$18,965	
Supplies/Postage	\$1,776	\$4,666	\$6,442	
Equipment Rental/Maint/Purch	\$4,451	\$11,686	\$16,137	
Meeting Costs/Travel/Transpor	\$270	\$709	\$979	
Staff/Bd Development/Recruit	\$811	\$2,128	\$2,939	
Awards/Grants/Direct Aid	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Bad Debts/Uncollectible	\$0	\$0	\$0	
Bonding/Liability/Directors Ins	\$2,913	\$7,647	\$10,560	
Other Expenses				
Library	\$335	\$878	\$1,213	
Bar Dues / Membership Dues	\$714	\$1,873	\$2,587	
Lititgation	\$824	\$2,164	\$2,988	
Bank Fees; Credit Card Fees	\$0	\$723	\$723	
Fundraising Expenses	\$0	\$3,830	\$3,830	
Total	\$155,222	\$412,113	\$567,335	

LSNF OUTCOME MEASURES (for cases closed)												
October 1, 2020 - February 28, 2021												
Source for	Outcomes	Totals										
Information												
Main Benefits	Obtained Protective Orders	46										
Accomplished	Obtained dissolution of marriages that were domestic	58										
	violence related											
	Avoided foreclosure through filing of Chapter 13	7										
	Bankruptcy; mortgage modifications; and court defenses.											
	Obtain/Maintain Custody of Children	4										
	Defended evictions	8										
	Obtained/Restored Clear Title	2										
	Stopped or reduced debt collection, garnishment of wages,	7										
	unfair sales practices; and resolved credit reporting errors											
	Obtained other tax relief	40										
	Obtained Wills and Advanced Directives	7										
	FINANCIAL IMPACT											
Financial	Annualized Child Support	\$64,308.24										
Outcome and	Avoided Deficiency Judgement/Stopped Garnishment and	\$31,600.00										
Recovery	Reduced Debt Collection											
	Obtained Tax Relief	\$92,036.50										
	Obtained Stimulus Checks	\$22,800.00										
	Obtained Public Benefits (Annualized)	\$8,800.00										
	Housing	\$99,550.00										

Dear Client:

This questionnaire is a tool to help us serve you better. Please circle, on a scale of one to ten, how you feel about each question asked. Please return this questionnaire in the enclosed envelope within the next two weeks.

Were you given adequate notice of your court hearing? Circle the appropriate response.

I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	IO
Not	at all							Very Go	bod

 How well did your attorney/legal assistant explain to you what you could expect from Legal Services of North Florida?

I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	IO
Not	well at all	L						Very W	ell

Do you feel your attorney/legal assistant moved your case along adequately?

I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Too Slo	w							Very F	ast

Did your attorney/legal assistant return your phone calls?

I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	IO
Never								Alway	s

Upon contacting Legal Services, did your problem receive prompt attention?

I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	IO
Not a	at all						1	Very Pror	npt

6. Was the staff at Legal Services courteous and friendly?

I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	IO
Not	at all							Very Mu	ıch

Was/were the problem(s) you came in for solved to your liking?

I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Not	at all							Very Go	od

8. If you had a legal problem in the future, would you come back to Legal Services for help?

I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Never									Yes

Did you feel the office was run like other private law offices?

I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	IO
Not	at all							Bett	er Than

How well do you rate our intake procedure? Please comment on back of survey.

I	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	IO
Not (Good							Ve	ry Good

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this questionnaire.

Dear Client:

This questionnaire is a tool to help us serve you better. Please circle, on a scale of one to ten, how you feel about each question asked. Please return this questionnaire in the enclosed envelope within the next two weeks.

1.	Upon	contacting	Legal Servic	es, did you	r problei	m receive p	rompt attention	n?	
1 Not at	2 all	3	4	5	б	7	8	9	10 Very Prompt
2.	Was th	ne staff at I	legal Service	s courteous	s and frie	endly?			
1 Not at	2 all	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Very Much
3.	Diđ yo	u find the	advice or lin	nited action	helpful	?			
1 Not at	2 all	3	4	5	б	7	8	9	10 Very Good
4.	If you	had a lega	l problem in	the future, v	would ye	ou come ba	ck to Legal Se	rvices for h	elp?
1 Never	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Yes
5.	How e	asy was it	to apply for (our services	?				
1 Not Ea	2 asy	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10 Very Easy

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this questionnaire.

	WORKSHOPS/	COUNTY 'CLINICS AND C - February 28, 1	OLLABORATIONS 2021
		OPS/CLINICS	
Advanced Directives Clinic		4	
Family Law Clinic			
Night Clinic			
Probate Clinic			
Senior Centers Clinic			
Small Claims Clinic			
Kearney Center Law Clinic			
Medical Legal Partnership Clinic			
Mobile Law Clinic		5	
			ц,
	1	ONS/OUTREAC	
Kearney Center	Refuge House		Leon County Sheriff Office
Early Childhood Group	Children's Home		Grandparents as Parents (GAP)
Big Bend Homeless Coalition		h Services (CCYS)	Leon County DRC
FAMU Small Business Center	AAANF Coalition		Bond Community Center
DOMI Station for Small	FSU Intra-Agency	•	Orange Avenue United Tenants
Businesses	on Sexual Violen		Association
Greater Frenchtown	United Partners	for Human	Legal Aid Foundation of
Revitalization Council	Services		Tallahassee
Foster Parent Association	Leadership Tallal		Tallahassee Police Department
Clerk of the Circuit Court	FSU Victims Serv		FSU College of Law
Big Bend Hospice	Families First of		Frenchtown Market Place
Bethel Towers	Elder Care Servic	ces	Guardian Ad Litem
Tallahassee CRA	Lively Technical	-	United Way of the Big Bend
Downtown Improvement	Leon Adult and C	Community	Sexual Violence Court Advisory
Authority	Education Cente		Committee
ECHO	Tallahassee Seni	or Center	Lincoln Neighborhood Center
Providence Center	Community Action	on Agency	Tallahassee Housing Authority
Neighborhood Medical Center	Leon County Pro	mise Zone	TCC Hispanic Resources Festival
Black Law Students Association	Tallahassee Barr	isters	FSU Externship Program
Jake Gaither Community Center	Salvation Army		DCF WIC Program
Housing Leadership Council	Big Bend AFTER	Reentry Coalition	Tallahassee Women Lawyers
Big Bend Continuum of Care	Survive & Thrive	Advocacy Center	32304+ Prosperity for All
Tallahassee Bar	FSU Veteran Leg	al Clinic	Leon County Commission
Area Agency on Aging for North	NMC-Pasco Clini	c, Rickards High	Leon County Sheriff
FL (Advantage Aging Solutions)	School; Well Car	e	Department's Hispanic Resources
Sexual Assault Response Team	TCC Work Force	Development—	Leon County Emergency
(SART)	Commission on \	Nomen & Girls	Resources
RISE	Lively Technical	College-OAC	DEI Task Force

DISC Village

LCBCC Mid-Year Performance Report October 1, 20120 to March 31, 2021

Agency Name: DISC Village, Inc.

- 1. <u>Program Name</u>: Juvenile Assessment Center(JAC)/Civil Citation Program
- 2. <u>Program Objective</u>: To provide assessments, screenings and various other services to juveniles that have been referred by local law enforcement agencies.
- 3. <u>Services Provided</u>: Assessments, screenings, case management, case staffing, referrals, counseling, groups, urinalysis screens, community service projects and community outreach. One of the important functions of the JAC is the booking component, which is conducted by JAC Correctional Officers. By having Correctional Officers at the facility they are able to book youth that have committed crimes so that they can be fingerprinted in Live Scan and photographed in the Leon County Jail's photo imagining system. The Correctional Officers also provide the security for the facility.
- 4. <u>Service Delivery Strategy</u>: Providing assessments using the Global Appraisal of Individual Needs (GAIN), which is evidence based tool to assist in determining the risks and needs of the client. Also, having staff with training, experience and education in working with a juvenile population. The programs work with community stakeholders to determine what services to provide and how best to implement the services.
- 5. <u>Target Population</u>: At-risk juveniles
- 6. <u>Method Used to Effectively Reach Target Population</u>: The agency operates a twenty-four (24) hour a day facility, seven (7) days a week and three hundred and sixty-five (365) days a year, which provides law enforcement officers the ability to bring a youth in custody to a secure facility. The officers are able to complete their paperwork quickly and return to the streets to perform their main function of public safety. Also, meeting with our

stakeholders on at least a quarterly basis so they are aware of the services being provided and to ensure open lines of communication regarding program goals and trends within the community.

- 7. <u>Program Resources</u>: The JAC operates with approximately 20 employees consisting of one Director, one Coordinator, one Lead Screener, four full time and one part-time screener, four full time and one part-time technicians, and six full time and one part-time Correctional Officers. The Civil Citation program has 1 Case Manager as well as university student interns.
- 8. <u>Program Capacity</u>: The programs can serve as many juveniles that are referred by law enforcement officers.
- <u>Number of Participants</u>: Civil Citation= 62, <u>Cost per Participant</u>: <u>\$488.08</u>Total Cost \$30,261.11. JAC= 308 <u>Cost per Participant</u>: <u>\$1071.09</u> (Includes all cost associated with operating the Juvenile Assessment Center, not just the Correctional Officers.) <u>Total Cost</u>: <u>\$329,895.37</u>
- 10. Program Goals: For the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year <u>Short-Term Goals</u>- To ensure that youth coming through the programs receive an assessment to determine their risk factors and needs. <u>Intermediate Goals</u>- To ensure through case staffing that youth are receiving the appropriate recommendations for services, sanctions, diversion programs and referrals. <u>Long-Term Goals</u>- for the JAC to enhance public safety and improve service delivery for youth and their families. The Civil Citation program will divert first time offending misdemeanor youth from the overburdened juvenile justice system.
- 11. <u>Objectives:</u> For the 2020-2021 2nd Quarter Fiscal Year: The JAC's objectives are that 45% or more of youth screened at the JAC on new charges will not be re-arrested for 12 months following the date screened. The data reflects that this goal was met by showing that 43.80% of youth re-offended up to 12 months after being screened at the JAC. The objective of 85% or more of youth presented to the JAC will be released from the center within six hours or arriving. The data reflects that this goal was met by showing that 94.8% of the youth were released within six hours of arriving at the facility. The Civil Citation program objectives are that 85% or more of program participants will be assessed and engaged in program sanctions within the first month of being referred. The data reflects that this goal was met by showing that 95% or more of the clients that complete satisfaction surveys will report satisfaction with program services. The data indicates that the goal was met by 100% of program

participants that completed surveys were satisfied with services provided. The objective of 85% or more of program participants that successfully complete the program will not re-offend for at least 12 months following program discharge. The data reflects that this goal was met by showing that 93% of the youth successfully discharged from the program did not re-offend 12 months from program closure.

- 12. <u>Data Collection Method:</u> Utilization of program logs, surveys, monthly and quarterly reports and the Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS).
- 13. <u>Number of Participants that Left or Were Dropped from the Program:</u> This is not applicable for the JAC. For the Civil Citation program 6.45% of the youth were closed unsuccessfully from the program, 14.52% were closed successfully, 3.23% were ineligible and 1.61% were withdrawn from the program, the remaining 74.19% remain open.

14. <u>Provide Participants Demographic Data:</u> The data for the JAC 2020-2021 1st and 2nd Quarter report is as follows:
Age: under 12= 3.57%, 12-15= 46.73% and 16-18= 49.67%
Gender: male= 77.3% and female=22.7%
Race: Black= 67.5%, White= 29.87% and Hispanic= 2.63%
Marital Status: single
The data for the Civil Citation during the same reporting time frame is as follows:
Age: under 12= 9.7%, 12-15=61.3% and 16-18=29.0%
Gender: male= 45.2% and female= 54.8%
Race: Black= 46.8%, White= 43.5% and Hispanic= 9.7%
Marital Status: single

- 15. The Civil Citation program does collect data on zip codes to determine areas for at-risk youth and conducts surveys from clients and parents at the initial intake and at the completion of the program (please see the survey information attached). The JAC tracks a variety of demographic data on the program participants and inputs this data into the Juvenile Justice Information System (JJIS). Varied data sets can be obtained with a request from the department regarding the youth.
- 16. DISC Village has partnerships with the Department of Juvenile Justice, The Department of Children and Families and the City of Tallahassee. Each agency funds part of the cost to operate the Juvenile Assessment Center 24 hours a day 365 days a year.

The Department of Juvenile Justice supplies funds for the operations of the building and staff to process youth. The Department of Children and Families provides funds for operations and staff to process substance abuse assessments. The City of Tallahassee

provides funds to help pay the cost of the Correctional Officers who are necessary to receive youth for law enforcement and to provide onsite security.

The JAC and Civil Citation programs have partnerships with local law enforcement agencies, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Leon County School system, the juvenile court system, local diversion programs and a variety of community based referral sources including but not limited to the Capital City Youth Services (CCYS), PACE School for Girls and the Palmer Munroe Teen Center.

Tallahassee Senior Citizen's Foundation

EXHIBIT B

Agency Performance Report Format & Instructions

Agency Name: Tallahassee Senior Citizen's Foundation, Inc.

Please provide the following information and please keep the report to a maximum of five pages. (Not including attachments)

- 1. Program Name: Leon County Senior Outreach
- Program Objective: To provide access to services, resources and recreational opportunities for seniors age 50+ who reside in the unincorporated areas of Leon County to encourage active living, optimal aging, and social fitness. Similar program activities are provided for grandparents living throughout Leon County who are raising their grandchildren.
- 3. Services provided:

Monthly Lunch & Learn events featuring information, services and resources provided by community partners during October 1, 2020 thru March 31, 2021. These events offer fellowship opportunities for seniors, some who live alone, or who may be physically or socially isolated in rural pockets of the County, and provide access to services and resources Note: Since the pandemic began, these events have taken on a different structure. Instead of physically meeting in the County community centers where most of our events take place, we are now featuring drive-thru events (Lunch, Learn and Wave) in each area where participants may pick-up a bag of resource information donated by our community partners, and a lunch. These events are extremely popular, and for some it is one of the only times they venture out into the community during this pandemic. Participants receive a personal phone call to get their reservation, so we have been able to interact one on one. If we notice someone needs assistance with community resources, then we refer them to our UPSLIDE (Utilizing and Promoting Social Engagement for Loneliness, Isolation & Depression in the Elderly) program. This method of service will continue until it is safe to continue our in-person events.

The Leon County Sheriff's Department regularly attends Lunch, Learn & Wave events and can address
individual participant's concerns, as well as provide current information on scams, identity theft and
safety tips.

Ongoing classes are normally offered at all the County community centers and the NE Branch Library. During the pandemic, most of our activities have taken on a different form.

- Fitness classes are now provided through Facebook Live, Zoom and television station WCOT.
- Two in-person, outdoor fitness classes are being held weekly in Fort Braden and Woodville.
- Art classes are now being offered virtually through Zoom, with one class offered outside at the Tallahassee Senior Center.
- Popular Lifelong Learning classes were offered on a range of topics throughout the year. These classes are held virtually through Zoom.
- U.P.S.L.I.D.E. (Utilizing and Promoting Social Engagement for Loneliness, Isolation & Depression in the Elderly) program offers a monthly support group at the Miccosukee community center. These meetings have been put on hold during the pandemic. Miccosukee residents currently participate in drive-by events at the Tallahassee Senior Center and meet in virtual support groups on Zoom. There have been many vulnerable seniors at all of our locations who are even more isolated and lonely during the pandemic. Individual counseling is offered through phone calls and virtual platforms.

LifeLong Outdoor Pursuits, features monthly workshops, outdoor activities and field trips for Tallahassee/Leon County participants 50+ years old. Due to social-distancing guidelines during the pandemic, these activities have been put on hold. Participants have been referred to other community opportunities and given suggestions on where they can enjoy outdoor activities on their own. Plans are underway to offer small group activities (following safe protocols) in late Spring.

The **Leon County Senior Outreach Advisory Council** meets bi-monthly to advocate for Leon County seniors, address the needs and issues they may have and provide program feedback and suggestions. Membership is comprised of representatives from each Lunch and Learn community and senior focused organizations. These meetings are now held virtually through the Zoom platform.

The **Grandparents as Parents (GaP)** program serves grandparents and other relative caregivers who have custodial responsibilities for raising another family member's child or children. Activities are available to all City-County residents. The GaP program brings social support, education and resource information to seniors thrust unexpectedly into the parenting role again. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the GaP program has moved to virtual and socially distanced programming. Program highlights for October, 2020 thru March, 2021 included:

- 146 unduplicated participants are registered in GaP.
- 6 monthly drive-thru events were held at the Tallahassee Senior Center parking lot October 2020-March 2021. GaP families drove through to pick up lunches for the grand-family and a bag of resource material. (See attachment for list of contributing agencies). An average of 38 participants attend the drive-thru each month.
- 10 virtual GaP meetings were held via Zoom with educational presentations each month.
- 15 meetings of an evening support group in collaboration with the Circle of Parents program were held virtually via Zoom. Meetings were originally held monthly, but due to COVID-19, the frequency has increased to every other week. Attendance at these meetings has increased and new people are joining. An average of 8 participants attend each meeting.
- Informational emails are sent a few times each week to all GaP participants with resource information for the grand-families and links to a variety of programs and websites.
- Regular telephone reassurance calls are made to all regular GaP participants to check on their wellbeing.
- GaP partnered with Catholic Charities Christmas Connection to provide clothing and gifts to 10 grand-families during the holidays. TSC board, advisory council and staff provided holiday gifts and clothing for another 15 GaP families.
- GaP received \$15,000 OAA IIIE grant for 2021.

The nationally accredited **Tallahassee Senior Center** is host to a variety of special events and the Leon County Senior Outreach program assists and collaborates on signature efforts such as Capital City Senior Games, Active Living Senior Expo, Deck the Halls, Silver Stars Gala and Tallahassee LifeLong Leaders (T.A.L.L.). Since the pandemic started these events have moved to a virtual platform or have been temporarily put on hold.

- 4. Services Delivery Strategy:
 - The monthly Lunch & Learn format has been in existence for 16+ years and maintains steady participation. Many participants have attended from the beginning of the program. The events are

successful due to the multitude of community partners who bring information, services and resources. Accessing multiple organizations at one time (usually 8-12) makes it productive for participants, plus they enjoy the fellowship of other community residents. The GaP support luncheons are modeled after this same format.

- Bringing activities, services and information to the unincorporated areas where seniors live gives many the lifeline that keeps them healthier, connects them with valuable resources, and prevents them from becoming socially isolated.
- Due to the pandemic, many activities have now moved to a drive-thru event, a virtual platform, or have been temporarily put on hold. Community partners still contribute by providing resource materials.
- 5. Target Population:
 - Primarily seniors age 50+ living in the unincorporated communities of Leon County (Bradfordville, Chaires, Fort Braden, Lake Jackson, Miccosukee and Woodville).
 - Grandparents who live throughout the Tallahassee/Leon County area who are the primary custodians of their grandchildren.
 - Residents living in the whole of Tallahassee/Leon County who benefit from the collaboration between Leon County Senior Outreach and Tallahassee Senior Services.
- 6. Method used to effectively reach target population:
 - Constant Contact e-mails are sent out weekly. A hard-copy edition was mailed in February to participants who do not have e-mail so that they could access helpful information and resources related to the pandemic.
 - All Leon County Senior Outreach information is printed in the Active Living magazine, a bi-monthly publication of the Tallahassee Democrat.
 - Program information is available on the Tallahassee Senior Center and Foundation web sites.
 - Staff attends numerous outreach events throughout the year like health fairs, community festivals, church functions and neighborhood association meetings to disseminate program information. During the pandemic, these outreach activities are done virtually when possible.
 - Ongoing program announcements are made on Facebook and other social media outlets.
 - Participants recruit other participants through word of mouth, with new participants often invited by current ones.
- 7. **Program Resources:** (Input: Resource including \$ amount directly related to program. Ex: employees, volunteers, materials, etc.)

-	
<u>Funding to date (October 1, 2020 – Mar</u>	<u>ch 31, 2021)</u>
County funding	\$89,500 (81%)
Activity & Sponsor Donations	4,935 (5%)
Older Americans Act Grant for GaP	15,364 (15%)
PPP Cares Act	1,000 (1%)
Total	\$110,799

Space & In-Kind

City of Tallahassee Office Space & Infrastructure

TSC Foundation Support, i.e. Communications, Fundraising, Administrative Support

County Community Centers and Recreational Complexes

Good Shepard Catholic Church

<u>Staff & Volunteers</u> 3.3 FTEs 4 Contract Staff: Fitness, Website <u>Other Program Needs</u> Program/Office Supplies, Printing, Postage, Lunch & Learns Local Travel & Training GaP Programming

8. Program Capacity:

Due to the pandemic, all the Lunch & Learn events are conducted in a drive-thru format. These events are open to all current and former participants, and new people who have heard about the events through word of mouth. We have not been advertising these events publicly due to funding constraints.

Indoor classes are on hiatus until we can safely resume classes and activities at the County community centers.

During non-Covid times, on-going activities such as Fitness, Art, and Lifelong Learning classes typically fill to capacity, and additional classes may not be added in certain areas due to staffing capacity. County facility staff work closely with our activities and are very accommodating. However, some set up of chairs and tables is required for these classes, and County staff simply cannot be in multiple places at the same time on the same day. Contract instructors are only paid for the time of the class. Requiring them to also set up for the class would require additional program dollars. Also, many volunteers are unable to lift the tables and move chairs for class. This also presents a liability issue. Thus, the number of activities is limited due to not enough staff to handle set-ups. This has not been an issue since the structure of program activities were modified due to the pandemic.

Before the pandemic there were six Fitness classes offered in Bradfordville due to demand. All classes are frequently full and require a wait list. A larger venue, like a community center, is not available so classes meet in the Northeast Branch Library program room.

9. Number of Participants: <u>1,112</u> Cost per Participant: \$<u>99.64</u>

10. List 5 highlights your agency has performed in the past six months:

- Since the pandemic caused us to close our facilities, we have pivoted to virtual platforms for most of our activities. Staff has managed to offer high quality programming through Facebook Live and Zoom.
 We had to encourage and teach many of our participants to use these platforms, but they have come a long way and now some of them even prefer it to in-person activities. GaP support groups, LifeLong Learning presentations, art and fitness classes are all available to our participants through Zoom.
- Our monthly Lunch & Learn events in six County areas and our GaP luncheons are now conducted as a drive-thru. Participants receive a catered lunch, and a bag of resource material contributed by our community partners. This information has kept them up-to-date on Covid related topics, as well as other important local resources they might not be able to easily access on their own. Most importantly, it has allowed staff to visit one-on-one with participants and check on their well-being.
- Staff has made phone calls to approximately 80% of our participants, with some receiving multiple calls to let them know we are thinking of them, and as a check on their well-being. Once the vaccine came out, diligent efforts were made to identify those who needed assistance accessing their shots, and to facilitate their getting them.
- Small outdoor classes started in December and include one art and two fitness classes. These classes

are limited in size and follow Covid safety protocols such as wearing masks and social distancing.

- Presentations on the LifeLong Learning and Outdoor Pursuits programs, and other Tallahassee Senior Center programs, were given at the National Conference on Aging and the Florida Council on Aging using the Zoom platform. Interacting with Senior Centers nationwide and through the state, generated ideas on how to pivot during the pandemic.
- 11. Program Goals:
 - A) Short-term: Our goals are to keep program participants connected and engaged despite the pandemic. For some, this means moving in-person programming to a virtual platform via Zoom or Facebook. For others, it means offering drive-thru events where they can pick-up pertinent and informative resource material while engaging in a short visit with program staff. For many, it means a friendly phone call from staff to check on their well-being and let them know they are not alone.
 - B) Intermediate:
 - To offer assistance and instruction so more seniors feel comfortable using virtual platforms.
 - To continually offer high quality virtual programming that features LifeLong Learning, art, fitness and other recreational opportunities.
 - To offer Drive-thru Lunch & Learn and GaP events mirroring our in-person event schedule.
 - To slowly phase-in small, outdoor classes until it is deemed safe to resume in-person events.
 - To maintain participant-staff relationships through regular phone calls.
 - To offer virtual support groups to GaP participants.
 - To connect vulnerable participants to the TSC Resource office, UPSLIDE program and community resources as needed.
 - If, and when in-person events are deemed safe to resume then the intent is to:
 - Increase the number and variety of health screenings offered.
 - Increase the variety of community partners who bring services and resources to Lunch & Learn events and GaP support luncheons.
 - Increase the number of LifeLong Learning programs in Bradfordville and other communities.
 - Increase the number and variety of fitness opportunities offered.
 - Grow the LifeLong Outdoor Pursuits program by featuring workshops, hands-on adventures and field trips related to a new outdoor activity each month.
 - Increase access to resources and support for GaP participants.
 - C) Long-term:
 - Offer program participants tools they may use to enhance independence and live a healthier lifestyle in the communities and neighborhoods they love with dignity, security and purpose.
 - Provide recreational, educational and wellness opportunities that make the Leon county-Tallahassee area an inviting retirement destination.
 - Offer social fitness activities that may help decrease loneliness and isolation among participants by providing them opportunities to remain connected to other people.
 - Provide preventative health screenings and education to help participants avoid more costly health interventions and nursing home placement in the future.
 - Give at-risk grandfamilies social support, information and resources they may need to thrive.

12. Objectives (Intended impact/outcome results)

Activities	Time Frame	Key Performance Indicators	Outcome Measures
Hold monthly drive-thru Lunch & Learn events that feature a lunch and bag of resource materials. These will continue until it is deemed safe to resume indoor events.	Oct – Dec, 2020 Feb – Mar, 2021 April – June, 2021 Aug – Sept, 2021	Held 4-6 Lunch & Learn drive-thru events in each of six County service areas (27 events total). Two were cancelled due to inclement weather.	Access to services, resources and information that enable seniors living in the unincorporated areas to live independent, healthy and engaged lives. Provided social connections and pertinent resource material during
Offer a variety of fitness classes specifically designed for the older adult.	Ongoing from Oct, 2020 thru Mar, 2021. Fitness classes were moved to Facebook Live and WCOT tv in April. Weekly, outdoor fitness classes are offered in Woodville and Fort Braden.	Between virtual platforms and classes on WCOT, participants can access classes six days a week. Outdoor classes in Woodville and Fort Braden are offered once a week (24 classes total).	the pandemic. Offer physical fitness opportunities that maintains strength needed for daily activity, prevents falls and combats chronic disease. Offers social connections.
Offer ongoing recreational and educational activities.	Ongoing from Oct, 2020 thru Mar, 2021. LifeLong Learning and art classes are held on the Zoom virtual platform. An outdoor art class started in February, 2021.	Virtual LLL classes are offered 2-3 times a month. Two Virtual Art classes have been offered in a six week series. A six-week outdoor art class was offered starting	Provide educational and creative engagement opportunities to enhance quality of life.
Provide instructional workshops and hands-on outdoor activities through the LifeLong Outdoor Pursuits program.	Due to the Covid pandemic, none have been offered.	in February. Due to the Covid pandemic, none have been offered. Plans are underway to offer limited activities the 2nd half of the fiscal year.	Provide participants the opportunity to experience nature and outdoor activities in a safe environment – thus keeping them physically and socially active.
Provide information on Covid resources, including testing and vaccine opportunities.	Ongoing from Oct, 2020 thru Mar, 2021.	Weekly e-mails to participants with regularly updated Covid information including testing sites and vaccine opportunities. 100+ participants were contacted through phone calls to help them access vaccination opportunities. Updated information added to the Resource bags at each Lunch &	Keep seniors healthy and help them access fundamental Covid resources.

		Learn.	<u> </u>
Offer GaP grandparents monthly support drive- thru events they can share with the grandchildren in their care. Host monthly, virtual	Held monthly from Oct 2020 – March 2021	6 monthly drive-thru events for the grandfamilies were held. 10 virtual GaP meetings were held via Zoom	Provide social and emotional support participants need to better handle their responsibilities, as well as give them access to needed services and
evening support groups		15 grandparent evening virtual support groups were held	resources.

- 13. Data Collection Method: Participant registration forms are required from all regularly attending participants. During the pandemic, staff marks the attendance sheets. For virtual programming, numbers are gathered through online registrations.
- 14. Number of Participants that left or were dropped from the program: No one is ever dropped from the program but attendance fluctuates due to factors like participant relocation, illness or death. However, there is a constant influx of new participants who balance out the attendance numbers.
 - 15. Provide Participants demographic data:

 Age 50+:
 100%

 Gender
 Female:
 84%

 Male:
 16%
 Female:
 84%

 Race
 23%
 Hispanic:
 1%

 White:
 74%
 Other:
 2%

- 16. If possible, please provide participant program satisfaction data: (surveys, etc.) NA
- 17. List any agency partnerships and collaborations related to this program. See attachment

211 Big Bend Al Kircher, Mindfulness Instructor Area Agency on Aging **Big Bend AHEC** Bond Community Health Care **Capital Area Healthy Start** CapTel **Career Source Capital Region Catholic Charities Christmas Connection Circle of Parents** Early Learning Coalition **ECHO Family Services Elder Care Services** Faith Funeral Home FL Department of Attorney General FL Dept of Children and Families FL Department of Elder Affairs **FL Dept of Financial Services FL Public Service Commission** Home Instead Senior Care League of Women Voters Legal Services of North FL Leon County Extension UF-IFIS Leon County Public Library Leon County Schools Leon County Sheriff's Department Linda Schuyler Ford, Professional Storyteller **Literacy Volunteers NIH Community Engagement Alliance** Prevent Child Abuse Florida Seminole Electric Cooperative Sherri Stinson, Attorney SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) **Tallahassee Parks and Recreation** Tallahassee Police Department Tallahassee Senior Center – UPSLIDE The Oasis Center for Women and Girls **UF Health Cancer Center** United Healthcare Vita Tax Aide Whole Child Leon

Leon County Senior Outreach Community Partners October, 2020 thru March, 2021

AARP Advantage Aging AHEC - Big Bend Health Education Allegro Senior Living Alzheimer's Project Anne Cleare, Realtor Area Agency on Aging for North FL **Big Bend Cares Big Bend Ovarian Cancer Coalition Capital Health Plan Captel Caption Phones** Care Point Health and Wellness Center **Caring Connections** Curaleaf **Elder Care Services Federal Trade Commission** FL Attorney General Consumer Protection FL Dept of Agriculture and Consumer Services FL Dept of Business & Professional Regulation **FL Dept of Financial Services** FL Dept of Health **FL Public Service Commission** FSU College of Medicine League of Women Voters Legal Services of North Florida Leon County Extension UF-IFAS Leon County Parks and Recreation Leon County Property Appraiser Leon County Public Library System Leon County Sheriff's Office Leon County Tax Collector's Office **Neptune Society** Safe Mobility for Life Seminole Electric S.H.I.N.E. Southern Scene Magazine **Talquin Electric** Tallahassee Senior Center, Resource Coordinator **Tapestry Senior Living** Trulieve U.P.S.L.I.D.E. WellCare Your Life Senior Care

St. Francis Wildlife Association

EXHIBIT B

March 24, 2021

(October-March)

Agency Performance Report Format & Instructions

Agency Name: _____ St. Francis of Assisi Wildlife Association, Inc.

Please provide the following information and please keep the report to a maximum of five pages. (Not including attachments)

1. Program Name:

St. Francis of Assisi Wildlife Association, Inc.

2. Program Objective:

The St. Francis Wildlife Association is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of native wildlife in north Florida through the rescue and rehabilitation of sick, injured and orphaned wildlife and through public education.

3. Services provided:

Wildlife Rehabilitation

The SFW rehabilitation program strives to rehabilitate sick, injured, orphaned, and displaced native wildlife for eventual return to their natural habitats. Other outcomes may be humane placement or euthanasia for animals that cannot be released.

Environmental Education

SFW provides educational resources to the community through programs and information services that strive to instill appreciation for native wildlife, promote stewardship ethics, protect public health, and increase understanding of environmental science.

4. Services Delivery Strategy:

Services are provided the moment a person either contacts SFW or leaves an animal at one of our drop off locations. These locations are: SFW on Salem Road in Gadsden County, Northwood Animal Hospital, North Florida Animal Hospital, and Allied Emergency Animal Hospital all in Tallahassee. Animals can be left at other veterinarian clinics in Leon and Gadsden County. SFW maintains a 24/7 rescue staff that responds to calls for assistance. Animals are triaged at the veterinarian clinic at the SFW facility. The only animals that are "fostered" for care by trained volunteers who raise animals in their homes, as established by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, are squirrels. Every attempt is made to release animals at or near the location where they were found; if this is not possible, release locations are obtained with permission from municipalities or land owners.

Intakes are documented on a numbered form and given a unique ID number that follows it through care and release process. Forms are entered into a database that generates additional ID numbers and reports. SFW receives rabies vector species (raccoons, foxes, skunks, bobcats, bats) into care. Only staff and volunteers who have provided proof of vaccination against rabies are allowed to care for animals regarded as rabies vectors. Non-vaccinated rescue staff are not allowed to capture, care for or transport any RVS.

Education programs are conducted with the assistance of The Wild Classroom, a for-profit private business. SFW volunteers and interns who wish to do outreach, public speaking, public relations, and classroom instruction work directly with the SFW Education Director who is the owner of The Wild Classroom. The Wild Classroom charges for most presentations and, in turn, gives a portion or all of the proceeds to SFW. SFW provides The Wild Classroom with food for the permanently disabled birds of prey and reptiles licensed by the Federal and State government used for SFW presentations, outreach, events, classroom instruction, and public relations.

5. Target Population:

All of Leon County's corporate and unincorporated areas.

6. Method used to effectively reach target population:

SFW has long utilized the media (print, television and radio interviews) and publishes a monthly blog in the Tallahassee Democrat newspaper. In addition, articles are published in the Gadsden Times and in the newsletters of Tallahassee Neighborhood Associations; publishes a quarterly print and on-line newsletter and an electronic newsletter; maintains a social media presence, and website, and, has an account with Go Fund Me.

Each week, SSFW staff posts new patient stories and updates, and educational messages. Several young animal videos have received over 5,000 views and are considered to be "viral". SFW encourages the public to call SFW for advice before touching any wild animal. This message has been emulated by other wildlife rehab agencies in the states of Florida and Georgia.

7. Program Resources:

(Input: Resource including \$ amount directly related to program. Ex: employees, volunteers, materials, etc.)

SFW maintains a full time staff of 1 licensed Rehabilitator/Director, 1 licensed Rehabilitator, and 2 Wildlife Care Technicians. In addition, during our busy season (April through October) SFW maintains a full and part-time staff of Wildlife Technicians that fluctuates according to the hospital census. Year round part-time staff includes 1 Office Manager, 2 Wildlife Rescuers, and 1 Wildlife Care Technician. Interns are not paid; those interns from out of the local area have housing provided on the SFW grounds and are paid a stipend.

COVID has severely impacted SFW's robust volunteer program. Because COVID can be transmitted to wild animals, only experienced volunteers have been allowed on the SFW

grounds or to handle wildlife. As of this writing, volunteers are allowed back at a measured pace. Volunteers are encouraged to be COVID vaccinated and periodically COVID tested. Volunteers and interns assist with the daily operation of the hospital, animal care, off-site educational programs and fundraising events, and respond to wildlife rescue calls. Calls for rescue assistance are received from the public, law enforcement, and animal control. The Director oversees the recruitment of volunteers and interns and remains in communication with internship sponsors.

Medical, hospital, animal care, and maintenance supplies are purchased on-line, at local stores, or from local veterinary clinics. SFW maintains a relationship with local businesses and franchises such as Stones Hardware, Lowes, Costco, Native Nurseries, Wild Birds Unlimited, Spears Seafood, and Walmart; and with national suppliers such as Chris' Squirrels and More, Fox Valley Foods, The Gourmet Rat, and Amazon.

8. Program Capacity:

The SFW facility can accommodate a max of about 200 animals at any given moment. State and Federal regulations allow for the off-site fostering or care of some species. The number of foster families fluctuates according to need. SFW is not an animal adoption agency and does not sell animals to any individual or entity.

9. Number of Participants: ____N/A____ Cost per Participant: \$___N/A____

10. List 5 highlights your agency has performed in the past six months:

- (a) A new Private Property Release Application Form has been added for those who wish to have wildlife released on their property,
- (b) SFW has invested with the Community Foundation,
- (c) The SBA PPP loan has been completed,
- (d) SFW has a contractual agreement for road repairs.
- (e) The well pump has been replaced,

11. Program Goals:

- a. Short-term: Make improvements to the hospital building.
- b. Intermediate: Secure additional local Interns.
- c. Long-term: Maintain a 60% or higher release rate of orphaned animals. Relocate the SFW hospital facility to Leon County.

12. **Objectives** (Intended impact/outcome results)

Agency objectives are: Wildlife rehabilitation; Education for the general public; Public Service; Research. Quantifiable performance indicators are shown in data provided by the wildlife intake and disposition reports. (See attachments)

- a. Activities
- b. Time Frame
- c. Key Performance Indicators (Quantifiable)
- d. Outcome Measures (Benefits or changes for participants during and after their involvement with the program)

13. Data Collection Method:

Animal intake and disposition data is kept in an on-line database called WildCare and in a Beta version Excel database. Reports are generated through MS Excel.

14. Number of Participants that left or were dropped from the program:

N/A

15. Provide Participants demographic data:

N/A

16. If possible, please provide participant program satisfaction data: (surveys, etc.)

N/A

17. List any agency partnerships and collaborations related to this program.

SFW has built strong alliances with local agencies, businesses, and donors. These include Leon County Board of Commission, The City of Tallahassee Commissioners, The Wild Classroom, Capital City Bank, Leon County Division of Animal Control, COT Animal Control, Costco, Quincy Walmart, Havana Stones, Havana Merchants Association, Peavy and Sons Construction, the Community Thrift Market and Grants, The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, Florida Wildlife Rehabilitator Association, National Wildlife Rehabilitator Association, The Bobby Bacon Insurance Company, Bruner's Computer Service, Leon County Schools, Leon County Probation Office, Havana Garden Club, Native Nurseries, Wild Birds Unlimited, The Tallahassee Museum, Goose Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation, Florida Wild Mammal Association, The Audubon Center in Maitland, and The Big Bend Boy and Girl Scouts.

St. Francis Wildlife Association, Inc. Leon County Intake Report 1 Quarter FY Oct 1 - Dec 31, 2020

Date Admitted	Common Species Name	Method	Rescue Address	Circumstances of Rescue
10/1/20	House Finch	drop off	6691 Thomasville Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA	Behavioral Stranding
10/1/20	Virginia Opossum	drop off	3702 Bobbin Brook E, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
10/2/20	common box turtle	drop off	6108 W W Kelly Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32311, USA 3702 Bobbin Brook E, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
10/2/20 10/2/20	eastern gray squirrel northern raccoon	drop off rescue	7877 Briarcreek Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle Behavioral Stranding
10/2/20	Turkey Vulture	rescue	7537 Buck Lake Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32317, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
10/2/20	Virginia Opossum	drop off	3267 Lord Murphy Trail, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Dog
10/3/20	Eastern Cottontail	drop off	9519 Star View Ln, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Dog
10/3/20	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	1943 Treeline Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Undetermined
10/3/20	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	2062 Dyrehaven Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32317, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Dog
10/3/20	Virginia Opossum	rescue	3992 Emerald Chase Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32308, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
10/4/20	Bald Eagle	rescue	22900 Blountstown Hwy, Tallahassee, FL 32310, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
10/4/20 10/4/20	common raccoon	drop off	417 Gone Fishin Ln, Tallahassee, FL 32308, USA	Dead on Arrival
10/4/20	Eastern Cottontail eastern gray squirrel	drop off drop off	138 Sunflower Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32305, USA 8464 Lake Atkinson Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32310, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat Dead on Arrival
10/4/20	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	5429 Grove Valley Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat
10/4/20	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	10006 Surrey Farms Ln, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA	Orphan, true / Parents not available
10/4/20	Red-eyed Vireo	drop off	6719 Chevy Way, Tallahassee, FL 32317, USA	Collision / Stationary object / Walls/windows
10/5/20	Mourning Dove	drop off	2725 Hickory Ridge Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32308, USA	Collision / Stationary object / Walls/windows
10/6/20	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	5186 Charles Samuel Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat
10/6/20	Undetermined Bird	drop off	3994 Cam Real, Tallahassee, FL 32311, USA	Dead on Arrival
10/7/20	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	6630 Man O War Trail, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA	Undetermined
10/7/20	Eastern Screech-Owl	drop off	7019 Sunny Hill Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
10/8/20	common raccoon	drop off drop off	3485 Plowshare Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA 5531 N Monroe St, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Undetermined
10/8/20 10/8/20	Florida Softshell Virginia Opossum	drop off drop off	4175 Miccosukee Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
10/8/20	white-tailed deer	drop off	9900 Beaver Ridge Trail, Tallahassee, FL 32308, USA	Entrapment / Non-trap / Fence
10/9/20	common box turtle	drop off	9850 Veterans Memorial Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32312, 03A	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
10/9/20	Eastern Cottontail	drop off	1926 Willow Run Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat
10/9/20	Golden-winged Warbler	drop off	1517 Paula Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Collision / Stationary object / Walls/windows
10/11/20	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	3861 Long and Winding Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat
10/11/20	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	2037 Hanover Ct, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Undetermined
10/11/20	Red-eyed Vireo	drop off	1517 Baum Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32317, USA	Collision / Stationary object / Walls/windows
10/12/20	Mourning Dove	drop off	414 Marcus Ln #18, Tallahassee, FL 32304, USA	Inappropriate human possession / Unauthorized or untrained rehabilitation
10/13/20	House Finch	drop off	1120 Loch Knoll Ln, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA	Entrapment / Spaces / Building Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
10/15/20 10/18/20	white-tailed deer common raccoon	drop off drop off	220 Bannerman Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA 4151 Riverwood Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Dog
10/19/20	common raccoon	rescue	3837 Long and Winding Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Behavioral Stranding
10/20/20	Eastern Cottontail	drop off	5357 High Colony Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32317, USA	Undetermined
10/20/20	Virginia Opossum	rescue	227 Coe Landing Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32310, USA	Undetermined
10/22/20	Eastern Box Turtle	drop off	1404 Silver Saddle Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32310, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
10/22/20	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	3208 Livingston Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Orphan, true / Parents not available
10/22/20	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	3208 Livingston Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Orphan, true / Parents not available
10/23/20	common raccoon	rescue	4235 Hjk Howard Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32305, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
10/23/20	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	4869 Victor Brown Ln, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Dead on Arrival
10/24/20 10/25/20	Green Frog Wood Thrush	drop off drop off	3726 Bobbin Brook E, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA 19226 North by Northwest Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32310, USA	Undetermined Entrapment / Non-trap / Fence
10/27/20	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	6712 Visalia PI, Tallahassee, FL 32317, USA	Nest/Habitat Disturbance/Destruction
10/28/20	Barred Owl	drop off	2019 Baum Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32317, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
10/28/20	Northern Black Racer	drop off	2900 Canopy Ln, Tallahassee, FL 32308, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Dog
10/31/20	Blue Jay	drop off	3560 Jefferson Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32317, USA	Undetermined
10/31/20	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	211 Timberlane Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
11/1/20	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	901 Geddie Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32304, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
11/2/20	Turkey Vulture	drop off	12008 Miccosukee Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
11/3/20	southern flying squirrel	drop off	6424 Dancers Image Trail, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat
11/4/20 11/4/20	Barred Owl Rock Pigeon	rescue drop off	4570 Hillwood Way, Tallahassee, FL 32308, USA 809 Briandav St, Tallahassee, FL 32305, USA	Undetermined Behavioral Stranding
11/6/20	Virginia Opossum	drop off	2101 Waters Meet Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA	Entrapment / Trap / Humane/Cage Trap
11/7/20	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	1308 Blakemore Ct, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
11/10/20	Rock Pigeon	drop off	2727 Deborah Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32310, USA	Undetermined
11/10/20	Song Sparrow	drop off	4051 Lagniappe Way, Tallahassee, FL 32317, USA	Undetermined
11/12/20	Barred Owl	drop off	4000 N Meridian Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA	Entrapment / Non-trap / Sporting/landscaping netting
11/12/20	Eastern Cottontail	drop off	2927 Williams Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32311, USA	Undetermined
11/13/20	Brown Thrasher	drop off	1441 Covey Ride St W, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA	Collision / Stationary object / Walls/windows
11/13/20	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	2125 Faulk Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Dog
11/13/20	Undetermined Bird	drop off drop off	9601 Miccosukee Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA 317 Oaks Will Ct, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat
11/16/20 11/16/20	Downy Woodpecker Virginia Opossum	drop off drop off	5972 Thornton Ln, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA	Collision / Stationary object / Walls/windows Undetermined
11/16/20 11/17/20	northern raccoon	rescue	7708 W Tennessee St, Tallahassee, FL 32308, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
11/18/20	Black Vulture	drop off	1976 William Reeves Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA	Dead on Arrival
11/21/20	Red-shouldered Hawk	rescue	7012 Spencer Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA	Undetermined
11/22/20	BlueJay	drop off	3060 Whirlaway Trail, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat
11/22/20	Florida mouse	drop off	1711 Crowder Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat
11/23/20	Florida mouse	drop off	1441 Covey Ride St W, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA	Inappropriate human possession / Unauthorized or untrained rehabilitation
11/23/20	Yellow-bellied Slider	drop off	4971 Capital Cir SE, Tallahassee, FL 32311, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
11/24/20	Great Horned Owl	drop off	9167 Shoal Creek Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA	Undetermined
11/24/20	northern raccoon	rescue	2332 Windermere Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32311, USA	Dead on Arrival
11/29/20	Northern Cardinal	drop off	7742 Briarcreek Rd N, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA	Undetermined
12/1/20 12/3/20	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker Black Vulture	drop off rescue	3107 Hawks Landing Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA 2147 Natural Wells Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32305, USA	Collision / Stationary object / Walls/windows Failure to thrive/Maladaption
12/3/20	House Wren	drop off	1801 Sageway Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat
12/3/20 12/3/20	northern raccoon	drop off	7907 Christy Cary Ln, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Entrapment / Trap / Humane/Cage Trap
	Barred Owl	drop off	8055 Jordan Ct, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
12/8/20	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1			Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
	Gray Fox	rescue	3220 Capital Cir NW, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	considiry wowing object / car/truck/motorcycle
12/8/20 <mark>12/9/20</mark> 12/9/20	Gray Fox oldfield mouse	rescue drop off	Huggins Hill Ln, Florida 32311, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat

St. Francis Wildlife Association, Inc. Leon County Intake Report 1 Quarter FY Oct 1 - Dec 31, 2020

Date Admitted	Common Species Name	Method	Rescue Address	Circumstances of Rescue
12/11/20	Bald Eagle	drop off	3640 Old Bainbridge Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
12/11/20	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	drop off	3401 Sharer Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
12/12/20	Gopher Tortoise	drop off	1419 Avondale Ct, Tallahassee, FL 32317, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Dog
12/13/20	American Robin	drop off	420 Glenview Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Collision / Stationary object / Walls/windows
12/14/20	beaver	rescue	19 Bannerman Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
12/14/20	Northern Cardinal	drop off	9845 Deer Lake E, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
12/14/20	northern raccoon	rescue	2396 Harvey Mill Creek Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32310, USA	Undetermined
12/14/20	Virginia Opossum	rescue	6593 Lake Pisgah Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA	Behavioral Stranding
12/17/20	Barred Owl	rescue	1816 Bridgemont Trail, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
12/19/20	Barred Owl	rescue	6041 Flintlock Loop, Tallahassee, FL 32311, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
12/27/20	Anhinga	drop off	5301 Ochlockonee Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Undetermined
12/28/20	Eastern Phoebe	drop off	2043 Burnt Pine Ln, Tallahassee, FL 32317, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat
12/29/20	Chipping Sparrow	drop off	2853 Baum Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32317, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat
12/29/20	Northern Cardinal	drop off	7006 Napa Ct, Tallahassee, FL 32317, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Dog
12/29/20	Northern Flicker	drop off	4508 Chaparral Ln, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Undetermined
12/29/20	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	drop off	9389 Buck Haven Trail, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat
12/30/20	Virginia Opossum	drop off	7200 Clinton Hudson Sr Ln, Tallahassee, FL 32305, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
12/31/20	Barred Owl	rescue	5803 Kangaroo Ct, Tallahassee, FL 32311, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
12/31/20	Red-shouldered Hawk	rescue	3747 W W Kelly Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32311, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle

t. Francis Wildlife Association, Inc COT Intake Report 1st Qiarter FY Oct 1 - Dec 31, 2020

	Common Species Name	Method	Rescue Address	Circumstances of Rescue					
10/1/20	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	1314 Broome St, Tallahassee, FL 32301, USA	Dead on Arrival					
10/1/20 10/2/20	eastern gray squirrel Eastern Cottontail	drop off drop off	1252 Halifax Ct, Tallahassee, FL 32308, USA 2611 Lake Ella Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat Nest/Habitat Disturbance/Destruction					
10/2/20	Eastern Cottontail	drop off	2611 Lake Ella Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Nest/Habitat Disturbance/Destruction					
10/2/20	Eastern Cottontail	drop off	808 Piedmont Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA	Inappropriate human possession / Abduction with intent of rescue					
10/2/20	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	1008 Hawkeye Trail, Tallahassee, FL 32317, USA	Nest/Habitat Disturbance/Destruction					
10/2/20	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	5637 Emma Ln, Tallahassee, FL 32317, USA	Orphan, true / Parents not available					
10/2/20 10/2/20	eastern gray squirrel eastern gray squirrel	drop off drop off	2701 A J Henry Park Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA 2121 Capital Cir NE, Tallahassee, FL 32308, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Dog Entrapment / Trap / Glue Trap					
10/2/20	Northern Cardinal	drop off	101 N Blair Stone Rd #301, Tallahassee, FL 32301, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle					
10/2/20	Virginia Opossum	drop off	322 E Tharpe St, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Orphan, true / Parents not available					
10/2/20	Virginia Opossum	drop off	322 E Tharpe St, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Orphan, true / Parents not available					
10/3/20	Eastern Cottontail	drop off	2917 Giverny Cir, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat					
10/3/20	Eastern Cottontail	drop off	2768 Chumleigh Cir, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat					
10/3/20 10/3/20	eastern gray squirrel eastern gray squirrel	drop off drop off	417 E Virginia St, Tallahassee, FL 32301, USA 501 Ingleside Ave, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Orphan, true / Parents not available Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle					
10/3/20	Florida mouse	drop off	1204 Sandler Ridge Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32317, USA	Dead on Arrival					
10/3/20	northern raccoon	rescue	3131 Ferns Glen Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA	Behavioral Stranding					
10/4/20	Eastern Cottontail	drop off	2534 Manassas Way, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA	Inappropriate human possession / Abduction with intent of rescue					
10/4/20 10/4/20	Eastern Cottontail	drop off drop off	2214 Killarney Way, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA 799 Timberway Ct, Tallahassee, FL 32304, USA	Undetermined Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat					
10/4/20	eastern gray squirrel eastern gray squirrel	drop off drop off	799 Timberway Ct, Tallahassee, FL 32304, USA 799 Timberway Ct, Tallahassee, FL 32304, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat					
10/5/20	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	2301 Merrigan PI, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA	Orphan, true / Parents not available					
10/5/20	eastern gray squirrel	rescue	1903 Saddle Brook Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Collision / Stationary object / Natural features, not moving					
10/5/20	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	649 Ingleside Ave, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Orphan, true / Parents not available					
10/5/20	Mourning Dove	drop off	3239 Appleton Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32311, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat					
10/6/20 10/7/20	common raccoon Yellow-throated Warbler	drop off drop off	273 Whetherbine Way E, Tallahassee, FL 32301, USA 109 S Copeland St, Tallahassee, FL 32304, USA	Entrapment / Trap / Leg/Body Hold Trap/snare Collision / Stationary object / Walls/windows					
10/8/20	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	3034 Shamrock St N, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA	Nest/Habitat Disturbance/Destruction					
10/8/20	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	3034 Shamrock St N, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA	Nest/Habitat Disturbance/Destruction					
10/8/20	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	3034 Shamrock St N, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA	Nest/Habitat Disturbance/Destruction					
10/8/20	Swainson's Thrush	drop off	2305 Forsythe Ct, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA	Collision / Stationary object / Walls/windows					
10/9/20	eastern gray squirrel	drop off drop off	2634 Noble Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32308, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat					───
10/9/20 10/9/20	eastern woodrat Yellow-throated Warbler	drop off drop off	326 Ausley Rd A, FL, Tallahassee, FL 32304, USA 1114 W Call St, Tallahassee, FL 32304, USA	Undetermined Collision / Stationary object / Walls/windows					┥ ┥
10/10/20	Anhinga	drop off	1614 Laguna Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32308, USA	Dead on Arrival					
10/10/20	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	1552 Belmont Trace, Tallahassee, FL 32301, USA	Undetermined					
10/10/20	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	3004 Mahan Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32308, USA	Inappropriate human possession / Unauthorized or untrained					
10/10/20	Mourning Dove	drop off	919 Old Bainbridge Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Collision / Stationary object / Walls/windows					
10/10/20 10/11/20	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	drop off drop off	5719 Sioux Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32317, USA 651 Ingleside Ave, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle Orphan, true / Parents not available					
10/11/20	eastern gray squirrel eastern gray squirrel	drop off drop off	3207 Adwood Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Orphan, true / Parents not available Orphan, true / Parents not available					
10/11/20	northern raccoon	rescue	1630 N Monroe St, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle					
10/13/20	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	2045 Greenwood Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Undetermined					
10/13/20	Swainson's Thrush	drop off	1881 N Martin Luther King Jr Blvd., Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Collision / Stationary object / Walls/windows					
10/14/20	Eastern Cottontail	drop off	4226 Avon Park Cir, Tallahassee, FL 32311, USA	Inappropriate human possession / Abduction with intent of rescue					
10/14/20 10/14/20	Eastern Cottontail eastern gray squirrel	drop off drop off	4226 Avon Park Cir, Tallahassee, FL 32311, USA 2934 N Umberland Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA	Inappropriate human possession / Abduction with intent of rescue Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Dog					
10/14/20	Mourning Dove	drop off	3072 Elmwood Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32317, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Dog					
10/14/20	Undetermined Bird	drop off	223 W Carolina St, Tallahassee, FL 32301, USA	Collision / Stationary object / Walls/windows					
10/15/20	common raccoon	drop off	227 Chapel Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32304, USA	Behavioral Stranding					
10/15/20	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	drop off	212 Summerbrooke Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA	Collision / Stationary object / Walls/windows					
10/16/20	Blue-headed Vireo	drop off	1802 Thomasville Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Collision / Stationary object / Walls/windows					<u> </u>
10/17/20 10/18/20	Brazilian free-tailed bat eastern gray squirrel	drop off drop off	2310 Hartsfield Way, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA 1047 Winter Ln, Tallahassee, FL 32311, USA	Behavioral Stranding Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat					
10/18/20	Gopher Tortoise	drop off	State Hwy 157, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle					
10/19/20	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	206 Edwards St, Tallahassee, FL 32304, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle					
10/19/20	Mourning Dove	drop off	825 Washington St, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat					
10/19/20	Red-eyed Vireo	drop off	113 Collegiate Loop, Tallahassee, FL 32304, USA	Collision / Stationary object / Walls/windows					
10/20/20 10/20/20	eastern gray squirrel eastern red bat	drop off drop off	1824 Mayfair Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA 7733 Cricklewood Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Dog Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Dog					
10/20/20	Mourning Dove	drop off	2550 Pottsdamer St, Tallahassee, FL 32310, USA	Collision / Moving object / Human propelled object					
10/20/20	Red-eyed Vireo	drop off	313 S Calhoun St, Tallahassee, FL 32301, USA	Collision / Stationary object / Walls/windows					
10/20/20	Rock Pigeon	drop off	5303 St Ives Ln, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA	Failure to thrive/Maladaption					
10/21/20	Turkey Vulture	rescue	1400 Old Village Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle					
10/22/20 10/22/20	Carolina Wren	drop off	646 W Tharpe St, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Entrapment / Trap / Glue Trap Undetermined					
10/22/20	Muscovy Duck White Ibis	rescue	2016 Lake Ella Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA 1313 San Luis Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32304, USA	Entrapment / Trap / Fishing Gear / Line					
10/24/20	northern raccoon	drop off	2414 Perez Ave, Tallahassee, FL 32304, USA	Entrapment / Non-trap / Litter/garbage					
10/25/20	Florida flying squirrel	drop off	2022 E Indianhead Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32301, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle					
10/25/20	Yellow-bellied Slider	drop off	2140 Centerville PI, Tallahassee, FL 32308, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle					
10/26/20	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	275 John Knox Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Nest/Habitat Disturbance/Destruction					\vdash
10/27/20 10/27/20	Blue Jay eastern gray squirrel	drop off drop off	1348 Timberlane Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA 2834 Alexis Ln, Tallahassee, FL 32308, USA	Dead on Arrival Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat					<u> </u>
10/28/20	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	4560 Grove Park Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32308, USA	Failure to thrive/Maladaption					
10/28/20	Red-shouldered Hawk	rescue	2056 Hillsborough St, Tallahassee, FL 32310, USA	Entrapment / Spaces / Pool					
10/28/20	Virginia Opossum	drop off	2309 Brynmahr Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle					
10/29/20	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	2643 Ulysses Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle					\vdash
10/30/20 10/31/20	eastern gray squirrel Northern Cardinal	drop off drop off	516 W Jefferson St, Tallahassee, FL 32301, USA 810 Watt Dr. Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Nest/Habitat Disturbance/Destruction Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat					\vdash
11/1/20	American Coot	rescue	1224 Eppes Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32304, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat		-	-	-	
11/1/20	American Robin	drop off	858 Kingsway Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32301, USA	Collision / Stationary object / Walls/windows					
11/1/20	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	2405 San Pedro Ave, Tallahassee, FL 32304, USA	Orphan, true / Parents not available					
11/1/20 11/2/20	Northern Mockingbird	drop off drop off	3244 Stanhope Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32311, USA	Undetermined Dead on Arrival					┥───┤
11/2/20 11/3/20	Downy Woodpecker eastern gray squirrel	drop off drop off	3028 Royal Palm Way, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA 565 Miccosukee Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32308, USA	Dead on Arrival Nest/Habitat Disturbance/Destruction					\vdash
11/3/20	eastern gray squirrei	drop off	565 Miccosukee Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32308, USA	Nest/Habitat Disturbance/Destruction		-	-	-	1
11/3/20	Northern Mockingbird	drop off	227 N Bronough St, Tallahassee, FL 32301, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle					
11/3/20	northern raccoon	drop off	2043 W Pensacola St, Tallahassee, FL 32304, USA	Undetermined					
11/3/20	Virginia Opossum Barred Owl	drop off	5006 Mint Hill Ct, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle		ļ	ļ	ļ	\vdash
11/4/20 11/5/20	Barred Owl Barred Owl	drop off rescue	3400 S Monroe St, Tallahassee, FL 32301, USA 2744 W Hannon Hill Dr. Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle Undetermined					+
11/5/20	Eastern Cottontail	drop off	1214 Terrace St, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Undetermined	-				
11/5/20	Rock Pigeon	drop off	312 Sweetbriar Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA	Behavioral Stranding					
11/5/20	Virginia Opossum	drop off	2319 Flint Run, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Dog					
11/6/20	Mourning Dove	drop off	2033 Lawson Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32308, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat		1	1	1	I
11/6/20 11/7/20	northern raccoon eastern gray squirrel	rescue drop off	2034 Mahan Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32308, USA 1505 W Tharpe St, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle Nest/Habitat Disturbance/Destruction					
11/7/20	southern flying squirrel	drop off	2416 Cadney Ct, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Dog					
11/9/20	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	133 SE Villas Ct #3, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Failure to thrive/Maladaption					
11/9/20	southern flying squirrel	drop off	3110 Old St Augustine Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32311, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat					
11/9/20	Yellow-bellied Slider	drop off	2500 Harriman Cir, Tallahassee, FL 32308, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle					<u> </u>
11/10/20 11/10/20	oldfield mouse Undetermined Reptile	drop off drop off	2461 Raymond Diehl Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA 7609 Refuge Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA	Undetermined Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle					┥──┤
11/10/20	Red-shouldered Hawk	rescue	1401 Toochin Nene, Tallahassee, FL 32301, USA	Undetermined					
11/11/20	white-tailed deer	rescue	1950 Merchants Row Blvd, Tallahassee, FL 32311, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle					
11/11/20	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	drop off	3425 Thomasville Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA	Collision / Stationary object / Walls/windows					
11/12/20	American Robin	rescue	514 W 6th Ave, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle		ļ	ļ	ļ	\vdash
11/13/20	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker black rat	drop off drop off	2000 N Monroe St, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA 967 Briarcliff Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32308, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat		-	-	-	<u> </u>
11/14/20			507 Shistonii nu, tananassee, rii 52500, USA						
11/14/20 11/15/20	northern raccoon	drop off	304 W 8th Ave, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Behavioral Stranding					

St. Francis Wildlife Association, Inc COT Intake Report 1st Qiarter FY Oct 1 - Dec 31, 2020

11/16/20 Search or yourself 15/20 V. Mahano An, Tallahasen, F. 1230, USA Orbin, Twe/P of performance 1 11/16/20 Search or yourself 15/20 V. Mahano An, Tallahasen, F. 1230, USA Collidon / Monographic and IA (and the search of the s	Data Admittad	Common Enocios Nomo	Method	Rescue Address	Circumstances of Rescue
11/12/02 Sub-phinned Hawk resc. 1951 N Merrialine R, Talihauser, F. 12200, USA Collison / Nunoing Optic/Ler/Turk/Instruct/Qie Image: Collison / Statuser,					
11/15/20 Swainon's Thrush Grop df 999 Erdferen St, Tallaksee, FL 3230, USA Animal interaction' formatic animal / Cat Image: Cat A interaction' formatic animal / Cat 11/17/20 Red shouldeer Hawk rescue 303 5 Powell Ra, Tallakasee, FL 3230, USA Undeer minind Image: Cat A interaction' formatic animal / Cat Image: Cat A interaction' formatic aninteraction' formatic animal					
11/17/20 Canada Goose rescue 1890 MBI x, Talihasser, F.1230. USA Dest on Arwaig Image: Constraint of the constraint of t					
11/17/20 Red-doubled Hawk recur 305 Forwall Rd, Tallahasse, Ft 3230, USA National Interaction Domesic animal / Cdt Image: Comparison of Comparison o					
11/13/20 Northem Cardinal drop off 2106 Regresponder, 123303, USA Annual Interaction / Domestic anima / Cat etc. 11/13/20 Northem Accoon drop off 500 Regression, 12330, USA Catilian off Xatonary Opter / Matura features, not moving 11/13/20 Northem Accoon drop off 500 Regression, 12330, USA Catilian off Xatonary Opter / Matura features, not moving 11/13/20 Northem Accoon drop off 2025 Sandcatellor, 71 Jatonasce, R. 23303, USA Entragment / Trag / Humane/Qag Trag 11/12/20 Rotride mouse drop off 2025 Sandcatellor, 71 Jatonasce, R. 23303, USA Entragment / Trag / Humane/Qag Trag 11/12/200 Rotride mouse drop off 3285 Permitidige / Humane/Lag Trag					
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12/13/20 Chipping Sparrow drop off 3013 Corrib Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Dom Image: Common rescue 3228 Baldwin Dr W. Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Dog 12/15/20 Muscovy Duck drop off 339 Lake Ella Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA Failure to thrive/Maladaption Image: Common rescue 3228 Baldwin Dr W. Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat Image: Common rescue Common rescue S227 Common rescue S227 Common rescue S228 Common rescue S228 Common rescue Common rescue S228 Common rescue Common rescue S228 Common rescue S228 Common rescue					
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12/20/20 eastern gray squirrel drop off 418 W 4th Ave, Tallahassee, FI 32303, USA Undetermined Image: Content of		common raccoon		5673 Countryside Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32317, USA	Undetermined
12/20/20 Mourning Dove drop off 6356 San Martin Cr, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA Animal Interaction / Domestic animal / Dog Image: Content of Conte		Eastern Mole	drop off	807 Essex Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32304, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Dog
12/21/20 Eastern Mole drop off 3173 Dunbar Ln, Tallahassee, FL 32311, USA Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat Image: Category Categor	12/20/20	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	418 W 4th Ave, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Undetermined
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12/23/20 Red-shouldered Hawk rescue 2720 Whitney Dr N, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA Undetermined Image: Control of	12/23/20	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	3061 Bay Shore Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Dog
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12/26/20 eastern woodrat drop off 1538 Myrtle Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32301, USA Failure to thrive/Maladaption 12/27/20 Barred Owl rescue 6157 Heartland Cir, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle 12/27/20 northern raccoon drop off 2400 Miccosukee Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32308, USA Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle 12/28/20 Great Blue Heron drop off 2443 Roberts Ave, Tallahassee, FL 32310, USA Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle	12/23/20	Red-shouldered Hawk	rescue	2720 Whitney Dr N, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA	Undetermined
12/27/20 Barred Owl rescue 6157 Heartland Cir, Tallahasse, FL 32312, USA Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle 12/27/20 12/27/20 northern raccoon drop off 2400 Miccosukee Rd, Tallahasse, FL 32308, USA Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle 12/27/20 Great Blue Heron drop off 2443 Roberts Ave, Tallahasse, FL 32310, USA Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle	12/24/20	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	1614 Laguna Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32308, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Dog
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12/27/20 northern raccoon drop off 2400 Miccosukee Rd, Tailahassee, FL 32308, USA Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle 12/28/20 Great Blue Heron drop off 2443 Roberts Ave, Tailahassee, FL 32310, USA Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle	12/27/20	Barred Owl	rescue	6157 Heartland Cir, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
	12/27/20	northern raccoon	drop off	2400 Miccosukee Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32308, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
		Great Blue Heron	drop off	2443 Roberts Ave, Tallahassee, FL 32310, USA	
12/28/20 Southern short-tailed shrew (drop off) 1818 Sunset Ln, Tailanassee, FL 32303, USA Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat	12/28/20	Southern Short-tailed Shrew	drop off	1818 Sunset Ln, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat
12/28/20 Turkey Vulture rescue 3138 Ferns Glen Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA Undetermined Comparison of the second			rescue	3138 Ferns Glen Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA	Undetermined

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te Aumitteu (Common Species Name	Method	Rescue Address	Circumstances of Rescue
	Virginia Opossum	drop off	1875 Capital Cir NE, Tallahassee, FL 32308, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	3037 Camelliawood Cir E, Tallahassee, FL 32301, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	305 Broward St #5, Tallahassee, FL 32301, USA	Undetermined
1/8/21 (Cedar Waxwing	drop off	3812 Shamrock St W, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA	Collision / Stationary object / Walls/windows
	Muscovy Duck	drop off	1966 Lake Ella Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Undetermined
	Muscovy Duck	drop off	1555 Delaney Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA	Orphan, true / Parents rejected
1/12/21 \	Virginia Opossum	drop off	1790 Balkin Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32305, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
1/13/21 \	Virginia Opossum	rescue	513 Yaeger St, Tallahassee, FL 32301, USA	Entrapment / Spaces / Building
	Common Grackle	drop off	1316 S Adams St, Tallahassee, FL 32301, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
1/14/21 M	Mourning Dove	drop off	1106 Shalimar Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Dog
1/17/21 9	Southeastern Shrew	drop off	825 McGuire Ave, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat
	Red-shouldered Hawk	drop off	1357 E Lafayette St, Tallahassee, FL 32301, USA	Undetermined
1/22/21 0	Carolina Chickadee	drop off	1329 Lola Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32301, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat
1/25/21 Y	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	drop off	822 Cherry St, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat
1/26/21 b		rescue	2602 Jackson Bluff Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32304, USA	Entrapment / Spaces / Storm Drain/Sewer
1/26/21 N	Mourning Dove	drop off	4859 Kerry Forest Pkwy, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA	Nest/Habitat Disturbance/Destruction
1/27/21 \	Virginia Opossum	rescue	110 Whetherbine Way W, Tallahassee, FL 32301, USA	Undetermined
	Virginia Opossum	drop off	2476 Dundee Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32308, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
1/28/21 N	Northern Cardinal	drop off	1577 Spruce Ave, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Dog
1/28/21 \	Virginia Opossum	drop off	1406 N Meridian Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
	American Robin	drop off	993 Parkview Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32311, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
1/29/21 /	American Robin	drop off	993 Parkview Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32311, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
1/29/21 ¢	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	2625 Lonnbladh Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32308, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
	Northern Cardinal	drop off	2308 Hampshire Way, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA	Collision / Stationary object / Walls/windows
	Yellow-bellied Slider	drop off	1603 W Tharpe St, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
1/30/21 5	Seminole bat	drop off	7692 Preservation Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA	Undetermined
	American Robin	drop off	7123 Nesters Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA	Collision / Stationary object / Walls/windows
	Virginia Opossum	rescue	412 Hayden Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32304, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Dog
1/31/21 \	Virginia Opossum	rescue	412 Hayden Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32304, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Dog
	Barred Owl	rescue	2450 Shumard Oak Blvd, Tallahassee, FL 32311, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
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	Carolina Chickadee	drop off	2602 Green Crossing Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA	Collision / Stationary object / Walls/windows
2/2/21	Mourning Dove	drop off	1515-2 Henway Ct, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Collision / Stationary object / Walls/windows
2/2/21 \	Virginia Opossum	drop off	1318 N Bronough St, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Undetermined
	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	518 Pope St, Tallahassee, FL 32304, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Dog
2/8/21 F	Florida mouse	drop off	1730 Thomasville Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Dead on Arrival
2/8/21 6	Pekin Duck	drop off	212 S Lake Ella Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Animal interaction / Non-domestic animal / Same species
	common raccoon	rescue	2676 Bantry Bay Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA	Behavioral Stranding
2/10/21 e	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	414 W 5th Ave, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat
2/10/21	Northern Cardinal	drop off	4662 Nesting Trl, Tallahassee, FL 32311, USA	Collision / Stationary object / Walls/windows
	Virginia Opossum	rescue	1018 Volusia St, Tallahassee, FL 32304, USA	None of the Above
2/10/21 Y	Yellow-rumped Warbler	drop off	3048 Godfrey PI, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
2/11/21	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	drop off	1301 Metropolitan Blvd, Tallahassee, FL 32308, USA	Collision / Stationary object / Walls/windows
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	Red-headed Woodpecker	drop off	1445 Bannerman Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
2/17/21 e	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	3209 Hester Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
2/17/21	Northern Cardinal	drop off	3700 Capital Cir SE, Tallahassee, FL 32311, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
	common raccoon		5220 Crawfordville Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32305, USA	Behavioral Stranding
		rescue		
2/18/21 N	Northern Cardinal	drop off	2636 Centennial PI, Tallahassee, FL 32308, USA	Collision / Stationary object / Walls/windows
2/19/21 F	Red-shouldered Hawk	rescue	3049 Rain Valley Cir, Tallahassee, FL 32308, USA	Undetermined
	southern flying squirrel	drop off	2524 Hartsfield Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Failure to thrive/Maladaption
2/20/21	Corn Snake	drop off	3214 W Tharpe St, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Entrapment / Non-trap / Sporting/landscaping netting
2/20/21 เ	Undetermined Mammal	drop off	2351 Mahan Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32308, USA	Undetermined
2/22/21 6	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	2373 W Tennessee St, Tallahassee, FL 32304, USA	
			23, 3 •• ICHIC33CC 3C, IMIGHD33CC, IL 32304, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat
	Dino Morble:		614 Chart St. Tallahasses El 22200 1104	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat
2/22/21 P	Pine Warbler	drop off	614 Short St, Tallahassee, FL 32308, USA	Collision / Stationary object / Walls/windows
2/22/21 P	Pine Warbler Black-headed Garter Snake		614 Short St, Tallahassee, FL 32308, USA 1538 Yancey St, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	
2/22/21 P 2/23/21 B	Black-headed Garter Snake	drop off drop off	1538 Yancey St, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA	Collision / Stationary object / Walls/windows Entrapment / Non-trap / Litter/garbage
2/22/21 P 2/23/21 B 2/23/21 E	Black-headed Garter Snake Eastern Cottontail	drop off drop off drop off	1538 Yancey St, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA 2205 Wall St, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA	Collision / Stationary object / Walls/windows Entrapment / Non-trap / Litter/garbage Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat
2/22/21 P 2/23/21 E 2/23/21 E 2/23/21 N	Black-headed Garter Snake Eastern Cottontail Mourning Dove	drop off drop off drop off drop off	1538 Yancey St, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA 2205 Wall St, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA 3244 Stanhope Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32311, USA	Collision / Stationary object / Walls/windows Entrapment / Non-trap / Litter/garbage Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat
2/22/21 P 2/23/21 E 2/23/21 E 2/23/21 N	Black-headed Garter Snake Eastern Cottontail	drop off drop off drop off	1538 Yancey St, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA 2205 Wall St, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA	Collision / Stationary object / Walls/windows Entrapment / Non-trap / Litter/garbage Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat
2/22/21 P 2/23/21 E 2/23/21 E 2/23/21 N 2/23/21 R	Black-headed Garter Snake Eastern Cottontail Mourning Dove	drop off drop off drop off drop off	1538 Yancey St, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA 2205 Wall St, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA 3244 Stanhope Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32311, USA	Collision / Stationary object / Walls/windows Entrapment / Non-trap / Litter/garbage Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat
2/22/21 F 2/23/21 E 2/23/21 E 2/23/21 N 2/23/21 F 2/23/21 F	Black-headed Garter Snake Eastern Cottontail Mourning Dove Red-tailed Hawk Ruby-crowned Kinglet	drop off drop off drop off drop off rescue drop off	1538 Yancey St, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA 2205 Wall St, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA 3244 Stanhope Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32311, USA 2319 Tupelo Terrace, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA 211 Westridge Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32304, USA	Collision / Stationary object / Walls/windows Entrapment / Non-trap / Litter/garbage Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat Entrapment / Spaces / Building Collision / Stationary object / Walls/windows
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2/22/21 P 2/23/21 E 2/23/21 E 2/23/21 N 2/23/21 R 2/23/21 R 2/23/21 C 2/23/21 C	Black-headed Garter Snake Eastern Cottontail Mourning Dove Red-tailed Hawk Ruby-crowned Kinglet Undetermined Bird	drop off drop off drop off drop off rescue drop off rescue	1538 Yancey St, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA 2205 Wall St, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA 3244 Stanhope Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32311, USA 2319 Tupelo Terrace, Tallahassee, FL 32303, USA 211 Westridge Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32304, USA 1555 Delaney Dr #10, Tallahassee, FL 32309, USA	Collision / Stationary object / Walls/windows Entrapment / Non-trap / Litter/garbage Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Cat Entrapment / Spaces / Building Collision / Stationary object / Walls/windows Orphan, true / Parents rejected
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St. Francis Wildlife Association, Inc. COT Intake Report 2nd Quarter FY Jan - Part of Mar, 2021

Date Admitted	Common Species Name	Method	Rescue Address	Circumstances of Rescue
3/7/21	Virginia Opossum	drop off	3205 Thomasville Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32308, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
3/7/21	Virginia Opossum	drop off	3205 Thomasville Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32308, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
3/7/21	Virginia Opossum	drop off	3205 Thomasville Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32308, USA	Collision / Moving object / Car/truck/motorcycle
3/8/21	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	1100 Miccosukee Rd, Tallahassee, FL 32308, USA	Orphan, true / Parents not available
3/8/21	eastern gray squirrel	drop off	415 N Gadsden St, Tallahassee, FL 32301, USA	Orphan, true / Parents not available
3/8/21	Northern Cardinal	drop off	7698 Summer Tanager Dr, Tallahassee, FL 32312, USA	Animal interaction / Domestic animal / Dog

Tallahassee Trust for Historic Preservation

Mid-year Agency Performance Report

Tallahassee Trust for Historic Preservation

Date: March 22, 2021

FY 2020/2021 October 1, 2020 – March 22, 2021

- 1. Program Name: Certified Local Government Program/ Tallahassee-Leon County The Tallahassee Trust for Historic Preservation contracts with Leon County and the City of Tallahassee to provide historic preservation services and to comply with all requirements of the Certified Local Government program. Tallahassee-Leon County is a Certified Local Government. Communities are designated Certified Local Governments (CLGs) by the National Park Service (NPS). CLG programs are administered jointly by the NPS and the State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs). Once certified, CLGs become active partners in the Federal Historic Preservation Program. Each community gains access to benefits of the program, including annual appropriations from the Federal Historic Preservation Fund of which states are required to give at least 10% of their funding to CLGs, and agrees to follow required Federal and State requirements. Historic preservation has proven economic, environmental, and social benefits. Studies show that historic districts maintain higher property values, less population decline, more walkability and greater sense of community. CLGs must meet minimum goals including establishment of a qualified historic preservation commission, enforcement of appropriate State or local legislation for the designation and protection of historic properties, maintain a system for the survey and inventory of local historic resources, facilitate public participation in local preservation, including participation in the National Register listing process, and follow all additional requirements outlined in the State's CLG procedures.
 - Program Objective: To fulfill all of the requirements of the Certified Local Government program for Tallahassee-Leon County. To provide ongoing preservation services to the residents of Tallahassee and Leon County. To ensure the preservation and conservation of our historic and cultural resources.
 - **3. Services Provided:** The Tallahassee Trust for Historic Preservation staffs and maintains records of the Tallahassee-Leon County Architectural Review Board, meets all requirements of the Federal Certified Local Government Program including preparation and submission of the required Annual CLG Report to the Bureau of Historic Preservation, Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, ensures appropriate enforcement of state and local legislation for designation and protection of historic properties, provides staff, technical support, and record keeping for the historic preservation review commission, maintains a system for survey and inventory of historic properties, and reviews the appropriateness of

nominations to the National Register of Historic Places. Provides comprehensive historic preservation services to the local government and the citizens of Tallahassee-Leon County. Services include education and outreach, planning and technical assistance as it pertains to the preservation of the community's historic resources, assist the City of Tallahassee and Leon County in fulfilling the Goals, Objectives and Policies of the Historic Preservation Element of the Tallahassee-Leon County Comprehensive Plan and in accordance with the Leon County Historic Preservation Ordinance, staffs the Tallahassee-Leon County Architectural Review Board, processes all correspondence, preparation of the required legal notifications, maintenance of meeting minutes and archives of properties listed in the Tallahassee-Leon County Local Register of Historic places, provides the technical information necessary for the Architectural Review Board to reach informed decisions, and coordinates with other governmental local agencies involved in the regulatory process.

- 4. Services Delivery Strategy: Provide qualified staff who meet the National Park Service Professional Qualification Standards in History, Archaeology, and Architectural History, provide knowledge, skills and experience necessary to fulfill the requirements of the Federal Certified Local Government Program, enforce and provide guidance regarding existing national, state, and local historic preservation ordinances, regulations and programs, and provide/disseminate historic preservation information through public outreach and education programs.
- 5. Target Population: Residents of Tallahassee-Leon County.
- 6. Method(s) used to effectively reach target population: The Tallahassee Trust for Historic Preservation reaches the target population by providing all of the services required under the Federal Certified Local Government Program (as outlined above), provides education and outreach regarding the importance of historic preservation to the community's economic, environmental, and social wellbeing through educational events, printed materials, website, social media outreach, internship programs, and partnerships with other local organizations, provides technical services to historic property owners, and guidance regarding preservation ordinances, regulations, and programs.
- 7. Program Resources: Current funding provided for Certified Local Government/preservation services by Leon County \$63,175. Professional staff who meet federal qualification standards in History, Architectural History, and Archaeology. Education and outreach programming provided through educational events, web-based materials, and social media. Archives, research library, and recordkeeping (Local Register of Historic Places/Architectural Review Board). Active

partnerships with local government, state government, and other non-profit organizations.

- 8. Program Capacity: N/A
- 9. Number of Participants/Cost per participant: N/A
- **10. Program highlights in the past six months:** Despite the ongoing challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic the Tallahassee Trust has a number of accomplishments, some ongoing, which include architectural survey, sites listed on the Local Register of Historic Places, education and outreach. 1. Inclusion on the Tallahassee-Leon County Local Register of Historic Places, the Lake Hall School House. The Lake Hall School House is significant as one of the few historic black schools in the state of Florida that remains on its original site. Further, as an African American school built during Reconstruction the potential for archaeological significance is particularly important due to the few written records available regarding the African American life in rural areas. 2. Inclusion on the Local Register of Historic Places, Roberts-Landers Frenchtown Shopping Center/Economy Drug, located at 301-329 N. Macomb Street and 469 W. Virginia Street. The shopping center is one of the few remaining structures which allow for connection with the history of the community and the historic built environment. It has been at the center of the Frenchtown African American business district and served the community for over 70 years. The site was also a backdrop the protests and marches throughout the Civil Rights Movement. **3.** Online outreach and education via social media outlets. Outreach has been limited due to the pandemic which has not allowed for in person outreach activities. We hope to resume in person outreach activities when feasible. Current outreach includes successful and well received driving tours of historic districts and sites. 4. TTHP staff are conducting an ongoing architectural survey project of Mid-Century Contemporary architecture. We have begun outreach to neighborhoods to provide education regarding the project, it's meaning and potential outcomes. 5. TTHP staff have provided training and support to members of the Old Town Neighborhood Association for ongoing architectural survey of the Old Town Neighborhood. As one of Tallahassee's surviving downtown neighborhoods, Old Town owes much of its charm and character to the remaining original homes from the 1930's and 1940's. Many of these homes retain the character and architectural distinctiveness of the period in which they were built.
- **11. Program Goals:** The long term goal of the Certified Local Government program is the preservation of Leon County's historic resources. This is accomplished by the daily and ongoing goals to: Fulfill all requirements of the Federal Certified Local Government Program, provide preservation and technical services to the residents of Tallahassee-Leon County, partner with local government and community

organizations to provide preservation services and outreach, continue to educate the community about the value of preserving the buildings, structures, objects, sites, and districts that represent our community's past, enforce existing federal, state, local ordinances and regulations to protect our replaceable resources, continue to employ gualified staff who have the necessary knowledge, education, skills, and experience to provide best practices in historic preservation, continue to staff the Tallahassee-Leon County Architectural Review Board, increase social media based public outreach in order to make historic preservation education and information accessible and entertaining and to promote community use and support for our local historic resources/districts, increase participation in sustainability initiatives and education by seeking partnerships and developing programming relative to sustainable practices and preservation, continue to recognize excellence in a variety of historic preservation projects through the Tallahassee-Leon County Historic Preservation Awards, increase education and outreach efforts by applying for grants to support development of materials across media formats and to support an internship program to help students interested in preservation to gain experience.

12. Objectives (intended impact/outcome results): Activities: Fully meet the requirements of the Federal Certified Local Government Program, serve historic property owners by continuing to staff the Tallahassee-Leon County Architectural Review Board, and to provide comprehensive historic preservation services to the local government and the citizens of Tallahassee-Leon County, including education and outreach, planning and technical assistance as it pertains to preserving the community's historic and cultural resources. **Time Frame:** The TTHP consistently provides services throughout the year, all year long, including qualified staff who meet the National Park Service Professional Qualification Standards in History, Archaeology, and Architectural History, provide the knowledge, skills and experience necessary to fulfill the requirements of the Federal Certified Local Government Program, enforce and provide guidance regarding existing national, state, and local historic preservation ordinances, regulations and programs, and provide/disseminate historic preservation information through public outreach and education programs. Key Performance indicators: timely response to local research request and information assistance, timely application reviews for Certificates of Appropriateness by the Architectural Review board and staff, pre-application consultations, Certificates of Appropriateness and related documents issued, resources placed on the Local Register and review of properties for the National Register, timely response to requests for comments for the National Historic Preservation Act's Section 106 review.

13. Data Collection Method: N/A

14. Number of Participants that left or were dropped from the program: N/A

- **15. Provide Participants Demographic Data:** N/A
- 16. Provide Participant Program Satisfaction data: N/A
- **17.** List any agency partnerships and collaborations related to this program: The TTHP has partnered/collaborated with the City of Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Department, Economic and Community Development, and Blueprint2000 on the local level and the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources on the State level. The TTHP also has active partnerships with Goodwood Museum and Gardens and the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation, as well as other local organizations and businesses when the opportunity arises.

Whole Child Leon

EXHIBIT B

(October-March)

Agency Performance Report Format & Instructions

Agency Name: Whole Child Leon, Inc.

Please provide the following information and please keep the report to a maximum of five pages. (Not including attachments)

- 1. **Program Name:** Whole Child Leon, Inc.
- 2. **Program Objective:** Whole Child identifies and addresses critical community issues affecting children 0-5 and is catalyst creating partnerships that solve problems. Since January 2004, Whole Child Leon has worked to bring together public, private, and nonprofit partners child advocates, business leaders, government officials, educators, parents, and caregivers to form a solid foundation needed to create systemic change. We set out to build community commitment to children 0–5, improve access to and utilization of services, improve health of children 0-5, develop safe and nurturing environments, foster economic stability for families with small children, provide quality early education, encourage social interaction and competence, and provide spiritual foundation and strength. Driven by our mission of building a community where everyone works together to make sure children thrive, Whole Child Leon is focused on the following:

Community Participation and Ownership in Early Childhood Success

Children Are Healthy at age 1

All Children Are Making Appropriate Progress

Children Enter Kindergarten Ready to Succeed

Families are empowered to raise children that are resilient and to promote their social-emotional developmental, behavioral, and physical well-being.

The primary focus of Whole Child Leon is 0-5, but the philosophy addresses needs of children and youth of all ages and their families. Whole Child assists families in identifying the needs of their young children and helps to: Connect families with appropriate service providers; Enable communities to identify gaps in services and assess their progress in ensuring that all children thrive; Empower families to raise children that are resilient and to promote their social- emotional, developmental, behavioral, and physical well-being.

Whole Child Leon engages businesses, civic groups, education, provider agencies, government, and faith-based organizations to work together to achieve its mission. Each segment has unique opportunities for contribution. WCL staff facilitates community leaders and partner agencies to focus on programs, activities, and support services families need to nurture the "Six Dimensions of a Whole Child." (Physical and Mental Health, Quality Early Education and Development, Social-Emotional Development, Spiritual Foundation and Strength, Safe and Nurturing Environment, Economic Stability)

- 3. **Services provided:** Engaging the entire community around issues of children and families, focusing on children 0-5. Working with parents and providers to identify gaps in services and to address those gaps and needs through advocacy and collaboration.
- 4. **Services Delivery Strategy:** Collaborative relationships are at the core of the Whole Child philosophy. Whole Child Leon is not a direct service provider and relationships with and among these organizations is essential to ensuring that providers work collectively to address gaps and needs to improve our system care for children and families. To increase collaboration with providers, WCL facilitates a monthly Professional Network Community Conversation. This meeting is key in assisting human services agencies in getting essential information out to other agencies and the families in which they serve. The

WCL executive director serves on the following boards: CHIP Early Childhood Education, Chair; TLH Affordable Housing Commissioner; Grandparents as Parents; Maternal Mental Health Advisory Board; Maternal Child Health Collaborative; Early Childhood Obesity Prevention Workgroup and is a member of UPHS. Whole Child Leon Board members and staff facilitate various workgroups focused on issues related to child well-being, including:

Summit on Children, Community Screening Council, Breastfeeding Policy Workgroup.

5. **Target Population:** Families with children 0 to 5 years of age residing within Tallahassee and Leon County.

Agencies and organizations within Tallahassee and Leon County providing services to children and families.

Secondary Target Population: Families with children 0 to 5 years of age living in our seven neighboring counties who may receive services in Tallahassee or from Tallahassee-based providers. Unduplicated Persons:

1000 + children/families utilizing the Behavioral Health Navigator Program per year (average 80-100 per month

100 + children participating in the twice annual FREE developmental screenings per year (average 50 per screening)

200 + Professional Network Members and WCL Committee Members

- 6. **Method used to effectively reach target population:** WCL works to improve the well-being of children and families by identifying gaps in services and creating collaborative relationships to improve our community's system of care. WCL's target population includes providers, parents, and the community at large. WCL reaches this target audience by engaging in advocacy efforts, serving on boards, and convening and collaborating with partner agencies.
- 7. **Program Resources:** n/a
- 8. **Program Capacity:** n/a
- 9. Number of Participants: n/a Cost per Participant: n/a

10. List 5 highlights your agency has performed in the past six months:

1) Whole Child Leon Professional Network/Community Conversation Meeting:

Professional Network/Community Conversation: This meeting provides a forum for professionals from agencies and organizations providing services to children and families to make contacts and exchange ideas, promoting community partnership in this process. Whole Child Leon has created a forum where issues concerning child and family well-being are presented, followed by facilitated discussion around service delivery issues affecting children and families. This allows us to identify the issue(s) in our community's early childhood system of care and those identified areas are brought forward to the WCL Board and our provider partners where strategies/solutions are discussed, and action items are identified and assigned. Attendees/members represent 60+ agencies and organizations across the sectors of education, healthcare, faith-based and parent leadership. WCL coordinates the program speakers and networking activities. The meeting is on the 4th Monday of every month and due to COVID is now held virtually. Monthly meeting attendance averages 65 members. Attendees are surveyed yearly.

Q1 and Q2 update:

Q1 Professional Network/PACT Community Conversation meetings:

October 26 - Innovation in Early Care & Education

Speakers: Chelsea Marshall-Hirvela, Regional Public Health Specialist, UF/IFAS Extension Family Nutrition Program, Clara Leonard, Extension Program Manager, UF/IFAS Extension Family Nutrition Program, Ellen Piekalkiewicz, Director, Center for the Study and Promotion of Communities, Families, & Children, Tai Cole, M.Div., M.A.C.E., MSW Curriculum Developer, Center for the Study and Promotion of Communities, Families, & Children, Angela C. Hendrieth, Director, Diversity & Inclusion, City of Tallahassee Florida HEROs Program UF/IFAS Extension Family Nutrition Program VPK Rebound and Recovery Project from FSU's Center for Study and Promotion of Communities, Families, and Children, **57 attendees**

November - Topic: Health, Hunger & Homelessness

Speakers: Samantha "Sam" McClellan, Programs Manager, Second Harvest of the Big Bend, Allison Wiman, RN, MPH Executive Director, Big Bend Area Health Education Center

Sylvia Smith, J.D., Executive Director, Big Bend Homeless Coalition Big Bend AHEC Second Harvest of the Big Bend, Big Bend Homeless Coalition, 92 attendees

Professional Network member survey was disseminated.

December – due to holiday we do not host a meeting in Dec.

SEE ATTACHED SURVEY QUESTIONS AND REPONSES

Q2 Professional Network/Community Conversation meetings:

January 25 – Topic: Stolen Childhoods: Children and Human Trafficking, Speakers: Robin Hassler Thompson, Executive Director, Survive & Thrive Advocacy Center, Taylor Biro, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Florida Council Against Sexual Violence, Micheala Denny, Open Doors Education & Training Director, Voices of Florida

> Survive & Thrive Advocacy Center Florida Council Against Sexual Violence Voices of Florida, **73 attendees**

February 22 - Topic: The Impact of Women Volunteers, Katie Britt Williams, President-Elect, The Junior League of Tallahassee (JLT)

The Junior League of Tallahassee (JLT), 53 attendees

March 22 – **Community Brainstorm Session, 83 attendees,** As we are preparing the 2021 *Status of the Child Report*, we want to hear from YOU. We hope this comprehensive, issue-based guide will help our community leaders find and implement solutions to critical issues in Leon County. To achieve this goal, we need your input.

As Professional Network members representing multiple sectors, you have knowledge and expertise in health, education, early childhood, and youth development and much more. We need your input to be reflected in this community report.

Whole Child Leon will be conducting our second interactive meeting on March 22. During this time, we will discuss the solutions to the 10 critical community issues listed below. Please take time before our next meeting to think about these issues and consider potential solutions. Are there existing community programs making a difference? Are there programs outside our community we should consider implementing? Come ready to roll up your sleeves, and have some fun too, as we guide you through this interactive session.

- 1. Poverty
- 2. Healthy Birth Outcomes
- 3. Childhood Food Insecurity

- 4. Foster Care
- 5. Kindergarten Readiness
- 6. Healthy Child Development (i.e.: asthma, obesity, injury due to sleep environment, drownings, and injury from guns)
- 7. Children's Behavioral Health
- 8. Nature Deficit/Connection to Nature
- 9. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)
- 10. Juvenile Crime

Last month, our meeting was dedicated to discussing the top issues negatively impacting children in Leon County. Attendees submitted and ranked their top issues and identified barriers to solving them. The link below shows the results from this meeting.

• <u>Slides and Menti.com Results</u>

SEE ATTACHED: SLIDES AND MENTI.COM QUESTIONS AND RESULTS

Q1 and Q2 update:

2) Early Childhood Education and Empowerment Workgroup (ECEE) – Whole Child Leon executive director chairs the ECEE (a Community Health Improvement Committee) and convenes consolidated expertise from several community groups including the Family Engagement and Empowerment Task Force, the Title I Early Education Committee, the A.S.P.I.R.E. Early Learning Workgroup). These groups had previously been meeting independently with the ultimate goal of increasing the number of children entering kindergarten ready to learn.

This newly formed ECEE group works from a framework with defined goals and evidence- informed strategies to collectively work towards achieving the objectives of the group. The ECEE focus is on the following three goals using strategies that are data driven, evidence informed and focused on equity.

- Increase the number of young children enrolled in quality early childhood education.
- Increase the number of children entering kindergarten ready to learn.
- Increase parental engagement and empowerment in early childhood success

Early Childhood Education and Empowerment Workgroup (ECEE) - In an effort to address the need for stakeholders working on issues related to early childhood education, WCL created the **Early Childhood Education and Empowerment Workgroup (ECEE)**.

Q1 Early Childhood Education and Empowerment Workgroup (ECEE) meetings: October 22nd, November 19th, December 17th

Q2 Early Childhood Education and Empowerment Workgroup (ECEE) meetings: January 21st, February 18th, March 18th

Updates

- Discussion of parent exposure to ACEs with guest speaker Nydia Ntouda, the Training/Fundraising Specialist at Prevent Child Abuse Florida
- LEARN Virtual Educational Module for H.S. Seniors (Shannon)
- Pop-Up Preschool Launch in 2021 (Courtney and Talethia)
- Early Learning Leon (Brooke/Kim)
- Resilience Movie Event (Shannon)
- Sister Friends Tallahassee Birthing Project (Amandla/Chris)

Discussion of parent exposure to ACEs with guest speaker Nydia Ntouda, the Training/Fundraising Specialist at Prevent Child Abuse Florida. Prevent Child Abuse Florida is a program of the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Florida.

Q1 & Q2 ATTACHMENTS

SEE ATTACHED UPDATE ECEE WORKPLAN

SEE ATTACHED ECONOMIC IMPACT OF HEALTY BRAIN DEVELOPMENT

SEE ATTACHED INFANT BRAIN DEVELOPMENT WORKPLAN

SEE ATTACHED UPDATE POP-UP SCHOOL WORKPLAN

SEE ATTACHED POP-UP PRESCHOOL CURRICULUM

Pop-Up Preschool Pilot Event – (Spring Break week - March 15th thru 18th)

Pop-Up Preschool Pilot Planning meeting: Pre Meeting 2 - Planning + Volunteer Recruitment – March 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 Pre POP-UP Site Visit - Sunday March 14, 2021

Pop-up Planning Meetings: March 5

Meeting Notes Overview:

1. Marketing and Promotion

Everyone has been doing their part in spreading the information about this event. We may be running into the area of too many people showing up. We have received requests to volunteer at the Pop-Up. This includes Amber from 2-1-1 Help Me Grow, Mary from FDLRS and many more. Media coverage of the event will come through the WCTV piece on the art bus and through a reporter Morgan is familiar with. Media at the event should be on day three or four. We can send out a media advisory to ensure they are aware of the event. As far as social media goes, we can do one more post closer to the event and a Facebook live at the locations the Sunday before.

2. Meeting in Neighborhood

In the neighborhood promotion will include a time when Courtney, Morgan, Jenny, Talethia and Carly will be in each neighborhood the weekend before. They will talk with community members and inform them of the pop-up as well as scope out the locations ahead of the event.

- a. This will be from 9:45 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. in the South City neighborhood and 11 a.m. -12:15 p.m. in the Greater Bond neighborhood on Sunday, March 14.
- b. Locations include Greater Love Church in South City and the Church on Holton street between Smith Williams and Leon Arms with the grassy area.
- c. We will add the addresses to the flyers when they are confirmed by Courtney and Talethia.
- 3. Curriculum
 - a. Carly will be hosting arts and crafts stations. This will include easels for painting and a sensory learning station with home-made play dough they can take home.
 - b. Morgan will be hosting other stations with a maximum of four to five total. These stations will look to give experiences in other areas like literacy, engagement, and movement. Each family can be at each station for 15-20 minutes.
 - i. She is going to provide us with a plan on Sunday.
 - c. Talethia will be conducting surveys and identify needed resources with families at both the beginning and end of each day. She will also be at a cooling off and snack station with families to have more in-depth conversations. She hopes to incorporate Strive for Five principles.

- d. Jenny will have a station that will work with emotional development. Children will work with their parents to recognize emotions. They will do a craft they can take home that identified things they like about themselves.
- e. Other volunteers and participants will float from station to station, assisting where they are needed.
- 4. Survey Questions and Impact Measures
 - a. Demographics: name, contact information, ages of children
 - i. Good for general data and to also track families to not ask them the same questions and give them another take home pack.
 - b. Are your children currently in a childcare program? Do you have access to a childcare facility in your area?
 - c. What are you familiar with already? What do you know? This will hopefully play on the strengths-based approach this event was built around.
 - d. What else would you benefit from? (Pop-Up Preschool specific or general resources)
 - e. Could ask specific questions based on the stations:
 - i. How comfortable are you reading to your child?
 - ii. Ask these questions before and after to identify change.
 - f. What art activities are you doing at home? Do you have access to art supplies?
- 5. Items that have been and will be acquired:
 - a. Lunch with Second Harvest is currently in the works.
 - b. Water cooler with cups and goldfish for snacks and drinks
 - c. Morgan has 100 cloth masks for adults she can donate.
 - d. Nicole will be purchasing books from Scholastic to be given to families with an art packet. She will also be provided a clear bag to place these items in.
 - e. We will also need hand sanitizer and masks for kids.
 - f. We will bring rack cards, pinwheels and parenting developmental stages books sources from the Office of Early Learning.
 - i. Morgan will ask about these books.
 - g. Whole Child Leon/South City Foundation will also provide three tents. Morgan will bring one tent. Talethia can bring an eight ft table.

SEE ATTACHED: FLYERS

SEE ATTACHED: PARENT REGITRATION FORM

SEE ATTACHED: PARENT POST SURVEY

SEE ATTACHED: POP-UP PRE-SCHOOL LAYOUT

SEE ATTACHED: SOCIAL- EMOTIONAL SKILL DEVELOPMENT STATION

SEE ATTACHED: POP-UP EVENT PICTURES

'Pop-Up Preschool' to visit Bond, South City Link: <u>https://tallahasseedemocrat-fl-app.newsmemory.com/?publink=2856b55f6</u>

Sister Friends Tallahassee Birthing Project-

This initiative was incubated and born out of the **Early Childhood Education and Empowerment Workgroup.** Sister Friends Birthing Project recruits' new moms during their pregnancy to join with a group of other new moms with similar gestational age to build their peer network and be paired with experienced (and trained) moms to serve as mentors. Curriculum starts during 2nd trimester and includes The pilot will include two cohorts with 8-10 pairs of mommas. While the goal is to provide monthly curriculum, the minimum acceptable amount is 10 over the course of the 16-month pilot. Ideally, mentors are volunteers who commit to the entire experience that will include a one-to-one relationship, training provided by the national model and facilitating 2 group sessions. Group sessions are largely "ed camp" style, meaning participants self-select the topic within a given framework (suggested curriculum: Partners for a Healthy Baby). The second cohort will start approximately 6 months after the first. Both cohorts will participate in the national baby shower and national stroll event marketed by the Birthing Project USA.

Target Population: First-time moms (prenatal, 1st trimester), must reside in a promise zones; women of color.

Partners: Whole Child Leon, Leon County Schools, TAP; Health Department, WIC, Bond, NMHC, FAMU/FSU Early Childhood, THA, ELC, Capital Area Healthy Start, Tallahassee Food Network, South City Foundation, Brehon Family Services (?)

Sister Friends Tallahassee Birthing Project meeting: October 13th, November 6th, December 9th, February 17th, March 10th

SEE ATTACHED: THE BIRTHING PROJECT

SEE ATTACHED: THE BIRTHING PROJECT FRAMEWORK

Q1 and Q2 update:

3) Status of the Child/Community Report - Whole Child Leon works with community partners to track the well-being of children in our community. The report highlights key indicators on the conditions of children birth to age 5 and beyond in Leon County. By providing high-quality data trend analysis, we seek to enrich local and state discussions concerning better ways to secure a brighter future for all children. The report also serves as a critical advocacy tool to raise the visibility of children's issues through a nonpartisan, evidence-based lens.

Q1 Annual Report Committee – made up of WCL Board members and staff.

The committee made of WCL Board Members, the executive director and Meade Grigg (Demographer FL DOH retired) met October 28 and November 18 and made the decision to coincide the publishing of the report with the Summit on Children in May.

Q2 Annual Report Committee – made up of WCL Board members and staff.

The committee made of WCL Board Members, the executive director, Meade Grigg (Demographer FL DOH retired) and Bart Bibler, Julia Holly met January 28, February 10, February 25 and March 8, 15, 25 and made the decision to coincide the publishing of the report with the Summit on Children in May.

SEE ATTACHED: STATUS OF THE CHILD 2021 REPORT OUTLINE

Community Focus Groups committed to participating:

- Leon County Title I advisory Council 3/8/2021 @ 6pm
- Tallahassee Forward 3/29/2021 @ 7pm
- Greater Bond Neighborhood Association @6:00pm
- Neighborhood First Community Action Team 3/22/2021@ 2pm
- Foster Parents Group at BBCBC TBD: 3/30/21 5 or 6pm

- Governor's Charter Parent Group 3/25/2021 @ 5:00pm
- Tallahassee/ Leon Inter Faith Council POC: Judy Mandrel
- South City Neighborhood POC: Christic Henry
- Community Conversations Group hosted by FSU
- Message the organizer of the Tallahassee Citizen Action Committee
- Miaisha Mitchell and Frenchtown waiting on reply

Two Community Focus Groups

- 3/23/21 TBD
- 4/6/21 TBD

Individuals Asked to Participate

- Sierra Bush Register
- Max Epstein
- K. Lenorris Barber
- Stanley Sims
- Kevin Warren
- Leland Whitfield
- Carla McClellan- show coordinated a community conversations group on different community issues

Q1 and Q2 update:

4) Tallahassee Pediatric Behavioral Health Center and Navigator Project – Tallahassee Pediatric Behavioral Health Center and Navigator Project - In July of 2016 WCL began discussions with the Tallahassee Pediatric Foundation to collaborate with the pediatrician and family practice physician members to create a program to improve the health and well-being of children and families in our community. A strategic planning process began in November 2016 to determine and implement a program to address children's behavioral health needs in the community. Funding for the salary for the Behavioral Health Navigator Program was implemented. Pediatricians and Family Practice doctors refer patients and clients to the program.

This centralized entry point is designed to assure area youth, ages 2-21, have access to high-quality, culturally competent behavioral health services. TPBHC will work to support and/or implement initiatives focused on:

- Supporting pediatric and family medicine practices, clinicians, and community partners
- Supporting families
- Integrating behavioral health services into primary care
- Engaging in relevant policy and advocacy efforts

The program is supported by the Alliance, a group of pediatricians who provide content expertise and guidance on the clinical related issues of the program. August 2020 marked the program's 3-year anniversary and since that time we have received more than 3000 physician referred children/families to the program.

Q1 TPBHA meeting dates:

WCL facilitates the Tallahassee Pediatric Behavioral Center Alliance (TPBHA) meetings – October 14th, November 24th, December 16th– ZOOM Conference Call

SEE ATTACHED MONTHLY OCTOBER PROGRAM REPORT

SEE ATTACHED MONTHLY DECEMBER PROGRAM REPORT

TPBH Alliance Meeting December 16, 2020 12:15-1:15 pm

I. • BHN Activities and November referrals

65 total referrals. Diff between consultations complete and received were scheduled from a previous month.

- PCP Outreach IV.
 - No presentations in November.
 - Attended workshop with Dr. Fulloco "I Can't Focus, and I am Freaking out."
 - Outreach with PCPs (Professional Park Peds, ASK, Bond, Magnolia) and Turn About Inc.
 - Still doing clinical supervision with Cori.
 - Full staff meetings with Dr. Flynn's team we have twice monthly.
 - Hired Constance has helped us schedule more.
 - Dr. Mary Beth Seay would like to see a month-to-month graph of the referrals a bar graph. Want to see the graph long term. And graph of who is referring to us each month.
- 11. Proposed metrics (Courtney Atkins)
 - Talked about it in the last meeting.
 - QuickBase system want to be more robust and types of information we can pull.
 - Metrics age, race, sex, zip code, reason for referral, ACEs in second stage of paperworkparents can opt-out, referral (number and type), family satisfaction survey, and PSC (Pre and Post)
 - PSC is the one we are using to show program effectiveness.
 - Good for program eval, grant writing, fidelity.
 - Dr. Seay thought there was 6 more metrics from the last meeting (i.e., dx). Dr. Seay thinks Courtney wrote them down from the last meeting. Dr. Seay concerned about losing data. As a clinician would want to know what the diagnoses is, presenting problem does not suffice. ***Courtney will look to find the notes.
 - Had discussed having internal discussions about making the link between the provider and PCP. Don't think had developed a system to do this.
 - Cori remembers the conversation- trying not to get too in the mix as navigators. Need to decide what we want from the Behavioral health providers. Vital information but for what reason? What do we do with that information? Cori agrees would be great to collect the information.
 - Cori would like more information on psychoed-child development, what schools can provide etc. Consider what is data and what is info contained in free text fields. If we don't have drop downs and fields in QuickBase then it's information mining that is time consuming and not easily extracted.
 - Dr. Cross would like to see physician satisfaction as well as family satisfaction. Can
 obtain this in the notes. Another measurement would be physician referrals going up
 or down.

- MOU Draft
 - Have been discussing for some time now.
 - To be shared with referring providers- establishing a way of work with center, BHN and provider.
 - \circ We want more feedback with less chasing down.
 - As providers fall on and off insurance panels, we need to know that- keeping information current is important.
 - Brittany: it is a simplified draft- mutual; agreement what we will provide and what we are asking they provide to us.
 - We agree to send them two-way exchange, referral form (if applicable), contact info, insurance clients have, summary of presenting problem, send them a completed PSC.
 - We would like provider to communicate insurance panel changes, education, and training of staff (i.e., specialization is Music or play therapy), attempted contact, therapist assigned to, first appointment time and was it successful (they came), closure or discharge of cases with a PSC completed at this time. Major office or staffing changes- therapists leaving etc. to allow us to close feedback loop.
 - Dr. Seay- can we get the diagnosis at this point. Dr. Seay is concerned about having a dx for program eval down the road.
 - Cori- if we go with dx then we need to discuss who is the releaser. For example, when we do psych evals who is the releaser, do we want to be responsible for that? What relationship do we want to foster? We want the providers to communicate directly with the PCPs. Is sharing information back-and-forth with BHNs, are the updates ongoing?
 - Courtney the more we can know about each child can allow us to better tell our story.
 - \circ Duration = 1 year
- TPF Membership Engagement
 - Courtney wanted to throw it out to TPF members: we meet bi-weekly with Dr. Flynn's team and talk about how we can engage with the pediatricians. Dr. Flynn is open to do a presentation to the docs at an upcoming meeting. Schedule her so she can discuss BHN model. CME if just talks about program but if more of a discussion and feedback then CMEs may not be possible.
 - Is there more we can do to provide for doctors?
 - Dr. Judy St. Petery would like Dr. Flynn to come and present- didn't think it had to be didactic to qualify for CMEs.
 - If there is more of a report or a different type of report that we can provide monthly let Courtney now. Dr. St Petery loves the idea of a bar graph; they have that in their other pediatricians meeting.
- Announcements
 - Courtney: Dr. Flynn has been selected as next Chair of Department of Behavioral Sciences and Social Medicine at FSU College of Medicine.
 - Happy Motoring Event CANCELLED
- Schedule Next Meeting
 - January meeting scheduled for
 - People have requested to have a set meeting (e.g., third Wednesdays of month). Dr. Singh and Dr. Judy St. Petery agree with a set day each month. Dr. Seay suggested the second Wednesday of each month.
 - Next meeting January 13th, 2021. 12:15 p.m.-1:15 p.m.

Adjourn

Next meeting 1/13/20201@ 12:15 p.m.

Q2 TPBHA meeting dates:

WCL facilitates the Tallahassee Pediatric Behavioral Center Alliance (TPBHA) meetings – January 13th, February 10th, March 10th-Zoom Meeting.

SEE ATTACHED MONTHLY JANUARY PROGRAM REPORT

SEE ATTACHED MONTHLY FEBRUARY PROGRAM REPORT

SEE ATTACHED MONTHLY MARCH PROGRAM REPORT

Alliance Meeting Notes January 13, 2021 12:15-1:15 pm

AGENDA

I. Program Budget Update

- Courtney provided update on funds in account and funds left over from FSU grant; Update on Florida Blue Grant
- DEO Grant funds available through June 1, 2021 for psychological evaluations and assessment allowing reimbursement for working through files to triage children who need evaluations. Cori is working through the files and being reimbursed through the grant funds.
- FSU college of Med funds expire at the end of March. Promising for renewal for another year. Renewal would start April 1, 2020.
- Have not used \$50,000 that Dr. Seay was able to secure.
- o Update on Dr. Hooper and scheduling psychological evaluations

II. BHN Program Update Brittany Bruce

- BHN Activities and December Referrals
 - o 77 referrals
 - 67 completed consultations
 - o Attended Motivational Interviewing and Patient Engagement presented by Dr. Flynn
 - Outreach: North Florida Pediatrics, Tallahassee Pediatrics and Adolescent and Pediatric Medical Center
 - o Weekly staffing with Cori and Bi-Weekly BHN meetings with the Flynn Lab staff
 - All consultations facilitated via Telehealth
 - Client and PCP Referral Graphs
 - Alliance members were agreeable to the aesthetics of the graphs presented
 - Cori asked Dr. Singh and Dr. Robinson if it would be helpful to have a quarterly report of the numbers of referrals that we received from their office. Dr. Robinson agreed that it would be helpful
 - Metrics
 - Courtney spoke about the metrics that were decided upon as a team. She spoke about the ACES being done during the consultation and passed along to the provider.
 - Dr. Flynn and Cori spoke about using the ACES and the con of the ACES being possibly duplicating what the provider would collect.
 - Cindy Evers presented that from a clinical perspective, we need to consider that information may be revealed that may cause for DCF involvement and reports to be made.

- Dr. Seay brought up the issue of the diagnosis to be included in the metrics. Courtney and Dr. Flynn provided input regarding the BHNs not being responsible for communicating the diagnosis to the PCP. Information will be included in the MOU to encourage the provider to communicate with the PCP. Dr. Flynn stated that FSU has a form that can be used to provide the information to the physicians. Dr. Seay agreed that diagnosis should be communicated by the provider, but wanted the BHN program to have the information for future data for funding purposes. Dr. Singh suggested that the form Dr. Flynn referred be sent to both the PCP and BHN program.
- Dr. Singh expressed that she doesn't receive feedback from any providers that her clients see.
- Dr. Flynn asserted that part of the FSU contract is to be able to provide some technical support for the BHN integration

III. Finalized MOU and Distribution

• Brittany is working on a cover letter that will be distributed with the MOU to include language about communication between the provider and the PCP.

IV. Announcements

- Dr. Flynn will present to the physicians about the BHN Program and the integrated model. Dr. Flynn will check with the CME office to ensure CMEs can be offered. She discussed the possibility of having to push the date back to March to insure CMEs can be offered.
- Dr. Flynn surveyed to see if pediatricians were interested in short term psychiatric consultation collaboration service. Dr. Flynn will determine cost associated to see how it can be incorporated into FSU contract.
- \circ There was brief discussion about child psychiatrists in town
- Dr. Cross presented information from news that most Mental health issues present by age 14 and if not addressed lead to lasting mental health issues

V. Schedule Next Meeting

o Wednesday, February 10th at 12:15p

Q1 and Q2 update:

5) Advancing Racial Equity Planning Committee - WCL is facilitating this committee that includes representatives from Leon County Schools, City of Tallahassee, Leon County, LCSO and community members to bring a series of conversations across all sectors of our community. The committee has decided to brand themselves as Equity Tallahassee Leon.

Equity Tallahassee Leon is a coalition of leaders and advocates committed to addressing the issues of racial injustice and systemic racism in our community. This coalition was coordinated by Whole Child Leon to implement substantial and lasting change in Leon County. Equity Tallahassee hopes to initiate conversations discussing local racial inequity through interviews showcasing the voices of community members personally affected by prejudice. Our coalition recognizes the long history of these issues, but solutions and healing is possible through a united community effort.

Q1 Advancing Racial Equity Planning Committee meeting: October 6th, November 10 and December 13th

I. Updates: Outreach for Racial Equity Planning Committee Outreach Efforts- Chuck Hobbs, Miaisha Mitchell, Leroy Peck, Nettie Parramore and Videos completed. Editing and Production

II. Posting and Promoting Videos -YouTube register a page. Post videos there. Include the partners logos. Our own brand and org. partners logos Let's Talk Series Call to Action: Listen, Learn, Lead Leon County, LCS, COT, WCL, LCSO, FL DOH Leon in Leon, TPD, FPRA (Amanda will get approval) Equity Tallahassee Leon - logo? Amanda – Media Press Release Have 5 videos. After the RR Summit Launch Nov 9 or 10

Courtney Atkins participated in the City of Tallahassee's Virtual Race Relations Summit - October 29 Equity and Inclusion Conference 20 panelist, Police Matters, Edu, MH, Youth Dealing with Stress, Making Good Trouble-John Lewis

How can this committee help? Get the word out thru social and other networks. The committee has created a YouTube and Website (still in beta testing)

Website:

https://equitytallahassee.org/

SEE ATTACHED: WEB PAGE

Q2 Advancing Racial Equity Planning Committee meeting: January 5th, February 2nd and March 2nd

Article on behalf of Whole Child Leon and Equity Tallahassee Leon for publication in the Chronicle

Equity Tallahassee Leon promotes An Exchange of Perspectives

Equity Tallahassee Leon (ETL) concluded their call to action, An Exchange of Perspectives, on March 7. This prompt encouraged community members to initiate conversation with someone of a different racial, ethnic, and cultural background from their own and submit their experience on the ETL website.

ETL is a coalition of leaders and advocates committed to addressing the issues of racial injustice and systemic racism in the community. The coalition hopes these conversations are a step for many community members toward a greater awareness of the circumstances of those around them.

Courtney Atkins, the executive director of Whole Child Leon and ELT steering committee member, chronicled her experience participating in an exchange. She spoke with Annie Harris, a local artist and retired educator.

"Being Black required [Harris] to be her own advocate to gain the rights and respect I've always been given." said Courtney Atkins in her call to action submission.

Harris's work can be found across Tallahassee, including in her current exhibit, "Common Ground," at the Council on Culture & Art's (COCA) City Hall Art Gallery. She is also a known advocate for the promotion of creativity in children and underserved communities.

Though the call to action is over, ETL hopes the conversations are not. They believe continued dialogue and a united community against social injustice is needed to create lasting, institutional change.

This is also the premise of ETL's "Let's Talk" interview series. These short interviews showcase the pervasive nature of racial injustice through the perspectives of community members. By sharing the stories of community members, ETL hopes to demonstrate the immediate need for racial equity.

Whole Child Leon organized ETL after hosting the Community Conversation on Racial Equity in 2019. After seeing an interest from the community in continuing this conversation, Whole Child Leon expanded their efforts with the help of the City of Tallahassee and the Leon County Sheriff's Office. In just over a year and a half since that first conversation, ETL continues to grow. Its new website and social media were launched late last month.

The ELT steering committee members are Courtney Atkins, Whole Child Leon; Cynthia Barber, City of Tallahassee; Claudia P. Blackburn, Leon County Health Department; Dr. Michelle Gayle, Leon County Schools; Amanda Handley, Florida Public Relations Association Capital Chapter; Angela Hendrieth, City of Tallahassee; Shonda Knight, Leon County Sheriff's Office; Drew Piers, Florida Public Relations Association Capital Chapter; and Commissioner Dianne Williams-Cox, City of Tallahassee.

SEE ATTACHED: EQUITY TALLAHASSEE OUTLINE

SEE ATTACHED: PRESS RELEASE FLYER FEBRUARY 24TH

SEE ATTACHED: PRESS RELEASE NOTICE

SEE ATTACHED: PRESS BOARD

SEE ATTACHED: PICTURE OF PRESS CONFERENCE

SEE ATTACHED: PICTURE OF ANNIE HARRIS

SEE ATTACHED: PICTURE DRAWN BY ANNIE HARRIS

SEE ATTACHED: EQUITY TLH PARTNERHIP FOR RACIAL EQUITY

11. Program Goals:

- a. **Short-term -** on-going -To continue to raise awareness of the importance of the early years of a child's life by leading advocacy efforts by way of provider and parent engagement, local newspaper /media, and through interfacing at community outreach events and by acting as a key partner in planning the following: 2020 Summit on Children, Maternal Child Health Equity Community Dialogs and Conference, fiscal agent for the South City Foundation, Free Developmental Screening Days for young children, and by hosting a monthly professional network community conversation meeting with more than 60 agency and organizations represented. Pediatric Behavioral Navigator Program- This program is currently at capacity -working to identify resources that will enable WCL to grow the program to meet the needs of the community.
- b. Intermediate Continue to facilitate and grow the activities in the South City neighborhood including: Purpose Built Communities, begin development of an Educare Early Learning Center, Neighborhood Assoc, developmental screening for children 6 months-5 years of age, multi-sport club and implement a behavioral health navigator program in partnership with the Tallahassee Pediatric Foundation.
- c. **Long-term** -To continue to work to change the culture of Leon County whereby services are provided to children 0 to 5 years of age (and their families) in a comprehensive, seamless, collaborated manner to ensure a child receives all needed services.
- 12. **Objectives** (Intended impact/outcome results)
 - a. Activities see below.
 - b. **Time Frame** on going
 - c. Key Performance Indicators (Quantifiable)

Whole Child Leon sees the following as a result of our work:

- Provides critical information to the community related to status of maternal and child health in Leon.
- Families have one-stop access to a wide range of service providers.
- More families receive services they need.
- Community needs, and service gaps are identified, allowing us to facilitate seeking resources and providers to address those needs.
- Increased communication and collaboration among agencies providing services to families.
- Makes it easier for families to gain access to the information and services they need.
- Empowers families to address their needs proactively, not only when faced with a crisis.

d. Outcome Measures

(Benefits or changes for participants during and after their involvement with the program)

13. Data Collection Method: from partners for the status of the child report and from providers and parents

through community outreach. Surveys and assessments through activities and programs.

14. Number of Participants that left or were dropped from the program: N/A

- 15. Provide Participants demographic data: see attached.
- 16. If possible, please provide participant program satisfaction data: (surveys, etc.)
- 17. List any agency partnerships and collaborations related to this program.

Agency	Partnership/Collaboration
Apalachee Mental Health Center	CHIP Behavioral Health Committee and Behavioral Health Program
Big Bend AHEC	Healthy School Challenge
Big Bend Community Based Care	Professional Network Partner
Boys and Girls Club of Big Bend	Youth Empowerment and Entrepreneurship Training (YEET) program
Breastfeeding Policy Workgroup	Partnership in Breastfeeding Coalition to address policy's regarding breastfeeding
Capital Area Community Action Agency	Implementing 95210-The Whole Picture of Health in Leon County Head Start Centers, Professional Network Partner, Community School
	Breastfeeding Policy Workgroup, Maternal Child Health Collaborative,
Capital Area Healthy Start Coalition	Board service
Capital City Bank	Partnership with South City Foundation
Capital City Youth Services	Professional Network Partner (Youth Advocacy)
Children's Home Society	Professional Network Partner
Children's Medical Services	Healthy Infant Partnership, Partner in Free Community Wide Developmental Screening
City of Tallahassee	Funder, Professional Network Partner, Partner in South City initiatives and Purpose Built, Partner for Summit on Children
Community Foundation NF	Partnership with South City Foundation
Community Wellness Counseling Services	Provider partner Behavioral Health Navigator Program.
Department of Children & Families	Partner in Early Childhood Mental Health SAMSHA grant, Professional Network Partner, Partner in Free Community Wide Developmental Screening
Department of Health (Leon County)	Healthy Cities Challenge grant for iGrow South City community garden project, Breastfeeding Policy Workgroup, ECOP workgroup, Early

	Page 66 of 192
	Childhood Education & Empowerment Workgroup, South City Community Health Assessment
Early Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition (ECOP)	95210, Childhood Obesity Prevention Education
Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend	Professional Network Partner, Tallahassee Pediatric Behavioral Health Navigator program, Partner in Free Community Wide Developmental Screening, Board Service
Envision Credit Union	Partnership with South City Foundation
Families First of Florida	Provider partner Behavioral Health Navigator Program
FAMU Institute of Public Health	Institute of Public Health, College of Pharmacy professors Fran Close and Sandra Suther; South City Initiative, College of SW and Public Health Internship Program, Partner in Free Community Wide Developmental Screening
Florida Center for Reading Research	Early Childhood Education & Empowerment Workgroup, Summit on Children
Florida Children Council	Professional Network Partner
Florida Diagnostic & Learning Resource System	Partner in Free Community Wide Developmental Screening
Florida Public Health Association	Dedicated to the advancement of public health professionals in Florida.
FSU College of Medicine	South City Initiative, Infant and Maternal Health, College of SW and Internship Programs, Partner in Free Community Wide Developmental Screening, Pediatric Behavioral health Navigator Program
Foundation for Leon County Schools	Collaborating on the implementation of 95210-The Whole Picture of Health in elementary school's district-wide
Greater Bond Neighborhood Association	GBNA Community Focus with the Neighborhood First Plan
Help Me Grow Leadership Team	Partner in Free Community Wide Developmental Screening
Lawton Chiles Foundation and Whole Child Florida	Provides strategic leadership and guidance on Whole Child Philosophy and to early childhood issues and funding to WCL.
Leon County Government	Funder, Professional Network Partner, Partner in South City initiatives
Leon County Schools	Title 1 Advisory Board, ECOP Workgroup, Partner in Free Community Wide Developmental Screening, Board service
Leon County Sheriff's Office	Professional Network Partner, Partner in South City initiatives, Board Service
Sen. Loranne Ausley's Office	Purpose Built Community Project, South City Initiatives, Board Service
Marpan Recycling LLC	Partnership with South City Foundation
NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness	Nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of children's & families, PACT Partner, Host parent meetings
Our Kids First	Children Services Council Advocacy
Play Big	Professional Network Partner, Tallahassee Pediatric Behavioral Health Navigator program, Partner in Free Community Wide Developmental Screening, Early Childhood Education & Empowerment Workgroup
Purpose Built Communities	Partner for technical assistance and implementation
Second Harvest of Big Bend	Food on the Move Mobile Summer Feeding Program
St. John – Due Justice Team	Partnering in Title 1 school pantry program pilot
Tallahassee Community College	Workforce development, ASPIRE Collective Impact, Early Childhood Education & Empowerment Workgroup

Attachment #5

Partnership with South City Foundation
Partnership with South City Foundation
Strategic partner for Tallahassee Pediatric Behavioral Health Navigator
program, PACT Partner, Board Service
Professional Network Partner (Homelessness)
Professional Network Partner (Childcare), Early Childhood Education &
Empowerment Workgroup, Partner in Free Community Wide
Developmental Screening
Partnership in South City and Purpose Built Community primary focus
Community Wellness, Early Child Education and Mix Income Housing
Funders of Grow, Shop, Cook, Eat Initiative in South City
Grow, Shop, Cook, Eat Initiative, ECOP Workgroup, Farmers Market
initiatives
Professional Network Partner, Early Childhood Education &
Empowerment Workgroup, Summit on Children
Professional Network Partner

PART 1 ATTACHMENTS

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W			2	020/21	QUART		EPORT				
gency: V eporting Peri	Vhole Child I		st Quarter			gram:			ategory:		
ontract Type/	Funding Sou	urce (Chec	(One)	x 200	I Quarter _>	<u> </u>	arter	Year-End _			
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Section 1:	Unduplica	ated Pers	ons Serv	ed	· · · · · ·						
PERSONS SERVED, RACE:	Black/ African American	White	Asian	American Indian or Alaskan Native	Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander	American Indian/Alaska n Native & White	Asian & White	Black/African American & White	American Indian/Alaska n Native & Black/African American	Other Multi- Racial	TOTALS
Male	1199	1164	120							174	
Female	1161	1631	139							186	31:
Other			·····					· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
TOTALS	2360	2795	259	0	0	0	0	0	0	360	57
ETHNICITY:	L,		J.								<i>.</i>
Hispanic	119	146									2
AGE CATEGO			······						I		
Birth - 5	143	214	58							83	4
6-12	164	303	18							63	5
13-18	111	151	4							36	3
19-25	501	428	36				·			55	10
26-39	481	405	39							67	9
40-54	435	502	29							32	9
55 & above	525	792	73							24	14
TOTALS	2360	2795	257	0	0	0	0	0	0	360	57
INCOME LEVE	ELS: * AMI = .	Area Mediar	Income								
LOW (51-80% of *AMI)											
VERY LOW (31- 50% of *AMI)											
EXTREMELY LOW (30% & below *AMI)									1974/96/17/16 (LALER CALENDARIA)/LOVING A		
Other				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·							
TOTALS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
HOUSEHOLDS	S:							•		`	
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Total Househo	old Served:							LANDERS CONTRACTOR AND			

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Whole Child Leon Professional Network Survey 2020

Question Title
* 1. How often do you attend the Whole Child Leon (WCL) Professional Network?
8-11 times a year
6-7 times a year
3-5 times a year
1-2 times a year
Question Title
* 2. Which category best describes you or your organization's primary focus?
Education
Income Transfer
Health
Housing
Employment-Training
Personal Social Services
Retired
Other (please specify)
Question Title
* 3. What is your primary objective when you attend the WCL Professional Network?
C Knowledge Acquisition
Information Sharing
Community Updates
Build Partnerships/Networking
Reduction of Duplicate Services
Other (please specify)
Question Title

* 4. How well does the WCL Professional Network meet your stated objective above?

- Extremely
- C Very

Moderately

C Slightly

C Not at all

Question Title

5. What topics would you like the WCL Professional Network to offer in the future?

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Question Title

* 6. How likely are you to recommend the WCL Professional Network to a colleague?

- C Very likely
- C Likely
- C Somewhat likely
- C Unlikely

C Very unlikely

Question Title

* 7. Would you like the WCL Professional Network to stay virtual in 2021 even if the pandemic risk is lifted?

C Yes

C,

A mix would be nice

C Not sure

Question Title

8. If you would like to present at an upcoming Professional Network, please provide your topic and contact details below.

Question Title 9. Any other feedback you'd like to provide to Whole Child Leon?

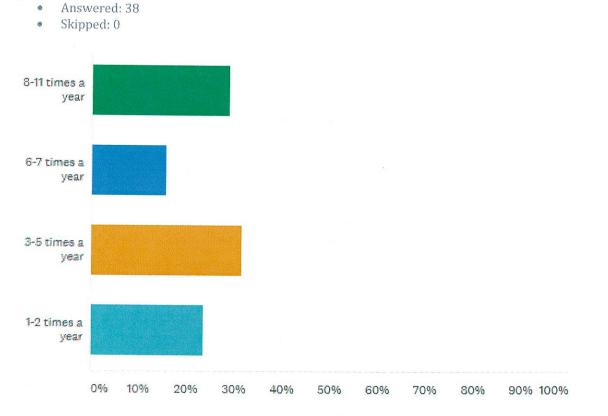


or Copy and paste questions



Whole Child Leon Professional Network Survey Results 2020

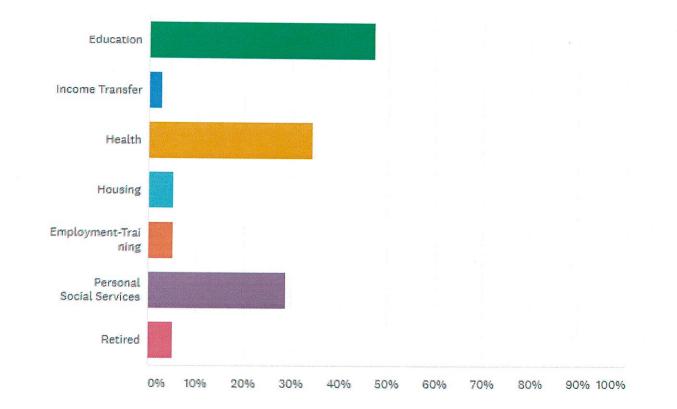
Q1How often do you attend the Whole Child Leon (WCL) Professional Network?



ANSWER CHOICES	 RESPONSES 	*
▼ 8-11 times a year	28.95%	11
✤ 6-7 times a year	15.79%	6
 3-5 times a year 	31.58%	12
 1-2 times a year 	23.68%	9
TOTAL		38

Q2 Which category best describes you or your organization's primary focus?

- Answered: 38
- Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	 RESPONSES 	•
- Education	47.37%	18
✓ Income Transfer	2.63%	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
✓ Health	34.21%	13
- Housing	5.26%	2
 Employment-Training 	5.26%	2
 Personal Social Services 	28.95%	11
 Retired 	5.26%	2
Total Respondents: 38		

Comments (9)

Comments

Q1

How often do you attend the Whole Child Leon (WCL) Professional Network?

• 8-11 times a year

Q2

Which category best describes you or your organization's primary focus?

- Personal Social Services
- Other (please specify):
- Volunteer initiatives

Q3

What is your primary objective when you attend the WCL Professional Network?

- Other (please specify):
- Build Partnerships/Networking/Information sharing/Knowledge Acquisition/Community
 Updates

Q4

How well does the WCL Professional Network meet your stated objective above?

• Very

Q5

What topics would you like the WCL Professional Network to offer in the future?

I would love to see a portion or whole meeting devoted to community partners who offer resources - a "How I can Help You" "How you can help me" exchange of information - easy to do virtually - each organization builds a Power point slide and has 3-5 minutes to present.

Q6

How likely are you to recommend the WCL Professional Network to a colleague?

• Very likely

Q7

Would you like the WCL Professional Network to stay virtual in 2021 even if the pandemic risk is lifted?

• A mix would be nice

Q8

If you would like to present at an upcoming Professional Network, please provide your topic and contact details below.

Anna Mitas - AmeriCorps VISTA Program Manager - see above :) Always happy to represent national service You all know where to find me :)

Q9

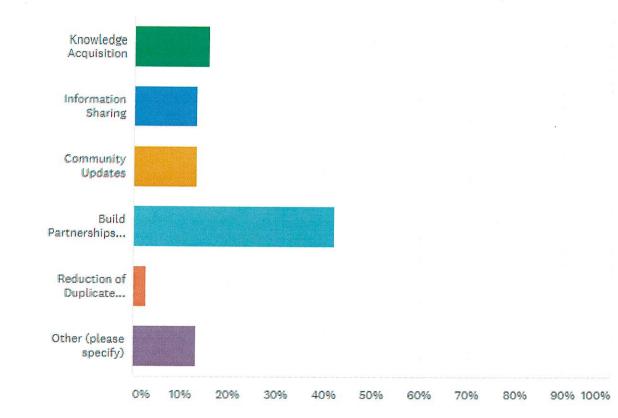
Any other feedback you'd like to provide to Whole Child Leon?

You all are amazing and are doing such important work here in our Tallahassee community and those that surround! Thank you for your incredibly hard work to make WCL a strong, impactful organization reaching so many.

Q3 What is your primary objective when you attend the WCL Professional Network?

• Answered: 38

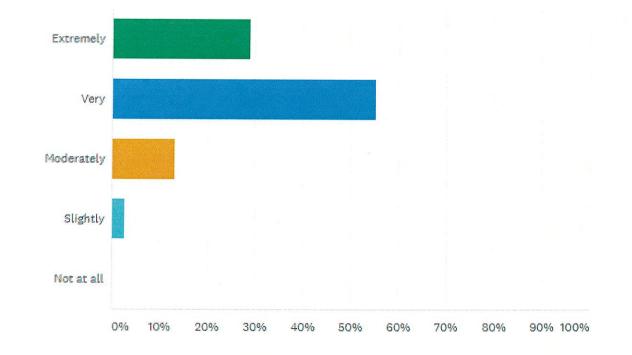




ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	•
 Knowledge Acquisition 	15.79%	6
 Information Sharing 	13.16%	5
 Community Updates 	13.16%	5
 Build Partnerships/Networking 	42.11%	16
 Reduction of Duplicate Services 	2.63%	1
 Other (please specify) 	esponses 13.16%	5
TOTAL		38

Q4 How well does the WCL Professional Network meet your stated objective above?

- Answered: 38
- Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	 RESPONSES 	•
 Extremely 	28.95%	11
 Very 	55.26%	21
 Moderately 	13.16%	5
 Slightly 	2.63%	1
 Not at all 	0.00%	0
TOTAL		38

Q5 What topics would you like the WCL Professional Network to offer in the future?

• Answered: 18

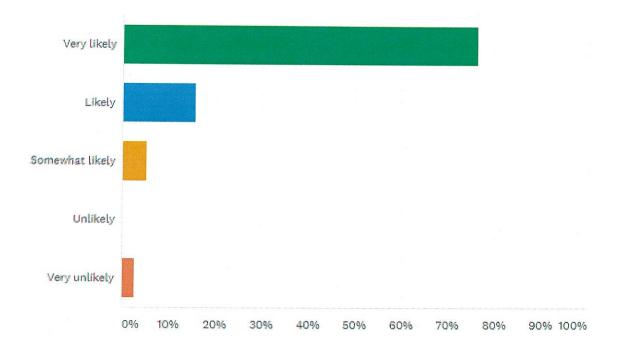
Skipped: 20

Showing 18 responses

the network provides a variety of needed topics		
1/4/2021 11:41 AM	View respondent's answers	Add tags 🕷
I would love to see a portion or whole meeting devoted to community partners who offer resor you can help me" exchange of information - easy to do virtually - each organization builds a Po minutes to present.	urces - a "How I can Help You" ower point slide and has 3-5	"How
1/4/2021 10:03 AM	View respondent's answers	Add tags 🏾
Children with special needs		
12/29/2020 10:30 AM	View respondent's answers	Add tags 🕷
Maternal mood disorder		
12/29/2020 9:21 AM	View respondent's answers	Add tags 🏾

Q6 How likely are you to recommend the WCL Professional Network to a colleague?

- Answered: 38
- Skipped: 0

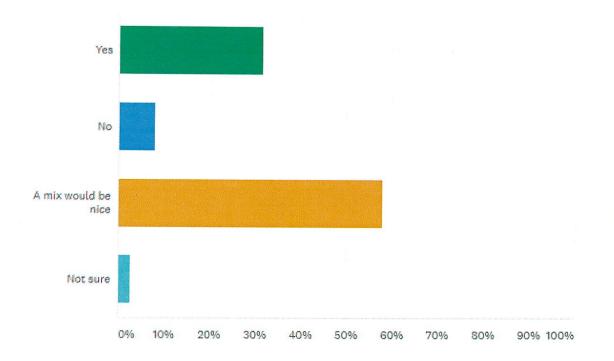


ANSWER CHOICES	 RESPONSES 	•
 Very likely 	76.32%	29
 Likely 	15.79%	6
 Somewhat likely 	5.26%	2
 Unlikely 	0.00%	0
 Very unlikely 	2.63%	1
TOTAL		38

Q7 Would you like the WCL Professional Network to stay virtual in 2021 even if the pandemic risk is lifted?

• Answered: 38





ANSWER CHOICES	 RESPONSES 	•
 Yes 	31.58%	12
* No	7.89%	3
✓ A mix would be nice	57.89%	22
 Not sure 	2.63%	1
TOTAL		38

Q8 If you would like to present at an upcoming Professional Network, please provide your topic and contact details below.

- Answered: 6
- Skipped: 32

Showing 6 responses

 Anna Mitas - AmeriCorps VISTA Program Manager - see above :) Always happy to represent national service You all know where to find me :)

 1/4/2021 10:03 AM
 View respondent's answers
 Add tags **

 N/A
 12/28/2020 7:07 PM
 View respondent's answers
 Add tags **

 How anyone vulnerable can be vulnerable to human trafficking
 View respondent's answers
 Add tags **

 12/28/2020 4:26 PM
 View respondent's answers
 Add tags **

We would love to share out about Sesame Street in Communities and eventually share our plans for the 2020-25 Ready To Learn grant work that WFSU will be a part of.

12/18/2020 10:41 AM

View respondent's answers 👘 Add tags 🖤

Q9 Any other feedback you'd like to provide to Whole Child Leon?

- Answered: 8
- Skipped: 30

Showing 8 responses

You all are amazing and are doing such important work here in our Tallahassee community and those that surround! Thank you for your incredibly hard work to make WCL a strong, impactful organization reaching so many.

1/4/2021 10:03 AM	View respondent's answers	Add tags 🏾
Keep up the good work!		
12/28/2020 7:07 PM	View respondent's answers	Add tags 🏾
You are tremendously dedicated, intelligent, compassionate and your work lifts up our comm	unity. Thank you.	
12/28/2020 4:26 PM	View respondent's answers	Add tags 💘

Thank you for all you do!

12/18/2020 10:41 AM

View respondent's answers 👘 Add tags 🤎

Child A Professional Network U

Building a Community Where Everyone Works **Together to Make Sure All Children Thrive**

Monday, February 22, 2021

Volunteers Impact Community

Today's Presentations:

Katie Britt Williams President-Elect, Junior League of Tallahassee Discussion: Top 10 Issues Negatively Impacting Children in Leon County This portion of the presentation will use www.menti.com

Submit your questions for Q&A through the Zoom chat All lines are muted.



Impacting Children in Leon County Top 10 Issues Negatively



In your opinion, what is the top issue facing children in Leon County?

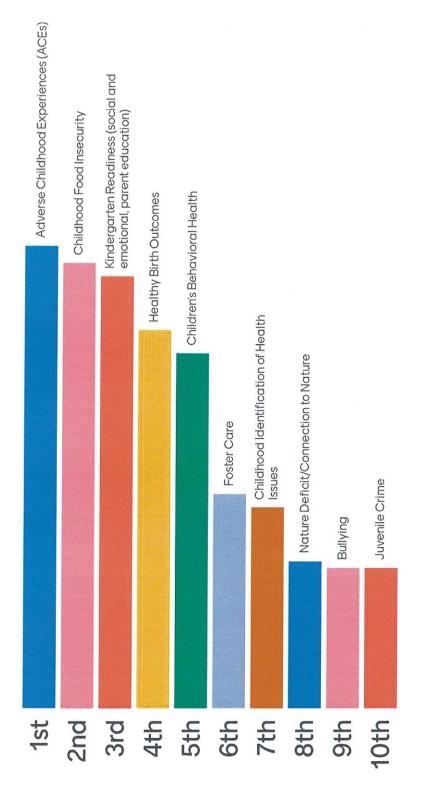


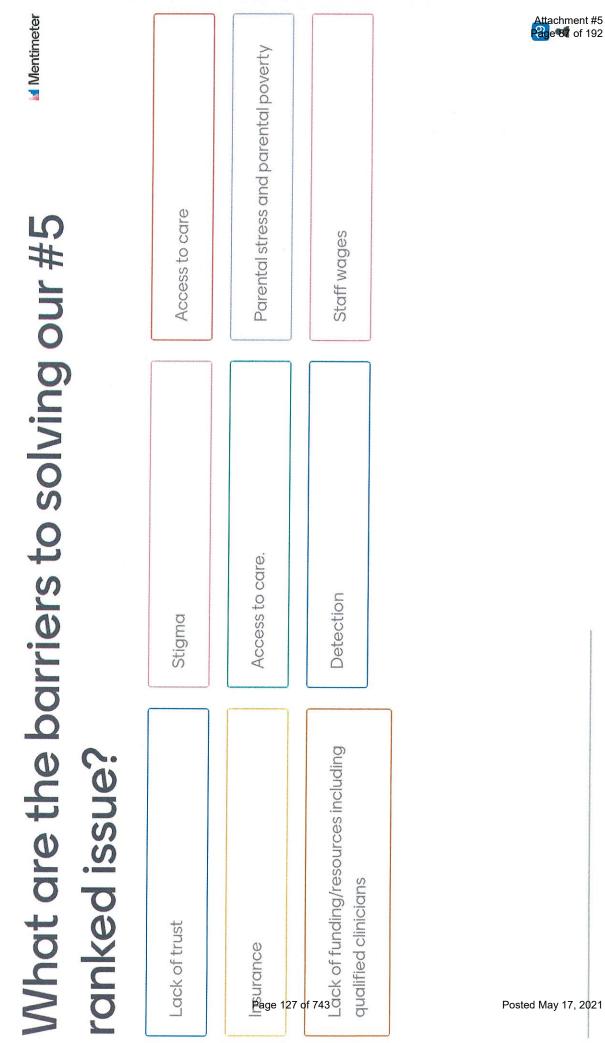
💅 Mentimeter

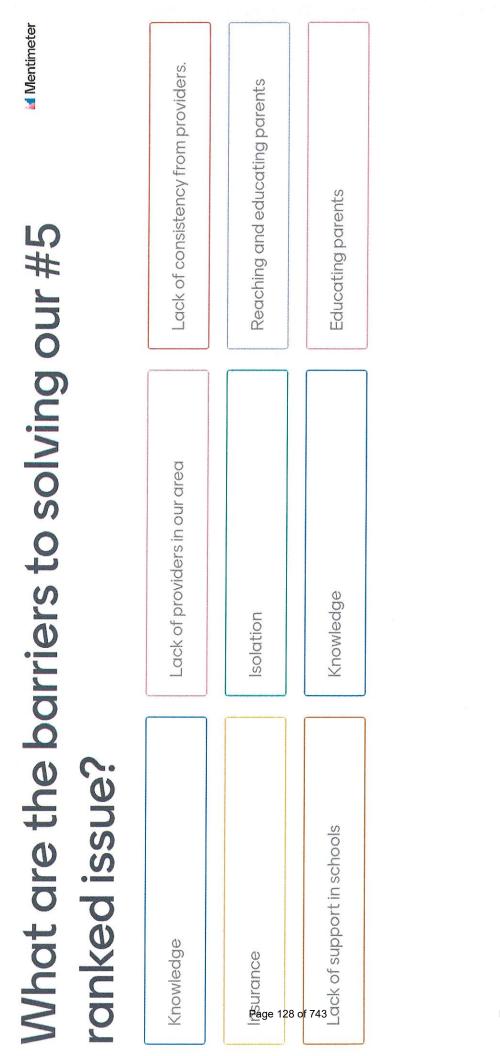


Rank the Whole Child Leon Top 10 Key Isses









Posted May 17, 2021

Attachment #5 age 88 of 192

What are the barriers to solving our #5 ranked issue?

Early screening and	aces screenings
needed	

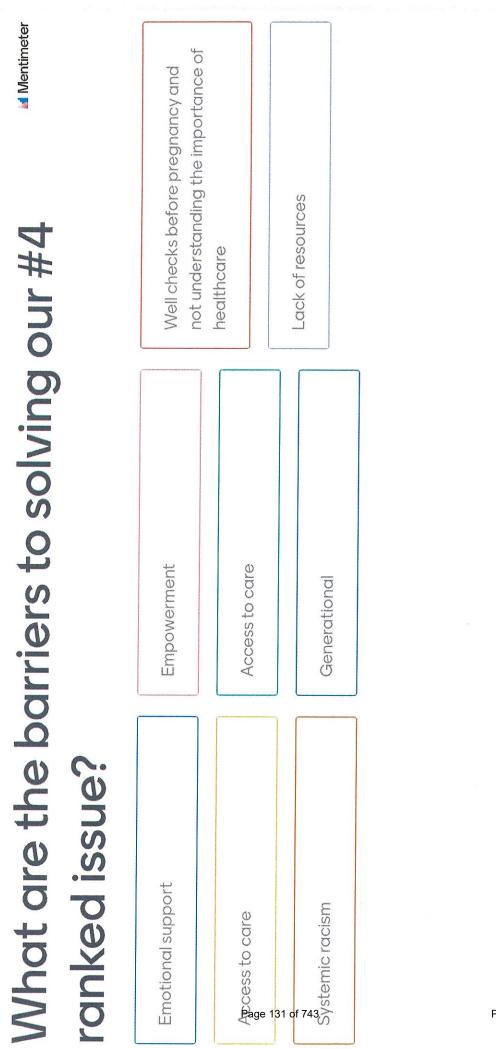




What are the bo ranked issue?	What are the barriers to solving our #4 ranked issue?	our #4 Mentimeter
Prenatal care	Education	Lack of health insurance prior to pregancy
Education and access to care	Lack of education	Financia
30 of 743		
Education about available resources	Substance use/abuse	Lack of Support networks

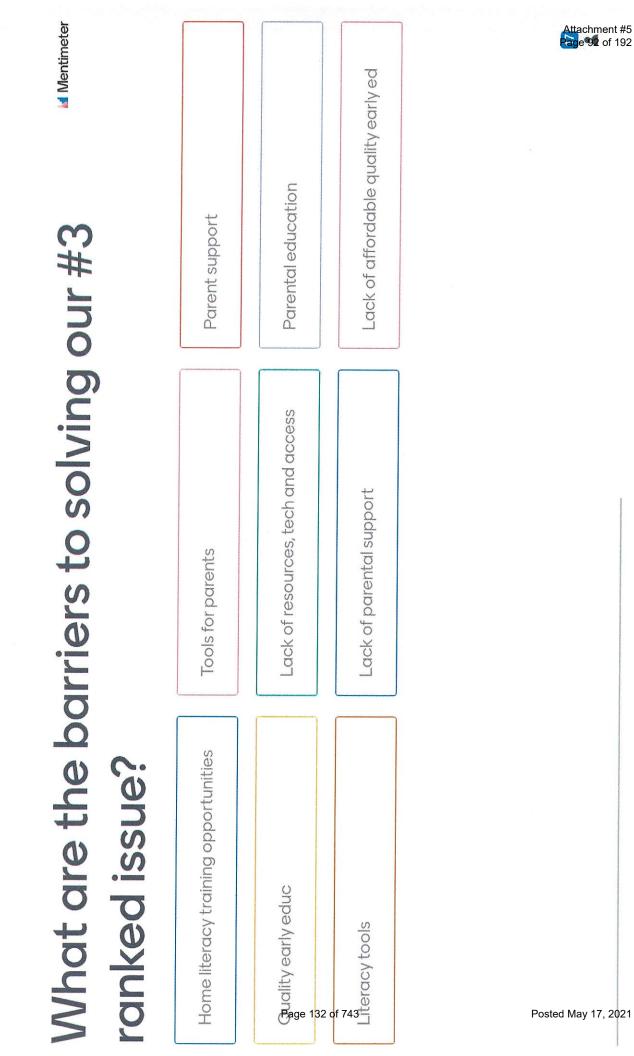
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Posted May 17, 2021



Posted May 17, 2021

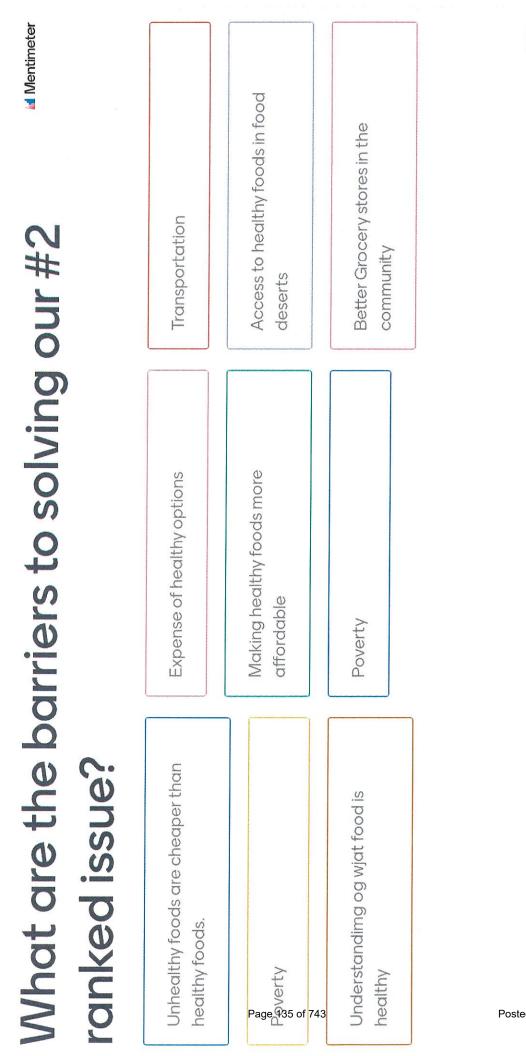
Attachment #5



What are the bo	What are the barriers to solving our #3	our #3
ranked issue?		
Affordable, high quality education	Lack of parental education/understanding	Childcare tuition/ transportation barriers
Accessible early education	Financial lack of ELC funding	Lack of resources in the schools in
(_ _ _ f 743		uneir community
Parental Education/Opportunities for children need to be extended	Parent need to recognize the importance of early learning	
Ρι		
osted May 1		Attach
7, 2021		ment #5

Mentimeter		ttion	us food	Attachment #5 Page 94 of 192
our #2	Food desserts!!!!	Poverty, no transportation	Affordability of nutritious food choices	
arriers to solving our #2	Transportation	Lack of parental resources	More opportunities to purchase healthy food at reasonable prices.	
What are the barrier ranked issue?	Food deserts/ transportation barriers	Atuan Age 134 of	strasap pood deserts	Posted May 17, 2021

May 17, 2021



Attachment #5 age 95 of 192

What are the barrie	arriers to solving our #1	our #1
ranked issue?		
Parent education	Increase trauma informed care education	Access to mental health care for ALL
Lack of screenings and having obpropriate resources to refer when	Teaching parents about protective	Generational
Del Inite 743	capacities and protective factors	Mental Health Services for
Access to resources	Child development /Parent education	Families/Outreach Education
Posted May 17, 2021		Attachment #5

What are the bord tranked issue?	What are the barriers to solving our #1 ranked issue?	our #1 Mentimeter
Parent stress poverty, lack of jobs	Childcare support for the kids	Access to care
ents, cycle of trauma	More parental education and support needed	Living wages for families, education
Lack of understanding how their decisions and situations and own	Addiction and taking personal	Parent under what ACE's is
	responsibility	
Pos		





A.S.P.I.R.E Capital Region: Early Childhood Education and Empowerment Work Group

Mission: To align and leverage community resources to ensure all children enter Kindergarten ready to Vision: To equip families with the necessary tools to achieve success in a fast-paced global economy.

learn.

Approach: Analyze the data for opportunities and achievement gaps; Make data-informed decisions regarding actions needed; convene stakeholders who can inform and support an agile action network; and leverage the community's resources, and tools that will close the achievement gaps identified.

						ment 3 of	
Status							
Assessment	Increase % of	parents self-	reporting	participation in	early childhood	program on the	- -
Materials/ Funding	LCS, WCL, Windwood	Comms					
Stakeholders	LCS; ELC Providers;	Parents; DCF;	Chambers of		Commerce x 3; FSU;	FAMU, TCC;	
Timeline	8/2019 -	3/2020					
Strategy	Create campaign to	educate parents and	community about what	quality early childhood	education looks like		
Goal	Increase the		young children	M enrolled in	a quality early	childhood	021

		Page 99 of 1
Completed Completed	Completed	Postponed due to COVID; Given over to Forward leon for full build out and maintenance
kindergarten parent survey Include pop-up experience (described below) on the parent survey for	2020/2021	
	Earlylearningleon.com purchased for 12 months	Invite Brooke to provide an update; sync with Forward Leon
Health care Providers; Direct service Providers; OEL; DOE; FL Legislature; Countr. Cit	WCL; WSFU; Title 1	
9/2019	10/2019- 12/2019	9/2020
a. Develop short checklist outlining domains of quality early childhood education b. Review/revise kindergarten	readiness checklist c. Develop campaign materials and plan	d. Launch educational campaign Expand the availability of contracted VPK classrooms throughout the community, especially at Title 1 schools; a. Develop outreach to identify more schools and spots at existing centers to become VPK contracted providers,
education		Page 139 of 743 Posted May 17, 20

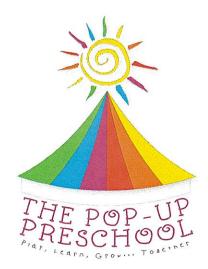
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																										P	Atta age	ichm 100	nent #5 of 192
							Complete						UPDATE: Due	to COVID, plan	amended to	pilot at one	location during	Spring Break if	possible			NEEDS	ATTENTION:	DOH Grant no	longer available		J		
	Number of	children	participants,	broken down by	age)	Number of	connections to	community	resources, broken	down by location,	by need, by age		Education/material	s provided (e.g.,	100% left with a	book)		General evaluation	of the experience	(daily)		Retroactive	Posttest for those	who have attended	at least three pop-	ups in their	neighborhood (are	you using the
	LCS; ELCBB; DOH;	BOND, City; TCC;	CAAA; FCRR/FSU;	Chambers of	Commerce; PCA	Florida/Ounce; WCL;	WSFU;	Title 1; GAP; YALE	Alumni Group; Leon	County; Healthy	Start; CARD; Pastor	Pizza																	
	8/2019-	6/2020					10/2019						11/2019											12/2019					
ELC can support with TA	Pilot 'Pop-Up Preschool' to	reach and engage parents	in areas with low early	childhood education	participation rates		a. Conduct literature	search and create	summary of benefits and	options for pop up	preschools		b. Create implementation	plan to pilot twice a week	in at least two	neighborhoods								c. Develop budget for start	up including costs for	Personnel, DOH Grant;	AmeriCorps Volunteers	(can we push to the Spring	for implementation but
	Increase	parental	Engagement	and	empowerment	in early	childhood	success					Page	140) of 7	743									Pr	oster	H Ma	NY 17	7, 2021

materials provided) UPDATE: Postponed due to COVID; launch in Spring 2021 (hopefully)		LCS TAP Program; Parents; Parents; Neighborhood Associations; DOE; FSU; FAMU, TCC; Healthy Start, Healthy Start,
still pursue the capacity building volunteers) d. Pilot Pop-up Preschool 3/2021 o Advertise with neighborhood planning councils to reach parents and	 Tentative date March 15-22, 2021, in one location Survey families to determine best suggestion for dosage All three neighborhood launch, May 2021 	Provide education on 1/2020- infant brain development 12/2020 and the importance of interacting with infants and young children for parents and families a. Explore establishment of
	Page 141 of 743	Increase parental Engagement Empowerment in early success Success Empowerment

																								P			ent #5 of 192
UPDATE: Created	implementation	plan for the	Sister Friends	Tallahassee	Birth Project;	acquired	domain and	seeking	community	sponsor	(possibly	Healthy Start).			Postponed;	Explore	opportunity	with WFSU to	stream live	until public	gatherings can	resume			-		
Prevent Child Abuse Florida; WCL;	WSFU; Title 1																										
1/2020																3/2020											
O M		Birthing Droject												b. Develop schedule for	workshops that are easily	accessible to parents and	families	 Screen the 	Resilience Movie	o Springfield	(April 23)	o Oliver Hill	(April 20)	o Faith	Presbyterian	(April 16)	 Facilitate COFI
												Pao	e 142	of 74:	3								—p	oste	d Ma	iy 17	, 2021

r		Attachment #5 Page 103 of 192
In process		UPDATE: Created LEARN acronym to help guide curriculum understanding
5/2020		4/2021
Training c. Create materials for use by Healthy Start/Families and other home visiting programs as well as OB offices and hospital discharge packets o 16 gestures by 16 months	이 것 다 느 ㅋ 거 다 ㅋ	 Pilot a single 50- minute lesson in a Leon HS econ class focused on the ROI of prenatal care, early screening, reading to young kids (pretest/posttest)
	Page 143 of 743	Posted May 17, 2021



POP UP PRESCHOOL CONCEPT PAPER

SUMMARY

Research confirms that when young children have access to high-quality learning experiences early in life they are more likely to arrive at kindergarten ready to leady and prepared to succeed. Unfortunately, nearly two-thirds of children in Leon County arriving at Title 1 schools for Kindergarten are not prepared.

The Pop-Up Preschool is a mobile unit that "pops up" in neighborhoods where quality early learning experiences for children, birth to five, are not currently available, accessible or affordable. The primary focus is to reinforce 'parents as first teachers' by providing a two-generational approach to quality early learning. This includes delivering age-appropriate, play-based learning activities in an outdoor environment, coaching parents on how to participate and lead their child's learning, and connecting families to vital community resources based on their individual family needs.

This program is an adaptation of a community-center based learning program. Instead of asking families to come to a center, we are bringing the experience to the people. To our knowledge, no effectiveness studies of this adaptation have been conducted. It is our goal to contribute to the existing literature on place-based and neighborhood learning.

SCOPE

Currently in the pilot phase, the Pop-Up Preschool will operate for a period of four weeks, visiting green spaces in identified neighborhoods, twice a week for two hours each, providing the opportunity of eight early learning experiences per neighborhood. It is our goal to expand the Pop-Up Preschool to offer it for 8-week sessions in the future (i.e., October/November, January/February, April/March), to provide a consistent learning environment available in these under-resourced communities.



TARGET AUDIENCE

Data provided by Leon County Schools and the Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend shows there is a lack of accessible and affordable high-quality early learning centers located in the Greater Bond and Griffin Heights neighborhoods. In addition, these two neighborhoods have some of the highest concentrations of poverty in Leon County. The pop-up preschool will target the approximately 600 children, six months to five years of age (not yet in kindergarten), living in these two neighborhoods and their parents/caregivers.

GOALS

The short-term goal of the pop-up preschool is to provide an educational tool for parents and caregivers to understand what quality early learning looks like, expose their child to a positive early learning experience, and connect families to needed community resources. The long-term goal is to positively impact kindergarten readiness for those families that consistently participate in the learning experience.

Specific objectives include:

- Family Participation: At least 20 children and their parent/caregiver will participate in each pop-up preschool 8-week session at each location for a total of 120 unduplicated children served.
- Early Literacy Materials: 100% of children participating in pop-up preschools days will receive at least one new book to take home.
- Family Retention: 80% of families who initiate pop-up learning within the first four learning days of a new 8-week period will attend at least six pop-up preschool days within the same 8-week period.
- Family Gains: 80% of retained families will demonstrate gains in parenting knowledge.
- Family Connections: 100% of retained families whose child identifies with a concern will be connected to a community resource.
- Family Satisfaction: 95% of retained families will report program satisfaction.

RECRUITMENT

Two weeks before each 8-week session kicks off, WCL will host a neighborhood outreach event. The pop-up preschool will be set up in the identified green space with community vendors in an almost fair-like atmosphere to generate neighborhood interest. Volunteers will walk the neighborhood, knocking on doors inviting families with young children to come learn more about the opportunity. Each child that attends this event will receive a new, age-appropriate book to take home. We will also advertise through our established partnerships with the Tallahassee Housing Authority, the neighborhood associations, the Tallahassee Food



Network, Healthy Start, Healthy Families and the Early Learning Coalition. In addition, social marketing channels will be utilized.

POP-UP FLOW

At each session, the family will check-in before being sent to their age-appropriate tent and report any family needs. We will utilize a web-based data system provided by a community partner that will capture basic demographic information, family concerns and participation.

During each session, children and their caregivers will participate in organized, play-based learning that includes physical movement, emergent literacy and fine motor skill development matched with WFSU's recommendation of "Sesame Street in Communities." Volunteers and staff will observe the parent-child interaction for developmental, behavioral or social-emotional concerns.

At the conclusion of each session, parents/caregivers will be guided to the check-out center where the Resource volunteer will provide the family with resources, referrals and information based on their unique needs. In addition, families will be asked to complete a brief survey on their experience. They will also receive activity sheets to take home plus a raffle ticket. If they bring back their "home work," they will receive another raffle ticket.

PROGRAM COMPLETION

At the conclusion of the 8-week session, families who participated in at least 5 of the learning days will be asked to complete a retroactive posttest on parenting knowledge. In addition, a drawing will be conducted from the raffle tickets distributed with a prize valued at approximately \$100.

DATA COLLECTION

WCL will utilize tracking software that not only monitors program participation and satisfaction but also family needs. At the conclusion of each 8-week session, families who participated in at least 5 of the learning days will be asked to complete a retroactive posttest on parenting knowledge. The data from the tracking software and the posttest will be analyzed to determine if the program goals have been met. Upon the conclusion of each 8-week period, WCL will determine if programmatic changes need to be made before the start of the next session.

PARTNERS

Materials, resources and volunteers will be provided by key stakeholder groups including the Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend, wFSU, Leon County Schools, Tallahassee Community



College, Florida Center for Reading Research, Tallahassee Food Network, Florida Department of Health (Leon County), Play Big Therapy, the Learning Pavilion and many others.

PILOT BUDGET

The pilot project will cost approximately \$12,000 in CASH plus an additional \$3,000 in in-kind donations. Some of these initial investments will carry over for the full implementation.

We are in negotiation with the Florida Department of Health to fund the pilot and recently submitted a Promise Zone grant application for a cost-adjusted full implementation plan of three 8-week sessions across the school year for \$34,468 with an in-kind contribution of \$17,565 leveraged from community partners.

These essential funding needs for full implementation are as follows:

Cost - \$5,500	1 project coordinator < Americorps VISTA>
Cost - \$14,400	4 preschool educators <10 hrs/wk @ \$15/hr for three 8-week sessions>
Cost - \$4,800	1 marketing coordinator <5 hrs/wk @ \$80/hr for three 8-week sessions>
Cost - \$720	Background screenings for staff and volunteers <8 people at \$90 per person>



ECEE Pop-Up Preschool Curriculum

Committee: Kim, Daniela, Tasha, Talethia, Vickie, Morgan, Keshia

Objective: Develop 8 lesson plans for each of the following groups:

Kick off Event Book Suggestion 0-1: <u>First 100 Words</u> 2-3: <u>The Story of Rap</u> (Maybe ELC) 4-6: <u>Pete the Cat: Rocking in my school shoes</u>

Each lesson plan should focus on early education, emergent literacy, movement and parent coaching.

ID a book for each lesson - want 20-50 of each Others: Daniel Tiger, "Books are the Best" & Others; King of Kindergarten

Week 1: Health

Day 1: <u>A Delicious Day | Grow Your Colors</u> -- <u>Very Hungry Caterpillar; Green is a Chile Pepper</u> Day 2: <u>H is for Handwashing</u> | <u>Step by Step with Elmo</u> -- <u>The Pigeon Needs a Bath; Germs are</u> <u>Not for Sharing</u>

Week 2: Routines

Day 1: <u>Tools of the Trade</u> | <u>Healthy Teeth Coloring Book</u> -- <u>Teeth are Not for Biting</u> (E/S), Bags from ELC

Day 2: Building Skills at Bedtime | Good Night Twiddlebug -- Goodnight Moon, Bedtime Ted

Week 3: Play

Day 1: Learning Through the Senses | Your Amazing Brain -- My Five Senses Day 2: We've got the Moves | Get Moving Anywhere, Anytime! -- Giraffes Can't Dance; From Head to Toe

Week 4: Social-Emotional Learning

Day 1: <u>Feeling Faces | Muppet Feelings | Feelings Tic-Tac-Toe -- Grumpy Bird, Baby Faces</u> Day 2: <u>K is for Kindness | Thankful Hearts</u> -- <u>Be Fair and Share, Mama; Be Kind</u> (ELC)

Each lesson plan should accommodate for approximately 90 minutes of structured instruction and modeling; however, each lesson plan should incorporate a flexible gathering activity to accommodate for intake each day

Sample Lesson Plan: Minutes 0-20: GATHERING ACTIVITY

Minutes 20-40: WELCOME/MUSCLE MOVEMENT/MORNING WARM-UP Minutes 40-60: STORYTIME HUDDLE / GET READY TO READ / EMERGING LITERACY SKILL BUILDING Minutes 60-80: SESAME STREET CURRICULUM/PARENT COACHING

Minutes 60-80: SESAME STREET CURRICULUM/PARENT COACHING Minutes 80-100: PHYSICAL ACTIVITY/WORK-OUT Minutes 100-120: STORYTIME REPRISE

Week 1: Lesson 1- Health	Movement	Activity	Topic Points
0-1		Hands-On Activity Baby Cereal Recipe - Blender - Oatmeal - Warm water - Storage container Recipe: https://www.theleangr eenbean.com/homem ade-oat-cereal-for-ba bies/	 Tent teachers should Share how nutritious and easy it is to prepare bulk baby food with a few ingredients Encourage moms/caregiver to let baby touch the mushy food and talk about how great it is for sensory play share local resources to food pantries and if they wish for more info they can visit Keshia's Box
2-3		Hands-On Activity Green Smoothies - Leafy greens - Frozen fruits/fresh fruits - Ice - Cups Recipe: https://www.yummyto	 Share how this salad in a cup get the veggie serving and are healthier and cheaper than sugary fruit juice Talk about freezing veggies/fruits in bags for ready "to go" baggies Let kiddos pick their

		ddlerfood.com/recipe s/breakfast/simple-gr een-smoothie-for-tod dlers/	fruit and show mom how the kiddos can participate and develop language skills by speaking to the child about ingredient.ex."The frozen blueberries are cold" - share local resources to food pantries and if they wish for more info they can visit Keshia's Box
4-6		Hands-On Activity Animals on a log - Celery - Sun butter/cream cheese - Animal crackers Recipe: <u>https://eat-move-save</u> <u>.extension.illinois.edu</u> /eat/recipes/animal-cr ackers-log	 Talk about picky eaters and how letting them make their foods could lead to an interest in trying new foods. Encourage moms to use early math vocabulary with their kiddos as they make the snack ex. "We are using 1 tablespoon of sunbutter" share local resources to food pantries and if they wish for more info they can visit Keshia's Box
Week 1: Lesson 2 - Health			
0-1			
2-3			
4-6			
Week 2: Lesson 1 - Routines	Movement	Story/Activity	Topic Points

0-1 -	Hands-On Activity: Homemade instrument & Play similar to a mommy and me music class	 The book is bilingual, and babies can learn two languages easier The activity is using supplies you can find at home reminding parents that you don't need toys to play and learn Sing a song with moms and babies as they make their own noises. talk about the senses, speaking to babies in full sentences helps their development. Share resources about brain development or local screenings
2-3	Hands-on Activity: Water sensory bin Easy to do outside, not expensive, the bin doesn't have to be that big and go around the house to find things they can use for pouring and scooping. For extra fun, use finger paint to dye the water	 This activity helps kids practice their independence, and they teach spoon skills, transferring skills, as well as helping kids learn the best ways to fill certain containers. Talk about reusing plastic bottles, milk jugs, yogurt cups, and how it's also repurposing plastic (good for the earth) When it's clean up time, sing the cleanup song to show it's a transition time and that the activity is coming to an end, this will also model the way parents

		can get their kiddos to stop and clean up.
4-6	Activity: Leaf Cutting Practice Fine Motor Skills with safety scissors and simple things like leaves, grass, sticks. What's easy to cut? Practice safety rules with scissors.	
Week 2: Lesson 2 - Routines		
0-1		
2-3		
4-6		
Week 3: Lesson 1- Play		
0-1		
2-3		
4-6		
Week 3: Lesson 2 - Play		
0-1		

2-3	
4-6	
Week 4: Lesson 1- Social-Emotional Learning	
0-1	
2-3	
4-6	
Week 4: Lesson 2- Social-Emotional Learning	
0-1	
2-3	
4-6	

BRAIN DEVELOGMENT WORK PLAN

Develop and pilot a learning model with high school students exploring the economic impact of healthy brain development early in life and the role of caregivers. We have secured pilot location (Leon HS, senior economics class). The dates, however, are still tentative but hoping for a single 50-minute session the month of May.

First class: conduct pretest

Second class: start with a version of the privilege walk; focus on a few key messages related to healthy brain development that can be packaged into something catchy like 95210 or the Six S's of Success; create a TikTok challenge for students to engage them (will need an incentive); make sure that in talking about how important the early years are that we do not trigger someone or project shame; educate kids on the role of 211 in a community to connect families and individuals to resources.

Third class: conduct posttest

ACTION NEEDED: Develop proper outline with key learning objectives and take aways to develop campaign (Shannon lead)

ACTION NEEDED: Update the "privilege walk" to be relevant to this audience and mission (Holly to send current version to group for updating)

ACTION NEEDED: Develop pre/posttest evaluation.

Economic Impact of Early Childhood Education

Goals of Lesson:

- Students will be able to understand the economic impact of early engagement with children.
- Students will be able to define Kindergarten readiness.
- Students will be able to name the return on investing in the early years.
- Students will be able to name the personal and community impact on finances of parent engagement with children, early childhood education, and early screenings.
- Students will be able to list five strategies that enhance the brain development during early childhood, and therefore, lead to economic health.

PRE-TEST: DRAFT

- 1. True or False Childcare workers are a child's first teacher. (FALSE The parent is a child's first and greatest teacher.)
- 2. There are 24 million children under the age of six in America today. How many of them have to be taken care of all day, every day by an adult?
 - a. 12 million
 - b. 20 million
 - c. None of them, they sleep for a portion of the day
 - d. All of them
- 3. Which of the following strategies enhances brain development in the early years?
 - a. Playing with a child.
 - b. Talking to a child.
 - c. Reading to a child.
 - d. All of the above.
- 4. TRUE OR FALSE Kindergarten readiness is a term used to describe whether or not a child enters kindergarten able to read. (False When a child is both academically and developentally prepared for school.)
- 5. TRUE OR FALSE For every one dollar invested in quality early childhood education, the community can save up to \$13 in terms of money saved in the healthcare system, in prisons, in tax revenue, in special education . (TRUE)
- TRUE OR FALSE If a child has a behavioral and health screening during the first year of life, they do not need to be screened again (FALSE - screen early and screen often including yearly checkups)
- 7. Extremely disadvantaged children who receive early interventions can boost their earnings in adulthood by ______, putting their wages on par with those of their more advantaged peers. (25%)
 - a. 10%
 - b. 20%
 - c. 25%
 - d. 30%
- 8. TRUE OR FALSE Investing in early childhood programs is more effective and economically efficient than trying to close the gap later in life. (TRUE)
- 9. TRUE OR FALSE Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) like abuse, neglect, or having an incarcerated parent, can cause a tremendous impact on lifelong health and opportunities. (TRUE)
- 10. Children who receive early childhood education have lower risk of developing
 - a. serious cardiovascular
 - b. Stroke
 - c. Diabetes
 - d. All of the above.

PRIVILEGE WALK (8 minutes)

AFTER PRIVILEGE WALK - Explain why we did the privilege walk. Define ACES. Define trauma.

What is the financial impact of trauma?

More haunting still is the devastating impact of "toxic stress". When a young child experiences constant, inescapable stress—violence, abuse, neglect, parental drug use or mental illness—and there's no supportive adult to protect them from it, their fight-or-flight response goes haywire, flooding their brain and body with powerful hormones like adrenaline and cortisol. Over time, these chemicals start to corrode the wiring of the brain and damage nearly every other system in the child's developing body. In the short term, toxic stress affects a child's ability to learn, control their emotions, and get along with others. Remarkably, however, its shrapnel-like impact can show up years, even decades down the line, in health and behavior problems. As Dr. Nadine Burke Harris, a California pediatrician and currently the state's Surgeon General, declares, "Experiencing high doses of early adversity doubles your risk of seven out of the ten leading causes of death in the United States", including heart disease, diabetes, and COPD. While toxic stress can affect any child, rich or poor, low-income kids are especially vulnerable to it. Today, that's nearly half the children under six in America (No Small Matter)

KEY POINTS:

Money talks

- What does it cost for quality early childhood education? Unsubsidized approximately \$10,000 per year
- What does it cost to read to a child? NOTHING
- What does it cost to have your child screened? NOTHING \$1000, Help Me Grow at 211 Big Bend or WARM LINE at ELC Big Bend or Whole Child Leon Community Screening
- WHAT IS A SCREENING (define) and why is it important.
- What is the financial impact for not doing those things? We now know that the number of words a child hears before age three can vastly improve her school readiness; the first few years of life are a kind of "big bang" for learning 86 billion neurons being connected by synapses at a rate of a million times per second; and when a child lacks an engaging, loving environment, "toxic" experiences actually have the power to rewire her brain, with consequences that can last a lifetime. (No Small Matter) Reducing the number of children in ESE that could be mitigated by early intervention. After 3 years old, children can age-out of services.
- What is Kindergarten readiness? When a child is both academically and developentally prepared for school. *If a child enters way behind and not ready to demonstrate skills, that first experience at school can set the tone for how they experience school going forward.*

- How do you achieve kindergarten readiness? What the research has revealed is that it's not flashcards or fancy apps that help build a healthy brain—it's everyday, back-and-forth interactions with loving, supportive adults. In the first five years, being taught and being taken care of are one in the same, and "school" is basically anywhere with anyone.
 - OPTION ONE
 - Talk, Read, Play and Love your child video of dad talking with one year old couch <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yn8j4XRxSck</u>
 - Be mindful that they are always watching and learning from you.
 - Ensure Secure Attachment
 - Model Emotional Feelings and Behavioral Responses -<u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=apzXGEbZht0</u>
 - Screen Early and Screen Often Go to all doctor's appointments take child for yearly well checks
 - Early Intervention Seek help if you know something's not right
 - OPTION TWO
 - L love and care for your child
 - E early screenings and screen often
 - A attachment (ensure secure attachment)
 - R read, talk, and play with your child
 - N iNterventions (seek help if you know something is wrong early interventions)
 - OPTION THREE REACH
 - REACH Help young children REACH their full potential by remembering the following:
 - RESILIENCE Teach and practice healthy coping strategies to build resilience
 - EARLY LEARNING Create opportunities for high quality **early** learning in the home environment or in a center-based program
 - ATTACHMENT Establish secure attachment between a young children and an adult by actively engaging in talk, play and positive response
 - CHECK UPS Make sure young children get early and often check-ups for physical AND social-emotional wellness
 - HELP Remember, help is available in the community, just call 211
- What is the financial impact on a family/community if children do not go to school ready to learn?
 - Experts calculate that the return on investment (ROI) for quality early childhood education — in terms of money saved in the health care system, in prisons, in tax

revenue, in special education — is somewhere between \$4 and \$13 for every one dollar invested in a young child. (No Small Matter)

- But because it is, an array of other problems follow, many of which have only 0 recently come to be linked to disparities in 0-5. Higher income parents have more money and 3 times to invest in their kids' early care and education; as a result, kids from wealthier families start kindergarten up to two years ahead of low-income kids, a gap in opportunity that becomes a gap in achievement, which only reinforces the cycle of poverty. Kids who fall behind in school are more likely to drop out, and high school dropouts are eight times more likely than graduates to end up in prison. As John Wetzel, the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections tells us, "It's really simple. True criminal justice reform is investing in early childhood education." It's a sentiment echoed by a trio of retired military commanders, who note that an astonishing 71% of all Americans between the ages of 17 and 25 can't qualify for military service, either because they're too poorly educated, they have a criminal record, or they're physically unfit. To them, our failure to invest in early childhood education is a full-blown national security problem. (No Small Matter)
- Watch trailer of No Small Matter: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2nGiNfEfYjg</u>.
- Benefits of quality early childhood education from heckmanequation.org:
 - 1 It can prevent the achievement gap. Gaps in knowledge and ability between disadvantaged children and their more advantaged peers open up long before kindergarten, tend to persist throughout life, and are difficult and costly to close. Taking a proactive approach to cognitive and social skill development through investments in quality early childhood programs is more effective and economically efficient than trying to close the gap later on.
 - 2 It can improve health outcomes. Recent research by Professor Heckman and colleagues has shown dramatic long-term health effects of early interventions for disadvantaged children that incorporate early education, nutrition and health. More than 30 years later, treatment group individuals were at significantly lower risk for serious cardiovascular and metabolic diseases, such as stroke and diabetes. These findings demonstrate the great potential of coordinated birth-to-age-five early childhood programs to prevent chronic disease, reduce healthcare costs and produce a flourishing society.
 - 3 It can boost earnings. A recent study published by Professor Heckman and top researchers from around the world found that extremely disadvantaged children in Jamaica who took part in an early intervention similar to home visiting programs in the United States boosted their earnings in adulthood by 25%, putting their wages on par with those of their more advantaged peers.
 - 4 It makes dollars and sense. The rate of return for investments in quality early childhood development for disadvantaged children is 7-10% per annum through better outcomes in education, health, sociability, economic productivity and reduced crime. There's a growing recognition of the value of investing in quality early childhood programs. It's time to act on the evidence. The sooner we do, the

more likely we will be to put our country on the road to greater prosperity that is shared by all.

Watch Everybody's a Teacher: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pwplviwkBjY</u>

HOMEWORK: Create a tik-tok promoting our "catch phrase"

POST-TEST:



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South City neighborhood **Tuesday and Thursday**

Posted May 17 2021



Parent Registration

Name:
Phone Number:
Email address:
1. What neighborhood do you live in?
2. How many children do you have?
Ages:
3. Are any of your children currently in a childcare program?
4. Do you have access to a childcare facility in your area?
5. Do you have any concerns about your child? If so, please describe briefly.

6. Who cares for your child when you are not with them?

7. What resources do you wish you had access to?

8. About how often do you.... (circle answer)

-

Read to your child?	A few times a week	A few times a month	A few times a year
Create art with your child?			A few times a year
	A few times a week	A few times a month	A few times a year
Do physical activity with	A few times a week	A few times a month	A few times a year
you child?			,

9. How confident are you in your ability to prepare your child to do well in school?

(circle answer)

Not confident

Somewhat Confident

Very Confident



Parent Post Survey

Name: _____

1. About how often do you plan to.... (circle answer)

Read to your child?	A few times a week	A few times a month	A few times a year
Create art with your child?	A few times a week	A few times a month	A few times a year
Play with your child?	A few times a week	A few times a month	A few times a year
Do physical activity with you child?	A few times a week	A few times a month	A few times a year

2. How confident are you in your ability to prepare your child to do well in school?

(circle answer)

Not confident

Somewhat Confident

Very Confident

3. Did your answers change from when you arrived?

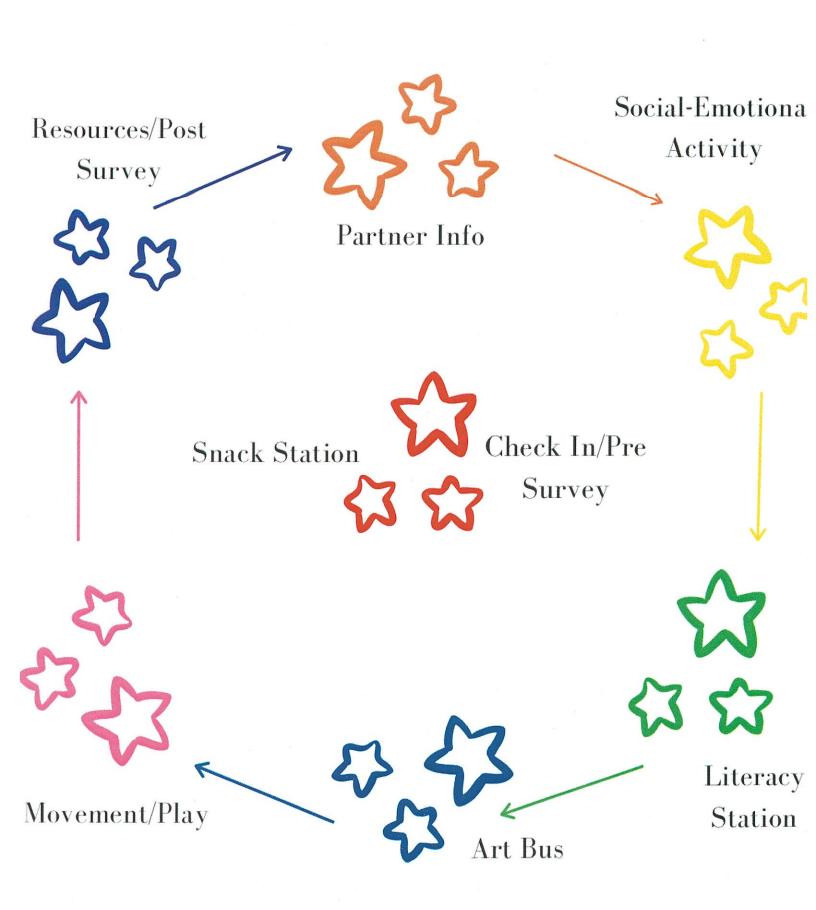
4. What did you learn that changed your answers? _____

5. What is so	mething you learr	ed about yours	elf today?		

6. What is so	nething you learn	ed about your c	hild/children toda	ay?	
		H.III.I			
	and a second				
. What do vo	u enjoy most abo	ut vour child (ch	ildren)?		
,					
					······································

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Attachment #5 Page 125 of 192



Social and Emotional Skill Development Station

Day 1 Activities

Display of Emotions

Objectives- Identify a wide variety of emotions, think about your own emotions, and recognize that others share the same emotions as yourself.

Materials- freestanding bulletin board, white card stock, markers, tape

Directions-

- 1. Ask children to write the name of an emotion on a piece of cardstock and stick it to the board (with help from a parent or volunteer if they need it). Start with asking children how they are currently feeling but go beyond that as the more common emotions get named. Each emotion should only go up once.
- 2. Ask all participants, parents and children, to sign their first name to any emotion on the display they've ever felt and put a star on the emotion they are currently feeling.

All About Me

Objectives- Discuss and celebrate children's preferences, goals, and what makes them unique.

Materials- activity sheets, markers, pens, pencils, tape, camera

Directions-

- 1. Volunteer will take and print the child's photo to be taped in the center of the activity sheet. If they prefer not to be photographed, they can draw a picture of themselves in the photo space instead.
- 2. Parent will interview their child and fill in their responses on the activity sheet. Volunteers can also help with this.

Day 2 Activities

Exploring an Emotion

Objectives- Reflect on causes of an emotion, how it feels, and how you can manage it.

Materials- activity sheets, markers, pens, pencils, crayons

Directions-

 Ask children to choose an emotion to explore. With help from a parent or volunteer they will think about what causes them to feel that emotion, draw a picture that represents how that emotion feels, and talk about what they might do when they feel that way. For emotions that are more negative, discuss ways they might work through the emotion to feel better and for more positive emotions, discuss ways they could share that good feeling with others.

Sand Craft

Objectives- Create a visual representation of the many emotions we hold within ourselves.

Materials- colored sand, containers, spoons, funnels, ribbon, stickers, glitter

Directions-

1. Children will layer different colors of sand, each labeled to represent a different emotion, in small containers. Children can also add glitter, a ribbon, and letter stickers for their initials. A parent or volunteer will explain what the colors represent and that each of us also contains many emotions, which sometimes get mixed up, but are also beautiful, just like the sand.

ECEE - THE SISTER FRIENDS BIRTHING PROJECT - PILOT

The Sister Friends Birthing Project recruits new moms during their pregnancy to join with a group of other new moms with similar gestational age to build their peer network and be paired with experienced (and trained) moms to serve as mentors. Curriculum starts during 2nd trimester and includes monthly group chats and one-on-one sessions between the young mother (little sister) and the mentor (sister friend). The program stays with the new mothers until the child's first birthday.

The pilot will include two cohorts (or bunches) with 8-10 pairs of mommas. While the goal is to provide monthly curriculum, the minimum acceptable amount is 10 over the course of the 16-month pilot. Ideally, mentors are volunteers who commit to the entire experience that will include a one-to-one relationship, training provided by the national model and facilitating 2 group sessions. Group sessions are largely "ed camp" style, meaning participants self-select the topic within a given framework (suggested curriculum: Partners for a Healthy Baby). The second cohort will start approximately 6 months after the first. Both cohorts will participate in the national baby shower and national stroll event marketed by the Birthing Project USA.

Target Population: First-time moms (prenatal, 1st trimester), must reside in a promise zones; women of color

Partners: Leon County Schools, TAP; Health Department, WIC, Bond, NMHC, FAMU/FSU Early Childhood, THA, ELC, Capital Area Healthy Start, Tallahassee Food Network, Whole Child Leon, South City Foundation, Brehon Family Services (?)

Curriculum: Partners for a Healthy Baby (from FSU/Mimi Graham -- WCL has copies of this)

Timeline	Topic/Community Volunteer	
Birth-6 weeks	First Words: Social Communication	
	FCRR: Reading with Your Baby	
Pre-birth	Doula Services	
	"Baby Box" Baby Shower (ELC) - safe sleep	

Proposed topics to start:

	TMH/NFLWC: Breastfeeding
	Immunizations
	Nutrition
	First Words: Encouraging Language Through Normal Routines
	Mom's Mental Health
	Help Me Grow/Developmental Milestones/TPBHN Program
Closer to baby's first birthday	Preparing for Preschool (WFSU)

ACTION NEEDED: Discuss naming and marketing of the project

- Tallahassee Sister Friends Birthing Project
- Incorporate colors and national logo but personalize to Tallahassee (oak tree, spanish moss, sunshine)

ACTION NEEDED: Develop full timeline/schedule for cohort recruitment/tracking

ACTION NEEDED: Schedule time with Chris & Sandy at Healthy Start; Schedule time with Brooke at TAP

ACTION NEEDED: Review the mentor description and coordinator position description

Notes for Coordinator Position: Needs to be from this community, experience working with women of color; experience in program coordination, training, and group facilitation; some college minimum, bachelor's degree preferred

Amandla to send recruitment package/sample letter for Big Sisters

ACTION NEEDED: Develop goals and objectives for project (what to measure, how to measure, when to measure)

Healthy birth outcomes for mom and baby ensuring both are thriving by the baby's first birthday

Amandla has made some progress on this. Will email the nine main objectives that include very specific goals related to full-term births (birth record), normal weight (birth record), initiate and sustained breastfeeding, reduced tobacco/substance use, breastfeeding initiation, immunizations (shot record), prenatal appointments, family planning, reduced repeat pregnancy, developmental screening, connected to resources

How does this form of parent education impact the child, longitudinally.

ACTION NEEDED: Review draft budget and explore submitting Promise Zone CHSP application to cover supplies, printing, training travel budget, incentives

We did not submit a PZ grant this time round.

ACTION NEEDED: Secure grant funding to pay for a coordinator position (potentially VISTA)



Posted May 17, 2021





SISTER FRIENDS BIRTHING PROJECT - PILOT

The Sister Friends Birthing Project recruits new moms during their pregnancy to join with a group of other new moms with similar gestational age to build their peer network and be paired with experienced (and trained) moms to serve as mentors. Curriculum starts during 2nd trimester and includes monthly group chats and oneon-one sessions between the young mother (little sister) and the mentor (sister friend). The program stays with the new mothers until the child's first birthday.

The pilot will include two cohorts with 8-10 pairs of mommas. While the goal is to provide monthly curriculum, the minimum acceptable amount is 10 over the course of the 16-month pilot. Ideally, mentors are volunteers who commit to the entire experience that will include a one-to-one relationship, training provided by the national model and facilitating 2 group sessions. Group sessions are largely "ed camp" style, meaning participants self-select the topic within a given framework (suggested curriculum: Partners for a Healthy Baby). The second cohort will start approximately 6 months after the first. Both cohorts will participate in the national baby shower and national stroll event marketed by the Birthing Project USA.

Target Population: First-time moms (prenatal, 1st trimester), must reside in a promise zones; women of color

Partners: Whole Child Leon, Leon County Schools, TAP; Health Department, WIC, Bond, NMHC, FAMU/FSU Early Childhood, THA, ELC, Capital Area Healthy Start, Tallahassee Food Network, South City Foundation, Brehon Family Services

Curriculum: Partners for a Healthy Baby (from FSU/Mimi Graham -- WCL has copies of this)

Timeline	Topic/Community Volunteer
Birth-6 weeks	First Words: Social Communication
	FCRR: Reading with Your Baby
Pre-birth	Doula Services

Proposed topics to start:

Sister	Attachment #5 Page 134 of 192
The Instance	ແຮງ ເຊຍີ່ອີສອີນ Box" Baby Shower (ELC) - safe ເຊຍອັ
	TMH/NFLWC: Breastfeeding
	Immunizations
	Nutrition
	First Words: Encouraging Language Through Normal Routines
	Mom's Mental Health
	Help Me Grow/Developmental Milestones/TPBHN Program
Closer to baby's first birthday	Preparing for Preschool (WFSU)



Sister Friends program components framework.

Component	Time Frame	<u>Responsible</u>	Frequency
1. Outreach	Anytime	Coordinator, student volunteers, care coordinators	Continuous
2. Sister Friend Training	Two day training to be completed at least 2 weeks prior to assigning Sister Friends	Coordinator, training facilitator	Occurs at the beginning of 1 bunch
3. Referral	Anytime	Care Coordinators, Sister Friends, anyone	Ongoing until the bunch reaches 10 little sisters
4. Assessment/Enrollment	Within ten (10) days of referral	Coordinator	Duration of 1 bunch
5. Assignment	Within ten (10) days of assessment	Coordinator	Duration of 1 bunch
6. Referral of Services	Anytime	Sister Friend/Coordinator	Ongoing
7. Monthly Meetings/Group Prenatal Care focusing on a variety of topics (prenatal labs, perinatal mental health, Breastfeeding, environmental health, protective factors, community/family relationships, self- empowerment, stress reduction, journaling, elder circles, etc)	One meeting/gathering per month for 18 months	Coordinator, guest speaker, volunteers	Duration of 1 bunch
8. Birthing/Parenting/Breastfeeding Classes	Birthing class will be scheduled during the second trimester.	Partnering birth professionals	Three classes within the duration of 1 bunch
	Breastfeeding		

		cieter Friende		Attachment #5 Page 136 of 192
		classes will be scheduled during third trimester.		
		Parenting class will be scheduled during the first month postpartum		
9.	Bunch Baby Shower	At one (1) month prior to due dates of majority of bunch sisters	Coordinator/Sister Friends/Volunteers	Once in the duration of a bunch
10.	Birth Watch	Within two (2) weeks of due date	Sister Friend	Last 2 weeks of gestation period
11.	Postpartum Visit	Within six (6) weeks of delivery	Coordinator/Sister Friend	Scheduled visit for each little sister
12.	Six (6) month review	Six months postpartum	Coordinator/Sister Friend	N/A
13.	One Year Birthday Party	N/A	Coordinator/Sister Friend/Volunteers	N/A

Below is an outcomes framework that we can work with.

Framework Type	Outcomes	Measurable Outcome Indicators	Data Source	Data Collection Method
	1.90% of BirthingProject babies are carriedto term (at least 38 weeks)			
	2. 90% of Birthing Project babies weigh at least 6 lbs at birth			
	3. 90% of Birthing Project babies receive their infant immunizations during their first year of life			

			l ago loi	01 102
breas	50% of Birthing ct babies are tfed during the first 6 hs of life	e Birthing Project		
prena smok	Birthing Project ers reduce their atal tobacco ing/dipping and ing by 25%			
prena	Birthing Project ers reduce their atal substance use nol, etc.) by 25%			
	Birthing Project ers keep at least 80% enatal appointments			
writt	90% of Birthing ct mothers have a en family planning before the birth of baby			
birth years	90% of Birthing ct mothers do not give at intervals less than 2 between previous nancies.			

rer Frien

1. * Describe existing services and how the program proposes to address the gap in

services for the target population.

The Birthing Project uses community volunteers to educate women in the area of prenatal care while empowering them to function as adults who can manage their own lives. After the client goes through the program, she should be able to negotiate the numerous systems necessary for a successful birth outcome. This includes understanding WHAT she needs, knowing WHERE to get it, HOW to get it, how to COMMUNICATE once she gets there and how to EVALUATE the services she needs. This enables women to reduce and/or remove the following barriers to care.



Barriers	Solutions
1. Mismatched distribution of providers	Assist in identification of accessible providers
2. Lack of transportation	Assist in identification of transportation resources
3. Lack of health care insurance	Assist in applying for Medicaid and other available programs
4. Lack of support to maintain compliance	Assist in identifying and applying for other services such as housing, nutrition and legal assistance
5. Lack of education regarding pregnancy and childbirth	Provide information, group prenatal care, and birthing/breastfeeding classes
6. Lack of understanding of the health care system and the communication skills to express themselves	Provide education that demystifies the health care system. Provide journaling, role-play and voice empowerment activities.
7. Lack of culturally sensitive services	Educates and encourages current providers to understand cultural differences and be more sensitive
8. Lack of patients responsibility and accountability	Teach women how to be good patients. Assist women in development of individualized perinatal plans.
9. Lack of culturally sensitive health care providers	Provide volunteer opportunities for students of health careers
10. Lack of support system	Provide each woman with a Sister Friend. Encourage participation of father/intimate partner and close family members in the perinatal process.

1. * Explain how the program's goals and objectives align with the organization's mission

and purpose.

The overarching purpose of the Birthing Project Sister Friend Program is to keep more babies alive and healthy by providing direction, emotional support, and education to their mothers. This support



continues for one year after the that the mothers understand and financial support for their children. birth of the baby. The project makes sure are able to provide both health care and

The project is based on the premise that communities have the strength and ability to grow healthy and productive babies. We are constantly identifying, acknowledging and affirming the beliefs, language and culture, which enables communities to survive in spite of hardships. For example, the concept of community Sister Friends rests on the foundation of "each one, teach one" and "the extended family". The Sister Friend makes sure her sister has prenatal care, "sits" with her in labor, helps "catch" her baby, "witnesses" the birth and "welcomes" the child into the world.

The Project encourages defining and ritualizing the role of the family and its role in the community, as well as well as recording the events and milestones that celebrate the importance of human life. We do baby showers, after birth parties, birthday parties, gathers and any opportunity to affirm greatness.

During the first year after birth, the Sister Friend supports her extended family in obtaining parenting and life survival skills such as finding resources (housing, transportation, childcare, financial assistance, rehabilitation, etc.) and using them; identifying and pursuing educational and employment goals; and understanding that she is part of a community which values her as an important member.



Status of the Child 2021 Report Ideas and Outline

Overview:

The Status of the Child 2021 Report will be an issue-based report aimed at providing the top issues facing children in Leon County. This report will present data-based evidence for why these issues are relevant. It will also present community solutions to these issues. These solutions could come from programs already present in Leon County or be recommendations for programs. Whole Child Leon will be conducting focus groups with the Professional Network and community partners to guide our issues and solutions. The report will align with the Children's Services Council's priority areas when it is appropriate.

Outline:

- I. Message from the Board
- II. Mission of Whole Child Leon
 - 1. Poverty (Bart, Courtney and Danielle)
 - 2. Healthy Birth Outcomes (Sandy, Courtney and Danielle)
 - 3. Childhood Food Insecurity (Bart, Courtney and Danielle)
 - 4. Foster Care (Judy, Courtney and Danielle)
 - 5. Kindergarten Readiness (Brooke, Courtney and Danielle)
 - 6. Healthy Child Development (Courtney and Danielle)
 - 7. Children's Behavioral Health (Courtney and Danielle)
 - 8. Nature Deficit/Connection to Nature (Ed, Courtney and Danielle)
 - 9. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) (Courtney and Danielle)
 - **10.** Juvenile Crime (Bart, Courtney and Danielle)
- III. Brief descriptions of each issues
- IV. Support with one to three data points from Leon County or Florida
 - a. Some key indicators in these areas have already been identified.
- V. Solution focused strategies
- VI. Existing programs locally/current investment into issues
- VII. Recommended programs from other locations

Goals:

- 1. Improve maternal, infant and childhood health.
- 2. Increase the percent of children who enter kindergarten socially and emotionally ready.
- 3. Reduce the number and frequency of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and increase resilience to ACEs if they are to occur.
- 4. Build occupational skills and increase economic opportunities.



Report Timeline: Feb 22 – April 15 Info Gathering from Providers and Parents-Focus Groups last week Feb – April (Feb, March Professional Network) Use other WCL committee meetings and hold one-on-one interviews. Consider an electronic survey.

Feb- April Data inventory and gathering of data we don't have Interview MANY agency heads, parents and frontline staff, childcare center staff, etc

March 30 Finalize report layout/design

March – April 15 Write content

April 15 Provide all content to graphic designer

April 25 Report goes to print

May 1 Hard copy received-electronic copy on website

May date TBD Press event



October 2020 Behavioral Health Navigator Program

Summary of Activities

Consultations Completed

Leon County office: 61

Age	Number	Percent
1-4	19	24
5-8	25	32
9-12	16	20
13-16	18	23
17-21	1	1

Presenting Problem	Number	Percent
Behavior	39	49
Mental Health	31	39
Environment	9	12

Total number of new client referrals: 79

Program Activities:

Presentations:

None

Continuing Education:

o None

Outreach:

- Introduction meeting with Dr. Allison Moltisanti (Neuropsychologist)
- Meeting with Panhandle Therapy Center

Client Staffings/Clinical Supervision with TPBHC Licensed Clinical Supervisor:

Weekly staffings with TPBHC clinical consultant and bi-weekly BHN meetings

Activities via Telehealth:

All consultations were facilitated via Telehealth (Phone and VidyoConnect)

Other:

- FSU DIS students began internship
- Participated in WCL Screening Day
- Advertised for Behavioral Health Receptionist



October 2020

Behavioral Health Navigator Program

Summary of Activities

Consultations Completed

Leon County office: 61

Age	Number	Percent
1-4	19	24
5-8	25	32
9-12	16	20
13-16	18	23
17-21	1	1

Presenting Problem	Number	Percent
Behavior	39	49
Mental Health	31	39
Environment	9	12

Total number of new client referrals: 79

Program Activities:

Presentations:

None

Continuing Education:

o None

Outreach:

- Introduction meeting with Dr. Allison Moltisanti (Neuropsychologist)
- Meeting with Panhandle Therapy Center

Client Staffings/Clinical Supervision with TPBHC Licensed Clinical Supervisor:

• Weekly staffings with TPBHC clinical consultant and bi-weekly BHN meetings

Activities via Telehealth:

• All consultations were facilitated via Telehealth (Phone and VidyoConnect)

Other:

- FSU DIS students began internship
- Participated in WCL Screening Day

.

• Advertised for Behavioral Health Receptionist



December 2020

Behavioral Health Navigator Program

Summary of Activities

Consultations Completed

Leon County office: 67

Age	Number	Percent
1-4	14	18
5-8	14	18
9-12	23	30
13-16	19	25
17-21	7	9

Presenting Problem	Number	Percent
Behavior	27	35
Mental Health	49	64
Environment	1	1

Total number of new client referrals: 77

Program Activities:

Presentations:

None

Continuing Education:

o Motivational Interviewing & Patient Engagement with Dr. Flynn

Outreach:

- North Florida Pediatrics
- Tallahassee Pediatrics
- Adolescent and Pediatric Medical Center

Client Staffings/Clinical Supervision with TPBHC Licensed Clinical Supervisor:

Weekly staffings with TPBHC clinical consultant and bi-weekly BHN full team meetings

Activities via Telehealth:

All consultations were facilitated via Telehealth (Phone and VidyoConnect)



January 2021 Behavioral Health Navigator Program

Summary of Activities

Consultations Completed

Leon County office: 42

Age	Number	Percent
1-4	14	19
5-8	24	32
9-12	19	26
13-16	16	22
17-21	1	1

Presenting Problem	Number	Percent
Behavior	24	32
Mental Health	49	66
Environment	1	1

Total number of new client referrals: 74

Program Activities:

Presentations:

None

Continuing Education:

• WCL: Professional Network: Stolen Childhoods: Children and Human Trafficking **Outreach**:

Virtual Meet and Greet with Jessica Reed, LMHC (Reed Family Counseling)

Client Staffings/Clinical Supervision with TPBHC Licensed Clinical Supervisor:

Weekly staffings with TPBHC clinical consultant and bi-weekly BHN meetings

Activities via Telehealth:

Consultations were facilitated via Telehealth (Phone and VidyoConnect)

Other:

• Dr. Hooper completed 3 Psychological Evaluation



February 2021 Behavioral Health Navigator Program

Summary of Activities

Consultations Completed

Leon County office: 65

Age	Number	Percent
1-4	18	20
5-8	30	33
9-12	19	21
13-16	24	26
17-21	1	0

Presenting Problem	Number	Percent
Behavior	35	38
Mental Health	54	59
Environment	3	3

Total number of new client referrals: 92

Program Activities:

Presentations:

None

Continuing Education:

None

Outreach:

None

Client Staffings/Clinical Supervision with TPBHC Licensed Clinical Supervisor:

• Weekly staffings with TPBHC clinical consultant and bi-weekly BHN meetings

Activities via Telehealth:

Consultations were facilitated via Telehealth (Phone and VidyoConnect)

Other:

• Dr. Hooper completed 2 Psychological Evaluation



March 1, 2021 – March 25, 2021 Behavioral Health Navigator Program

Summary of Activities

Consultations Completed

Leon County office: 54

Age	Number	Percent
1-4	10	21
5-8	11	24
9-12	16	34
13-16	10	21
17-21	0	0

Presenting Problem	Number	Percent
Behavior	24	51
Mental Health	22	47
Environment	1	2

Total number of new client referrals: 47

Program Activities:

Presentations:

None

Continuing Education:

None

Outreach:

- Meeting with Big Bend 211
- Meeting with Dr. Flynn

Client Staffings/Clinical Supervision with TPBHC Licensed Clinical Supervisor:

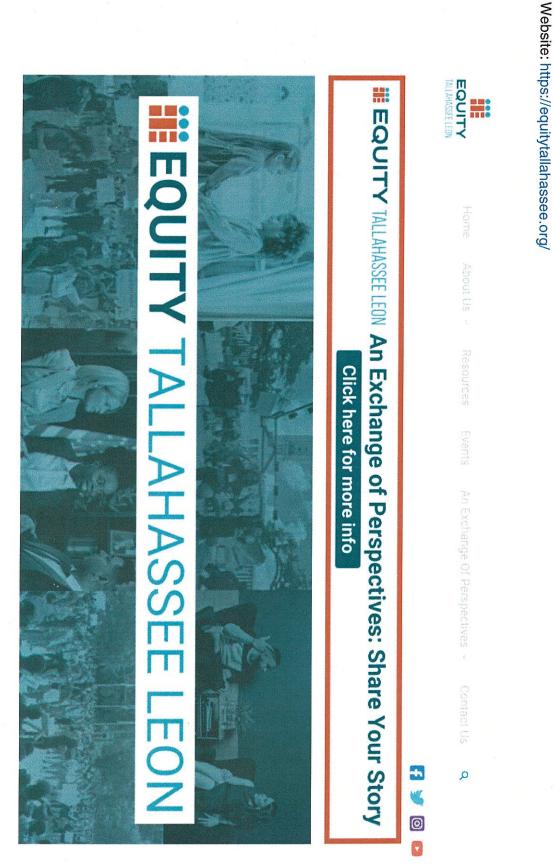
Weekly staffings with TPBHC clinical consultant and bi-weekly BHN meetings

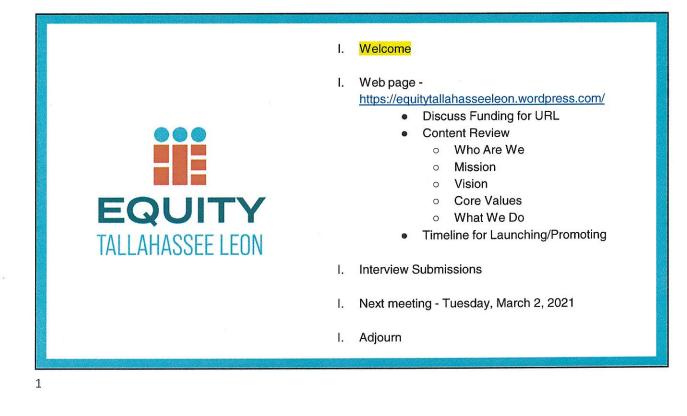
Activities via Telehealth:

Consultations were facilitated via Telehealth (Phone and VidyoConnect)

Other:

• Dr. Hooper completed 2 Psychological Evaluations





Ŀ	Welcome	
ι.	Web page - https://equitytallahasseeleon.wordpress.com/ Discuss Funding for URL Content Review What We Are Mission Vision Core Values What We Do Timeline for Launching/Promoting Media Event- Smokey Hollow? Riley House? Feb 23 or 24?	
L. L. L.	Interview Submissions Next meeting - Tuesday, March 2, 2021 Adjourn	

1

Content Review

About Us: Equity Tallahassee Leon is a coalition of leaders and advocates committed to addressing the issues of racial injustice and systemic racism in our community. This coalition was facilitated by Whole Child Leon to implement substantial and lasting change in Leon County. Equity Tallahassee hopes to initiate conversations discussing local racial inequity through interviews showcasing the voices of community members personally affected by prejudice. Our coalition recognizes the long history of these issues, but believes solutions and healing is possible through a united community effort.



3

Content Review

Our Mission: Equity Tallahassee engages our community in conversations to promote the just treatment of all people.

Our Vision: All individuals in Leon County are given the opportunity to succeed regardless of their race.

Core Values:

- Racial Equity: No person should be oppressed and denied opportunities on the basis of their race.
- Anti-racism: It is our responsibility to actively engage in the pursuit of a society without prejudice and discrimination.
- Justice: We must advocate for the elimination of all practices that promote racial bias.
- Systemic Change: Racism is beyond personal choice but is an embedded part of our society that requires institutional rectification.
- Opportunity: Advancement cannot happen without an open door.
- Community: The actions of many united under a common goal can create exponential change.
- Communication: Unity does not occur in silence, it requires dialogue and coordination.



Content Review

What We Do: Equity Tallahassee Leon creates an environment where community members, leaders and advocates are given the opportunity to discuss issues and courses of action. We seek to inform the community of pervasive racial injustice through the showcasing of familiar faces and their stories. By the sharing of personal stories of racial injustice in Leon County, we hope to enforce the immediate need for social change.



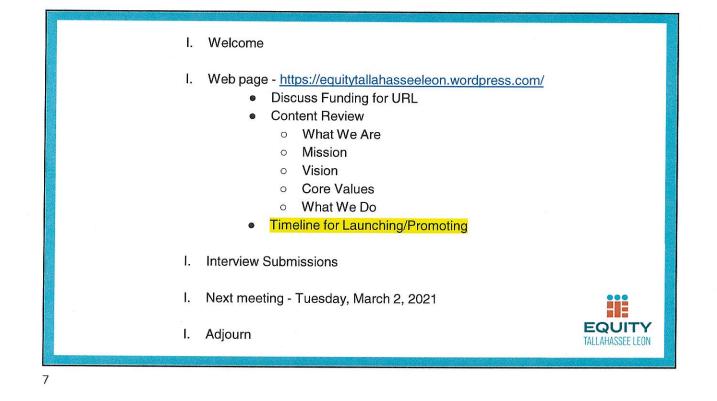
5

Website Recommendations

- The navigation bar could follow the user while they scroll through the page for easier navigation.
- "HS graduation rate" should spell out high school
- The website uses the color white extensively. Adding different colors or clear breaks between the sections of the site could make it easier to navigate.
- Change the links on the site to open in a new tab. Some are already set to do this, but others have not been.
- Make sure all links are functional prior to launching



3

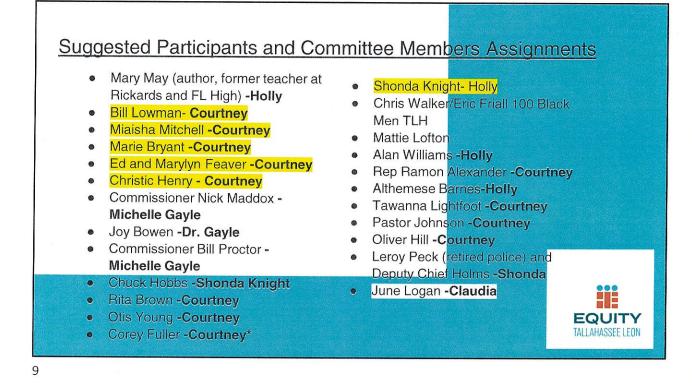


Website Launch Timeline

Launch during Black History Month -Complete site-how many videos do want to have up before launching? Date for Media/Press event -Feb 23 or 24th?

Commitment from Committee member

URL to link to your organization's site (if desired) Share equitytallahassee.org link on organization's website Promote on social media Continue to solicit videos from appropriate community members



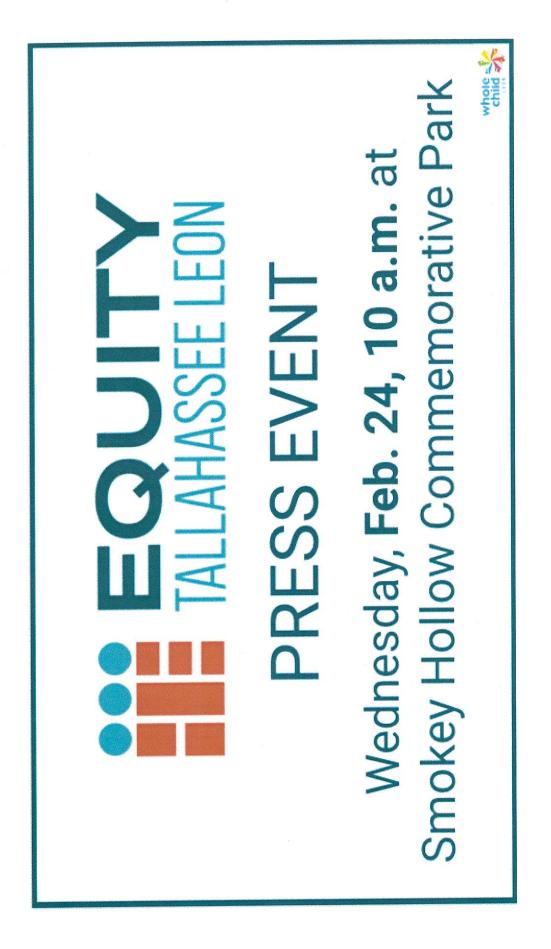
	I.	Welcome Web page - <u>https://equitytallahasseeleon.wordpress.com/</u> • Discuss Funding for URL • Content Review • What We Are • Mission • Vision • Core Values • What We Do • Timeline for Launching/Promoting Interview Submissions	
I. Adjourn			

I. Welcome

- I. Web page https://equitytallahasseeleon.wordpress.com/
 - Discuss Funding for URL
 - Content Review
 - What We Are
 - Mission
 - Vision
 - Core Values
 - What We Do
 - Timeline for Launching/Promoting
- I. Interview Submissions
- I. Next meeting Tuesday, March 2, 2021
- I. <mark>Adjourn</mark>

EQUITY TALLAHASSEE LEON

11



70 D.

Posted May 17, 2021

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uityTallahassee.org

T

EQUITY TALLAHASSEE LEON MEDIA ADVISORY Feb. 22, 2021

CONTACT: Amanda Handley, APR Florida Public Relations Association, Capital Chapter 850-570-1797 avhandley@gmail.com

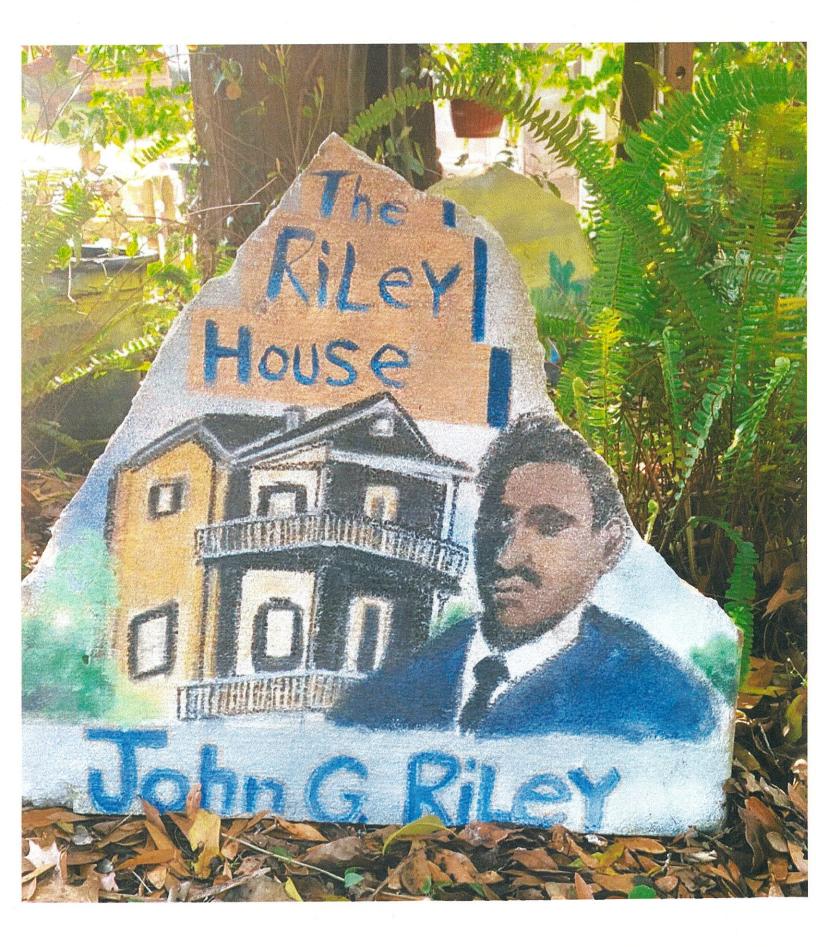
Equity Tallahassee Leon to Announce New Community Project

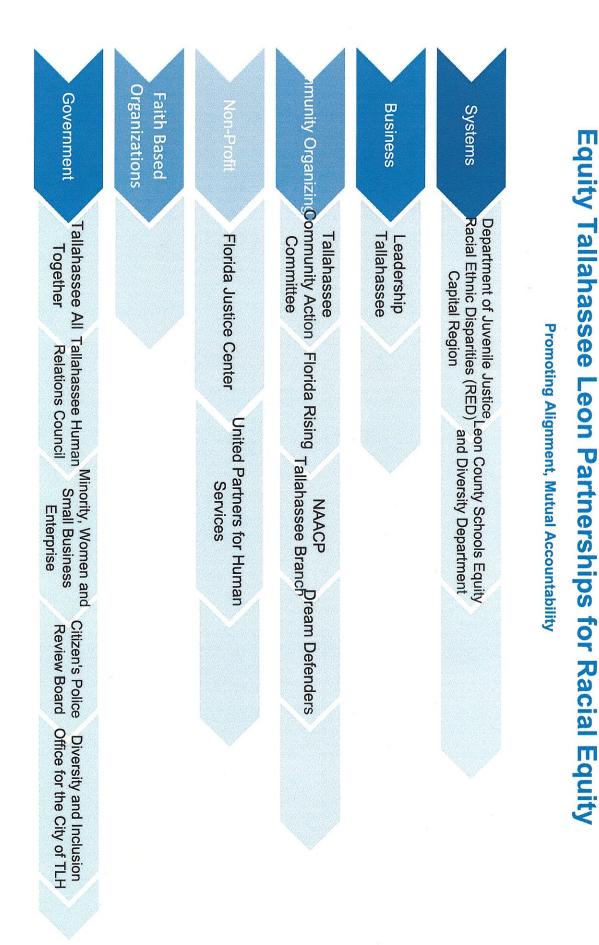
- What:To expand community dialogue around race and cultural relations, Equity
Tallahassee Leon will officially launch its first community challenge and unveil its
new website.
- When: Feb. 24 at 10 a.m.
- Who:Speakers will include Courtney Atkins, Whole Child Leon; Tallahassee City
Commissioner Dianne Williams-Cox; Miaisha Mitchell, Greater Frenchtown
Revitalization Council; Drew Piers, Florida Public Relations Association, Capital
Chapter; and Shonda Knight, Leon County Sheriff's Office. Other Equity
Tallahassee Leon committee members will also be in attendance.
- Where:Smokey Hollow Commemoration, located off E. Pensacola Street between S.Meridian Street and Franklin Blvd. on the north side of Cascades Park
- **Details**: Equity Tallahassee Leon is a coalition of leaders and advocates committed to addressing the issues of racial injustice and systemic racism in our community. This coalition was coordinated by Whole Child Leon to implement substantial and lasting change in Leon County.

Those in attendance are asked to follow COVID-19 health safety guidelines, including wearing a mask.









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Posted May 17, 2021

Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC)

EXHIBIT B – Mid Term Report

(October-March)

Agency Performance Report Format & Instructions

Agency Name: Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC)

Please provide the following information and please keep the report to a maximum of five pages. (Not including attachments)

- 1. Program Name: Domestic Violence Coordinating Council
- Program Objective: National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) and Federal VAWA research consistently show that the communities most successful in reducing domestic violence (DV) all have two things in common - a well-coordinated community response (CCR) and a large amount of public awareness/education. As such, the main purpose of the DVCC is to organize a well-coordinated community response to domestic violence, and provide public awareness/prevention of DV.
- 3. Services provided: The DVCC consists of agencies working with victims and perpetrators of DV including Refuge House, the State Attorney's Office, University Victim Advocacy units, TCC, TPD, LSCO, Batterer's Intervention Programs, Probation, Oasis Center, PACE, Elder Care programs, among others. Striving to reduce DV in the Tallahassee area, the DVCC holds the area's only monthly meetings where all players may gather to ensure a well-coordinated community response to DV. The meetings serve to encourage better coordination of services between agencies, ensure that there are no gaps in services, and to resolve any issues that arise in service delivery between agencies. As an organized group, the DVCC is also able to address issues with outside agencies or service providers without one agency in particular being targeted as problematic. The DVCC is a unified and stronger voice for change when it is needed. In addition, public awareness and education events/workshops are provided around the community with a current specialization in prevention education for teens. The goal of the awareness events is to help citizens and potential victims identify the red flags associated with domestic violence as well as how to identify and assist victims who might otherwise go unnoticed.
- 4. Services Delivery Strategy: During the pandemic, the DVCC members began meeting monthly via Zoom to discuss any issues regarding smooth service delivery or problems. Being in regular contact with one another allows the various agencies and advocates fighting domestic abuse to communicate more effectively, to address problems as they arise, and to maintain a more friendly interaction between those working in tandem on cases. Awareness and training events are held at key locations around town including community and teen centers, or where requested. These events target specific populations who often come into contact with victims of domestic abuse, and are open to the public. The DVCC seeks to work with populations that are not currently being served or are underserved by other agencies. By having all involved agencies meet monthly to coordinate and communicate, and by bringing a wider understanding of the issue to the public, the DVCC aims to mitigate domestic abuse in our community.
- 5. Target Population: The DVCC seeks to educate the community as a whole and make citizens more aware of the dangers of domestic abuse. We also seek to educate potential victims and perpetrators of domestic violence with a current focus on prevention through education of area teens. Each year during our planning meeting, members discuss what areas or populations they feel need more attention (based on their current work and experiences.) Based on these discussions special target populations for each new year are identified. In the past, they have included medical personnel, university athletes, college campuses, churches, child care staff, the elderly, and teens. Over the last three years, special attention has been paid to prevention efforts with teens and seniors.
- 6. Method used to effectively reach target population: While the DVCC strives to bring awareness to domestic violence in a number of ways, our current most pressing focus is on **prevention**. NCADV reports show that

while the number and effectiveness of services for victims has increased dramatically, the August member of incidents of domestic violence continues to rise. In essence, perpetrators move on to new perpetrators surface every day.

<u>Teen Rallies -</u> To combat this problem on the front end, the DVCC has focused on prevention via education and awareness efforts with teens in the Tallahassee area. We begin by hosting a number of Teen Rallies on Healthy Relationships at community and teen centers around town. These are large (100-150 kids), fun pep-rallies with music, food, prizes, games, and even a basketball shootout. Local celebrities and athletes often appear and our hostess is Shonda Knight formerly of WCTV, who conducts a jeopardy style quiz game to get the kids thinking about dating abuse and violence. The goal is to start the conversation and make them aware of the differences between healthy and unhealthy or even dangerous relationships. This effort has been curbed during the pandemic but we hope to offer a Back-to-School event in fall of 2021 if possible.

Teen Peer Advisors Certification - Past conversations with area teens have taught us that teens tend to discuss relationship issues mainly with other teens. At the same time, few teens know what to say or how to help friends in abusive situations. So, the DVCC began a program to give teens more intensive education they can in turn share with other teens, launching the Certified Teen Peer Advisor program. In the weeks following the Rallies, we return to the center to provide more in-depth training to groups of teen leaders, endowing them with certification as Peer Advisors. This training includes important knowledge on healthy vs. unhealthy relationships, how to spot the warning signs of a dangerous relationship, and how to help friends in need. But more importantly, it provides teens with new communication skills and techniques they can use to prevent anory outbursts and violence. These are tools and skills teens can use throughout their lives to improve any relationship. Once a teen has become a Certified Peer Advisor, their school guidance counselor and principal are notified that they are equipped to help others in need. Due to the popularity of the program, the DVCC has also provided Certified Peer Advisor workshops at area schools including Godby, Rickards, and Ghazvini Learning Center. In addition, the PACE School for Girls, Boys & Girls Clubs, Tallahassee Youth Leadership representatives, Omega Lamplighters, Distinguished Young Gentlemen, Delta Gems, Sisters in Service, the National Hook-Up of Black Women, the Tallahassee Housing Authority and various other youth groups have requested and received Teen Peer Adviser workshops on several occasions. We also provided Peer Adviser workshops for college fraternities including the FAMU Omega Psi Phi chapter and the Alpha Upsilon Zeta sorority. In addition to these workshops, the DVCC participated in the MHBW Teen Summit for the fifth year in a row this February. Normally eight different workshops were provided for groups of teens in a rotation from 8am - 2pm but due to the pandemic, the event was held via zoom this year. Thus far, three other Teen Peer Avisor Zoom workshops have been held.

At this time, there have been approximately 800+ teens trained as Certified Peer Advisors in our area. The DVCC attempts to remain in contact with all of these teens through various social media avenues. Through these social media sites we send information to the teens on an ongoing basis.

<u>Senior Peer Advisors</u> - Our success with the teen model has sparked the Senior Peer Advisor program. Like the teen workshops, trainings held for senior citizens at various senior sites around Leon County are designed to help seniors identify and assist their peers who may be suffering from elder abuse. These have been on hold during the pandemic to help protect our seniors from Covid.

<u>March to End the Silence on Domestic Violence</u> - The March is a community wide event consisting of three groups marching from the Capitol, FSU, and FAMU to convene at the TCC Capital Center for a buffet dinner and an evening of survivor speakers as well as a brief workshop on how individual community members can do safe bystander interventions. The event is hosted by local news anchors and is widely covered by media. It is open to the public with attendance normally between 140-190 people. This year the DVCC moved to a Facebook and YouTube Livestream event because of the pandemic.

<u>LiveStreams and Online Lessons</u> – During the pandemic, like so many other organizations, the DVCC found new ways to help the community from a safe distance. One of our most popular and key efforts has been Facebook and YouTube Livestream events. These are 45-60 minute live streaming events that

- 7. Program Resources: The DVCC is an incredibly resourceful group, operating from donated space and office equipment, and **one part-time staff person**. In addition, the DVCC obtains many in-kind donations of goods, event space, and volunteer services. All of the DVCC's events are coordinated and provided by DVCC members as volunteers. Through this cooperation, we are able to accomplish more than other groups with far more staff. The DVCC budget of \$25,000 has a large portion (85%) of funds going directly to providing community benefits.
- Program Capacity: Open ended larger events see 150 200 participants, individual workshops normally have 10 - 30 participants, and Livestreams have 75-100 initial viewers plus ongoing restreams reaching more.
- 9. Number of Participants: 255 Cost per Participant: \$8
- 10. List 5 highlights your agency has performed in the past six months:
 - I. October Facing the Facts on Abusive Relationships feat. survivor Kisha Wilkinson. Our first Livestream, this event drew about 85 viewers live and the video has subsequently been viewed 125 times. This event was professionally produced and featured an interactive discussion with viewers posing questions to our panel of experts following the survivor speaker. Three viewers made it known that they were also survivors and wanted to work with the DVCC in the future as speakers and volunteers.
 - II. November the DVCC held its final zoom meeting of the year. We have welcomed many new members and interns who continually discuss ways of improving our community's response to domestic violence. We have faced a significant challenge this year due to the pandemic. In spite of the rising number of domestic violence cases during long quarantines, our members found creative ways to locate and help those in need. We continually offered ideas and best practices to one another and worked more closely than ever to be sure our community has a well-coordinated community response to victims, even during lock downs.
 - III. Peer Advisor Workshops After much consideration and enforcement of strict health and safety guidelines the DVCC provided two in-person Peer Advisor workshops in October and November. They were successful even though interaction had to be limited and teens were spaced apart from one another. This led to the ongoing development of a series of shorter online dating abuse lessons to be used in intervals as training tools. Two additional workshops were offered via Zoom.
 - IV. PSAs the DVCC has developed a short promotional video on domestic violence and a second one on dating abuse aimed at students aged 13-25. These have been shared extensively around our social media and YouTube channels, and will soon be airing on local television stations.
 - V. Don't Let Abuse Derail Your Dreams Livestream about ½ of students experiencing an abusive relationship drop out of school. This livestream focused on preventing that in our community by teaching how to spot the red flags of an abusive relationship and offering info on how to help those in need. With a speaker who experienced abuse as a college student, this livestream had a tremendous amount of interaction from local youth and provided service hours for students as well. An expert panel was on hand to answer all their questions and several requests were made for a repeat of the program or a follow-up.
- 11. Program Goals:

- a. Short-term monthly meetings for agency coordination, public awareness and teachedusetion.
- b. Intermediate improved inter-agency coordination and effective resolution of semice delivery issues; teens and adults using education and awareness of domestic violence to identify and assist victims of abuse (including themselves) who might otherwise go unnoticed; prevention of some cases of domestic abuse due to advanced awareness of the issue; teens using healthy communication skills to mitigate anger and avoid violence in relationships.
- c. Long-term reduced rates of domestic abuse in our community.
- 12. Objectives (Intended impact/outcome results)
 - Goal One: Well-Coordinated Community Response
 - a. Activities Monthly meeting of agencies working with DV victims or perpetrators.
 - b. Time Frame Third Wednesday of every month (except December)
 - Key Performance Indicators (Quantifiable) 16 Member agencies with quorum reached regularly. Each meeting concludes with an Open Discussion of any new issues members wish to discuss or resolve.
 - d. Outcome Measures There exists a working list of agencies and reps who any member may contact to follow up on a case, client, or service quickly and efficiently. There also exists a friendly connection between agencies and their staff allowing for better communication than in the past. As a result, there is less aversion, rivalry, and opposition to the needs of other agencies as has been seen in the past.

Goal Two: Public Awareness and Education

- a. Activities Teen Rally, Certified Peer Advisor Trainings, DV Awareness Speakers Livestreams
- b. Time Frame October, 2020 March, 2021
- c. Key Performance Indicators (Quantifiable) In the past 6 months, 105 teens have participated in the Certified Peer Advisor training. In 2020-21 150 people joined the Livestream events. At live events an evaluation sheet is handed out and during livestreams, participants are invited to make comments and offer suggestions. A new online evaluation tool is under development for use with livestreams and video lessons.
- d. Outcome Measures As a result of the Teen Peer Advisor workshops, three additional teen groups have asked for workshops on preventing dating abuse. Also, three groups have asked for follow-up presentations. These teens expressed a desire not only to learn more themselves, but to be able to help friends in need.

As a result of the recent livestream "Don't Let Abuse Derail Your Dreams" (focusing on students for Teen Dating Abuse Awareness month -Feb) the DVCC received six requests for additional workshops with various youth organizations. As we move through spring, the DVCC will be conducting follow-up surveys to gauge how effective this approach is in getting information out amongst other teens. Six months and then one year after their certification, we continue to poll the teens as well as their counselors/principal/staff to see if they were able to use the information to help others or themselves. In addition, we have begun offering follow-up sessions to keep their skills intact. These sessions involve advanced information, role-play opportunities and other interactive learning tools.

Peer Advisors are given a special t-shirt as well as a certificate, and their principals, staff leaders, and/or guidance counselors are notified that they are available to help others. Thus far, several guidance professionals have reported (unsolicited) that teens are wearing their shirts to advertise the concept of Love is Respect (on the shirt front) and the fact that they are Peer Advisors. These guidance counselors have reported referring teens to a peer advisor successfully. Some reported a noticeable sense of pride the students who completed the certification felt in their new status. They often wear their Peer Advisor t-shirts and are eager to help others. During group discussions and follow-up sessions the students have said that they are much more active in "calling out" others for abusive behavior and try to be role models for the communication skills they learned. After our October Livestream for DV Awareness month, the DVCC was contacted by a different people who wanted to share their stories of abuse and get involved as advocted with DVCC events. Each time we hold an event, invariably someone will approach us afterward to tell his/her story and express relief and comfort in knowing they are not alone.

- 13. Data Collection Method: Anonymous evaluations/surveys
- Number of Participants that left or were dropped from the program: 0
 Provide Participants demographic data: County-wide, with a large number of lower socio-economic citizens.
 (Adult events tend to be an even mix.) Student workshops groups vary by school.
- 15. If possible, please provide participant program satisfaction data: (surveys, etc.) Currently working on online survey options as our normal paper evaluations are not possible at this time.
- 16. List any agency partnerships and collaborations related to this program. Aside from the 16 collaborating agencies that make up the DVCC, in the past six months we have worked in conjunction with all agencies in Attachment A.

DVCC

- Area Agency on Aging
- FAMU
- FL State Attorney's Office
- FL Office of the Attorney General
- FSU Victim Advocate / Counseling Program
- FSU Institute for Family Violence Studies
- Leon County Probation
- Leon County Health
- LCSO
- New Hope Batterer's Intervention
- PACE Center for Girls
- Refuge House
- TCC Victims Advocate Program
- TCC Early Childhood Program
- TPD

Partners

- Arise Defined Basketball Program
- Omega Lamplighters Teen Boys Service Fraternity
- Omega Psi Phi Fraternity FAMU
- Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity FAMU
- Alpha Upsilon Zeta
- FAMU Panhellenic Council
- FAMU MOST Men of Strength
- FSU MARC Men Advocating Responsible Conduct
- National Hook-Up of Black Women
- NHBW Teen Strength Program
- Godby High School
- Rickards High School
- Tallahassee Youth Leadership, Chamber of Commerce
- First Commerce Credit Union
- Publix

- Tallahassee Housing Authority
- Rickards AVID program
- Hungry Howie's Pizza
- WCTV, WTXL
- Fed Ex Office
- Joyful Expressions of Tallahassee
- Seminole Productions
- FSU Institute for Family Violence Studies
- FAMU Counseling Center
- TCC Athletics
- B&B Sporting Goods
- St. Paul's United Methodist Church
- St. Phillip AME Church
- Godby Teen Overcoming Pressure
- FSU Green Dot Program

United Partners for Human Services (UPHS)

EXHIBIT B

(October-March)

Agency Performance Report Format & Instructions

Agency Name: UNITED PARTNERS FOR HUMAN SERVICES, INC.

Please provide the following information and please keep the report to a maximum of five pages. (Not including attachments)

- 1. Program Name: United Partners for Human Services, Inc. (UPHS)
- 2. **Program Objective:** UPHS is a coalition of more than 170 active member human service agencies focused on strengthening and increasing increase the capacity of the human services nonprofit sector in partnership with the County. We accomplish this by providing training, mentoring and thought-leading intelligence on issues each human service nonprofit faces: fiscal management, governance, cultural competency, fund development, program evaluation, etc. Our programs are established to ensure human service nonprofit organizations are equipped to be more effective to serve those in need, as well as demonstrate fiscal responsibility of public resources often used to leverage additional funding to better serve our community.
- 3. Services provided: As a membership organization, UPHS provides a unified voice for its members to showcase accountability to the community, increase knowledge and dialogue through advocacy, as well as demonstrate the economic impact of all its UPHS members including those funded through the CHSP process.

Continued Leon County funding allows UPHS to:

- Enhance and streamline coordination, communication and collaboration among human service agencies to more effectively deliver services to residents within Leon County;
- Coordinate an intentional platform among member agencies to better understand their synergies and emphasize the need for leveraged resources to better serve the Leon County community while eliminating duplication of efforts/services;
- Implement a Cooperative Image Campaign geared to build understanding and awareness of the human services sector, its importance for our community and the collective impact UPHS members make locally on a daily basis;
- Assist with conducting CHSP Community Needs Assessment in conjunction with Leon County (Shington Lamy), City of Tallahassee (Abena Ojetayo), Florida A&M University and Florida State University;
- Improve knowledge and skills in the effective operation of human service organizations and programs for local human service agencies.
 - UPHS is committed to providing monthly specialized training opportunities, workshops and technical assistance at no charge to UPHS Members and the General Public. Topics will be based on recommendations from the Citizen Review Teams noted in CHSP Award Letters with emphasis on:

- Operational Efficiency and Program Outcomes;
- Collective Impact;
- Internal Controls and Policies/Procedures;
- Effective Program Performance Outcome Measures and Evaluation;
- Fiscal Management;
- Staff Development;
- Board Governance and Fiduciary Responsibility;
- Best Practices and Sustainable Program Models;
- Nonprofit Management and Administration, including filing appropriate federal, state and local reporting;
- Fund Development.
- Host our 22nd Annual Conference on Nonprofit Leadership and Excellence.
- Implement a nonprofit resource center on the UPHS website with access to policies and procedures, fiscal management best practices, performance outcome measures and evaluation tools, etc.
- Facilitate and Coordinate Forums focused around overarching issues facing large populations within our community and employ UPHS members and allies who work in this space to share best practices and become a brain trust to better recommend supports, infrastructure or policy revisions as needed. Forum Topics to include:
 - Affordable Housing;
 - Transportation;
 - Healthcare;
 - Community Resilience;
 - Early Childhood Development;
 - Economic Prosperity.
- UPHS continues to serve as the administrative and fiscal agent for the Tallahassee/Leon-County Housing Leadership Council with the purpose to support and leverage public-private partnerships comprised of affordable housing stakeholders. Activities within this objective include:
 - Priority Area 1: Convene housing champions across all sectors.
 - Grow Stakeholder Group to represent business, nonprofit and government sectors.
 - Incubate partnerships that result in new housing stock options.
 - Priority Area 2: Educate on the housing realities and resources in our community.
 - Build out a robust online clearinghouse to share current data, best practices, and research.
 - Explore policy options to generate future housing alternatives.
 - Develop interactive map of current housing inventory and development potential.
 - Priority Area 3: Create an increase in the housing supply that meets the needs of all.
 - Facilitate cross-sector collaborative projects to create new housing stock options.

In addition to the priorities listed above, the HLC will serve as a catalyst for collaboration, education and intentional business development to ensure that

4. **Services Delivery Strategy:** Through the objectives and goals of our program funding listed above, UPHS members will be able to enhance their operations, increase supports locally and leverage resources among like organizations which in turn leads to more people served and less duplication of services.

As a collaborative coalition, the County (and City) will continue to have one single entity that can relay pertinent information and gain information in a reciprocal nature among agencies that participate in the CHSP process.

Because of the partnership we have with the County (and City), UPHS will continue to serve as a resource for Commissioners and staff on a multitude of issues impacting the human services sector and serve as a brain trust to better recommend supports, infrastructure or policy revisions as needed. Further, UPHS objectives as part of our contractual agreement are geared to support and enhance the Leon County's Strategic Priorities specific to:

- **Quality of Life**: To be a provider of essential services which promote the well-being of our citizens and the livability of our community in our continuous efforts to make Leon County a place where people are healthy, safe, and connected to their community.

- **Q4**: Support and promote access to basic health and welfare services to our community members most in need.

- Q5: Support strong neighborhoods.

- Q6: Promote livability, health and sense of community by enhancing mobility, encouraging human scale development, and creating public spaces for people.
- Q7: Assist local veterans and their dependents with securing entitled benefits and advocating their interests.

- 5. **Target Population:** UPHS serves the human service nonprofit sector which is comprised of 3,000+ employees. UPHS members and their employees touch the lives of every Tallahassee resident and our primary work is to help them be the best they can be; through communication, cultural competence, building and scaling capacity, as well as advocacy when building awareness and an understanding of how their work improves the quality of life for our community.
- 6. **Method used to effectively reach target population:** UPHS works specifically with human service nonprofit organizations that serve people all throughout the City of Tallahassee and Leon County. Those served represent a myriad of socio-economic backgrounds, skillsets, and abilities. Our programs are open to the public as well. We serve a total number of approximately 600 unduplicated individuals annually.
- 7. **Program Resources:** UPHS Staff, Collaborative Partners, Regional Speakers, Knowledgebase, Technology, Training and Materials. (*Input: Resource including \$ amount directly related to program. Ex: employees, volunteers, materials, etc.*)

8. **Program Capacity:** Currently at capacity with 2FTE; UPHS plans to hire a part-time administrative position in the Summer/Fall 2021.

9. Number of Participants: <u>600</u> Cost per Participant: <u>\$39.16</u> (Reimbursable Cost) versus

<u>\$380.50 (Actual Cost).</u>

10. List 5 highlights your agency has performed in the past six months:

- 1. Hosted over 26 workshops, trainings and forums.
- 2. Assisted over 120 UPHS Member Agencies technical assistance with applying and receiving Leon CARES Funding totaling more than \$3.2M for human service organizations.
- 3. Collaborated with COCA, INIE and Sachs Media to develop and reveal the findings of a recent local survey on the Big Bend community's awareness of the significant role and impact that nonprofits have on our local economy.
- 4. Established formal partnerships with the Leon County Sheriff's Office, Tallahassee Police Department, Public Defender's Office and Leon County Schools to further advance of mission of enhancing the delivery of human services.
- 5. UPHS added 19 new agencies to its membership in the last 6 months.

11. Program Goals:

- a. **Short-term**: UPHS short-term goals are to increase awareness, knowledge and understanding of human service issues, as well as enhance local coordination and integration of human service delivery channels.
- b. Intermediate: The intermediate goals are to develop successful communitybased strategies, tested to address gaps and barriers and influence needed policy changes impacting human service programs and delivery channels. In addition, establishing a shared community of understanding of the benefits of human service agencies and mission-focused programs in supporting our community.
- c. **Long-term**: The long-term goals are for intentional coordination among human service providers to streamline delivery thus eliminating duplication, inefficiencies, etc. As well as plan and support UPHS Member capacity building and sustainability efforts.

Activities	Timeframe	Key Performance Indicators	Outcome Measures
Conduct workshops/trainings	October 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021	Human service agencies are able to build upon their strengths and assets.	 In Q1 & Q2 of FY 2020-2021, UPHS hosted the following workshops and trainings: Disaster Preparedness to Promote Community Resilience (October 6, 2020); COVID-19 is One Piece of the Health Pie (October 13, 2020). Town Hall Meeting: Leon County Children Services Council (October 13, 2020);

12. **Objectives** (Intended impact/outcome results)

 	Page 177 of 192
	4. Community Conversation:
	Current State of Homelessness ir
	Tallahassee-Leon County
	(October 14, 2020);
	5. A Conversation on Equity &
	Energy in Tallahassee (October
	20, 2020);
	6. Leon County Commission, Distric
	4 Candidate Forum (October 21,
	2020);
	7. The Do's and Don'ts of Grant
	Management (October29, 2020)
	8. Achieving Long-Term Success
	Through Sound Financial
	Management (November 3,
	2020);
	9. Storytelling for Impact Webinar
	(November 10, 2020);
	10. Managing Mental Health During
	COVID-19 (November 10, 2020);
	11. How Does the Homelessness
	System of Care Work
	(November 12, 2020);
	12. All Aboard the Love Train: All
	Things Donor Stewardship
	(November 17, 2020);
	13. Sidewalk Talk: Listening Speaks
	Louder Than Words (November
	19, 2020);
	14. Solutions & Where You Fit in
	Addressing Homelessness
	(December 9, 2020);
	15. SPIRIT: Community Wellness
	Platform Referral Tool
	Demonstration (December 16,
	2020),
	16. Help Shape Tallahassee's Clean
	Energy Plan (January 7, 2021),
	17. Using Innovative and Alternative
	Approaches for De-Escalating
	Individuals in Crisis Situations
	(January 19, 2021),
	(January 19, 2021), 18. The ABCs – Awareness, Brand
	and Community: Essential
	Components for Long-Term
	Success (January 26, 2021), 19. Understanding and Supporting
	the Needs of Undocumented
	Individuals in the Big Bend Regio (February 4, 2021),
	20. Law Enforcement Deserves a
	Human Services Response
	(February 16, 2021),
	21. Why Executive Director
	Evaluations Are an Essential

			Attachment #5 Page 178 of 192
			Element for High Performing Nonprofits (March 9, 2021)
Database of best practices, policies, procedures, etc.	Ongoing	Human service agencies are able to build upon their strengths and assets.	Continue to compile best practices, policies and procedures and standards for UPHS Members to access.
Host Annual Conference for Excellence in Nonprofit Management and Leadership	May 2021	Human service agencies are able to build upon their strengths and assets as well as learn ways for better connection, collaboration and innovation.	Annual conference is scheduled for May 12 & 13, 2021 via virtual platform. Will feature 5 track series based on various attendees that attend (Advocacy, Client Relations, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Leadership, and Youth Development). 15 total sessions, The 13 th will be a half day symposium focused on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in partnership with COCA and INIE.
Host Forums on Broad Community- wide issues to encourage networking, thought leadership, and coalition building toward solutions	October 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021	Low-income populations who experience inequality have opportunity to influence decisions that effect their lives and the community.	 In Q1 & Q2 of FY 2020-2021, UPHS hosted the following dialogue(s) and forums: Town Hall – Getting the Job Done: A Post-Election Preview with Commissioners Porter, Welch and Cummings (December 15, 2020), UPHS Thought Leader Forum: Taskforce Leadership in Action (December 1, 2020), Town Hall – The Capital of Nonprofits: Elevating Our Community and its Economy (February 9, 2021) Town Hall Recap: The Capital of Nonprofits (February 22, 2021).
 Serve as administrative and fiscal agent for Tallahassee-Leon County Housing Leadership Council: Host bi-monthly and/or quarterly meetings with all affordable housing stakeholders to share data, best practices and leverage resources. Collect, maintain and promote local affordable housing data, including an inventory of affordable rental housing units, the percentage of County and City residents that are cost-burdened by housing and work with the Big Bend Continuum of Care to collect and maintain data on the homeless population. Promote affordable 	October 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021	More affordable housing options and database of community resources.	In Q1 & Q2 of FY 2020-2021, UPHS completed the following for the Housing Leadership Council of Tallahassee-Leon County: 1. November 19, 2020 HLC Stakeholder Meeting, 2. January 29, 2021 HLC Stakeholder Meeting.

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housing programs and services by operating as the clearinghouse for public information including down payment assistance programs, home rehabilitation programs, homebuyer education programs, etc.			
Establish, distribute and maintain up-to-date information on community issues and how human service nonprofits are working to mitigate them through their programs/services.	October 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021	Improved quality of life while addressing effects of low-income wages in disadvantaged pockets of our community.	Ongoing. UPHS manages a weekly publication in the Tallahassee Democrat to utilize its voice and the voice of its members to discuss community wide issues and solutions provided by UPHS member agencies.
Distribute Annual Report	October 1, 2020	Local elected officials have increased commitment and understanding of policy to eliminate barriers for low-income populations.	Included as an attachment.

- 13. Data Collection Method: UPHS utilizes surveys, CHSP reporting data, census data, forums, dialogues and workshop feedback.
- 14. Number of Participants that left or were dropped from the program: 0
- 15. **Provide Participants demographic data:** Human Service nonprofit staff, executive leaders, board members, citizen review team volunteers and the general public.
- 16. If possible, please provide participant program satisfaction data: (surveys, etc.): We are pleased to report that our 2019-2020 Annual Membership Survey revealed UPHS members continue to see tremendous value in the work of UPHS with the following benchmarks:
 - **98%** of UPHS members saw impact in our advocacy work on behalf of the human services community;
 - 100% are satisfied with the value they receive with their UPHS membership;
 - **100%** would refer UPHS to a colleague and/or eligible participating organization for membership;
 - **100%** found the 2019-2020 UPHS workshops & trainings to be informative and the information easy to implement;
 - **100%** retention rate of UPHS Members and 28% growth in new members in FY 2019-2020.
- 17. List any agency partnerships and collaborations related to this program: UPHS continues to collaborate and partner with the City of Tallahassee and Leon County to enhance the delivery system for human services through the CHSP process and Bridge funding, as well as partner with entities like VolunteerFlorida, VolunteerLEON, Salesforce, Office of Economic Vitality, the Chamber, Leadership Tallahassee, INIE, CareerSource, Jim Moran Institute,

Oasis Center

EXHIBIT B (October-March)

Agency Performance Report Format & Instructions

Agency Name: Oasis Center for Women and Girls

Please provide the following information and please keep the report to a maximum of five pages. (Not including attachments)

- 1. Program Name: Tallahassee-Leon County Commission on the Status of Women and Girls (CSWG)
- 2. Program Objective:

Advisory body to Board of Leon County Commissioners and City of Tallahassee Commission that makes recommendations to municipal government entities regarding matters that impact women and girls, focusing on the theme of *The Year of the Girl*

3. Services provided:

Staff support to advisory board including but not limited to administrative support (scheduling, noticing, minutes), communication (internal and external), executive support (partnership development, strategic planning and facilitation), event planning, research, reporting, budgeting and bookkeeping

4. Services Delivery Strategy:

N/A

5. Target Population:

N/A

6. Method used to effectively reach target population:

N/A

7. Program Resources:

Staff support includes the CSWG Program Coordinator, a dedicated 20 hour a week position, the Executive Director providing supervisor and oversight and a member of the Board of Directors acting as a liaison between the board and the CSWG for increased communication and oversight of Oasis' role. Expenditures are made in accordance with the program budget approved by the CSWG and guiding policy. See attached financial report.

8. Program Capacity:

N/A

9. Number of Participants:

Oasis supports the 21 appointed volunteer commissioners who serve on the CSWG. During the pandemic, virtual events intended to provide a forum for communicating with community members, raising issue awareness, and collecting data usually involve 5-10 community members. In the first half of FY2021, two of these events have been held in the form of community listening sessions with local girls. At least four more of these sessions are planned for the remainder of the year. Additionally, the CSWG will hold a Girls Empowerment Summit in August 2021 in partnership with Leon County Schools. The target number of participants will be approximately 100 students, grades 6th-12th.

Cost per Participant: N/A

- 10. List 5 highlights your agency has performed in the past six months:
 - Partnered with 12 local girls service agencies to research the impact of the pandemic on Tallahassee-Leon County female students
 - Facilitated local experts presenting at every 2020-2021 CSWG committee or Commission meeting to expand the knowledge of current services, programs, and needs
 - Increased communications with Leon County Commissioners, meeting at least once annually one on one with each elected official
 - Conducted extensive research on national and state level best practices for pandemic-specific support services for young women
 - Partnered with Leon County Schools to research and plan expanded access to free menstrual products in local middle and high schools
- 11. Program Goals:
 - a. Short-term
 - Hold Tallahassee-Leon County Girls Empowerment Summit in August 2021
 - Conduct numerous listening sessions with local girls throughout the community
 - Facilitate extensive research to support policy advocacy
 - Expand community awareness through increased engagement in social media platforms
 - Support Leon County Schools project to expand access to menstrual products in middle and high schools
 - b. Intermediate
 - Increase community awareness of the CSWG and the issues for which it advocates in the community
 - Elevate the amount of research conducted in support of advocacy projects
 - Expand partnerships with community experts and stakeholders into the work of the CSWG
 - c. Long-term
 - CSWG Strategic Plan Goals:
 - o Women and girls feel safe in their homes, workplaces, and public spaces.

Initiative: Raise public awareness of the prevalence of violence against women and girls, and the available educational resources. Initiative: Increase awareness of preventative measures to reduce the incidences of violence against women and girls. Initiative: Review and evaluate data, research, and resources. Initiative: Develop best practices and policy recommendations to support safety awareness and violence prevention.

 Women and girls have sufficient control of their physical and mental health and feel supported in pursuing healthy social-emotional development.

<u>Initiative</u>: Raise public awareness of the barriers to and issues impacting the physical, mental, and social-emotional health of women and girls.

<u>Initiative</u>: Increase awareness of preventative measures to reduce negative impacts on the physical, mental, and social-emotional health of women and girls.

<u>Initiative</u>: Review and evaluate data, research, and resources. <u>Initiative</u>: Develop best practices and policy recommendations to support the physical, mental, and social-emotional well-being of women and girls.

• Women and girls can achieve financial independence and economic security with access to educational opportunities and professional fields in which they are underrepresented.

<u>Initiative</u>: Raise awareness of the barriers to economic security that women and girls face, including but not limited to, access to affordable and quality housing, healthcare, childcare, education, internet, and transportation.

<u>Initiative</u>: Raise awareness of the benefits to representation by women and girls in fields and activities in which they are underrepresented.

<u>Initiative</u>: Review and evaluate data, research, local policy, and resources.

<u>Initiative</u>: Develop best practices and policy recommendations to support educational opportunity and economic security for women and girls.

o City and County boards, and the public at large are aware of CSWG activities and perceive them to benefit their work and lives.

<u>Initiative</u>: Communicate regularly with elected officials and their staff to maintain and revise expectations.

<u>Initiative</u>: Communicate regularly with the public to raise awareness of CSWG issues and activities, and to understand which issues are most important to women and girls.

12. Objectives (Intended impact/outcome results)

- a. Activities
 - Five committees meetings:

Education & Economic Security

- Health & Development
- Violence and Safety
- Girls

Organization & Bylaws

- Commission Meetings
- Meetings with City and County Commissioners
- Community Advocacy partners and experts to collaborate on projects related to the enhancement of the status of women and/or girls
- Social Media Campaigns to highlight local women and raise awareness of local issues related to women and/or girls
- Listening sessions to collect information from girls about their pandemic experiences
- Girls Empowerment Summit

- b. Time Frame
 - Committee meetings: monthly
 - Commission meetings: monthly
 - Meetings with City and County Commissioners: monthly
 - Community advocacy meetings: ongoing throughout each month
 - Social media campaigns: monthly focus campaigns
 - Listening sessions: ongoing throughout the year
 - Girls Empowerment Summit: August 2021
- c. Key Performance Indicators (Quantifiable)

N/A

d. Outcome Measures

N/A

13. Data Collection Method:

Committee Meetings: Attendance records and meeting minutes Commission Meetings: Attendance records and meeting minutes Newsletters: Utilize newsletter marketing tools to track engagement Meetings with City and County Commissioners: Meeting records Community Advocacy Meetings: Meeting records and reports Social Media Campaigns: Facebook Page Insight Tracking Listening Sessions: Attendance records and meeting minutes Girls Empowerment Summit

Acquisition-Number of Registrants

Attendance-Number of Attendees Present

- Social Media Engagement: Facebook Page Insight Tracking
- 14. Number of Participants that left or were dropped from the program:
 - 100% Commissioner retention in FY2020
- 15. Provide Participants demographic data:
 - CSWG Commissioners
 - i. 66.67% Women of Color
 - ii. 33.33% White Women
- 16. If possible, please provide participant program satisfaction data: (surveys, etc.) N/A
- 17. List any agency partnerships and collaborations related to this program.
 - City of Tallahassee Community Redevelopment Agency
 - City of Tallahassee Community Housing and Human Services
 - Leon County Housing Services
 - LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library
 - Legal Services of North Florida
 - Tallahassee-Leon County Office of Economic Vitality
 - Leon County Schools
 - Leon County Schools District Advisory Council
 - Leon County Schools Student District Advisory Council
 - PACE-Leon Center for Girls
 - Survive and Thrive Advocacy Center
 - United Partners for Human Services
 - Leon County Tax Collector
 - Whole Child Leon

South City Foundation Oasis Center for Women and Girls: Girls Circle Program Kingdom Life Preparatory Academy Go L.I.V.E Youth Coaching **Kingdom First Realty** SheAcademy Girls 2 Divas! **Beehive Elite** Girls on the Run Big Bend STEMS4Girls Ladies Learning to Lead S.I.S.T.E.R.S. Junior League Boys and Girls Club **Big Brothers and Big Sisters Refuge House Domestic Violence Coordinating Council** Leon County Sheriff's Office Tallahassee Police Department Big Bend Continuum of Care Capital Tea Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence Women Wednesdays Real Talk with Judy We Are All We Need The L.I.F.E. Group Junior League Tallahassee **CLEO** Institute Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare Florida A&M University Florida State University City of Tallahassee LGBTQ+ Advisory Council Leon County Gay-Straight Alliance **Conversations with Nicole** Tallahassee Community College

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The Oasis Center for Women & Girls: CSWG BUDGET VS. ACTUAL - 10/1/20 - 3/15/2021

Through 3/15 BUDGET ACTUALS VARIANCE Notes

REVENUE				
City of Tallahassee	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	0.00%	
Leon County	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	0.00%	

EXPENSES				
Payroll/TaxesWorker's Comp	\$23,300.00	\$7,315.52	-68.60%	Additional time is budgeted for the end of the year activities including the Girls Summit and marketing support.
Appreciation	\$400.00	\$0.00	-100.00%	Commission discretion - Girls Summit
Communications	\$500.00	\$228.86	-54.23%	On target
Equipment Rental	\$120.00	\$60.00	-50.00%	On target
Food	\$500.00	\$0.00	-100.00%	Commission discretion - Girls Summit
Insurance	\$1,250.00	\$1,067.22	-14.62%	No concerns; will go to 100% and stop
Maintenance	\$350.00	\$0.00	-100.00%	No concerns; will be charged next quarter
Marketing	\$400.00	\$0.00	-100.00%	No concerns; will be charged next two quarters
Misc.	\$463.00	\$0.00	-100.00%	Commission discretion - Girls Summit
Office Supplies	\$100.00	\$0.00	-100.00%	No concerns; will be charged next two quarters
Occupancy: Rent	\$1,250.00	\$585.00	-53.20%	On target
Occupancy: Utilities	\$1,800.00	\$216.27	-87.99%	No concerns; will be charged next two quarters
Printing	\$600.00	\$0.00	-100.00%	No concerns; will be charged next two quarters
Accounting SVC (Professional	\$750.00	\$337.50	-55.00%	On target
Staff Training	\$200.00	\$0.00	-100.00%	No concerns; Catherine attending UPHS conference
Committee Activities	\$500.00	\$0.00	-100.00%	Commission discretion - Girls Summit
Total	\$32,483.00	\$9,810.37	-69.80%	

Apalachee Regional Planning Council

EXHIBIT B

(October-March)

Agency Performance Report Format & Instructions

Agency Name: _____

Apalachee Regional Planning Council

Please provide the following information and please keep the report to a maximum of five pages. (Not including attachments)

- 1. Program Name: Capital Area Sustainability Compact (CASC).
- 2. Program Objective: Collaboration to progress sustainability initiatives in Leon County.
- 3. Services provided: Administration, meeting facilitation, and meeting notes.
- 4. Services Delivery Strategy: Set meeting schedules, Zoom meetings and one-on-one meetings.
- 5. Target Population: CASC members, see attached.
- 6. Method used to effectively reach target population: Meeting schedule, e-mail reminders.
- 7. Program Resources: N/A: fixed fee
- 8. Program Capacity: Approximately 56 participants
- 9. Number of Participants: <u>~56</u> Cost per Participant: \$<u>~142.86</u>
- **10.** List 5 highlights your agency has performed in the past six months:
 - a. Normalized schedule for the year
 - **b.** Set goal for Steering Committee to have Greenhouse Gas inventories created by end of the year
 - c. One-on-one meetings with Steering Committee members throughout the year
 - d. Hosted 6 meetings for the year
 - e. CASC Charter amendments to be presented at April 15 meeting
- 11. Program Goals:
 - a. Short-term: Facilitate meetings, sustainability initiatives
 - b. Intermediate: generate greenhouse gas inventory for organizations
 - c. Long-term: Share best management practices for sustainability initiatives for Leon County CASC members
- 12. Objectives (Intended impact/outcome results)
 - a. Activities Meeting facilitation for Best Management Practices
 - b. Time Frame Annually (Started November)
 - c. Key Performance Indicators Meeting attendance, feedback

- *d.* Outcome Measures Greenhouse gas inventory, reduction of greenhouse gases, generation of Best Management Practices,
- 13. Data Collection Method: Meeting notes, Greenhouse Gas Inventories
- 14. Number of Participants that left or were dropped from the program: N/A
- 15. Provide Participants demographic data: N/A No demographic data.
- 16. If possible, please provide participant program satisfaction data: N/A none-to-date.
- 17. List any agency partnerships and collaborations related to this program: See Attached.

Compact Meeting Calendar 2021

Year-Long Schedule

January 14, 2021	Waste Reduction
January 21, 2021	Steering Committee
January 28, 2021	Energy
February 11, 2021	Transportation
February 25, 2021	Waste Reduction
March 11, 2021	Energy
March 25, 2021	Transportation
April 8, 2021	Waste Reduction
April 15, 2021	Steering Committee
April 22, 2021	Energy
May 6, 2021	Transportation
May 20, 2021	Waste Reduction
June 3, 2021	Energy
June 17, 2021	Transportation
July 1, 2021	Waste Reduction
July 15, 2021	Energy
July 22, 2021	Steering Committee
July 29, 2021	Transportation
August 12, 2021	Waste Reduction
August 26, 2021	Energy
September 9, 2021	Transportation
September 23, 2021	Waste Reduction
October 7, 2021Energy	
October 14, 2021	Steering Committee
October 21, 2021	Transportation
November 4, 2021	Waste Reduction
November 18, 2021	Energy
December 2, 2021	Transportation
December 16, 2021	Waste Reduction

Steering Committee

Steering Committee
Steering Committee
Steering Committee
Steering Committee

Energy Working Group

January 28, 2021	Energy
March 11, 2021	Energy
April 22, 2021	Energy
June 3, 2021	Energy
July 15, 2021	Energy
August 26, 2021	Energy
September 10, 2021	Energy
October 7, 2021En	ergy
November 18, 2021	Energy

Transportation Working Group

February 11, 2021	Transportation
March 25, 2021	Transportation
May 6, 2021	Transportation
June 17, 2021	Transportation
July 29, 2021	Transportation
September 9, 2021	Transportation
October 21, 2021	Transportation
December 2, 2021	Transportation

Waste Reduction Working Group

January 14, 2021	Waste Reduction
February 25, 2021	Waste Reduction
April 8, 2021	Waste Reduction
May 20, 2021	Waste Reduction
July 1, 2021	Waste Reduction
August 12, 2021	Waste reduction
September 23, 2021	Waste Reduction
2021, November 4	Waste Reduction
December 16, 2021	Waste Reduction

Name	Organization	Email	Phone Number
	Steering Com	nmittee	
Abena Ojetayo	City of Tallahassee	abena.ojetayo@talgov.com	891-7191
Adam Jacobs	City of Tallahassee	adam.jacobs@talgov.com	891-8726
3arbara Wills	Tallahassee Community College	willsba@tcc.fl.edu	201-8590
David Byrne	City of Tallahassee	david.byrne@talgov.com	891-3126
Elizabeth Swiman	Florida State University	eswiman@admin.fsu.edu	645-0395
Kelly Malloy	Capital Regional Medical Center	kelly.malloy@hcahealthcare.com	325-5285
aRodrick McQueen	Leon County Schools	mcqueenl@leonschools.net	617-1800
Maggie Theriot	Leon County	theriotm@leoncountyfl.gov	606-5011
Tessa Schreiner	Leon County	schreinerT@leoncountyfl.gov	
Elizabeth Paine	Capital Regional Medical Center	Elizabeth.paine@hcahealthcare.com	
Payne Alexis	Capital Regional Medical Center	alexis.payne@hcahealthcare.com	
Yashica Wilson-Hearns	Tallahassee Memorial Hospital	yashica.wilson-hearns@tmh.org	
Kathryn Ziewitz	Florida Agricultural and Mechanical Univ	kathryn.ziewitz@famu.edu	412-5413
Afaf Qaasem	ТМН	afaf.qasem@tmh.org	
	Waste Redu	uction	
Abena Ojetayo	City of Tallahassee	abena.ojetayo@talgov.com	891-7191
Adam Jacobs	City of Tallahassee Sustainability & Resi		891-8726
Afaf Qasem	TMH - Food Service	afaf.qasem@tmh.org	
Anna Robertson	Tallahassee Community College	robertsa@tcc.fl.edu	201-8773
Candi Boucher	Sodexo at TMH	candice.boucher@tmh.org	431-5532
Cris Revell	City of Tallahassee Community Beautific		891-5298
Don Herr	Tallahassee Community College	HERRD@tcc.fl.edu	850 879-2012 c
Elizabeth Swiman	FSU Sustainable Campus	eswiman@admin.fsu.edu	645-0395
Paul Hurst	City of Tallahassee Waste Management		891-2321
Reginald Ofuani	City of Tallahassee Community Beautific		891-5450
Rod Hightower		<u> </u>	891-5399
		rod.hightower@talgov.com	
Fessa Schreiner	Leon County Sustainability	schreinert@leoncountyfl.gov	606-5021
Willie Wiggins	FSU Waste Management	wwiggins@fsu.edu	644-7925
Julie Jones	FSU Waste Management Transporta	julie.jones@fsu.edu	
Nona Oiotava	City of Tallahassee		891-7191
Abena Ojetayo Adam Jacobs		abena.ojetayo@talgov.com	891-8726
	City of Tallahassee Sustainability & Resi City of Tallahassee StarMetro		
Allie Fleming	,	allie.fleming@talgov.com	933-2520
Anna Robertson	Tallahassee Community College	robertsa@tcc.fl.edu	201-8773
Josh C. McSwain			606-2000
Michael Vaughan	City of Tallahassee Fleet - StarMetro	michael.vaughan@talgov.com	891-5232
Ronnie Shelly			
Fessa Schreiner	City of Tallahassee StarMetro	Ronnie.Shelly@talgov.com	
	Leon County Sustainability	schreinert@leoncountyfl.gov	606-5021
	Leon County Sustainability City of Tallahassee Safety Specialist	schreinert@leoncountyfl.gov travis.carden@talgov.com	891-5220
Travis Carden Walter Kirkland	Leon County Sustainability City of Tallahassee Safety Specialist City of Tallahassee StarMetro	schreinert@leoncountyfl.gov travis.carden@talgov.com walter.kirklandjr@talgov.com	
	Leon County Sustainability City of Tallahassee Safety Specialist City of Tallahassee StarMetro FSU Transportation & Parking Services	schreinert@leoncountyfl.gov travis.carden@talgov.com walter.kirklandjr@talgov.com rrind@fsu.edu	891-5220
Valter Kirkland	Leon County Sustainability City of Tallahassee Safety Specialist City of Tallahassee StarMetro	schreinert@leoncountyfl.gov travis.carden@talgov.com walter.kirklandjr@talgov.com rrind@fsu.edu	891-5220 891-5183
Valter Kirkland Richard Rind Abena Ojetayo	Leon County Sustainability City of Tallahassee Safety Specialist City of Tallahassee StarMetro FSU Transportation & Parking Services Energy City of Tallahassee	schreinert@leoncountyfl.gov travis.carden@talgov.com walter.kirklandjr@talgov.com rrind@fsu.edu abena.ojetayo@talgov.com	891-5220 891-5183 891-7191
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Valter Kirkland Richard Rind Abena Ojetayo Adam Jacobs Anna Robertson Bob Seaton	Leon County Sustainability City of Tallahassee Safety Specialist City of Tallahassee StarMetro FSU Transportation & Parking Services Energy City of Tallahassee City of Tallahassee Sustainability & Resi Tallahassee Community College	schreinert@leoncountyfl.gov travis.carden@talgov.com walter.kirklandjr@talgov.com rrind@fsu.edu abena.ojetayo@talgov.com adam.jacobs@talgov.com robertsa@tcc.fl.edu	891-5220 891-5183 891-7191 891-8726 201-8773
Valter Kirkland Richard Rind Abena Ojetayo Adam Jacobs Anna Robertson Bob Seaton David Byrne	Leon County Sustainability City of Tallahassee Safety Specialist City of Tallahassee StarMetro FSU Transportation & Parking Services Energy City of Tallahassee City of Tallahassee Sustainability & Resi Tallahassee Community College City of Tallahassee Customer Operation	schreinert@leoncountyfl.gov travis.carden@talgov.com walter.kirklandjr@talgov.com rrind@fsu.edu abena.ojetayo@talgov.com adam.jacobs@talgov.com robertsa@tcc.fl.edu robert.seaton@talgov.com	891-5220 891-5183 891-7191 891-8726 201-8773 (850) 891-6130 891-3126
Valter Kirkland Richard Rind Abena Ojetayo Adam Jacobs Anna Robertson Bob Seaton David Byrne David McQuais	Leon County Sustainability City of Tallahassee Safety Specialist City of Tallahassee StarMetro FSU Transportation & Parking Services Energy City of Tallahassee City of Tallahassee Sustainability & Resi Tallahassee Community College City of Tallahassee Customer Operations City of Tallahassee Energy Services	schreinert@leoncountyfl.gov travis.carden@talgov.com walter.kirklandjr@talgov.com rrind@fsu.edu abena.ojetayo@talgov.com adam.jacobs@talgov.com robertsa@tcc.fl.edu robert.seaton@talgov.com david.byrne@talgov.com	891-5220 891-5183 891-7191 891-8726 201-8773 (850) 891-6130 891-3126 (229) 726-4443
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Board of County Commissioners Leon County, Florida

Policy No. 93-44

Title:	Fiscal Planning
Date Adopted:	May 10, 2016
Effective Date:	May 10, 2016
Reference:	N/A
Policy Superseded:	Policy No. 92-3, "Fiscal Planning," adopted 3/10/92. Superseded by Policy No. 93-44, adopted 8/10/93; and amended 11/16/04, 2/8/11, and 3/11/14

It shall be the policy of the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida that: Policy No. 93-44, amended by the Board of County Commissioners on March 11, 2014, is hereby further amended as follows:

The County will establish fiscal planning practices to:

- 1. Provide that the annual operating and capital budget for Leon County shall be developed in conformity with the Tallahassee-Leon County Comprehensive Plan by the Office of Management and Budget, under the advisement of the County Administrator and adopted as provided in State law by a majority vote of the Board of County Commissioners presiding in a public hearing.
- 2. Provide for the development and annual review of a capital improvement budget. This budget shall contain a 5-year plan for acquisition and improvement of capital investments in the areas of facilities, transportation, equipment and drainage. This budget shall be coordinated with the annual operating budget.
- 3. Provide that the Board of County Commissioners will continue to reflect fiscal restraint through the development of the annual budget. In instances of forthcoming deficits, the Board will either decrease appropriations or increase revenues.
- 4. Provide that the County will strive to better utilize its resources through the use of productivity and efficiency enhancements while at the same time noting that the costs of such enhancements should not exceed the expected benefits.
- 5. Provide that expenditures which support existing capital investments and mandated service programs will be prioritized over those other supporting activities or non-mandated service programs.

- 6. Provide that the County Administrator shall be designated Budget Officer for Leon County and will carry out the duties as set forth in Ch. 129, F.S.
- 7. Provide that the responsibility for the establishment and daily monitoring of the County's accounting system(s) shall lie with the Finance Division of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, and that the oversight of investment and debt management for the government of Leon County shall lie with the Board of County Commissioners.
- 8. Annually, prior to March 31, the Board of County Commissioners will:
 - A. Establish a budget calendar for the annual budget cycle.
 - B. Confirm the list of permanent line item funded agencies that can submit applications for funding during the current budget cycle.
 - C. Establish the amount of funding to sponsor community partner/table events in an account to be managed by the County Administrator.
 - D. Provide direction to staff on additional appropriation requests that should be considered as part of the tentative budget development process.
 - E. Establish outside agency funding for the next budget cycle.
- 9. Provide that this policy shall be reviewed annually by the Board of County Commissioners to ensure its consistency and viability with respect to the objectives of the Board and its applicability to current state law and financial trends.
- 10. Annually, as part of the annual budget process, staff will prepare a budget discussion item providing a mid-year performance report for all outside agency contracts and include funding recommendations for the following fiscal year.

Revised 5/10/2016

				FISCAL YEAR 202 GET AMENDMENT			
No:	BAB21022				Agenda Item No:		
Date:	5/12/202	1			Agenda Item Date:	5/25/2021	
County Administrator			Deputy County Administrator		nistrator		
Vincent S	6. Long				Alan Rosenzweig		
				Request Detai	I		
				<u>Revenues</u>			
Fund	Org	Accoun Acct	t Information Prog	Title	Current Budget	Change	Adjusted Budget
					Subtotal:	-	
				<u>Expenditures</u>			
Fund	Org	Accoun Acct	t Information Prog	Title	Current Budget	Change	Adjusted Budget
401	443	51400	534	Overtime Regular Salaries and	36,000	(16,978)	19,022
401	443	51200	534	Wages	174,978	10,937	185,915
401	443	52100	534	FICA Taxes	14,005	837	14,842
401	443	52200	534	Retirement Contribution	9,352	1,183	10,535
401	443	52300	534	Life & Health Insurance	25,258	2,841	28,099
401	443	52400	534	Workers Compensation	14,544 Subtotal:	1,180 -	15,724
				Purpose of Requ	est		
months of drop-off lo	FY 2021 with cation in the	n full funding	for the positio complex, turi	rdous Waste overtime to f n included in the FY 2022 ning a once-a-month point	und a Hazardous Waste budget. This position wi	ll assist with th	e additional
Division/[2101/26	Department			Bud	lget Manager		
				Scott Ros	s, Director, Office of Fi	inancial Stewa	ardship
Approved	l By:	Resolution			Motion X	Administrator	· 🗆

Leon County Board of County Commissioners

Notes for Workshop Agenda Item #2

Leon County Board of County Commissioners Budget Workshop Item #2 May 25, 2021

То:	Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board	
From:	Vincent S. Long, County Administrator	
Title:	Proposed Expenditure Plan for the County's Allocation of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act	

Review and Approval:	Vincent S. Long, County Administrator	
Department/ Division Review:	Alan Rosenzweig, Deputy County Administrator Wanda Hunter, Assistant County Administrator Ken Morris, Assistant County Administrator	
Lead Staff/ Project Team:	Andy Johnson, Assistant to the County Administrator Nicki Paden, Management Analyst Mathieu Cavell, Assistant to the County Administrator Shington Lamy, Director of Human Services and Community Partnerships Cristina Parades, Director, Office of Economic Vitality Scott Ross, Director, Office of Financial Stewardship Michelle Taylor, Director, Office of Information and Technology	

Statement of Issue:

This budget discussion item seeks Board consideration of a proposed expenditure plan (Attachment #1) for Leon County's allocation of \$57.0 million in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The proposed expenditure plan would mitigate significant revenue impacts incurred by Leon County as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, provide one-time funds to support major wastewater infrastructure improvements, and address remaining community recovery needs in the areas of public health, human services, and small business support.

Fiscal Impact:

This item has a fiscal impact. Leon County is eligible to receive up to \$57.0 million in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the federal American Rescue Plan Act. The attached Resolution and Budget Amendment Request (Attachment #2) would allocate these funds as recommended in the proposed expenditure plan.

May 25, 2021 Page 2

Staff Recommendation:

- Option #1: Approve the proposed expenditure plan for the County's allocation of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act (Attachment #1).
- Option #2: Authorize the County Administrator to expend Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds as provided in the proposed expenditure plan and enter into subgrant agreements with fund recipients, subject to legal review by the County Attorney.
- Option #3: Approve the associated Resolution and Budget Amendment Request (Attachment #2).

Report and Discussion

Background:

This budget discussion item provides an overview of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds authorized by Congress in the "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021" (H.R. 1319, referred to as the "ARPA" throughout this item) and seeks the Board's consideration of a proposed expenditure plan for Leon County's allocation of these funds. The ARPA builds upon COVID-19 economic relief legislation enacted by Congress over the past year in providing direct financial support to address the continuing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The ARPA provided \$1.9 trillion in economic relief and stimulus for individuals and families, small businesses, and state and local governments, including \$360 billion to help state and local governments mitigate the significant fiscal impacts stemming from the COVID-19 public health emergency. Leon County is eligible to receive a direct allocation of \$57,024,862 in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSLFR funds), to be distributed in two tranches in FY 2021 and FY 2022.

The County has conducted an extensive evaluation of the specific statutory and administrative requirements of the ARPA as well as the community's remaining recovery needs in developing the funding recommendations in the proposed expenditure plan. The County has also coordinated extensively with local human service providers, public health entities, the local business community, and the City of Tallahassee to identify any remaining community recovery needs resulting from the COVID-19 public health emergency. As discussed in detail in the Analysis section of this item, the proposed expenditure plan seeks to meet these remaining recovery needs while also mitigating the significant revenue impacts incurred by the County as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This strategy is critical to maintaining a balanced County budget over the next several fiscal years while avoiding tax or fee increases, capital project reductions, or workforce reductions. Preliminary guidance issued by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, discussed later in this item, highlights the importance of this strategy as a key component of the broader economic recovery.

The remainder of the Background section of this item provides an overview of the ARPA as well as a review and summary of previous COVID-19 relief and recovery funding authorized by Congress over the past year. The Analysis section provides a more detailed overview of the specific statutory and administrative requirements for the use of CSLFR funds and a comprehensive discussion of the proposed expenditure plan for the County's allocation.

Overview of the American Rescue Plan Act

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the ARPA into law, providing \$1.9 trillion in economic relief and recovery assistance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The ARPA provides additional direct economic support for individuals and families, hard-hit industries and vulnerable populations, and state and local governments. This includes rent, mortgage and utility assistance for low-income households; food and nutrition assistance; additional resources to address the COVID-19 public health emergency such as funding for testing and vaccines; grants for childcare assistance, additional federal unemployment assistance, a third round of direct stimulus payments; additional targeted assistance for small businesses impacted by the pandemic;

and more. In addition, the ARPA established a \$360 billion Coronavirus State and Local Recovery Fund to help state and local governments offset increased expenditures, recover lost revenues, and mitigate the negative economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. This funding is discussed in detail in the Analysis section of this item. A detailed analysis of all of the ARPA's provisions compiled by Squire Patton Boggs, the County's federal lobbying team, is included as Attachment #3 to this item.

The ARPA builds upon and expands the unprecedented level of financial support provided by Congress over the past year to address the immediate economic impacts of the pandemic. Where the ARPA provided assistance to facilitate the economic recovery from the pandemic, previous COVID-19 legislation focused largely on providing resources to assist the country's immediate public health and economic response. Following is a summary of major COVID-19 relief and recovery legislation enacted by Congress since the beginning of the pandemic:

- H.R. 6074, signed into law on March 6, 2020: a supplemental appropriations bill enacted in March 2020 which provided \$8.3 billion in support for public health measures to combat COVID-19.
- H.R. 6201 (the "Families First Coronavirus Response Act"), signed into law on March 18, 2020: provided approximately \$192 billion in support for food safety needs in the wake of school and business closures, enhanced unemployment insurance benefits, new federal emergency paid leave benefits and refundable tax credits for small businesses to defray the cost of the paid leave, an increase in Medicaid matching funds to support healthcare providers, and policies to ensure that COVID-19 testing is significantly expanded and free to everyone in the U.S.
- H.R. 748 (the "Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act" or "CARES Act"), signed into law on March 27, 2020: provided \$2.2 trillion in direct economic relief and stimulus for businesses, individuals, federal agencies, and state and local governments. Major provisions of the CARES Act included over \$500 billion in expanded lending programs for businesses, another \$350 billion to help small businesses meet payroll costs, and a \$150 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund for state and local government to help offset necessary expenditures incurred due to the COVID-19 public health emergency (discussed in more detail in the Background section of this item). The CARES Act also provided \$290 billion in direct supplemental payments to eligible taxpayers, \$260 billion in expanded unemployment insurance, and additional flexibility for mortgage and student loan payments.
- H.R. 266 (the "Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act"), signed into law on April 24, 2020: provided additional funding for small businesses beyond the assistance provided in the CARES Act including \$321 billion in additional Paycheck Protection Program funding, \$10 billion in additional Emergency Injury Disaster Loan program funding, and \$50 billion in additional Small Business Administration Disaster Loans Program funding.
- H.R. 133 (the "Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021"), signed into law on December 27, 2020: a year-end supplemental appropriations

May 25, 2021 Page 5

bill that included a \$908 billion COVID-19 relief package. Major provisions of this legislation included the Emergency Rental Assistance Program to provide rent and utilities assistance to low-income households, additional resources for COVID-19 testing and vaccinations, childcare assistance, food and nutrition assistance, a second round of direct stimulus payments to individuals and families, extended federal unemployment assistance payments of \$300 per week, additional funding for forgivable business loans through the Paycheck Protection Program, a new grant program for venue operators severely impacted by the pandemic, and an extension of a moratorium on student loan payments.

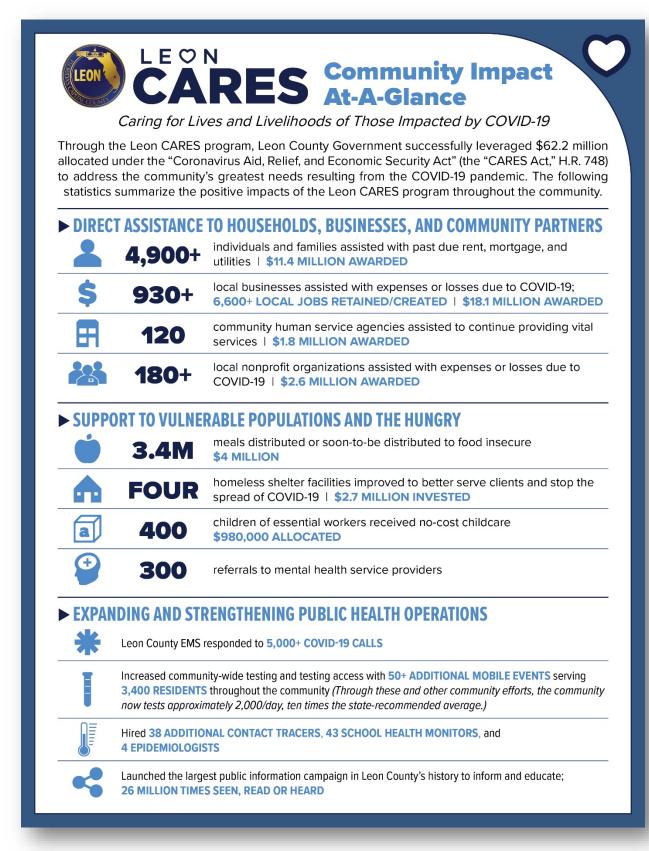
Of note, the ARPA is the first COVID-19 legislation that provides funding for local governments to offset decreases in revenues as a result of the economic impact of the pandemic. While this legislation has provided critical financial resources to address the most pressing public health, economic, and human service needs related to COVID-19, this legislation has not addressed the significant challenge of balancing the County's budget given the severe revenue losses associated with the conscious decision to shut down the economy to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Leon CARES and the Leon County Emergency Rental Assistance Program

As discussed above, Congress enacted the CARES Act in March 2020 to provide direct economic assistance in response to the financial fallout related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Included in the CARES Act was a \$150 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) for state and local governments to help offset necessary expenditures incurred due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. At the July 14, 2020 Budget Workshop, the Board approved the "Leon CARES" expenditure plan to distribute the County's \$51.2 million CRF allocation of through a variety of partnerships and direct assistance programs which included programs to address critical public health needs, housing and utility assistance, small business assistance, food insecurity, childcare assistance, support for mental health and homelessness services, and more. The quick and successful implementation of the Leon CARES plan positioned the County to receive an additional \$11 million allocation from the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, which allowed the County to provide assistance to thousands more individuals, families, and local businesses in the community. In total, the County successfully leveraged \$62.2 million in federal Coronavirus Relief Funds to support a broad range of community needs through the Leon CARES plan. Highlights of the success of the Leon CARES plan include the following:

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A detailed final report on the community-wide impacts of the Leon CARES plan, which includes a full discussion of the metrics summarized on the previous page, was presented to the Board during the 2021 Annual Retreat and is also included as Attachment #4 to this item.

Also discussed above, in late December 2020 Congress enacted an additional \$908 billion COVID-19 relief package which included \$25 billion to establish an Emergency Rental Assistance ("ERA") program to be implemented by states, territories, tribal governments, and local governments. Immediately following Congress' approval, Leon County took quick action to develop and implement this program locally. At the January 26, 2021 meeting, the Board accepted Leon County's allocation of approximately \$8.9 million in ERA program funding and approved the establishment of Leon County ERA program to provide rent and utility assistance to eligible low-income households. The County immediately began the process of planning and developing its ERA program, consistent with federal statutory and administrative guidelines, and engaged other Florida counties to exchange best practices for the efficient distribution of this assistance throughout the community. Leon County also contracted with several local partner organizations to raise awareness of the ERA program through grassroots outreach to targeted neighborhoods, conducted extensive outreach with local landlords and nonprofit human service providers, and launched a multimedia promotional campaign which built from and leveraged the success of the County's previous "Leon CARES" branding efforts.

Since the Leon County ERA program launched on March 29, 2021, as of the publication of this item, the County has approved more than 800 applications for assistance through this program totaling over \$3.4 million in awards. The program is projected to provide rent and utility assistance to approximately 1,500 to 2,000 Leon County households in total. Also, beginning September 30, 2021, the U.S. Treasury will recapture excess ERA funds not obligated by state and local governments to be reallocated to other eligible entities which, by that time, have obligated 65% or more of their initial allocation. Should the County be eligible for an additional ERA funding award, a separate agenda item will be presented seeking the Board's consideration to accept funds and provide additional rent and utility assistance. In addition, the ARPA also included a second round of funding for the ERA program. A separate budget discussion item on the May 25 Budget Workshop agenda provides additional details on this additional ERA program funding and seeks the Board's approval to accept and distribute this funding.

Analysis:

The Analysis section of this budget discussion item begins by providing a detailed overview of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund ("CSLFR Fund") created by the American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA"), as well as the eligible uses of the County's CSLFR allocation. Following this, the item presents a proposed expenditure plan for the County's use of these funds based on the specific statutory and administrative requirements in the ARPA, as well as extensive outreach with community partners to identify any remaining unmet recovery needs.

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act

As discussed above, the ARPA included an allocation of \$130 billion to help state, local, and tribal governments continue to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The ARPA is also

the first COVID-19 relief legislation authorized by Congress that intends and allows for governmental entities to recover revenue losses resulting from the economic effects of the pandemic. An Interim Final Rule published by the U.S. Department of the Treasury related to the implementation of the CSLFR Fund provides a discussion which specifically addresses the impacts to state, local, and tribal governments resulting from COVID-19:

Amid this once-in-a-century crisis, State, territorial, Tribal, and local governments have been called on to respond at an immense scale. Governments have faced myriad needs to prevent and address the spread of COVID-19, including testing, contact tracing, isolation and quarantine, public communications, issuance and enforcement of health orders, expansions to health system capacity like alternative care facilities, and in recent months, a massive nationwide mobilization around vaccinations. Governments also have supported major efforts to prevent COVID-19 spread through safety measures in settings like nursing homes, schools, congregate living settings, dense worksites, incarceration settings, and public facilities. The pandemic's impacts on behavioral health, including the toll of pandemic-related stress, have increased the need for behavioral health resources.

At the same time, State, local and Tribal governments launched major efforts to address the economic impacts of the pandemic. These efforts have been tailored to the needs of their communities and have included expanded assistance to unemployed workers; food assistance; rent, mortgage, and utility support; cash assistance; internet access programs; expanded services to support individuals experiencing homelessness; support for individuals with disabilities and older adults; and assistance to small businesses facing closures or revenue loss or implementing new safety measures.

In responding to the public health emergency and its negative economic impacts, State, local, and Tribal governments have seen substantial increases in costs to provide these services, often amid substantial declines in revenue due to the economic downturn and changing economic patterns during the pandemic. Facing these budget challenges, many State, local, and Tribal governments have been forced to make cuts to services or their workforces, or delay critical investments. From February to May of 2020, State, local, and Tribal governments reduced their workforces by more than 1.5 million jobs and, in April of 2021, State, local, and Tribal government employment remained nearly1.3 million jobs below pre-pandemic levels. These cuts to State, local, and Tribal government workforces come at a time when demand for government services is high, with State, local, and Tribal government austerity measures can hamper overall economic growth, as occurred in the recovery from the Great Recession.

Through the CSLFR Fund, Congress has provided state, local, and tribal governments with significant resources to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency and its economic impacts through four specific categories of eligible uses. As provided in the ARPA, these funds may be used:

- To respond to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19, or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality;
- To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers;

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- For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the COVID–19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency; and
- To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

On May 10, the U.S. Department of the Treasury released preliminary guidance related to the CSLFR Fund, including an Interim Final Rule for the implementation of the funds (Attachment #5) and a fact sheet and a "frequently asked questions" document (Attachment #6). The guidance issued by the Treasury indicates that "Within the categories of eligible uses, recipients have broad flexibility to decide how best to use this funding to meet the needs of their communities."

Based on the funding formula provided in the ARPA, Leon County's allocation totals \$57.0 million. The County will receive its allocation in two equal tranches; the first tranche of \$28.5 million is expected to be distributed by the Treasury in May 2021, and the second tranche is expected to be disbursed approximately 12 months later. Of note, city governments are eligible to receive a separate direct allocation of CSLFR funds, and the City of Tallahassee is expected to receive approximately \$46.5 million. The deadline for expenditure of these funds is December 31, 2024, and local governments will be required to submit periodic reports to the U.S. Treasury with detailed accounting of the use of funds.

To help local governments plan for the prudent use of CSLFR funds, the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) has issued a series of guiding principles which the GFOA recommends for use in the development of CSLFR expenditure plans. These guiding principles strongly emphasize that CSLFR funding is a one-time infusion of federal resources, and therefore, local governments should consider how to ensure the long-term value of their investments using these funds and the financial stability of the organization. A summary of the GFOA's American Rescue Plan Act Guiding Principles is provided below, and the full series of recommendations is included as Attachment #7 to this item:

- Given the temporary, one-time nature of the CSLFR funds, the GFAO recommends that these allocations should be applied primarily to non-recurring expenditures rather than for the creation of new programs or expansion of existing programs that require an ongoing financial commitment.
- Replenishing reserves that were used to offset revenue declines during the pandemic should be given high priority to rebuild financial flexibility/stability and restore fiscal resiliency. Using CSLFR funds to cover operating deficits caused by COVID-19 will support governmental entities in rebuilding financial stability; however, these funds should be considered temporary and additional budget restraint may be necessary to achieve/maintain structural balance in future budgets.
- As discussed in detail earlier in this item, Congress has provided an unprecedented level of financial support for a variety of public health, human service, and economic recovery needs. Several of these assistance programs, particularly those authorized under the December 2020 Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, are currently being implemented by state and local governments. GFOA recommends that

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local governments be cognizant of state-level efforts as well as initiatives implemented by other ARPA recipients in order to avoid duplication of effort.

• GFOA recommends prioritizing CSLFR funds for expenditures that are not eligible under other ARPA funding allocations as well as other federal and state assistance programs. It is recommended to consider all alternatives for the prudent use of CSLFR funds to ensure the best use of these resources prior to allocation.

Individual, Household, Business, and Public Health Assistance Under the ARPA

The Background section of this item provided a brief overview of the various assistance programs authorized by Congress in the ARPA as well as a review of other COVID-19 relief and recovery legislation enacted by Congress over the past year. Following is a more detailed summary of specific assistance programs that are or will be available under the ARPA beyond the CSLFR Fund, including additional information regarding the implementation status of these programs where available. It should be noted that the following summary is a non-exhaustive list of assistance programs provided through the ARPA; a comprehensive analysis is provided in the Squire Patton Boggs analysis which is included as Attachment #3 to this item.

In the area of public health assistance, the ARPA provides:

- \$14.05 billion for vaccine production, distribution, and administration through the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and \$47.8 billion for to detect, diagnose, trace, and monitor COVID-19 infections through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Both agencies are authorized to distribute this funding to states, localities, and local health departments through grants or cooperative agreements.
- \$7.6 billion to support the public health workforce, awarded via grants to state, local, and territorial public health departments or non-profit organizations to hire contact tracers, nurses, epidemiologists, communications personnel, and other related positions.
- \$10 billion for Community Health Centers to assist with testing and treatment of COVID-19, as well as vaccinations. As of the publication of this item, the following awards have been made to local Federally Qualified Health Centers through this program:
 - Bond Community Health Center: \$2.7 million
 - Neighborhood Medical Center: \$4.4 million
 - North Florida Medical Center: \$5 million
- \$1 billion for construction and renovation projects at Community Health Centers; this funding can be used to construct new facilities or expand and renovate existing facilities.
- \$3.9 billion for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), which includes formula-based block grant funding to states and service providers; grant funding to health care providers for mental and behavioral health training; grant funding to states, localities, and non-profit organizations to carry out community behavioral health programs, overdose prevention programs, and other substance abuse disorder treatment activities; and more.

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In the area of housing and homelessness assistance, the ARPA provides:

- \$21.55 billion for a second round of Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program funding. A separate item on the May 25 Budget Workshop agenda provides additional information on this program and seeks the Board's consideration to accept and implement Leon County's funding allocation. In addition, on May 10, 2021, the State of Florida launched a statewide ERA Program called the "OUR Florida" program using \$800 million allocated to the State under the December 2020 Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act. The State is expected to receive an additional "ERA 2" allocation for this program under the ARPA. Additional information about the State's program is included in the separate May 25 Budget Workshop item.
- \$10 billion for a Homeowner Assistance Fund to provide assistance with mortgage-related expenses and utility assistance to low- and moderate-income homeowners. This funding will be distributed to states; Florida is expected to receive \$676 million to implement this program.
- \$5 billion for emergency housing vouchers for tenant-based rental assistance. As of the publication of this item, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has not yet issued guidance as to how these vouchers will be implemented; however, the program will likely be administered locally by public housing agencies and be available to very low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market.
- An additional \$5 billion to be distributed through the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for tenant-based rental assistance, affordable housing, supportive services, and the acquisition and development of non-congregate shelter units. This funding will be allocated through the existing HOME Investment Partnerships Program; the City of Tallahassee is a designated grantee and is expected to receive approximately \$3.4 million for this program.
- \$4.5 billion to provide assistance with home energy bills through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) in FY 21 and FY 22.
- \$800 million through the U.S. Department of Education to identify and provide homeless children and youth with wrap-around services in light of the challenges of COVID-19. The State of Florida is expected to receive approximately \$46 million through this program.

The ARPA also provides the following direct assistance to individuals and households:

- Recovery rebates of \$1,400 per individual and an additional \$1,400 for each dependent, which were paid beginning in March 2021.
- An extension of the federal unemployment benefit of \$300 per week through September 6, 2021.
- An increase in the maximum number of weeks an individual may claim benefits through regular state unemployment plus the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation program, or through the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program, to 74 weeks.

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- An expansion of the federal Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit to eligible households.
- Also, the Florida Legislature has allocated \$208 million from the State's share of CSLFR funds to provide \$1,000 one-time bonus payments to first responders for their service during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity is expected to distribute this funding during summer 2021. Generally, law enforcement officers, paramedics, emergency medical technicians (EMTs), and firefighters who are employed by state or local government agencies will be eligible to receive these payments, including Leon County EMS and Leon County Sheriff's Office employees.

In the area of food and nutrition assistance, the ARPA provides:

- An extension of the current 15% increase in funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) through the remainder of FY 21. This is projected to provide approximately \$28 more per person per month in additional SNAP benefits.
- An expansion of the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program, which was originally authorized in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020. The P-EBT program provides eligible schoolchildren who would typically receive free or reduced-price meals temporary emergency nutrition benefits on an EBT card in order to purchase food. This bill expands the program through the duration of the pandemic and includes summers outside the normal school year.
- An additional \$4 billion through the U.S. Department of Agriculture to support the food supply chain, including purchasing and distributing agricultural commodities to nonprofit organizations and providing grants and loans for food processors, distributors, and farmers.

In the area of child care assistance, the ARPA provides:

- \$14.9 billion for the Child Care and Development Block Grant program, which provides child care subsidies for low-income families with children under age 13.
- \$23.9 billion for child care stabilization grants for child care providers, specifically to help pay for personnel, training, rent, and sanitation at child care facilities.

In the area of infrastructure, the ARPA provides:

- Authorization for state and local governments to use a portion of their CSLFR Funds for water, wastewater, or broadband infrastructure. Of note, the Florida Legislature allocated \$500 million from the State's share of CSLFR Funds to support septic-to-sewer projects in the State's FY 2022 budget. As discussed later in this item, this may provide an additional funding source to leverage County funds for septic-to-sewer projects throughout the community. The Legislature also allocated another \$500 million for a new Resilient Florida Grant Program that will provide funding to local governments for community resilience planning and for projects that reduce the risk of flooding and sea level rise.
- \$10 billion for a Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund to provide funding to states, territories, and tribal governments to carry out critical capital projects directly enabling work,

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education, and health monitoring, including remote options, in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency. The U.S. Department of the Treasury is expected to begin accepting applications for review in summer 2021.

In the area of small business assistance, the ARPA provides:

- An additional \$7.2 billion for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), which provides forgivable loans to small businesses to keep their workers on payroll. On March 30, 2021, the President signed H.R. 1799 (the "Paycheck Protection Program Extension Act of 2021") into law, which extended the PPP application deadline to May 31, 2021 and extended the federal authorization for the program through June 30, 2021.
- An additional \$15 billion for Economic Injury Disaster Loans.
- \$28.6 billion for a new Restaurant Revitalization Fund to be administered by the U.S. Small Business Administration. This program will provide up to \$10 million grants to restaurant businesses (limited to \$5 million per location for companies with multiple locations) to cover the difference between a recipient's 2019 and 2020 revenue. Eligible entities include restaurants, bars, food trucks, brewpubs, saloons, inns, taverns, tasting rooms, food carts, and caterers.
- An additional \$1.25 billion for the Shuttered Venue Operator Grant (SVOG) program, which was established under the December 2020 Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act. This program provides grants to venue operators that have significant economic losses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible entities for this program include live venue operators or promoters, theatrical producers, live performing arts organization operators, museum operators, motion picture theatre operators, and talent representatives.

Proposed Expenditure Plan for Leon County's Allocation of CSLFR Funds

Similar to the development of the Leon CARES expenditure plan, the County has coordinated extensively with the local business community, healthcare and human service providers, and other local government stakeholders to share information about the many assistance programs provided through the ARPA and other previous legislation, and also to identify any remaining unmet recovery needs. This input from community partners has been incorporated through the proposed expenditure plan presented in this item. Like Leon CARES, the expenditure plan proposed in this item would continue to leverage the County's successful partnerships with community stakeholders to ensure the most efficient distribution of funds to meet the immediate needs of citizens, local businesses, community nonprofit agencies, the local health care community, and other partners resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Based upon the unprecedented level of direct financial assistance made available by Congress over the past year, which includes trillions of dollars of support for individuals, households, and businesses that is still being implemented presently, and based upon the feedback gathered from the County's extensive outreach to community partners, the proposed expenditure plan for Leon County's allocation CSLFR funds does not contemplate another round of individual assistance or small business assistance. Community partners have indicated that the current and upcoming

assistance made available by Congress through the December 2020 Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act and the ARPA, including two rounds of emergency rent and utility assistance, a similar mortgage and utility assistance program for homeowners, additional support for small businesses, and other assistance available through this legislation is adequate to address most outstanding recovery needs for households and small businesses. As such, the expenditure plan proposed in this item seeks to support the community's economic recovery by mitigating the significant revenue impacts incurred by the County as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; by identifying and providing funding to address the community's specific remaining recovery needs in the areas of nonprofit and human services assistance, public health support, and targeted support for the local business community; and by leveraging local and state funding to complete three major infrastructure projects which have been impacted by a significant recent increase in construction costs.

As discussed below, the first priority in the proposed expenditure plan is to recover the approximately \$25.6 million reduction in Leon County and Blueprint revenues over the next two fiscal years which occurred as a result of the pandemic (illustrated in Table 2 on Page 16 of this item). This strategy will be critical to maintaining a balanced County budget over the next several fiscal years while avoiding tax or fee increases, capital project reductions, or workforce reductions. In addition, consistent with Treasury requirements as well as GFOA recommendations, the proposed expenditure plan includes funding to complete three major wastewater infrastructure projects. The temporary, one-time nature of this funding presents a unique opportunity to leverage this funding to fulfill the County's commitments to these projects, which will not only promote the effective and efficient delivery of high-quality infrastructure but will also support local economic recovery through strong employment opportunities for local workers. Following this, the proposed expenditure plan includes approximately \$10 million to address remaining community recovery needs in the areas of public health and healthcare services, homelessness assistance and other human services, and support for the local business community. The recommended allocations in these areas were developed based upon input gathered from the extensive outreach to community partners discussed above. Finally, the proposed expenditure plan includes a reserve/replenishment account that can be used to address future needs and to adapt to any changes in federal guidance that may allow for new uses of the County's CSLFR Funds without impacting existing funding categories.

In order to most efficiently meet the community's remaining recovery needs, this item also recommends partnering with the City of Tallahassee to jointly fund several of the programs and initiatives included in the proposed expenditure plan on a countywide basis. The County Administrator and City Manager are recommending a cost-sharing arrangement that would allow both entities to leverage a significant portion of their CSLFR funding to address food insecurity, small business needs, and homelessness support as part of a highly coordinated, communitywide plan. A discussion of this proposed cost-sharing arrangement for community recovery initiatives is provided throughout the remainder of this item.

The table below summarizes the funding categories included in the proposed expenditure plan, followed by a detailed discussion of each:

Category:	Proposed Funding:
COVID-19 Revenue Loss Mitigation	\$25.6 million (45%)
Infrastructure Improvements	\$12.6 million (22%)
Local Human Services Partner Support	\$6.6 million (12%)
Public Health Response Support	\$1.7 million (3%)
Small Business Support	\$1.4 million (2%)
County Continuity of Operations Support	\$2.0 million (4%)
ERA Program Support	\$1.5 million (2%)
Reserve/Replenishment Account	\$5.7 million (10%)
Total:	\$57.0 million (100%)

*Sum of the separate figures may not match the total due to rounding

COVID-19 Revenue Loss Mitigation (\$25.6 Million):

According to the Treasury Interim Final Rule, it is critical that local governments utilize the ARPA funding to mitigate drastic budget reductions and thereby avoid constraining the economic recovery:

During the period following the 2007-2009 recession, State and local government budget pressures led to fiscal austerity that was a significant drag on the overall economic recovery.

...the American Rescue Plan Act allows recipients facing budget shortfalls to use payments from the Fiscal Recovery Funds to avoid cuts to government services and thus enable State, local and Tribal governments to continue to provide valuable services and ensure that fiscal austerity measures do not hamper the broader economic recovery.

While the County previously received millions of dollars in funding through the CARES Act, the legislation did not allow for this funding to be used to offset the significant revenue losses being experienced locally. One of the main differences between CARES Act and ARPA funding is how each program addresses the financial burden the pandemic placed on local governments. While the CARES Act provided millions of dollars in immediate and necessary support for those most impacted by COVID-19, including vulnerable individuals, small businesses and service providers, CARES Act funding was ineligible to be used to offset any revenue losses experienced by local governments. For Leon County, the initial projected revenue loss was \$17 million which was offset through hiring freezes (which enabled the County to avoid any layoffs), operating budget cuts, and capital project eliminations and deferrals. The overriding purpose of the ARPA is to provide resources for local governments to continue to provide critical services to the community by replacing local revenue losses with federal funding. The ARPA specifically authorizes CSLFR funding to be used to offset both prior and future revenue losses.

Treasury guidance establishes a specific methodology to calculate reduction in revenue. Recipients will compute the extent of their reduction in revenue by comparing their actual revenue to a projection that would have been expected to occur in the absence of the pandemic. The methodology is based on a summation of all County revenues; there is no distinction for individual revenues. Counties can calculate revenue loss since the beginning of the pandemic and at several points throughout the program.

Based on the Treasury methodology, Leon County revenue losses were calculated for FY 2020 and FY 2021. Given the lag in how the methodology is calculated, the revenue losses will be available for budgeting for next year (FY 2022) and the following budget cycle (FY 2023). As shown in Table #2 below, the total projected revenue loss is \$20.6 million for Leon County Government. This includes all County revenues (state shared sales taxes, gas taxes, tourist taxes, property taxes, etc.). Regarding Blueprint Sales Tax losses, this item recommends the County and City share in mitigating these reductions. It is recommended 55.2% of the reduction in Blueprint revenues be addressed through the County's CSLFR allocation and 44.8% through the City's allocation, which is proportionate to the amount of CSLFR funding the County and City are each receiving.

	FY 2022 Budget (Projected FY 2020 Loss)	FY 2023 Budget (Projected FY 2021 Loss)	Total
Leon County Revenue	\$11,280,165	\$9,348,302	\$20,628,467
Blueprint (County Share)	\$2,494,488	\$2,429,378	\$4,923,866
Total Revenue Mitigation	\$13,774,653	\$11,777,680	\$25,552,333

Table 2: Projected Revenue Loss Mitigation

Under the Treasury guidance, there may be a small amount of additional revenue losses calculated which could be included in the FY 2024 budget. At that time, the Board may wish to reallocate funds from the proposed Reserve/Replenishment Account (discussed in further detail below) to assist in balancing the budget.

As presented in the budget overview item, this item recommends \$11.28 million in revenue loss mitigation funding be used to not only address immediate budgetary needs, but also to ensure the continued long-term financial stability of the County by investing:

- \$2.8 million through the operating budget to:
 - Eliminate the need to raise any fees or property taxes, maintaining the EMS MSTU, the stormwater non-ad valorem assessment and the fire fee at their current rates;
 - \circ Assist in rebuilding reserves by reducing the use of fund balance; and
 - Lift the hiring freeze implemented last year
- \$3.6 million to ensure funding is available for the base maintenance capital program
- \$2.2 to address the significant impact to Tourism revenues through:
 - Enhanced marketing/promotion to support rebuilding the local tourism economy;

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- Funding for the Amtrak renovation to address significant industry-wide construction inflation cost increases; and
- Funding to support on-going development of the Apalachee Regional Park
- \$2.7 million to address transportation and flood relief projects that were delayed or not funded because of the pandemic

Without the use of the CSLFR revenue loss mitigation strategy discussed above, this item would be presenting a slate of alternative options for the Board to consider in balancing the FY 2022 budget including operating reductions, hiring freezes, capital project deferrals/eliminations, additional use of fund balances, and possible tax or fee increases. Over the next several budget cycles, as the economy continues to grow, the proposed expenditure plan will facilitate gradually reducing budgetary reliance on revenue loss mitigation funding, correspondingly replacing this funding with projected increased revenue collections (through half cent sales tax revenues, property taxes, etc.).

Infrastructure Improvements (\$12.6 Million)

As discussed above, the ARPA provides that the County's CSLFR Fund allocation can be used to make necessary investments specifically in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure. In Leon County, the City of Tallahassee and Talquin Electric Cooperative operate drinking water utilities; the County does not own or maintain any drinking water infrastructure. Also, the County's role in wastewater infrastructure is limited, as the City and Talquin also operate sanitary sewer utility infrastructure. All water and wastewater utility services throughout Leon County are provided by the City of Tallahassee, Talquin Electric Cooperative, or another provider via exclusive franchise. However, as part of its commitment to protect the community's natural resources, Leon County has aggressively and successfully pursued state grant funds over the past several years for wastewater infrastructure improvements leading to the removal of septic tanks within the Wakulla Springs Primary Springs Protection Zone. In the area of broadband infrastructure, there are eight residential broadband internet service providers operating in Leon County. As discussed in a comprehensive status report on broadband availability presented to the Board at the March 9, 2021 meeting (Attachment #8), counties and cities in Florida are limited by state law in their ability to expand broadband access to their citizens. Although Leon County does not own or maintain any broadband infrastructure, the County has led several initiatives to support internet access both before and during the pandemic including providing free internet access through Leon County Libraries, extensively engaging citizens to share information about low-cost internet options, promoting discounted services that are made available through the FCC's Emergency Broadband Benefit Program, and more. As discussed in detail in the March 9, 2021 agenda item, the County continues working with state, federal, and private sector partners on a variety of current initiatives to increase broadband internet access throughout the community. Given the factors discussed above, Leon County's use of CSLFR funds to support infrastructure initiatives is limited to sewer infrastructure. Accordingly, this item recommends allocating a portion of the County's CSLFR allocation to support three major wastewater infrastructure projects.

In partnership with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), the County has established the nine-year Water Quality and Springs Protection Infrastructure Improvement Plan

(Attachment #9) to enhance the region's water quality through a series of septic-to-sewer conversion projects. In recent years, the County has leveraged the commitment of over \$60 million in state and local funds with plans to upgrade or eliminate a total of 1,610 septic tanks in the Primary Springs Protection Zone. Most recently, the County has been awarded state funding through FDEP's Springs Restoration Grant Program to begin the implementation of the Northeast Lake Munson Sewer System, Belair/Annawood Sewer System, and Woodville Sewer Projects. The total state and local funding committed for these projects across the nine-year project plan is as follows (these totals reflect the County's cost share; FDEP provides an equal matching amount toward each project):

- Northeast Lake Munson Sewer System: \$5.5 million
- Belair/Annawood Sewer System: \$3.5 million
- Woodville Sewer (4 Phases): \$18.7 million

Due to current construction pricing trends which have substantially increased over the past year, the budget estimates detailed in the initial grant applications for each of these projects will be insufficient to complete construction. Given the temporary, one-time nature of the CSLFR funding provided under the ARPA, this funding represents a unique opportunity to fulfill the County's commitments to these projects despite the recent increase in construction costs. This proposed strategy will not only enable the County to complete these projects and provide high-quality wastewater infrastructure for the community but will also support local economic recovery by facilitating strong employment opportunities for local workers. Under the ARPA, local infrastructure projects that are supported using CSLFR funds must be completed by December 2025.

The proposed allocation of CSLFR funds to support remaining costs for these projects, including estimated consulting costs, is outlined below:

Project	Budgeted Amount	Projected Shortfall
Northeast Lake Munson Sewer System	\$5.5 million	\$2.9 million
Belair/Annawood Sewer System	\$3.5 million	\$1.4 million
Woodville Sewer (4 Phases)	\$18.7 million	\$8.3 million
Total P	\$12.6 million	

Table 3: Proposed Infrastructure Improvements Using CSLFR Funding

Also, as discussed earlier in this item, the Florida Legislature has allocated \$500 million from the State's share of CSLFR Funds to support septic-to-sewer projects in the State's FY 2022 budget. In the coming months, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection is expected to develop program guidelines for the State's implementation of this funding. Should the Board approve the proposed expenditure plan, the County would seek to leverage State funding with the local funds allocated by the County for the projects listed in Table #3 above. If successful, this could make a

significant portion of the County funding allocated toward these projects, available to support other wastewater infrastructure projects throughout the community.

Local Human Services Partner Support (\$6.6 Million)

This proposed expenditure category dedicates funding to provide targeted assistance, in partnership with a variety of local human service partner agencies, for Leon County residents hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and who are lagging the overall economic recovery. As discussed earlier in this item, the County extensively engaged local nonprofit and human services partners to share information regarding the assistance made available through the ARPA and earlier COVID-19 relief legislation as well as to identify any remaining gaps in human service needs throughout the community. This category includes approximately \$6.6 million, further leveraged by a proportionate contribution from the City of Tallahassee, to address food insecurity, provide housing and homelessness support, expand access to legal services, and support mental health and other healthcare services. In addition, a portion of this funding allocation will be dedicated to local nonprofit organizations that provide human services and programs for local residents impacted by COVID-19. Proposed expenditures within this category are as follows:

• Homelessness and Housing Support: \$3.5 Million (Total with City Share: \$6.3 Million)

Leon County has four emergency shelters designated to assist the homeless population: the Kearney Center for single individuals experiencing homelessness; Hope Community, operated by Big Bend Homeless Coalition for families; Capital City Youth Services (CCYS) operates a youth shelter; and Refuge House operates a shelter for domestic violence victims. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, homeless sheltering generally consisted of "congregate" facilities where homeless individuals were housed at a single location, often with several individuals living in the same room. COVID-19, however, required homeless service providers to fundamentally adjust this model – public health guidelines related to physical distancing required providers to shift to "non-congregate" sheltering arrangements which involve placing homeless individuals in hotels, motels, or other facilities that allow for greater physical distancing to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19. This approach to sheltering, which requires significantly more square footage and often the use of privately-owned lodging facilities, is necessarily much more expensive than the traditional congregate sheltering model. Compounding this challenge is the significant increase in demand for homeless sheltering due to the economic effects of the pandemic. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, all four emergency homeless shelters have experienced a significant increase in clients at their congregate or non-congregate facilities. In order to meet CDC guidelines for social distancing, each provider has had to reduce the number of clients in their congregate shelters and develop waiting lists for shelter services due to the increased demand. As a result, there has been a larger number of unsheltered homeless individuals utilizing vehicles and homeless encampments.

It should be noted that this challenge is not unique to Leon County; the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress indicated a 2.2% increase in homelessness during its 2020 "Point-in-Time" count, which reflects the most current available data, compared to 2019. This marks the fourth consecutive

annual increase in homelessness following sustained reductions between 2010 and 2016. The Point-in-Time count took place in January 2020, in the weeks preceding the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States. As such, these findings shed light on a homelessness system that was significantly burdened long before the COVID-19 pandemic forced economic disruption and housing crises on households nationwide.

On March 18, 2020, Leon County Emergency Management convened a Local Homeless COVID-19 Task Force to address planning and coordination needs related to implementing the CDC guidance for homeless shelters with respect to COVID-19. The task force was led by Shington Lamy, Director of Leon County's Office of Human Services and Community Partnerships, and included representatives from the following organizations:

- Big Bend Continuum of Care (CoC)
- o Big Bend Homeless Coalition / HOPE Community
- o The Kearney Center
- o Refuge House
- Capital City Youth Services (CCYS)
- o Florida Dept. of Health in Leon County
- City of Tallahassee

The task force has convened regular conference calls to discuss mitigation strategies, service changes, and applying for FEMA reimbursement for eligible expenses. Additionally, Leon County staff and other task force members have assisted shelters with meeting CDC guidelines including developing protocols to care for residents who show respiratory symptoms or who test positive for COVID-19; accessing needed supplies such as face masks, thermometers, and cleaning supplies; and identifying additional shelter space to ensure beds are adequately distanced from each other. In addition, the Leon CARES plan approved by the Board in 2020 dedicated funding to support facility improvements at each of the local emergency shelters to meet distancing requirements as well as the purchase of vehicles to facilitate socially-distanced transportation of homeless service clients to medical appointments, grocery stores, and other destinations.

The availability of CSLFR funding presents an opportunity to significantly enhance the community's homelessness support infrastructure through several targeted strategies. The proposed CSLFR expenditure plan recommends allocating an additional \$6.3 million to the Big Bend Continuum of Care (BBCoC) to expand a variety of initiatives and programs in order to alleviate the increased demand for homelessness support services including community outreach, permanent supportive housing, homelessness diversion services, and recruitment of established organizations to expand homeless prevention services locally. The BBCoC is the agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as the regional planning and oversight organization for Leon, Franklin, Gadsden, Jefferson, Liberty, Madison, Taylor, and Wakulla counties. As directed by the Board at the April 13, 2021 meeting, Leon County will hold a joint workshop with the City of Tallahassee on July 13, 2021 to discuss strategies to address homelessness as well as a strategic plan that the BBCoC is

expected to complete in early summer. The recommended allocations in the proposed CSLFR expenditure plan to address the highest needs of individuals and families experiencing homeless during and following the global COVID-19 pandemic are consistent with the initiatives that will be included in the BBCoC's strategic plan.

This assistance would complement the extensive resources for homelessness assistance that is provided separately in the ARPA, as discussed earlier in this item. In addition, this category would provide additional funding to the four emergency shelters to address unanticipated expenses related to COVID-19 and that are not covered by FEMA reimbursement or other federal and state funding sources. Of the \$6.3 million recommended in this category, the County's share would be approximately \$3.5 million, and the City would contribute the balance from its allocation of CSLFR funds.

An overview of the allocations recommended under this funding category is provided below:

- Street Outreach (\$375,000): Locally, community outreach is one of the smallest yet most effective initiative in supporting the transition of people from homelessness into permanent housing. An average of 80% of local residents utilizing permanent housing services have transitioned from homeless situations. Presently, twice a week the BBCoC coordinates outreach teams for adults to engage unsheltered individuals at known encampments by offering services and resources such as hygiene kits, snacks, and personal protective equipment (PPE). The goal of the outreach teams is to offer services that will get the individuals housed within Leon County or divert them to their community of origin. Services include referrals to local emergency shelters, referrals to medical and mental health services, eligibility assessments for rapid rehousing and permanent supportive housing, and case management referrals to assist with accessing benefits such as Social Security and SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits. This funding would expand outreach efforts by employing up to ten (10) individuals over the next two years that have successfully exited homelessness to engage those currently experiencing homelessness or housing instability. The additional staff will expand the efforts of the outreach teams to 3-4 times a week (increased from two times per week) and work primarily with homeless individuals and families living in vehicles and homeless encampments to connect them with available resources in the community including shelter services, as well as diversion and prevention programs. This will also serve as employment experience for those hired to serve on the outreach team to gain higher paying jobs post pandemic recovery. According to the BBCoC, the enhancement of the outreach team contemplated in the proposed expenditure plan will directly serve approximately 250 individuals and families, increase homeless prevention services, and reduce the rate of those returning to homelessness.
- Diversion and Prevention (\$1.25 Million): Over the past year, more than 200 households have been diverted from entering homeless emergency shelters through diversion and prevention practices. The BBCoC anticipates an additional 400 households can avoid homelessness by expending access to local diversion assistance. Specifically, this assistance involves covering one-time financial needs such as rent,

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> utilities, bus/train fare, car repairs, and hotel costs; housing mediation; and relocation support such as security deposits and utility deposits to prevent the use of emergency shelters. In addition, this funding will expand the availability of hotel vouchers for the local emergency shelters as a short-term solution to addressing the current waiting lists for shelter services.

- Permanent Supportive Housing (\$2.5 Million): As a direct result of the pandemic, the BBCoC estimates that there are over 260 individuals in Leon County who are currently experiencing homelessness and are living with medical conditions that make them atrisk to contracting COVID-19. This category would dedicate funding to provide housing stipends to approximately 75 individuals experiencing chronic homelessness. Specifically, rent and utility stipends and case management would be provided for up to 12 months for individuals that have a serious health condition and have either experienced long-term chronic homelessness in the past or are currently experiencing prolonged homelessness due to the pandemic. Following the 12 months of funding that would be provided under the proposed CSLFR expenditure plan, the BBCoC anticipates that clients will secure long-term funding through pensions, social security benefits, and veteran benefits, as well as permanent supporting housing from the State of Florida through the Department of Children and Families, federal funding through HUD, and housing vouchers through the Tallahassee Housing Authority. As such, the proposed Leon County CSLFR expenditure plan would position the community to benefit from immediate assistance that is likely to continue with state support.
- Neighborhood-Based Partner Capacity Building (\$360,000): The BBCoC currently 0 works with a limited number of contracted service providers in Leon County who have demonstrated the ability to administer federal and state funding per guidelines and statute requirements. Given this, the BBCoC has requested funding to provide training and technical support to nonprofit organizations in an effort to expand the local homeless service partner network. By offering capacity-building activities and training to smaller non-profits in the community, these entities can be better positioned to offer homeless prevention services and learn to secure and administer federal and state funding to directly support individuals experiencing homelessness. The BBCoC would focus on providing training and assistance to neighborhood-based and faith-based organizations, including those that have operated emergency cold night shelters, to build these organization's capacity to secure additional federal and state funding. This training and assistance would include educating smaller organizations on HUD and DCF requirements for homeless services funding and assisting the organizations with making modifications to their organizational structure and programming to be eligible and competitive for federal and state funding.
- *Homeless Shelter Providers (\$1.78 Million):* To reduce the spread of COVID-19 among individuals experiencing homelessness in our community, the four local emergency shelters (Kearney Center, Big Bend Homeless Coalition, Capital City Youth Services, and Refuge House) have made various improvements and modifications to their facilities and operations consistent with the COVID-19 sheltering guidelines established by the CDC. This category dedicates funding to support

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unanticipated expenses experienced by these providers related to COVID-19 that are not supported through FEMA or other federal and state funding sources, including increased security costs, increased costs for food services, and building retrofits to meet CDC and Americans with Disability Act (ADA) requirements. This category includes specific funding for the Kearney Center as requested by the Board during the March 9, 2021 meeting. At that time, the Board considered a request from the Kearney Center to reallocate \$1 million in Leon CARES funding previously approved by the County to pay for COVID-19 related expenses for homeless shelter services not eligible for FEMA reimbursement. At that time, the Board authorized the Kearney Center to reallocate \$500,000 of this funding and repurposed the remaining \$500,000 to address COVID-19 vaccine hesitancy and vaccine access for communities of color. Additionally, the Board directed that a budget discussion item be included to consider an additional \$500,000 to the Kearney Center; this funding is included in this line item of the proposed CSLFR expenditure plan. Within this category, approximately \$1.5 million would be allocated to the Kearney Center by the County and City for services not eligible for FEMA reimbursement such as incidentals at non-congregate shelters, meals to unsheltered homeless individuals and families, and transportation of clients. An agreement for the funding would include commitment to the full operation of the Kearney Center at Municipal Way. Of note, the County also continues to work with the Kearney Center to secure federal funding for FEMA-eligible costs, which may require the County to submit reimbursement requests on behalf of the Kearney Center.

• Food Insecurity: \$767,000 (Total with City Share: \$1.39 Million)

Due to the ongoing negative financial impacts experienced by households in the community as a result of COVID-19, food insecurity continues to be a concern in Leon County. Second Harvest of the Big Bend (Second Harvest) is a non-profit food bank that accepts and distributes donations of food through a network of 135 local food pantries, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, senior community centers, and children's feeding programs. Last year, Leon County provided more than \$4 million to Second Harvest through the Leon CARES plan to address local food insecurity, which facilitated the distribution of over 3.4 million meals across the community. Leon CARES funding supported Second Harvest in purchasing food supplies, hiring program staff, and purchasing refrigerator trucks and other equipment to distribute meals to the community's most vulnerable populations.

The proposed CSLFR expenditure plan allocates \$1.4 million in additional funding to the Second Harvest for the purchase of approximately 722,000 meals. This allocation would be shared proportionately by the County and the City according to each entity's share of CSLFR funds (the County's contribution would total approximately \$767,000). These meals would be distributed to Leon County families that continue to be impacted by COVID-19, including low-income children participating in virtual school and summer camps. Additionally, this funding would support Second Harvest in purchasing and operating four temperature-controlled grocery lockers that will be established in the community to increase access to meals with flexible schedules for food pickup at nearby locations.

• Legal Services: \$447,000 (Total with City Share: \$810,000)

Over the past year, the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have resulted in a significant increase in households facing the risk of eviction or foreclosure due to an inability to pay their rent or mortgage. This expenditure category would dedicate funding to expand legal assistance resources for low-income households facing eviction/foreclosure in an effort to reduce their vulnerability to homelessness. Legal Services of North Florida is seeking support to hire a full-time attorney, paralegal, community outreach-partner relations specialist, and law clerk for two years to expand their capacity in addressing the current and continuing need for eviction defense in our community. Eviction defense services involve providing support to individuals in accessing rental assistance, foreclosure defense, stimulus checks, and unemployment compensation, among other resources. In addition, Legal Aid of North Florida is also seeking support to hire case managers and intake specialists for two years to assist pro bono lawyers with the continued and growing need for eviction and foreclosure defense. Like the other nonprofit and human services categories above, this allocation would be shared proportionately between the County and the City.

• Mental Health Services: \$110,000 (Total with City Share: \$200,000)

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, mental health services remain a critical need in our community. Local human service partners have experienced an increased demand for these services over the past year in assisting clients who have been impacted by COVID-19 in various ways including job loss, reduced income, and increased feelings of anxiety, depression, and isolation. According to 2-1-1 Big Bend, suicide calls have increased since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic compared to previous years. Under the Leon CARES expenditure plan, the County allocated over \$185,000 to support 2-1-1 Big Bend in enhancing access to mental health resources in the community. To address the increase in call volume of individuals that are experiencing mental health crisis, this funding supported the hiring of two additional positions by 2-1-1 Big Bend to triage mental health calls to appropriate free or low-cost mental health services in Leon County.

This category would dedicate additional funding to 2-1-1 Big Bend to retain these Mental Health Triage Specialists through FY 2022. The 2-1-1 Big Bend Mental Health Triage Specialists would continue to be responsible for providing support to 2-1-1's call takers by referring callers experiencing mental health crisis immediately to local mental health resources including scheduling counseling appointments, dispatching a Mobile Response Team, or connecting telehealth services for mental health. Funding to support these positions in future years will be sought by 2-1-1 Big Bend through the County and City's Community Human Service Partnership. Like the other nonprofit and human services categories above, this allocation would be shared proportionately between the County and the City.

• Nonprofit Services Grant Program: \$1.8 Million (Total with City Share: \$3.3 Million)

Over the past several months, Leon County has worked closely with the City of Tallahassee, United Partners for Human Services (UPHS), the Council on Culture and Arts (COCA), the Institute for Nonprofit Innovation and Excellence (INIE), and the United Way of the Big Bend (UWBB) to address the significant demand for services that nonprofits and human service

organizations have experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic. In April 2021, UPHS, COCA, and INIE conducted a survey of local nonprofit organizations, which found that 72% of the organizations experienced an increase in demand for their services since the onset of COVID-19 (Attachment #10). The organizations represented sectors such as education, healthcare, legal services, and workforce development. The Nonprofit Services Grant Program contemplated in this category of the proposed CSLFR expenditure plan would provide funding to local nonprofit organizations to continue to meet the immediate demand that they continue to experience for essential human service needs such as after school/summer enrichment programs, computer technology, and crisis management.

As recommended by UPHS, COCA, and INIE, this category would provide up to \$20,000 in one-time assistance to support local nonprofit agencies that are providing or will provide human services/programming to Leon County residents impacted by COVID-19. The funding level is consistent with the Leon CARES Human Services Grant established in 2020, which awarded funding to 121 local nonprofit organizations. Under this proposed grant program, it is recommended that applicants must be a 501(c)(3) organization registered with the State of Florida to be eligible, and priority for funding consideration through this program would be given to organizations that did not receive previous assistance through the Local Economic Assistance for Nonprofits (LEAN) Program, the Leon CARES Human Services Grant Program, or the Leon CARES Nonprofit Assistance Grant Program.

The County and City would contract with UPHS, INIE, COCA, and UWBB to provide technical support to agencies seeking to apply for this grant program. This contracted support would involve hosting webinars on program guidelines and eligibility requirements and assisting local nonprofits with submitting applications and the required documentation. In addition, these agencies would support other local nonprofits in the community with securing other federal and state funding support available through the ARPA over the next year. As above, the cost to implement this program would be shared proportionately by the County and the City.

Public Health Response Support (\$1.7 Million)

This proposed expenditure category would dedicate funding for expenses related to Leon County's ongoing COVID-19 response efforts. Under the Leon CARES expenditure plan approved by the Board in July 2020, the County dedicated nearly \$5 million in funding for critical public health needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic including enhanced communitywide testing and contact tracing capabilities, purchase and distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE), and targeted efforts to serve the medical needs of low-income residents in partnership with local primary healthcare providers. Leon CARES funding supported over 50 mobile COVID-19 testing events through May 2021 to supplement state-supported testing efforts, testing approximately 3,400 citizens. In addition, this funding allocation supported the Leon County Health Department's hiring of over 80 personnel to support enhanced COVID-19 testing, contact tracing, and school monitoring.

The proposed CSLFR expenditure plan would allocate approximately \$1.6 million in additional funding to further expand and strengthen public health operations related to COVID-19.

Specifically, this category would dedicate funding for the Leon County Health Department to support communitywide vaccination distribution, acquisition of PPE, COVID-19 infection prevention and control, and minor facility enhancements. In addition, this category would dedicate additional funding to support the local Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) and the community's primary healthcare providers to ensure they have the necessary resources to serve the medical needs of Leon County's low-income residents. An overview of the allocations recommended under this funding category is provided below:

• Leon County Health Department – Vaccine Distribution and Response: \$535,000

This category would provide funding to support the Leon County Health Department (LCHD) in ensuring broad vaccine distribution across the community, including expanding vaccine distribution access for high-risk and underserved populations. The LCHD would utilize these funds to supplement state and federal funding allocations and support COVID-19 immunization expenses not otherwise supported by other funding sources. The LCHD seeks to hire 8 additional staff positions to provide oversight in ensuring the safe, equitable administration of vaccines and to expand the immunization capacity of the LCHD clinics. The LCHD would also partner, plan, and implement vaccination activities with critical organizations across the community, including churches, businesses, and non-traditional providers that serve underserved populations. In addition, the LCHD would lead community engagement strategies to expand messaging to promote COVID-19 vaccinations, increase vaccine confidence, and provide details on how and where citizens can receive a vaccine.

This funding would also support the hiring of additional staff and facility improvements at the LCHD clinics to support COVID-19 infection prevention and control efforts. These COVID-19 Infection Control Specialists would lead the expansion of infection control efforts including training staff on implementation of infection control practices, collecting data and monitoring infection control practices across departments, and investigating and reporting incidents of infection. This category would also support the availability of supplies required for infection control and facility improvements at LCHD clinics to accommodate increased staff as a result of the pandemic.

• Neighborhood Medical Center: \$500,000

This category would dedicate funding to support Neighborhood Medical Center (NMC), a local FQHC, in renovating a former bank building into a medical facility to provide general healthcare services for low-income residents. In 2019, NMC purchased the 8,310 square-foot facility located at 2613 South Monroe Street. The reconfigured building will open in January 2022 and include a waiting area, exam rooms, dental operatories, offices, records rooms, a lab, and patient services. Along with COVID-19 testing and vaccinations, NMC will also offer other healthcare services at the reconfigured site. The total project cost is approximately \$1.3 million and NMC is committing \$800,000 from federal grants, bank loans, local donations, and capital reserves. NMC is requesting an allocation of \$500,000 to support the remaining construction and equipment costs not covered by other funding sources.

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• Bond Community Health Center: \$300,000

This category would dedicate funding to Bond Community Health Center (Bond), a local FQHC, to support renovations at its current facilities to meet CDC guidelines for reducing the spread of COVID-19 and mitigating the risk of infection. In addition, this funding would also support Bond in making physical improvements to its mobile units which are utilized for COVID-19 testing and vaccination events throughout the community.

• Vaccine Hesitancy Engagement and Promotion: \$331,000 (Total with City Share: \$600,000)

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began and throughout the vaccine rollout, Leon County Government has been the lead coordinator of emergency communications alongside the Florida Department of Health. Specific to vaccinations, in January 2021 the Board approved \$175,000 for public information efforts to engage and educate the community on vaccines. Also, in March 2021 the Board approved an additional \$500,000 to fund minority and underserved community outreach with door-to-door canvassing, pop-up vaccination clinics, and a robust public information campaign including public safety announcements with local leaders. The proposed CSLFR expenditure plan would allocate an additional \$600,000 to fund public information efforts through December 30, 2021 that engage, motivate, and provide access to unvaccinated populations.

As part of the County's ongoing vaccination efforts, a hesitancy survey was conducted in December 2020 and again in April 2021 to compare and contrast citizens' responses. As a result of coordinated public information efforts as well as the effects of seeing friends and family vaccinated, hesitancy among those with concerns dropped by half. In short, nearly 80 percent of respondents said they would be open to receiving a vaccine. However, now that everyone 12 years and older is eligible for a vaccine at many different locations throughout our community, only 39 percent of the County's total vaccine-eligible population has received at least one dose. While the vaccination rate has declined due to additional age groups becoming eligible, vaccine supply and availability continues to increase. In the 18 to 24-year age group, the vaccination rate hovers around 20 percent. Through County-coordinated in-field research, the majority of those surveyed state they would rather "wait and see," pointing to potential vaccine reactions or a general lack of urgency.

To reach and mobilize the remaining unvaccinated majority in our community, the proposed CSLFR expenditure plan includes resources enabling the County to work with the Leon County Coronavirus Vaccination Community Education and Engagement Task Force to reach underserved communities in innovative ways tailored to increase vaccinations. As indicated above, the proposed expenditure plan would allocate \$600,000 (shared with the City; the County's share would be \$331,000) to fund vaccine public information and outreach efforts until December 30, 2021. These efforts would include continued partnership with the Leon County Coronavirus Vaccination Community Education and Engagement Task Force; promoting vaccination efforts, rollout; and other public health information; targeted outreach to communities of color through the Task Force; and more.

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Small Business Support (\$1.4 Million)

This proposed expenditure category would dedicate funding to support several programs and initiatives directly supporting the local business community. As discussed below, this would include direct assistance to minority- and women-owned businesses through the SmartSteps Revolving Micro-Lending Program, support for the three local Chambers of Commerce to expand programming and resources for local businesses; and funding for local entrepreneur support entities to help startup companies in the post-pandemic economy. Proposed expenditures within this category are as follows:

• SmartSteps Micro-Loan Program: \$1.1 Million (Total with City Share: \$2 Million)

During the November 17, 2020 meeting, the Board authorized the County Administrator to execute an agreement with FAMU Federal Credit Union (FAMU FCU) to establish a microloan program for Black-, minority-, and women-owned businesses. As approved by the Board, Leon County has committed \$1 million in Leon CARES funding for the micro-loan program, known as the SmartSteps Program, which was supplemented with a \$250,000 match from FAMU FCU. The SmartSteps Program launched in February 2021 to enhance and diversify the existing capital pool in the market for minority businesses. Since that time, approximately \$883,0000 in loans have been administered through the program as of April 2021. It is anticipated that FAMU FCU will administer the remaining funds by the early summer of 2021.

This proposed funding category would allocate an additional \$1.5 million to extend the SmartSteps Program and further support the needs of growing MWSBE businesses. In addition, this funding category would allocate \$500,000 to support the administration of the SmartSteps Program as part of the City of Tallahassee's Neighborhood First Initiative. Through the Neighborhood First initiative, the City has worked with community members within the Greater Bond, Griffin Heights, Frenchtown, and Providence neighborhoods to collaboratively plan community improvements within these areas such as housing improvement programs, economic development, and placemaking. During these planning efforts, each of the four neighborhoods have requested access to microloans as an economic development goal within its plans. As proposed, the additional funds would be dedicated to the SmartSteps Program to be distributed to MWSBE businesses within these geographic areas. As with other programs discussed above, the County and City would share the cost of this micro-loan program.

• Local Chambers of Commerce Support: \$166,000 (Total with City Share: \$300,000)

As discussed above, the three local chambers of commerce (Big Bend Minority Chamber, Capital City Chamber, and Greater Tallahassee Chamber) were fundamental in providing technical assistance to local businesses applying for the Leon CARES Small Businesse Assistance Program in 2020. The County also contracted with the local chambers using Leon CARES funding to provide training to help local small businesses adapt to new technologies and practices as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. These trainings have supported local businesses in assessing needs, coordinating resources, and implementing training for current and new employees on new technologies and business practices in response to COVID-19.

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This proposed expenditure category would allocate \$300,000 in additional funding to the local chambers to provide continued assistance to local businesses by further expanding their programming aimed to helping businesses mitigate challenges and capitalize on new opportunities for job creation and growth. Specifically, the local chambers would provide targeted, essential support to local businesses over the next two years which would include:

- Business Outreach and Education: Local programming centered on bridging the talent, education, and workforce gap, job creation and economic development, and establishing sustainable business climates.
- Talent Pipeline Enhancement: Continued implementation of "Talent Hub," a platform established by the Greater Tallahassee Chamber in 2020 to assist the local workforce with exploring careers, building skills, and finding jobs. The Talent Hub platform seeks to support efforts in bridging the local talent gap by centralizing education and employment resources to explore careers, build skills, and find employment opportunities. Going forward, the Talent Hub will feature resources focused on enhancing partnerships, connecting with more career seekers and employers, and expanding career exploration programs.
- Targeted Assistance to Minority- and Women-Owned Businesses: New training opportunities for minority- and women-owned businesses on a variety of topics including networking, marketing, cash flow management, technology improvement, contract negotiations, and capacity building.
- Entrepreneurship Support: \$166,000 (Total with City Share: \$300,000)

Small businesses nationwide have experienced the significant economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and have been disproportionally affected due to revenue losses from forced closures and unanticipated expenses related to keeping employees and customers safe. While these impacts have particularly affected minority- and women-owned small businesses and those within certain industry sectors, entrepreneurs and startup companies have also faced significant challenges due to COVID-19. A 2020 National Bureau of Economic Research survey found that the financial health of nearly half, or 48%, of startup companies had been negatively or very negatively impacted by the pandemic. Locally, entrepreneur support entities such as North Florida Innovation Labs and Domi Station have experienced dramatic challenges related to their capacity and ability to host and instruct entrepreneurs. The risk of COVID-19 resulted in increased costs associated with digitizing trainings, acquiring PPE, and implementing other safety measures at their facilities. Meanwhile, the need and demand for entrepreneur training and incubator resources have only increased over the past year as individuals previously employed in sectors disrupted by COVID-19 have begun to explore new employment ventures and existing businesses and enterprises have sought to better adapt to the changing economic landscape over the past year.

Through the Leon CARES Small Business Assistance Program, the County distributed \$18.1 million in financial assistance to support the restart, re-launch, and re-opening of over 930 small businesses in the community, with over \$7.8 million awarded to local businesses that are minority-owned and woman-owned. Like small businesses, entrepreneurs and startup

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companies are critical to the economic vitality of any community, providing contributions in additional employment opportunities for residents and industry diversification within the local business community. As such, this proposed expenditure category would allocate \$300,000, shared proportionately with the City, to address local entrepreneurs' and startup companies' demonstrated need for assistance while also further promoting resilience among the local business community as a whole. Specifically, this funding would be distributed over the next two years to the local entrepreneur support entities, North Florida Innovation Labs and Domi Station, for enhanced training series, employment connection opportunities, and resources to support talent retention, revenue growth, and innovation among the local entrepreneurial community. With the dedication of these funds, the local entrepreneur support entities seek to train up to 75 new entrepreneurs, support the hiring of up to 20 new employees by local startup companies, and assist local startups in achieving \$1 million in revenue growth in the next two years.

County Continuity of Operations & ERA Program Support (\$3.5 Million)

• County Continuity of Operations Support (\$2.0 Million)

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many Leon County Government departments and divisions transitioned to a remote working environment, which required quick deployment of laptop computers to support County personnel working from home. The Office of Information and Technology (OIT) worked to address this need for laptops throughout the organization by using departments' pooled laptops and using other laptops assigned to the County's libraries. In addition, OIT found that the County's current virtual network environment did not have adequate capacity for the widespread remote connection needs of the organization, particularly from unknown devices when County personnel worked from home using personal devices, such as their own desktop computers or tablets. As a result, this increased the vulnerability of the network due to the number of unknown, potentially infected devices connecting directly to the County's network. Given this, OIT identified a need to transition all remote connections to a secured virtual desktop solution, which requires the use of devices setup and regularly maintained by OIT to facilitate improved security within the network.

While County staff have since returned to normal in-office operations, the limited availability of laptops in each work area reduces the County's ability and agility, should the County need to once again transition to remote work during the remainder of the COVID-19 public health emergency. The availability of CSLFR funding presents an opportunity for the County to enhance remote working capabilities by acquiring and proactively deploying additional laptops, configured with secure virtual desktop capability, for use throughout the public health emergency. Accordingly, this proposed expenditure category would allocate funding to support the acquisition of approximately 850 laptops, which would include 650 laptops to be deployed across County work areas and an additional 200 laptops to be deployed across the Constitutional and Judicial Offices. In addition, these new laptops and existing laptops owned by the County will be enhanced with the new secured virtual desktop solution to provide additional security across these devices.

• Emergency Rental Assistance Program Support (\$1.5 million)

As discussed in detail in a separate item on the May 25 Budget Workshop agenda, Leon County has aggressively implemented its Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) program. In less than six weeks since the program launched, the County has approved rent and utility assistance for more than 800 Leon County households, totaling over \$3.4 million in awards. While federal program guidelines allow up to 10% of the County's allocation of ERA funding to be used for administrative purposes, this maximum administrative allowance will not provide the funding needed to complete reviews of the large volume of applications received for the program while providing the enhanced level of support necessary to ensure that our most vulnerable residents receive the application assistance and technical support they need. In addition to a call center, the County has set up an intake center at the Amtrak building (supplemental to the contracted support funded through the County's ERA Program administrative allowance) to provide inperson assistance to citizens in completing applications. To date, the County has provided inperson assistance to more than 2,500 citizens at this intake center. The County also launched an extensive marketing and promotion initiative and directly engaged and contracted with community partners to promote community awareness of the ERA program. These efforts proved to be extremely successful; after the first three weeks of the program, the County received more than 6,000 applications for assistance totaling more than \$20 million in requests, far in excess of the \$8 million available through the program. Several larger Florida counties continue to report that their volume of applications is comparatively lower and are estimating that it may take several more months to expend their full ERA program allocation.

In addition to the ERA program, as discussed earlier in this item, the federal government is also launching a separate program to provide mortgage and utility relief to homeowners. While these funds will be provided directly to the states, it is unclear at this time whether the State of Florida will establish a pass-through program for local governments to administer. A preliminary review of the program guidelines indicates that the mortgage assistance program will be very complex to administer, and like the ERA program, will require personalized assistance for applicants to be successful.

Considering these factors, the proposed CSLFR expenditure plan would allocate \$1.5 million to continue supporting the implementation of the Leon County ERA program, including contracted services for an extraordinary volume of application reviews as well as application assistance and technical support. This funding would also be available to provide additional support as needed for a mortgage relief program in the event that the State of Florida passes this funding through to local governments for implementation as well as any other program that requires an enhanced level of citizen support. Funding allocated in this category would be used to pay for temporary employees, increased contractual services for application review and call center support, and personnel expenses (such as overtime costs) associated with reassigning Leon County employees from their normal job duties to assist with implementation of the ERA program.

Reserve/Replenishment Account (\$5.7 Million)

The establishment of a Reserve/Replenishment account is a key component of the proposed CSLFR expenditure plan. This category establishes a reserve funding that may be allocated to any of the categories above based on future needs or for any potential changes in federal guidance that may allow for new uses without impacting existing categories. The ARPA provides that CSLFR funds may be used to cover costs obligated by the grantee through December 31, 2024, and obligated funds will remain available to complete projects through December 31, 2026.

Following the May 25 Budget Workshop, the County will immediately begin implementation of the CSLFR expenditure plan as approved by the Board in order to distribute this funding assistance throughout the community as quickly as possible. Accordingly, this item recommends authorizing the County Administrator to expend funds according to the plan as approved by the Board. Like the Leon CARES and Leon County ERA programs, the County Administrator will provide regular updates to the Board on the County's progress in implementing the CSLFR expenditure plan. Any recommendations that may be warranted for reallocating funds between categories or from the Reserve/Replenishment Account would be brought back to the Board for consideration at the appropriate time.

Summary and Conclusion

This budget discussion item provides an overview of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and seeks the Board's consideration of a proposed expenditure plan for Leon County's allocation of \$57.0 million in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provided under the bill.

As discussed throughout this item, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted the lives and livelihoods of citizens throughout Leon County. In addition to the public health and safety threats of COVID-19, impacts of the pandemic to local businesses have affected citizens' ability to meet basic living expenses due to layoffs, furloughs, and reductions in work hours. In response, Congress has authorized and appropriated an unprecedented level of financial support over the past year to address the immediate economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, including trillions of dollars of support for a variety of public health, human service, and economic recovery needs. In 2020, Leon County successfully leveraged \$62.2 million in federal funding to support a broad range of these community needs through the Leon CARES plan. Several of the assistance programs authorized by Congress over the past year, particularly those authorized under the December 2020 Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act and the ARPA, continue to be implemented currently by state and local governments. Leon County continues to implement several of these programs, including the Leon County Emergency Rental Assistance Program, Leon CARES-funded pop-up vaccination clinics, vaccine outreach to targeted populations, and more.

In March 2021, President Biden signed the latest major COVID-19 recovery legislation, the ARPA, into law, providing an additional \$1.9 trillion in economic relief and recovery assistance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The ARPA provides additional direct economic support for individuals and families, hard-hit industries and vulnerable populations, and state and local governments. This includes rent, mortgage, and utility assistance for low-income households;

food and nutrition assistance; additional resources to address the COVID-19 public health emergency such as funding for testing and vaccines; grants for childcare assistance, additional federal unemployment assistance, a third round of direct stimulus payments; additional targeted assistance for small businesses impacted by the pandemic; and more. The ARPA also established a \$360 billion Coronavirus State and Local Recovery Fund (CSLFR) to help state and local governments offset increased expenditures, recover lost revenues, and mitigate the negative economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Importantly, the ARPA is also the first COVID-19 recovery legislation authorized by Congress that intends and allows for governmental entities to recover revenue losses resulting from the economic effects of the pandemic.

Immediately following the enactment of the ARPA, Leon County conducted an extensive evaluation of the specific statutory and administrative requirements for these funds, local government best practices, and conducted extensive community outreach with local nonprofits, human service agencies, public health and healthcare partners, and the local business community to identify any community recovery needs that remain unmet following the extensive relief provided by Congress over the past year. Based upon the unprecedented level of direct financial assistance made available by Congress over the past year, which includes trillions of dollars of support for individuals, households, and businesses that is still being implemented presently, and based upon the feedback gathered from the County's extensive outreach to community partners, the proposed expenditure plan for Leon County's allocation CSLFR funds does not contemplate another round of individual assistance or small business assistance. Community partners have indicated that the current and upcoming assistance made available by Congress through the December 2020 Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act and the ARPA, including two rounds of emergency rent and utility assistance, a similar mortgage and utility assistance program for homeowners, additional support for small businesses, and other assistance available through this legislation, is adequate to address most outstanding recovery needs for households and small businesses.

As such, the expenditure plan proposed in this item presents a series of recommended funding categories, consistent with the eligible uses of CSLFR funds under the ARPA and based upon input received from community partners regarding the community's remaining recovery needs. The proposed plan seeks to support the community's economic recovery by mitigating the significant revenue impacts incurred by the County as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; by identifying and providing funding to address the community's specific remaining recovery needs in the areas of nonprofit and human services assistance, public health support, and targeted support for the local business community; and by leveraging local and state funding to complete major wastewater infrastructure projects which have been impacted by a significant recent increase in construction costs. As discussed earlier in this item, the proposed expenditure plan would mitigate \$25.5 million in revenue losses incurred by the County as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, which will be critical to maintaining a balanced County budget over the next several fiscal years while avoiding tax or fee increases, capital project reductions, or workforce reductions. In order to most efficiently meet the community's remaining recovery needs, the proposed expenditure plan contemplates a partnership with the City of Tallahassee to jointly fund several of the programs and initiatives included in the plan on a countywide basis. The County Administrator and City Manager are recommending a cost-sharing arrangement that would allow both entities to leverage

a significant portion of their CSLFR funding to address food insecurity, small business needs, and homelessness support as part of a highly coordinated, communitywide plan.

Finally, the proposed expenditure plan includes a Reserve/Replenishment Account that would be available for reallocation to any of the categories included in the plan based on future needs or for any potential changes in federal guidance that may allow for new uses without impacting existing categories. Notwithstanding the above, the ARPA provides broad flexibility to local governments to determine how best to use CSLFR funds to meet the unique needs of their community. Accordingly, the Board has the opportunity to provide any additional policy direction regarding the use of these funds within the guidelines of the ARPA.

The following table summarizes the proposed allocation of the County's CSLFR funds, including a summary of the proposed cost sharing arrangement between the County and the City for the jointly funded programs discussed in this item:

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Proposed Category	County Funding Share	City Funding Share	Total
COVID-19 Revenue Loss Mitigation			
Leon County Revenues	\$20,628,467		\$20,628,467
Blueprint Revenues (County Share)	\$4,923,866	\$3,996,181	\$8,920,047
Category Subtotal:	\$25,552,333	\$3,996,181	\$29,548,514
Infrastructure Improvements			
Northeast Lake Munson Sewer	\$2,900,000		\$2,900,000
Belair/Annawood Sewer	\$1,444,000		\$1,400,000
Woodville Sewer	\$8,256,000		\$8,300,000
Category Subtotal:	\$12,600,000		\$12,600,000
Local Human Services Partner Support			
Food Insecurity	\$767,280	\$622,720	\$1,390,000
Homelessness and Housing Support	\$3,462,144	\$2,809,856	\$6,272,000
Legal Services	\$447,120	\$362,880	\$810,000
Mental Health Services	\$110,400	\$89,600	\$200,000
Nonprofit Grant Program	\$1,843,680	\$1,496,320	\$3,340,000
Category Subtotal:	\$6,630,624	\$5,381,376	\$12,012,000
Public Health Response Support			
Leon County Health Department	\$534,702		\$534,702
Neighborhood Medical Center	\$500,000		\$500,000
Bond Community Health Center	\$300,000		\$300,000
Vaccine Hesitancy Engagement and Promotion	\$331,200	\$268,800	\$600,000
Category Subtotal:	\$1,665,902	\$268,800	\$1,934,702
Small Business Support			
SmartSteps Program	\$1,104,000	\$896,000	\$2,000,000
Local Chambers of Commerce	\$165,600	\$134,400	\$300,000
Entrepreneurship Support	\$165,600	\$134,400	\$300,000
Category Subtotal:	\$1,435,200	\$1,164,800	\$2,600,000
County Continuity of Operations & ERA Program S	Support		L
County Continuity of Operations Support	\$1,981,000		\$1,981,000
ERA Program Support	\$1,500,000		\$1,500,000
Category Subtotal:	\$3,481,000		\$3,481,000
Reserve/Replenishment			
Reserves/Replenishment Account	\$5,659,803		\$5,659,803
Category Subtotal:	\$5,659,803		\$5,659,803
Proposed Category Totals:	\$57,024,862	\$10,811,157	\$67,836,019

 Table 4: Proposed CSLFR Expenditure Plan Including County/City Cost Share

May 25, 2021 Page 36

Options:

- 1. Approve the proposed expenditure plan for the County's allocation of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act (Attachment #1).
- 2. Authorize the County Administrator to expend Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds as provided in the proposed expenditure plan and enter into subgrant agreements with fund recipients, subject to legal review by the County Attorney.
- 3. Approve the associated Resolution and Budget Amendment Request (Attachment #2).
- 4. Board direction.

Recommendation:

Options #1 through #3

Attachments:

- 1. Proposed Expenditure Plan for Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
- 2. Resolution and Budget Amendment Request
- 3. Squire Patton Boggs Memorandum: "The American Rescue Plan Act: Key Provision Analysis"
- 4. Leon CARES Community Impact Report
- 5. U.S. Department of the Treasury Interim Final Rule: "Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds"
- 6. U.S. Treasury Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Quick Reference Guide and Frequently Asked Questions
- 7. Government Finance Officers Association American Rescue Plan Act Guiding Principles
- 8. March 9, 2021 Agenda Item: "Status Report on Broadband Access in Rural Communities"
- 9. Leon County Water Quality and Springs Protection Infrastructure Improvement Plan
- 10. Survey of Local Nonprofit Human Service Agencies

Proposed Category	County Funding
COVID-19 Revenue Loss Mitigation	
Leon County Revenues	\$20,628,467
Blueprint Revenues (County Share)	\$4,923,866
Category Subtotal:	\$25,552,333
Infrastructure Improvements	
Northeast Lake Munson Sewer	\$2,900,000
Belair/Annawood Sewer	\$1,444,000
Woodville Sewer	\$8,256,000
Category Subtotal:	\$12,600,000
Local Human Services Partner Support	
Food Insecurity	\$767,280
Homelessness and Housing Support	\$3,462,144
Legal Services	\$447,120
Mental Health Services	\$110,400
Nonprofit Grant Program	\$1,843,680
Category Subtotal:	\$6,630,624
Public Health Response Support	
Leon County Health Department	\$534,702
Neighborhood Medical Center	\$500,000
Bond Community Health Center	\$300,000
Vaccine Hesitancy Engagement and Promotion	\$331,200
Category Subtotal:	\$1,665,902
Small Business Support	
SmartSteps Program	\$1,104,000
Local Chambers of Commerce	\$165,600
Entrepreneurship Support	\$165,600
Category Subtotal:	\$1,435,200
County Continuity of Operations & ERA Program Support	
County Continuity of Operations Support	\$1,981,000
ERA Program Support	\$1,500,000
Category Subtotal:	\$3,481,000
Reserve/Replenishment	
Reserves/Replenishment Account	\$5,659,803
Category Subtotal:	\$5,659,803
Proposed Category Totals:	\$57,024,862

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida, approved a budget for fiscal year 2020/2021; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners, pursuant to Chapter 129, Florida Statutes, desires to amend the budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida, hereby amends the budget as reflected on the Departmental Budget Amendment Request Form attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

Adopted this 8th day of June, 2021.

LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

By:____

Rick Minor, Chairman Board of County Commissioners

Date:

ATTEST: Gwendolyn Marshall, Clerk of the Court & Comptroller, Leon County, Florida

By:_____

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL SUFFICIENCY: Chasity H. O'Steen, County Attorney Leon County Attorney's Office

By:_____

Attachment #2 Page 2 of 3

				FISCAL YEAR 2020)/2021		
				BUDGET AMENDMENT			
No:	BAB21023				Agenda Item No:		
Date:	5/17/2021				Agenda Item Date:	5/25/2021	-
County A	dministrato	r			Deputy County Admin	istrator	
Vincent S	6. Long				Alan Rosenzweig		-
				Request Detail			
				Revenues			
_ .			unt Inforn	nation	Current Budget	Change	Adjusted Budge
Fund 137	Org 952021	Acct 33504	Prog 000	<i>Title</i> CSLFR-ARP Act Funding	-	57,024,862	57,024,862
				Ū.	Subtotal:	57,024,862	
<u>1)</u>							
		Acco	unt Inforn	Expenditures			
Fund	Org	Acct	Prog	Title	Current Budget	Change	Adjusted Budge
137	952021	58109	525	Department of Health	-	534,702	534,702
137	952021	58111	525	FQHCs	-	800,000	800,000
137	952021	58352	525	Revenue Loss Mitigation	-	25,552,333	25,552,333
137	952021	58353	525	Vaccine Engagement	-	331,200	331,200
				Leon County Continuity of Oper.			
137	952021	58114	525	& ERA Support	-	3,481,000	3,481,000
137	952021	58315	525	Food Insecurity	-	767,280	767,280
137	952021	58317	525	Homelessness Support	-	3,462,144	3,462,144
137	952021	58319	525	Mental Health Services Local Economic Assistance for	-	110,400	110,400
137	952021	58321	525	Nonprofits	_	1,843,680	1,843,680
137	952021	58322	525	Small Business Grants	-	1,269,600	1,269,600
107	552021	50022	525	Local Chambers of Commerce	_	1,200,000	1,203,000
137	952021	58323	525	Support	-	165,600	165,600
137	952021	58224	525	Legal Services		447,120	447,120
137	062008	56900	525	NE Lake Munson Sewer		6,500,000	6,500,000
137	062007	56900	525	Belair/Annawood Sewer		1,444,000	1,444,000
137	062003	56900	525	Woodville Sewer		4,656,000	4,656,000
137	952021	59999	525	Reserve	-	5,659,803	5,659,803
			020		Subtotal:	57,024,862	57,024,862
				Expenditures			
137	952021	58352	525	Revenue Loss Mitigation	25,552,333	(16,253,548)	9,298,785
137	950	581001	586	Transfer to General Fund	-	7,753,548	7,753,548
137	950	581160	586	Transfer to Tourism Fund		2,200,000	2,200,000
				Transfer to Capital Improvement			
137	950	581305	586	Fund		3,600,000	3,600,000
				Transfer to the Transportation			
137	950	581306	586	Fund		2,700,000	2,700,000
					Subtotal:		,,

					<u>Revenues</u>				
	001 305	950 950	381137 381137	000 000	Transfer from ARPA Fund Transfer from ARPA Fund	Subtotal:	-	7,753,548 3,600,000 11,353,548	7,753,548 3,600,000
					Expenditures	Subtotal.		11,353,546	
	001	820	58100	519	BluePrint-Aid to Other Govt Agencies		-	4,923,866	4,923,866
	001	599	59992	000	Reserve for Revenue Loss ARPA		-	2,829,682	2,829,682
	305	599	59992	000	Reserve for Revenue Loss ARPA	Subtotal:	-	3,600,000 11,353,548	3,600,000
2)					<u>Revenues</u>			,,	
<u>3)</u>	160	950	381137	000	Transfer from ARPA Fund	Subtotal:	-	1,850,000 1,850,000	1,850,000
					Expenditures				
	160 160	303 086065	54900 56200	525 522	Marketing-Other Current Charges Tourism Development Building	2 Subtotal:	215,000 2,413,269	750,000 1,100,000 1,850,000	965,000 3,513,269
					<u>Revenues</u>				
<u>4)</u>	305	950	381137	000	Transfer from ARPA Fund	Subtotal:	-	350,000 350,000	350,000
	305	045001	56300	572	Expenditures Apalachee Regional Park- Improvements Other Than Buildings Revenues	2 Subtotal:	.,967,539	350,000 350,000	3,317,539
<u>5)</u>	306	950	381137	000	Transfer from ARPA Fund	Subtotal:	-	2,700,000 2,700,000	2,700,000
	306 306 306 306	054011 056005 057918 065005	56300 56300 56900 56300	541 541 541 538	<u>Expenditures</u> Baum Road Ben Blvd Miccosukee Road Bridge Maylor Road		190,782 ,207,579 - 2,475,185	926,000 850,000 567,500 356,500 2,700,000	1,116,782 2,057,579 567,500 2,831,685
					Purpose of Reque	est			
(AF pro fun (\$3 Bui (\$9 Div	RPA) vide or as of p ding in ,600,00 lding (\$ 26,00); ision/l	The expendit ne-time funds ublic health, to the various 00), and the \$1,100,000) a	ure plan will to support r human servi s categories; General Fundand marketin	mitigate s najor wast ces, and s 2) Allocat d (\$2,829, g (\$750,00	n Coronavirus State and Local Fisc ignificant revenue impacts incurred water infrastructure improvement small business support. The above res revenue recovery funding for B 682); 3) Allocates funding to the To 00); 4) Allocates \$350,000 for Apa sukee Road Bridge (\$567,500), and Budget	d by Leon Co ts, and addre e allocation ir luePrint (\$4,9 ourism Devel lachee Regio	unty as a res ss remaining includes the fo 23,866), the opment fund nal Park; 5)	sult of the COVID-19 g community recove ollowing: 1) Allocate e Capital Improveme I for the Historic Trai Allocates funding fo) pandemic, ry needs in the s ARPA ent Fund in Station/TDC
207	24/25				Scott Ros	s. Director (Office of Fin	ancial Stewardshi	o
Δn	oroved	l Bv:	Resolution	v		Motion	_	dministrator	►
· •P				цж. Л					



Memorandum

From: Squire Patton Boggs

Date: May 17, 2021

Subject: The American Rescue Plan Act: Key Provision Analysis

House and Senate Democrats handed President Joe Biden his first legislative victory, approving the President's \$1.9 trillion *American Rescue Plan Act* (ARP) via the reconciliation process, which requires a simple majority vote for passage in the Senate. The President signed the measure into law on March 11, 2021.

This memorandum provides a high-level analysis of key provisions of the ARP. The bill expands on the \$908 billion COVID-19 package, the *Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA)* that was enacted on December 27 and extends many CRRSAA provisions through the end of the federal FY21 (September 30, 2021). Unlike the CRRSAA, however, the bill provides significant direct and flexible state and local aid.

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STATE AND LOCAL FUNDING

Similar to, but much larger than the Coronavirus Relief Fund in the CARES Act, the ARP allocates **\$360 billion** in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds "to mitigate the fiscal effects stemming from the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)."

Of the **\$360 billion** allocated, **\$350 billion** is broken into two categories: (1) States, Territories, and Tribal Governments (states) and (2) Metropolitan Cities, Counties, and Nonentitlement Units of Local Government (local governments). Funds provided by this legislation will remain available until December 31, 2024. One significant distinction between the funding for states and local governments is that the former may receive their funding all at once, while the latter will receive it in two equal tranches. The first (or, for some states, the only) tranche will be deposited within 60 days of ARP enactment; as applicable, the second tranche will be provided no sooner than one year after the first deposit was made. While not as explicit as the tranches for local governments, the ARP gives the Secretary of the Treasury discretion to break the payment to the states into two equal payments one year apart—50 percent provided within 60 days of enactment and the remaining funds provided not less than one year from that date. If the Secretary were to make such a determination, the impacted state(s) would be required to submit a second certification prior to the disbursement of additional funds.

Broadly, funding for both states and local governments can be used to:

- "Respond to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19), or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality."
- Provide premium pay up to \$13 an hour to eligible municipal or county workers performing essential services to respond to COVID-19. This provision is capped at a maximum benefit of \$25,000 per eligible worker.
- Provide "government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue [...] due to the COVID-19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year [...] prior to the emergency."
- "Make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure."

The term "eligible worker" is defined as "those workers needed to maintain continuity of operations of essential critical infrastructure sectors and additional sectors." The legislation notes that it allows each governor or municipal leader to designate its employees that qualify as critical to protect the health and well-being of their residents. No Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds may be used for pension liabilities.

The remaining \$10 billion is allocated for funding for states, territories, and tribal governments to carry out capital projects "directly enabling work, education, and health monitoring, including remote options, in response to" COVID-19.

On May 10, the Treasury Department released <u>allocations</u>, <u>guidance</u> for Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, as well as a <u>Fact Sheet</u> and <u>FAQ document</u>.

States, Territories, and Tribal Governments - \$219.8 billion

- **\$195.3 billion** to all 50 states and the District of Columbia
 - **\$25.5 billion** shall be allocated evenly to each state, or \$500 million each.
 - **\$1.25 billion** shall be allocated to the District of Columbia to compensate for its treatment as a territory under the CARES Act (subtracting any monies it received from the Coronavirus Relief Fund of the CARES Act).
 - The remaining funds are to be distributed based on unemployment figures.
- \$4.5 billion to territories
 - **\$2.25 billion** to be provided equally to each territory.
 - **\$2.25 billion** to be allocated based on the population of each territory.
- **\$20 billion** to tribal governments
 - **\$1 billion** to be provided equally to each tribe.
 - **\$19 billion** to be allocated in a manner determined by the Secretary of the Treasury.
- Funds under this section can be used to cover costs incurred by a state, territory, or tribal government by December 31, 2024.
- Monies provided under this section can be transferred to a private nonprofit organization (like a public housing group), tribal organization, public benefit corporation involved in the transportation of passengers or cargo, or a special-purpose unit of state or local government.

Metropolitan Cities, Counties, and Nonentitlement Units of Local Government - \$130.2 billion in Two Equal Tranches

- **\$65.1 billion** for units of local government
 - **\$45.57 billion** for metropolitan cities based on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) formula.
 - **\$19.53 billion** for nonentitlement units of local governments.
 - This money is provided to a state with the expectation that the state pass the funds to the nonentitlement unit of local government within 30 days of receiving funds, though a state may seek up to two 30-day extensions.
 - A nonentitlement unit of local government may not receive more than 75 percent of its most recent budget as of January 27, 2020, and any excess monies must be returned to the Treasury.

• \$65.1 billion for counties

- County funds are distributed based on their populations relative to that of the United States, and the text adds that no urban county can receive less money than the amount it would receive if funds were allocated through the Community Development Block Grant formula.
- The text notes that an "urban county" will receive less money if other funding under this bill is provided to a metropolitan city government (ex: San Diego County would see its funds reduced by an amount equal to the distribution for the City of San Diego).
- If a county is not an eligible unit of local government, then funds would be provided to a state, and the state would be required to distribute funds to units of local government within each county.
- The legislation treats the District of Columbia as a single county that is a unit of local government.

- The text notes that a consolidated government, like New Orleans, is eligible to receive funds as a city, county, and nonentitlement unit of local government, as applicable.
- Additionally, the legislation provides transfer authority for local governments to transfer funds to states if they so choose.

On April 15, the Department of Treasury published <u>Pre-Award Requirements</u> for the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Program.

Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund - \$10 billion

- As noted above, ARP provides funds to each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia for critical capital projects.
 - **\$100 million** for each state.
 - **\$100 million** for Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia.
 - **\$100 million** divided evenly between the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau.
 - o \$100 million divided between tribal governments and the State of Hawaii
 - No tribe can receive less than \$50,000.
 - The State of Hawaii will receive money in addition to its state money for the exclusive use of the Department of Hawaiian Homelands and the Native Hawaiian Education Programs.
- Any amount remaining after this initial appropriation shall be distributed to states through the following formula:
 - o Fifty percent allocated based on population.
 - Twenty-five percent allocated based on the proportion of individuals living in rural areas as compared to the other states.
 - Twenty-five percent allocated based on the number of individuals living more than 150 percent below the poverty line.
- These funds shall be provided within 60 days of ARP's enactment.

On May 10, Treasury provided an updated <u>Statement of Purpose</u> on the Capital Projects Fund, noting that it would begin accepting applications in summer of 2021.

Humanitarian Aid Funds

This provision of ARP provides **\$500 million** for humanitarian aid to refugees. Specifically, the funds are dedicated to continuing the U.S. commitment to the International Organization for Migration and the activities of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. While the funds are provided to aid these organizations and help them "prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus," none of these funds may be used to pay for resettling refugees in the U.S.

On March 18, the Treasury Department released a <u>fact sheet</u> outlining the actions it was taking as a result of enactment of the ARP. This included the provision of funding to state and local governments.

LOCAL ASSISTANCE AND TRIBAL CONSISTENCY FUND

The bill provides **\$2 billion** in funding for FY22 and FY23 intended to help communities and tribal governments that are negatively impacted by the implementation of/changes in a federal program.¹

Of the **\$1 billion** per fiscal year:

- **\$750 million** is reserved for "eligible, revenue sharing" counties, allocated using a formula "taking into account economic conditions of each eligible revenue sharing county, using measurements of poverty rates, household income, land values, and unemployment rates as well as other economic indicators, over the 20-year period ending with September 30, 2021."
- **\$250 million** is for tribal governments, allocated in a method taking into account the "economic conditions of each eligible Tribe."

Eligibility: Eligible, revenue sharing counties are:

- 1) "A county, parish, or borough
 - a. That is independent of any other unit of local government; and
 - b. That, as determined by the Secretary, is the principal provider of government services for the area within its jurisdiction; and
 - c. For which, as determined by the Secretary, there is a negative revenue impact due to implementation of a federal program or changes to such program.
- 2) The District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands."

Uses: The funds may be used for any government purpose other than lobbying.

HOUSING AND RENTAL ASSISTANCE

Emergency Rental Assistance

The bill provides **\$21.55 billion** in additional funding for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). Allocations for states and units of local government will be made in the same manner as the CRRSAA. As with the CRRSAA, eligible units of local government are those jurisdictions with a population greater than 200,000. In order to receive a payment, a local government must provide a certification – as with the CARES Act and the CRRSAA – to Treasury indicating that the recipient will use the funds in a manner consistent with the law.

Of the **\$21.55 billion:**

- Each state (as well as the District of Columbia) shall receive at least **\$152 million**;
- **\$305 million** is reserved for U.S. territories;
- **\$2.5 billion** is reserved for payments to high-need grantees;

¹ While not specified in the bill text itself, Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) noted in a statement for the record that this money is intended for counties and tribal governments with "a direct fiscal relationship with public lands and public resources," and noted as one example that "necessary environmental and wildlife protection laws have reduced the revenue sharing payments to counties that host U.S. Forest Service lands and timberlands managed by the Bureau of Land Management."

- **\$30 million** is reserved for administrative expenses; and
- The rest will be allocated to eligible grantees in the same manner as the CRRSAA.

High-Need Grantees: The bill directs the Treasury Secretary to allocate \$2.5 billion to "high-need grantees." Factors for allocating the funds include:

- 1) The number of very-low-income renter households paying more than 50 percent of income on rent or living in substandard or overcrowded conditions;
- 2) Rental market costs; and
- 3) Change in employment since February 2020.

Eligibility: Eligible uses of funding include rent and rental arrears, utilities and home energy costs and arrears, and other expenses related to housing (to be defined by the Secretary). Eligible households cannot receive more than 18 months of aggregate assistance under the ARP and the CRRSAA combined.

Eligible households are defined as renter households that:

- Have one or more household members who qualify for unemployment benefits or experienced financial hardship due, directly or indirectly, to the pandemic;
- Have one or more household members who can demonstrate a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability; and
- Have a household income not more than 80 percent of AMI.

Grantees may also use up to ten percent of funds for housing stability services, including case management and "other services intended to help keep households stably housed," and up to 15 percent of funds for administrative costs, including data collection and reporting requirements.

Timing: Forty percent of each grantees' total allocation will be provided within 60 days of the ARP's enactment. Subsequent allocations will be distributed under a procedure established by the Secretary, which will require grantees to obligate at least 75 percent of funds disbursed before receiving additional funds.

Expiration: Grantees may use any funds unobligated by October 1, 2022, for affordable rental housing and eviction prevention purposes (to be defined by the Secretary) serving very-low-income families, although 75 percent of the funds must first be obligated by the grantee for purposes defined in the ARP. Treasury may recapture any excess unobligated funds after March 31, 2022, and reallocate those funds to previous grantees.

Additionally, the bill extends the deadline for the first tranche of ERAP funding provided under the CRRSAA from December 31, 2021, to September 30, 2022.

On March 26, Treasury <u>released</u> updated FAQs on the first tranche of ERAP funding. Further guidance may be issued based on ARP implementation.

On May 7, Treasury <u>announced</u> the <u>allocations</u> for \$21.6 billion in funding from ARP. They also provided a <u>fact sheet</u> and a <u>revised</u> FAQ on the program.

Housing Counseling

The bill includes **\$100 million** for the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation for grants to "housing counseling intermediaries approved by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, State housing finance agencies, and NeighborWorks organizations for providing housing counseling services." NeighborWorks organizations are limited to 15 percent of the total funds.

At least 40 percent of the grant funds are reserved for counseling organizations that 1)"target housing counseling services to minority and low-income populations facing housing instability; or 2) provide housing counseling services in neighborhoods having high concentrations of minority and low-income populations."

Housing counseling services include:

- 1) Housing counseling provided directly to households facing housing instability, such as eviction, default, foreclosure, loss of income, or homelessness;
- 2) Education, outreach, training, technology upgrades, and other program related support; and
- 3) Operational oversight funding for grantees and subgrantees that receive funds under this section.

Emergency Housing Vouchers

The bill provides **\$5 billion** in emergency housing vouchers for tenant-based rental assistance. This includes:

- Incremental emergency vouchers;
- Renewals of the vouchers;
- Administrative costs;
- Other eligible expenses "defined by notice to prevent, prepare, and respond to coronavirus to facilitate the leasing of the emergency vouchers, such as security deposit assistance and other costs related to retention and support of participating owners"; and
- Adjustments for public housing agencies that had significant voucher per-unit cost increases "due to extraordinary circumstances or that, despite taking reasonable cost savings measures, would otherwise be required to terminate rental assistance for families as a result of insufficient funding."

Twenty million is reserved for the Secretary for administrative and implementation costs. Of the \$20 million, up to \$10 million may be used by the Secretary to make new or increase prior awards to technical assistance providers in order to provide an "immediate increase" in technical assistance and capacity building available to public housing agencies (PHAs).

Eligibility: Qualifying individuals and families include those who are:

- Homeless or at risk of homelessness;
- "Fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking" (to be defined by the Secretary); or
- Recently homeless (to be defined by the Secretary) and for whom the assistance will prevent homelessness/high risk of housing instability.

Allocation: The Secretary will allocate the vouchers among PHAs administering the Housing Choice Voucher program using a new formula that "includes public housing agency capacity and ensures geographic diversity, including with respect to rural areas." The Secretary may revoke and redistribute any vouchers not used within a reasonable period of time.

Waivers: The Secretary may waive or alter any requirements of the program, except those related to fair housing, nondiscrimination, labor standards, and the environment.

Timing: PHAs will be notified of the number of vouchers allocated within 60 days of ARP enactment.

Expiration: After September 30, 2023, PHAs cannot reissue ARP vouchers when assistance ends.

On May 14, HUD <u>announced</u> the allocation of 70,000 emergency housing vouchers.

Homelessness Assistance and Supportive Services Program

The bill includes **\$5 billion** for the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for:

- Tenant-based rental assistance.
- Affordable housing.
- Supportive services for those not already receiving them, which includes housing counseling, homeless prevention services, and transitional housing.
- Acquisition and development of non-congregate shelter units, which may be converted to permanent affordable housing, used as emergency shelters, or remain as non-congregate shelter units.
- On April 8, HUD <u>announced</u> the <u>allocation</u> of \$5 billion in affordable housing funding.

Of the funding, up to \$25 million shall be used by the Secretary to make new or increase prior awards to technical assistance providers in order to provide an "immediate increase" in technical assistance and capacity building available to grantees. Up to \$50 million shall be used for administration costs.

There are no matching requirements for this funding.

Eligibility: Qualifying individuals and families include those who are:

- Homeless or at risk of homelessness;
- "Fleeing, or attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking" (to be defined by the Secretary);
- In other populations where assistance would prevent homelessness/high risk of housing instability; or
- Veterans and families that include veteran members meeting one of the qualifications above.

Grantees may use up to 15 percent of funds for administrative and planning costs. Five percent of funds may be used for operating expenses for community housing development organizations and nonprofit organizations, so long as the funding is used to develop capacity of organizations to carry out activities related to homelessness assistance and supportive services.

Timing and Allocation: The Secretary shall allocate funding via the HOME Investment Partnerships Program formula. Funds shall be allocated within 30 days of enactment.

Waivers: The Secretary may waive or alter any requirements of the program.

On March 26, HUD released a <u>report</u> on youth homelessness, citing ARP resources among the most significant tools in their tool belt.

Homeowner Assistance Fund

The bill includes **\$9.96 billion** for the Homeowners Assistance Fund, to be distributed to states, territories, and tribal organizations for "preventing homeowner mortgage delinquencies, defaults, foreclosures, loss of utilities or home energy services, and displacements of homeowners experiencing financial hardship after January 21, 2020."

Of the \$9.96 billion:

- Each state shall receive at least **\$50 million**
- **\$30 million** is reserved for territories

Remaining funds will be allocated "based on homeowner need," determined by unemployment averages and the number of mortgagors with payments more than 30 days late or mortgages in foreclosure.

Eligible expenses:

- Mortgage payment assistance
- Financial assistance to allow a homeowner to reinstate a mortgage or to pay other housing related costs related to a period of forbearance, delinquency, or default
- Principal reduction
- Facilitating interest rate reductions
- Payment assistance for:
 - o Utilities, including electric, gas, home energy, and water;
 - o Internet service, including broadband internet access service;
 - o Homeowner's insurance, flood insurance, and mortgage insurance; and
 - o Homeowner's association, condominium association fees, or common charges;
- Reimbursement for states, local governments, and tribal organizations for funds expended starting January 21, 2021, and ending the day the Homeowner Assistance Fund is disbursed, addressing housing and mortgage stability assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- Other housing and mortgage stability assistance as defined by the Secretary

Prioritization: At least 60 percent of funds must be used by grantees to help homeowners with less than or equal to 100 percent AMI or U.S. median income; remaining funds shall be prioritized for social disadvantaged individuals.

Timing: Funds will be distributed within 45 days of enactment. Funds are available through September 30, 2025.

On April 14, Treasury <u>released</u> the state and territory allocations. On May 13, Treasury <u>announced</u> it had distributed \$742 million to 42 states and 3 territories through the Homeowner Assistance Fund.

USDA Direct Loan Programs

The ARP includes \$39 million for USDA's Section 502 and 504 direct loan programs.

Fair Housing

The bill includes **\$20 million** for the Fair Housing Initiatives Program, to ensure additional resources for fair housing organization activities related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Eviction Moratorium

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) eviction moratorium that was <u>extended</u> through March 31, 2021 is not addressed or extended in the ARP. On March 29, CDC Director Dr. Rochelle Walensky announced the eviction moratorium would be extended through June 30, 2021.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

The bill appropriates **\$50 billion** through September 30, 2025, to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Disaster Relief Fund. The bill continues disaster-related funeral expenses as an eligible activity, at a 100 percent federal cost-share.

All FEMA funding will remain available until September 30, 2025. Other programs housed within FEMA also received funding through this package, notably:

- **\$400 million** for Emergency Food and Shelter Program funding, plus an additional **\$110** million, administered through the program, to provide "humanitarian relief to families and individuals encountered by the Department of Homeland Security";
- **\$100 million** for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program;
- **\$200 million** for the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Grant Program; and
- **\$100 million** for the Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Program.

On March 12, FEMA <u>announced</u> that the \$510 million in supplemental funding is now available to the Emergency Food and Shelter Program. The agency specified that \$400 million would be for local social service organizations that aid hungry and homeless individuals, while the additional \$110 million will go to organizations providing humanitarian assistance to migrants from the southern border. The announcement noted that local nonprofit, faith-based, and governmental entities that provide these types of services are eligible to apply for funds. Applications must be completed by local entities and submitted to the program's local boards. Reimbursements supporting humanitarian needs such as life-sustaining food and shelter costs will be prioritized. The Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program has stated it will open an <u>application period</u> in mid-April to distribute \$110 million in funds to assist "migrants encountered by DHS."

On March 24, FEMA <u>announced</u> that it would begin providing financial assistance for funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020 for deaths related to COVID-19. The program is scheduled

to begin in early April 2021. Eligible applicants must provide an official death certificate, funeral expense documents, and if relevant, proof of funds received from other sources specifically for use toward funeral costs. Applicants are eligible if they are a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien who incurred funeral expenses after January 20, 2020 for a death attributed to COVID-19. If multiple individuals contributed to funeral expenses, they should apply as co-applicants. Applicants can apply for multiple deceased individuals. The death must have occurred in the United States. Assistance is capped at \$9,000 per funeral and \$35,500 per application. Additional guidelines are available here. FEMA began processing applications for this program on April 12.

On May 7, FEMA released additional <u>state-specific information</u> regarding the funeral assistance program.

WATER AND ENERGY

The ARP provides additional funds for two existing ratepayer assistance programs. It would provide **\$4.5 billion** for FY21 and FY22, collectively, for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and **\$500 million**, to be used until expended, for the new Low-Income Household Drinking Water and Wastewater Emergency Assistance Program. This new program provides funds to assist low-income households that are paying a high proportion of their household income for drinking water and wastewater services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The bill also provides **\$100 million** for FY21, to be used until expended, for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to address health outcome disparities for minority and low-income populations caused by pollution.

NUTRITION

The ARP contains additional funding for several agricultural and nutrition services program that have experienced growing demand during the pandemic. The bill particularly focuses on increasing funds, voucher limits, and expanding availability for food assistance for families with school-aged children. The bill also provides support for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.

Specifically, the bill extends the current 15 percent increase in funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) through the rest of FY21. It also provides:

- **\$25 million** for FY21 to expand assistance for technical improvements for SNAP online purchasing and provide technical assistance to educate retailers on the online process; and
- **\$27 million** for FY21 for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program.

On March 22, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) <u>announced</u> that this 15 percent increase has been officially implemented, and that it will provide about \$28 more per person, per month in additional SNAP benefits.

For the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), the bill provides:

• **\$490 million** for FY21 for states to increase the amount of a cash-value voucher under the program for qualified food packages under \$35; and

• **\$390 million** for FY21 for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to improve outreach and modernize the WIC program to encourage increased participation.

The ARP also expands the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program, which was originally authorized in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of 2020. The P-EBT program provides eligible schoolchildren who would typically receive free or reduced price meals temporary emergency nutrition benefits on an EBT card in order to purchase food. This bill expands the program through the duration of the pandemic and includes summers outside the normal school year.

On April 26, the USDA announced the implementation of the P-EBT program for children throughout the remainder of the pandemic. Students who are normally eligible to receive a free or reduced meal through their schools will receive pre-loaded EBT cards. A breakdown of funding by state and additional information can be found <u>here</u>.

On April 20, the USDA announced <u>additional flexibilities</u> in the administration for school meal programs.

The bill also provides the following:

- **\$4 billion** for FY21, to remain until expended, to support the food supply chain, including purchasing and distributing agricultural commodities to nonprofit organizations and providing grants and loans for food processors, distributors, and farmers; and
- **\$1.01 billion** for FY21, to remain until expended, to support socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers.

On March 24, USDA <u>announced</u> the establishment of the \$6 billion USDA Pandemic Assistance for Producers program, which aims to reach a broader set of producers than previous COVID-19 aid programs. Alongside this program, USDA will develop rules for new programs that emphasize outreach to small and socially disadvantaged producers. Existing programs such as the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) will fall within this new initiative. The March 24 announcement outlines some changes to CFAP.

Applications for CFAP 2 will reopen on April 5, 2021 and remain open for at least 60 days. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) has dedicated approximately \$2.5 million to improving outreach for CFAP 2.

On April 23, USDA <u>announced</u> an increase in food assistance for low-income seniors by providing an additional \$37 million to the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP).

On April 29, USDA <u>announced</u> the provision of \$1.135 billion to states "to support and enhance their administration of" the SNAP program.

HEALTHCARE

Funding for COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination

The legislation provides **\$14.05 billion** for vaccine production, distribution, and administration, including:

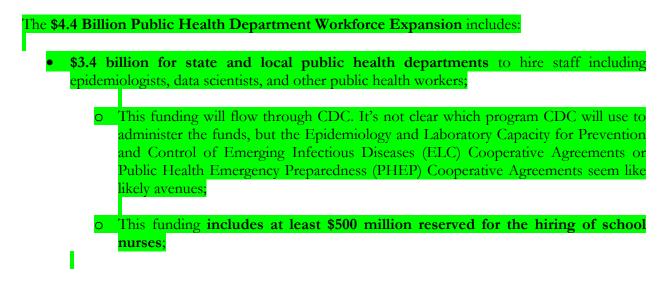
- \$7.5 billion to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to administer, monitor, and track the COVID-19 vaccine;
 - The CDC may award grants or cooperative agreements to states, localities, or local health departments to distribute this funding.
 - States and localities will also receive supplemental funding to ensure the vaccine funding they received through the CRRSAA will equal the funding they should have received as calculated by the base formula of the FY20 Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) cooperative agreement awards.
- **\$6.05 billion** to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to support research, development, production, and manufacturing of the COVID-19 vaccine, therapeutics, and related medical products; and
- **\$500 million** for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to support the agency in its reviews of COVID-19 vaccines and therapeutics.

On April 6, the CDC announced it would begin distributing \$3.1 billion in vaccine administration funding from the ARP to states and localities through the PHEP cooperative agreement awards. The CDC is requiring 75% of the funding be used to promote vaccine access among racial and ethnic minority communities and 60% of the funding go to local health departments, community-based organizations, and community health centers. A funding allocation chart can be found <u>here</u>.

On May 4, HHS announced \$1 billion would be distributed to rural health clinics (RHCs) and to existing grantees of the Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program (SHIP) to help expand vaccination in rural areas. Additional information can be found <u>here</u>.

On May 3, HHS established the Community-Based Workforce for COVID-19 Vaccine Outreach Program with \$250 million from the ARP. The funding will be granted to community-based organizations that hire outreach workers to help individuals make and travel to vaccine appointments. Additional information can be found <u>here</u>.

On May 13, the White House <u>announced</u> it will invest \$7.4 billion to recruit and hire public health workers to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and prepare for future public health challenges.



- \$400 million for a new AmeriCorps program the Public Health AmeriCorps focused on public health;
- \$337 million for CDC to expand public health laboratory fellowship programs for laboratory science graduates and a new public health internship program for undergraduate students;
- \$245 million for CDC's Epidemic Intelligence Service (a federal fellowship program); and
- \$80 million for the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC) to modernize public health data infrastructure.

The **\$3 Billion Grant Program to Modernize the Public Health Workforce** will be created by CDC to offer community health workers an opportunity to continue their careers beyond the pandemic as public health professionals. Over the next several months, CDC will convene federal, state, local, and territorial public health experts to inform the design and focus of this new grant program.

Additional funding is also provided for public health agencies regarding testing, contact tracing, and other research activities:

- \$47.8 billion for HHS to detect, diagnose, trace, and monitor COVID-19 infections.
 - The HHS Secretary may distribute this funding to states, local health departments, and localities through a grant or cooperative agreement program.
 - Among other uses, the funding can be used by state and local health departments to expand testing sites or expand laboratory capacity or support the procurement of testing supplies and related diagnostics.
 - At the federal level, the funding is also dedicated to developing a national strategy for testing and contact tracing.
- \$1.75 billion to the CDC to expand the agency's research activities on the virus and identify mutations.
 - Funding will be distributed through grants or cooperative agreements to states, localities, and public health laboratories.
 - On April 16, the White House announced it will be allocating \$1.7 billion to support genomic research and sequencing and establish six new Centers of Excellence in Genomic Epidemiology. Funding was allocated directly to states and large cities—a breakdown of the funding can be found <u>here</u>.
- **\$500 million** for the CDC to establish data surveillance and analytics infrastructure for continual disease monitoring.
- **\$1 billion** for the CDC to strengthen vaccine confidence through public education campaigns.

On March 25, President Biden said HHS will be distributing \$3 billion to states, territories, and some large cities administered through CDC's existing immunization cooperative agreement to support vaccine confidence and uptake. \$1.5 billion of the funding will come from the ARP. Additional information can be found <u>here</u>.

The ARP also provides funding to support the medical workforce, including:

- **\$7.6 billion** to HHS to support the public health workforce;
 - The funding will be awarded via grants to state, local, and territorial public health departments or non-profit organizations to hire contact tracers, nurses, epidemiologists, communications personnel, and other related positions.
- **\$100 million** for the Medical Reserve Corps;
 - On March 25, HHS <u>announced</u> 25,000 volunteers had been deployed in 46 states to assist with vaccination efforts.
- **\$800 million** for National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment and Scholarship Program;
 - \$100 million will be given directly to states for primary care physician loan repayment programs.
- \$200 million for Nurse Corps Loan Repayment Program for FY21; and
- **\$330 million** for Teaching Health Centers Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) Programs.
 - HHS can make payments to new programs, provide a \$10,000 increase to the per resident amount, award THCs for establishing new accredited or expanded primary care residency programs, and cover administrative costs.

The legislation provides **\$7.6 billion** in direct allocations for Community Health Centers. The funding can be used for vaccine administration, to diagnose and treat COVID-19 infections, and to expand community outreach related to COVID-19. **\$20 million** of this allocation will be reserved for Native Hawaiian Health Centers.

On March 25, the White House announced it would be sending \$10 billion from the ARP to Community Health Centers to assist with testing and treatment of COVID-19, as well as vaccinations. A breakdown of awards can be found <u>here</u>.

On April 19, the Department of Health and Human Services announced it would distribute \$150 million to the Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) to oversee a grant program to support Health Center look-alikes (LALs) in providing COVID-19 vaccinations, diagnosis, and testing services. Applications are due on May 14 and additional information on the award can be found <u>here</u>.

On April 26, HRSA announced the availability of \$1 billion dollars for construction and renovation projects at Community Health Centers. Funding can be used by CHCs to construct new facilities or expand and renovate existing facilities. Applications are due by June 24 and additional information can be found <u>here</u>.

On April 29, HHS <u>announced</u> \$32 million in ARP Funding to Expand COVID-19 Training and Support for Health Centers.

On May 11, HHS awarded \$40 million from the ARP to states to support the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (MIECHV). The funds can be used to provide services and public health supplies. A funding table can be found <u>here</u>.

The legislation provides a total of **\$3.9 billion** for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The funding includes:

- **\$1.5 billion** for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant program;
- **\$1.5 billion** for Community Mental Health Services Block Grant program;

- **\$140 million** for mental and behavioral health training for health care professionals;
 - Funding will be awarded through grants to community health clinics, hospitals and other medical centers, and academic health centers.
- **\$30 million** for grants to states, localities, and non-profit organizations to carry out overdose prevention programs and other substance use disorder treatment activities;
- **\$50 million** for community behavioral health program grants for states, localities, and non-profit organizations;
- **\$10 million** for the National Childhood Traumatic Stress Network;
- **\$50 million** for existing SAMHSA grant programs, including Project AWARE and youth suicide prevention programs;
- **\$100 million** for the Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training Program;
- **\$80 million** for pediatric mental health care; and
- **\$420 million** for Community Behavioral Health Clinics.

On March 11, SAMHSA released allocation tables for the <u>Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment</u> <u>Block Grant Program</u> and the <u>Community Mental Health Block Grant Program</u> for the supplemental funding provided in the ARP.

The legislation also includes other health care funding provisions, notably:

- **\$8.5 billion** for rural health care providers for COVID-19 expenses and lost revenues attributable to the pandemic;
- **\$200 million** for Skilled Nursing Facilities;
- **\$250 million** for Nursing Home Strike Teams;
- **\$50 million** for the Title X Family Planning Program; and
- \$6.1 billion for the Indian Health Service.

COBRA and Affordable Care Act (ACA)

The legislation includes a variety of policy provisions related to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and COBRA health insurance coverage for unemployed individuals. Notably, the ARP enhances and expands ACA premium tax credits for calendar years 2021-2022. It eliminates the 400 percent Federal Poverty Level (FPL) subsidy cap for Premium Tax Credits, meaning premiums for plans purchased through health insurance exchanges are limited to no more than 8.5 percent of household income. For individuals who received unemployment insurance in 2021, any income over 133 percent of the FPL will not be counted to determine premium subsidies, and ACA plan coverage for families making up to 150 percent of the FPL will be free. In addition, the legislation suspends the requirement to return excess 2020 premium subsidies and allocates **\$20 million** to establish a grant program for states to modernize their state-based marketplaces.

On March 12, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released a <u>fact sheet</u> on the ACA subsidies in the ARP, noting they will go into effect on April 1.

For COBRA health insurance coverage, the federal government will fund 100 percent of COBRA subsidies for individuals who lost coverage due to COVID-19. The ARP also extends the COBRA election period and expedites review of denied coverage, as well as reimburses employers and plans for covering federal COBRA subsidies through payroll tax credit.

Medicaid, Medicare, and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

The legislation requires that Medicaid and CHIP fully cover the COVID-19 vaccine and therapeutics without cost sharing through one year after the end of the public health emergency (PHE). The Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (FMAP) will be increased to 100 percent for vaccination through one year after the end of the PHE. The legislation allows states to extend Medicaid and CHIP eligibility for pregnant women for up to one year post-partum for five years.

In addition, the legislation provides an enhanced FMAP of 85 percent for three years to states that cover mobile behavioral health crisis intervention services and provides \$15 million in planning grants for states to establish these programs. In addition, the legislation increases the FMAP by five percent for two years for states that choose to expand Medicaid. Urban Indian Health Organizations and Native Hawaiian Health Care Systems will also receive a 100 percent FMAP for two years. In addition, the ARP increases FMAPs by ten percent through March 31, 2022, for improvements to Medicaid home- and community-based services (HCBS). Additional guidance on HCBS funding was released by CMS on May 13 and can be found here.

The bill also establishes a floor on the Medicare Area Wage Index for hospitals in all-urban states and allows Medicare payments throughout the PHE to ambulance providers for any services delivered to beneficiaries outside of a hospital if the patient cannot be transferred to a hospital due to COVID-19 concerns. The legislation eliminates the cap on Medicaid drug rebates beginning in 2024.

EDUCATION

Department of Education

The ARP provides **\$125.8 billion** for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund. Under the bill, each state must make allocations to local educational agencies no later than 60 days after the receipt of the funds. The bill also requires that educational agencies receiving relief funds publish a plan to return to in-person instruction within 30 days.

The Department of Education has said this funding will be distributed to schools and districts by the end of March. A state allocation table can be found <u>here</u>.

The ARP provides **\$2.75 billion** for allocations to governors under the Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools Program, to provide assistance to non-public schools that enroll a significant percentage of low-income students and are most impacted by the pandemic.

The legislation also adds new set-asides in education funding:

- **\$1.25 billion** for evidence-based summer enrichment;
- **\$1.25 billion** for afterschool programs;
- **\$3 billion** for grants under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, including **\$550** million for programs for preschools, infants, and toddlers; and
- **\$800 million** to identify and provide homeless children and youth with wrap-around services in light of the challenges of COVID-19.

The legislation provides **\$39.6 billion** for the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund. Under the bill, public and private non-profit universities will receive allocations following the same allocation structure as the CRRSAA. Universities will likewise be required to spend at least 50 percent of this funding on emergency financial aid grants to students.

On March 19, the Department of Education released additional guidance regarding the use of funding provided to institutions through the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) in each of the three COVID-19 stimulus bills. The new guidance allows universities to use HEERF funding for: lost revenues dating back to March 13, 2020; covering childcare costs for students; making financial aid grants to refugee students or those granted political asylum; and covering any existing student debt to the institution. Additional information on these new flexibilities can be found in the <u>Notice of Interpretation</u>, Lost Revenue FAQs, and updates to <u>existing FAQs</u>.

On May 11, the Department announced it would begin distributing funding from the HEERF. Public and nonprofit IHEs can view their allocations here, and proprietary IHEs can view their allocation here. Public and non-profit IHEs that already received an award from the HEERF II, provided through the *Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021* (CRRSAA) (Pub. L. 116-260), do not need to submit additional applications to receive funding. However, proprietary colleges and universities must complete the <u>Required Proprietary Institution Certification</u> form signed by the proprietary institution's President or CEO and any owners with at least 25% ownership in the institution in order to receive their allocation. The Department has published HEERF III FAQ's with more information here.

The ARP also includes a "90/10" provision, which expands the 90 percent cap on how much revenue proprietary institutions of higher education can receive from the federal government to include all types of federal assistance, such as veterans' benefits. The bill requires the Department of Education to begin a negotiated rulemaking process on the 90/10 provision on October 1, 2021. The bill further clarifies that the penalties associated with the 90/10 provision will not go into effect until at least 2024.

The bill provides research and development funding for COVID-19 response. Specifically, the bill provides an additional **\$150 million** to the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), to fund awards for research, development, and testbeds to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19. Additionally, the bill provides **\$600 million** for the National Science Foundation (NSF), to fund or extend new and existing research grants, cooperative agreements, scholarships, fellowships, and apprenticeships, and related administrative expenses to prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19.

Finally, the ARP mandates that any type of COVID-19 student loan forgiveness be tax-free for the borrower over the next five years, through January 1, 2026.

CHILD CARE GRANTS

The ARP provides billions of dollars for child care grants, including:

- **\$14.9 billion** for FY21 for the Child Care and Development Block Grant program, which provides child care subsidies for low-income families with children under age 13;
- **\$23.9 billion** for FY21 for child care stabilization grants for child care providers, specifically to help pay for personnel, training, rent, and sanitation at child care facilities; and

• **\$1 billion** for FY21 for the Head Start program, which promotes the school readiness of young children from low-income families.

On April 15, the <u>White House</u> and the <u>Administration for Children and Families</u> (ACF) announced the release of the child care relief funds provided under ARP. The HHS Department also published an <u>allocation table</u> for states and territories.

On May 10, the ACF released guidance regarding Child Care Stabilization Grants.

TRANSPORTATION

<u>Transit</u>

The bill includes **\$30.4 billion** for transit agencies. Funds are available for operating expenses to "prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus," including the reimbursement for payroll of public transportation employees, operating costs "to maintain service due to lost revenue due as a result of the coronavirus public health emergency, including the purchase of personal protective equipment," and payment for administrative leave of operations personnel due to reductions in service dating back to January 20, 2020. When possible, funds shall be directed to payroll and operations. The federal cost-share is 100 percent.

Of the **\$30.4 billion**:

- **\$26.09 billion** is for urbanized area formula grants. No agency can receive more than 132 percent of its urbanized area's 2018 operating costs (based on the data in the National Transit Database) in combined relief funding. Remaining funds will be distributed via formula.
- **\$317.2 million** is for formula grants for rural areas. No agency can receive more than 150 percent of its 2018 rural operating costs (based on the data in the National Transit Database) in combined relief funding.
- \$50 million for grants for the enhanced mobility of seniors and individuals with disabilities.
- **\$100 million** for bus operator partners.
- **\$25 million** for planning grants, "for the planning of public transportation associated with the restoration of services as the coronavirus public health emergency concludes."
- **\$1.675 billion** for Capital Investment Grants, of which:
 - \$1.425 billion is for new start and core capacity projects; and
 - **\$250 million** is for small starts projects.
- **\$2.207 billion** in discretionary assistance.

On March 29, the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) <u>announced</u> the <u>funding allocations</u> for the formula funding.

Discretionary Assistance

The **\$2.207 billion** in discretionary assistance is available to agencies that "that, as a result of COVID– 19, require additional assistance for costs related to operations, personnel, cleaning, and sanitization combating the spread of pathogens on transit systems, and debt service payments incurred to maintain operations and avoid layoffs and furloughs." In its application, a transit agency must provide:

1) Estimates of financial need;

- 2) Data on reductions in farebox or other sources of local revenue for sustained operations;
- 3) A spending plan for such funds; and
- 4) Demonstration of expenditure of greater than 90 percent of funds available to the applicant from funds made available for similar activities in fiscal year 2020.

Applications will be evaluated based on demonstrated financial need, including "projections of future financial need to maintain service as a percentage of the 2018 operating costs that has not been replaced by the funds made available to the eligible recipient or subrecipient" under previous funding bills. FTA shall issue the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for this project within 180 days of ARP's enactment, and funds shall be awarded within 120 days of the NOFO's application deadline.

Capital Investment Grants

Of the **\$1.675 billion** for Capital Investment Grants, \$1.25 billion is for new start and core capacity projects, to be proportionately provided to all projects with existing full funding grant agreements that had allocated funding in 2019 or 2020 but have not yet opened for revenue service. An additional \$175 million is for new start and core capacity projects that had existing full funding grant agreements that received an allocation prior to FY18 but have not yet opened for revenue service. Two hundred and fifty million is for small starts projects.

Airports

The bill includes **\$8 billion** for airports, including:

- **\$6.492 billion** for primary airports and certain cargo airports "for costs related to operations, personnel, cleaning, sanitization, janitorial services, combating the spread of pathogens at the airport, and debt service payments," distributed via the Airport Improvement Program formulas. Any remaining amounts will be distributed based on enplanements;
- **\$608 million** for the federal share (up to 100 percent of the costs) for any grant awarded in FY21, or in FY20 with less than a 100 percent federal share, for an airport development project;
- \$100 million for general aviation and commercial service airports; and
- **\$800 million** for sponsors of primary airports to provide rent and minimum annual guarantee relief to airport concessions.

Similar to CRRSAA, and in response to the CARES Act – in which some airports received tens of years of operating costs – the bill stipulates that no additional funding from this bill will be provided to any airport that was allocated more than four years of operating funds in FY20.

On May 13, the FAA <u>announced</u> it had awarded \$898.9 million in Airport Improvement Program funds, which includes the \$113.5 million in ARP funds.

Workforce Retention Requirement:

The bill includes a requirement that a grantee maintain 90 percent of its March 27, 2020 workforce through September 30, 2021, although the Secretary of Transportation can grant a waiver as a result of economic hardship or if the requirement reduces aviation safety and security. The workforce retention requirement does not apply to nonhub or nonprimary airports.

On March 17, the Department of Transportation provided an <u>overview</u> of its actions as a result of ARP.

BROADBAND AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS

The bill establishes a **\$7.17 billion** Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) to provide funding to eligible schools or libraries for the purchase of eligible equipment or advanced telecommunications and information services (or both). These funds will remain available until September 30, 2030. Purchases must be made during the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE), with a grace period extending to the first June 30 that occurs following the one-year mark of the end of the PHE. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will determine a reasonable maximum amount of coverage available to each entity. The following stipulations apply:

- In the case of a school, students and staff must use the equipment or services at locations other than the school; and
- In the case of a library, patrons must use the equipment or services at locations other than the library.

Eligible entities: elementary schools, secondary schools, or libraries (including tribal elementary schools, tribal secondary schools, or tribal libraries) eligible for support under paragraphs (1)(B) and (2) of section 254(h) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 254(h)). Libraries can include library consortiums.

Eligible equipment: Wi-Fi hotspots, modems, routers, devices that combine a modem and router, and connected devices (i.e., laptops, tablets, or computers).

On March 16, the Wireline Competition Bureau issued a <u>public notice</u> seeking comment on the ECF. Comments will be due on April 5, 2021, with reply comments due on April 23, 2021.

On April 30, Acting FCC Chair Rosenworcel released the proposed rules for the ECF.

On May 10, the FCC released a <u>fact sheet</u> outlining the details of the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program, which begins on May 12.

On May 11, the FCC released a <u>Report and Order</u> establishing the Emergency Connectivity Fund Program.

ECONOMIC IMPACT (DIRECT CASH ASSISTANCE) PAYMENTS

The legislation includes direct cash assistance for eligible taxpayers. The recovery rebates are **\$1,400** per individual and an additional **\$1,400** for each dependent. Those eligible for the full payment include individuals earning under \$75,000, heads of households earning under \$112,500, and married couples who file jointly earning under \$150,000. The payments would phase out completely for individuals earning \$80,000, heads of household earning \$120,000, and married couples earning \$160,000.

Unlike previous COVID-19 direct payments, the \$1,400 for each dependent will not only include children under 17, but also dependent college students and some individuals with disabilities.

The most recent tax return (whether it be 2019 or 2020) will be used to determine salary eligibility and number of dependents.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AND BENEFITS

The ARP outlines the following unemployment and staffing benefits:

- Provides **\$300** per week for all workers receiving unemployment benefits through September 6, 2021;
 - Makes the first \$10,200 of benefits tax exempt for households with incomes of less than \$150,000;
- Increases the maximum number of weeks an individual may claim benefits through regular state unemployment plus the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) program, or through the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program to 74 weeks;
- Extends emergency unemployment relief for governmental entities and nonprofits to August 29, 2021, and increases the reimbursement rate to 50 percent for the period between March 31 and August 29, 2021;
- Extends until August 29, 2021, full federal funding for the first week of compensable regular unemployment for applicants in states with "waiting weeks," which are gap periods when no benefits are issued;
- Extends temporary financing of short-time compensation payments in states with and without programs in law through August 29, 2021;
- Extends temporary assistance for states with advances through August 29, 2021;
- Extends full federal funding of extended unemployment compensation through August 29, 2021; and
- Extends emergency state staffing flexibility through August 29, 2021.

Additionally, the package provides support for the railroad industry in particular:

- Extends additional enhanced benefits under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act through August 29, 2021;
 - For registration periods beginning after March 14, 2021, but on or before August 29, 2021, individuals will receive a recovery benefit of **\$800**.
- Provides extended unemployment benefits under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act, allowing for up to 240 days of coverage instead of 120 days, as well as extending the eligibility deadline to August 29, 2021; and
- Extends the waiver of the seven-day waiting period for benefits under the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Act until August 29, 2021.

Finally, the measure provides **\$200 million** for the Wage and Hour Division, the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, the Office of the Solicitor, the Mine Safety and Health Administration, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to carry out COVID-19-related worker protection activities.

On March 16, the Department of Labor <u>announced</u> new <u>guidance</u> for states regarding the implementation of unemployment insurance provisions.

EMPLOYEE LEAVE AND PAYROLL TAX CREDITS

The ARP contains provisions addressing emergency federal employee leave, but <u>does not</u> continue the paid sick leave and paid Family and Medical Leave Act mandates on employers with fewer than 500 employees and government employers that were included in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) and expired at the end of 2020.

The FFCRA, as amended by the COVID-19-related Tax Relief Act of 2020, provided small and midsize employers refundable tax credits that reimbursed them, dollar-for-dollar, for the cost of providing paid sick and family leave wages to their employees for leave related to COVID-19.² The ARP further extends and expands the coverage of the credits provided by FFCRA for paid sick leave and paid Family and Medical Leave through September 30.

On April 21, the Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service <u>announced</u> additional details of tax credits available under the American Rescue Plan to allow small businesses to provide paid leave for employees receiving or recovering from COVID-19 vaccinations. Nonprofits and businesses with fewer than 500 employees can receive tax credits for providing paid time off. Additional details provided in an <u>IRS fact sheet</u> identify **employer eligibility to include government entities** (other than the federal gov't or an instrumentality of the federal government).

VETERANS AFFAIRS

The ARP includes **\$14.5 billion** for medical care and health needs, including up to **\$4 billion** for veterans to receive care outside the VA. Other funding provisions for the Department include:

- **\$750 million** for state veterans homes;
- **\$272 million** for claims and appeals processing; and
- **\$100 million** for supply chain modernization initiatives.

For job training, the ARP would provide **\$386 million** to create a rapid retraining program for veterans who are unemployed because of the pandemic and who have not received VA educational assistance or unemployment payments. The program would provide up to 12 months of assistance for eligible veterans to receive training for high-demand jobs or in high-technology programs. The VA would provide monthly benefit payments directly to eligible programs and a monthly housing stipend to veterans. Programs would receive 50 percent of funding when the veterans start, 25 percent when they complete the program, and 25 percent when they find a job.

The ARP would provide **\$1 billion** for the VA to waive health insurance copayments and other costsharing expenses incurred by veterans from April 6, 2020, when the Department first paused medical billing, through September 30, 2021. The VA would be directed to reimburse veterans for copayments made during that period. The legislation would create an Emergency Department of Veterans Affairs Employee Leave Fund in the Treasury, and provide **\$80 million** for that fund. Funding would be used to cover paid leave for Veterans Health Administration employees, including those who must quarantine or care for family members due to COVID-19-related concerns, must care for children due to school closures, or are recovering because of complications from immunizations. Employees would be eligible for paid leave based on their hourly rates through September 30, 2021. Full-time employees could not receive more than 600 hours of paid leave, or \$2,800 in a biweekly pay period.

² "<u>COVID-19-Related Tax Credits for Paid Leave Provided by Small and Midsize Businesses FAQs</u>." Internal Revenue Service. Updated January 28, 2021.

This would be in addition to other paid leave and could not be taken concurrently with any other paid leave. Any paid leave provided would reduce total service used to calculate retirement benefits.

SMALL BUSINESS

Paycheck Protection Program

- Provides an additional **\$7.2 billion** for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)
- Makes the following changes to PPP eligibility:
 - Nonprofits are eligible if their federal lobbying activities comprise less than 15 percent of their annual activities and less than \$1 million in the previous tax year.
 - "Internet only" news publishers that were previously ineligible are eligible to apply provided they have less than 500 employees. Entities must certify that the funds will support local news.
 - Some nonprofits that currently quality for PPP loans, such as 501(c)(3) groups, cannot have more employees than the Small Business Administration's (SBA) size standards for the relevant industry. Nonprofits are still subject to the SBA's restrictions for affiliated entities.
- PPP loan forgiveness is extended to include payments made on behalf of individuals qualifying for COBRA health insurance continuation coverage. The forgiveness only applies to applications received after the law's enactment.
- On March 30, President Biden signed into law H.R. 1799, the Paycheck Protection Program Extension Act of 2021, which extends the PPP application deadline to May 31, 2021, and extends the overall PPP authorization through June 30, 2021, to give the Small Business Administration (SBA) additional time to process applications.
- On April 6, the SBA issued a new <u>FAQ document</u> on the PPP program.

Economic Injury Disaster Loans

- Provides **\$15 billion** for additional advance Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDLs).
 - **\$10 billion** is allocated for entities that did not receive their full eligible advance payments under CRRSSA. These entities include recipients with 300 or fewer employees and economic losses of at least 30 percent over eight weeks compared with a similar period before the pandemic.
 - **\$5 billion** is allocated to new supplemental payments of \$5,000 to entities with ten or fewer employees that had economic losses of more than 50 percent during the covered period.
- Eligible entities: The ARP has not provided new eligibility details. Existing eligibility includes small businesses who can demonstrate a 30 percent reduction in revenue during an eight-week period beginning on March 2, 2020.
- Clarifies that EIDL loans are excluded from gross income for tax purposes.
- SBA <u>Extended</u> the Deferment Period for all COVID-19 EIDL and Other Disaster Loans until 2022.
- On March 24, the SBA increased the EIDL lending limit from 6-months of economic injury with a maximum loan amount of \$150,000 to up to 24-months of economic injury with a maximum loan amount of \$500,000.

• The SBA released a new <u>FAQ</u> for the EIDL program on April 27.

Restaurants and Bars

- Provides **\$28.6 billion** for a new Restaurant Revitalization Fund to be administered by the SBA.
 - For 21 days after enactment, SBA is required to prioritize eligible entities owned by women, veterans, or socially or economically disadvantaged individuals.
 - For 60 days after enactment, \$5 billion is reserved for eligible entities with gross revenue of \$500,000 or less in 2019.
- Grants will cover the difference between an entity's 2019 and 2020 revenue, though would be reduced by amounts received through PPP loans.
- Awards cannot exceed \$10 million and are limited to \$5 million per location for companies with multiple locations.
- Eligible entities: restaurants, bars, food trucks, brewpubs, saloons, inns, taverns, tasting rooms, food carts, and caterers, including businesses in airport terminals and tribally owned entities.
- Ineligible entities: businesses run by state or local governments; companies with over 20 locations including affiliates, live venues seeking grants under CRRSSA, and publicly traded companies.
- Eligible expenses: payroll, mortgage, rent, supplies (including PPE), general food and beverage costs, and paid sick leave.
- Clarifies that loans under this category are excluded from gross income for tax purposes.
- On April 19, SBA <u>announced</u> the official Restaurant Revitalization Fund application with guidelines.
- On April 22, SBA <u>announced</u> a technology initiative for the Restaurant Revitalization Fund that will allow restaurants to access the application or needed data through point-of-sale service providers.
- On April 29, SBA <u>announced</u> that applications are open.
- On May 10, the SBA <u>announced</u> it had made 16,000 awards.
- On May 12, SBA <u>announced</u> the latest round of application data, noting that it received 147,000 applications for \$29 billion, which is greater than the \$28.6 billion provided for the program.

Community Navigator Pilot Program

- Provides **\$100 million** for a pilot program for community navigators that provide community navigator services to eligible businesses.
- Eligible entities: Community organizations, community financial institutions, and private nonprofits.
- **Required services from eligible entities:** outreach, education, and technical assistance targeting eligible businesses to increase awareness of SBA programs.
- **Required targets of services:** small businesses, with priority for small businesses owned by women, veterans, and socially and economically disadvantaged individuals.

• SBA will make grants to or establish contracts with private nonprofits, states, tribes, and local governments to ensure the delivery of free community navigator services to current and prospective owners of small businesses.

Shuttered Venue Operator Grants

- Provides an additional **\$1.25 billion** for the Shuttered Venue Operator Grant (SVOG) program.
- Eligible entities: live venue operators or promoters, theatrical producers, live performing arts organization operators, museum operators, motion picture theatre operators, and talent representatives. Additionally, entities of these types owned by state or local governments (i.e., museums or historic homes, etc.) are eligible to apply if the government-owned entity also acts solely as a venue operator, museum, etc. For example, a city parks and recreation department that operated a bandstand in a public square along with running various nature parks would not qualify as an eligible entity for an SVOG. Finally, each subsidiary business owned by an eligible entity that also meets the eligibility requirements on its own rights will qualify as an eligible entity.
- Eligible applicants can receive SVOG and PPP funds, but SVOG grant amounts will be reduced by any loans received through PPP following the enactment of the CRRSSA.
- On March 19, SBA opened a <u>portal</u> to accept SVOG applications until April 8.
- On April 23, SBA updated the FAQ document pertaining to the SVOG program.
- As of April 13, SBA's online portal has been closed due to technical difficulties. The SBA announced on April 9 that the amount of applications had overloaded the system.
- On April 22, SBA <u>announced</u> the SVOG portal would reopen on Saturday, April 24, at 12:30 pm EST.

ECONOMIC ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE

The ARP provides **\$3 billion** to the Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration to "prevent, prepare for, and respond to coronavirus and for necessary expenses for responding to economic injury as a result of coronavirus." Twenty-five percent of the funds under this section shall be for assistance to "States and communities that have suffered economic injury as a result of job and gross domestic product losses in the travel, tourism, or outdoor recreation sectors."

The United States Travel and Tourism Advisory Board will be holding a <u>meeting</u> to discuss the distribution of these funds on April 23.

STATE SMALL BUSINESS CREDIT

The State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) was created through the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-240) to provide funding to states based on their proportions of unemployed persons as a percentage of the national total.³

³"<u>State Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI)</u>." U.S. Department of the Treasury Resource Center, updated December 31, 2015.

The ARP recycles, amends, and funds this program with **\$10 billion**, requiring that, within 30 days from the date of enactment of the legislation, all 50 states receive a portion of **\$9.5 billion** equal to the average of the funds. The bill sets **\$500 million** aside for separate distribution to tribal governments.

Funds are "to provide support to small businesses responding to and recovering from the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, ensure business enterprises owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals have access to credit and investments, provide technical assistance to help small businesses applying for various support programs, and to pay reasonable costs of administering such Initiative."

TAX

Child Tax Credit Provisions

The ARP adjusts the Child Tax Credit for 2021 in several ways, though it is critical to note that these changes expire after this year, reverting to the tax laws in place before the ARP's passage.

First, the ARP makes the 2021 Child Tax Credit fully refundable, instead of partially refundable. Second, it raises the cutoff age for eligible children from 16 to 17, allowing individuals to claim this credit for children for an additional year. The ARP also raises the amount of the credit from \$1,000 to \$3,000 for each child over the age of six and \$3,600 for each child under the age of six.

The legislation can provide advanced annual payment of this credit in two chunks, the first after July 1, 2021, and another after December 31, though individuals would have the option to decline the advance payment. The Treasury will be required to establish a way for entities to receive and process these requests.

The benefits provided under this section are reduced in phases beginning at \$75,000 for individuals and \$150,000 for joint filers. Once the amount of the credit is reduced to \$2,000 per child, the phase-out requirements increase to their current levels - \$200,000 for individuals or \$400,000 for joint filers.

Adjustments to Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

• Adjusting the Earned Income Tax Credit for Individuals Without Children

This provision of the ARP package adjusted the EITC by lowering the qualification age from 25 to 19 for individual taxpayers without children and 18 for individual taxpayers experiencing homelessness or living in foster care. It also eliminates the maximum age to receive the credit, which is currently 65. In addition, the ARP doubles the credit and phase-out percentages provided under the EITC from 7.65 percent to 15.3 percent. It also increases the earned income and phase-out amounts provided to individuals without children. At present, the credit amount is \$4,220, with a phase-out amount of \$5,280. The ARP increases these numbers to \$9,820 and \$11,610, respectively.

These changes apply to tax years beginning after December 31, 2020.

• Allowing EITC for Children Without Social Security Numbers

The ARP strikes a current provision of the tax code by which individuals with any children who do not have sufficient tax identification numbers (TIN) or Social Security Numbers are ineligible from receiving the EITC. As such, individuals can claim their children regardless of their tax identification and immigrant status.

• Providing Credit to Separated Spouses

Under current law, married couples are able to claim a larger EITC than separated spouses. The ARP amends this to allow separated spouses to claim full credit if they spend at least 50 percent of the year as their child's primary caretaker.

• Treatment of Investment Income

Under the current tax code, individuals may be disqualified from receiving the EITC if they earn more than \$2,200 in investment income annually. The ARP raises this threshold to \$10,000.

Dependent Care Assistance

The Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit currently provides a refund for up to 35 percent of care expenses of up to \$3,000 for one dependent or \$6,000 for multiple dependents. The ARP makes changes to the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit by increasing the threshold from \$3,000 and \$6,000 to \$8,000 and \$16,000, respectively, and raises the refundability from 35 percent of care expenses to 50 percent. It also begins to phase out the credit at \$125,000 instead of \$15,000. ARP also excludes up to \$10,500 in employer-provided dependent care assistance, increasing it from \$5,000.

These provisions apply to any taxable year beginning after December 31, 2020.

Employee Retention Credit

This ARP provision extends the Employee Retention Credit that was established in the CARES Act to December 31, 2021. It covers qualified wages for an eligible employee up to \$10,000 per quarter.

Additionally, the ARP applies this protection to start-ups opened after February 15, 2020, and caps the credit for start-ups at \$50,000 per quarter.

3. Leon CARES Community Impact Report

Statement of Issue:

This item provides a comprehensive review of Leon County's efforts to address the community's highest public health and human service needs resulting from the COVID-19 public health emergency through the Leon CARES assistance programs. This review includes a detailed final report of the County's expenditure of \$62.2 million in Coronavirus Relief Funds allocated under the federal CARES Act, consisting of an initial allocation of \$51.2 million to the County in June 2020 as well as an additional \$11 million allocated in December 2020 by the Florida Housing Finance Corporation.

Staff Recommendation:

1. Accept the Leon CARES Community Impact Report.

Executive Summary:

At the July 14, 2020 Budget Workshop, the Leon County Board of County Commissioners approved the "Leon CARES" expenditure plan to distribute the County's allocation of \$51.2 million in Coronavirus Relief Funds under the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (the "CARES Act," H.R. 748). The Leon CARES plan established a variety of partnerships and direct assistance programs to ensure the most efficient distribution of funds to meet the immediate needs of citizens, local businesses, community nonprofit agencies, the local health care community, and other community partners resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

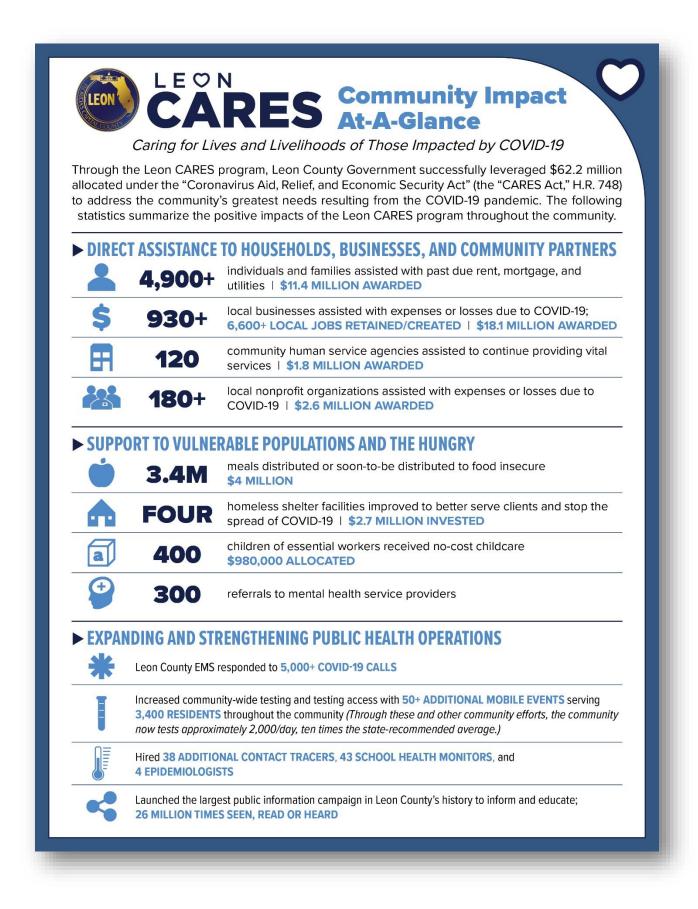
Following notification by the Governor's office on June 10, 2020 that Leon County would be eligible to receive these funds, the County quickly worked to develop a program to provide funding for essential public health and safety expenditures related to COVID-19, direct assistance to individuals experiencing financial hardship, a broad range of human service needs, and critical economic relief to the local business community - all consistent with the requirements of the CARES Act, U.S. Treasury guidance, and the County's funding agreement with the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM). In doing so, the County conducted an extensive evaluation of the specific statutory and administrative requirements of the CARES Act, local government best practices, and community needs in developing the Leon CARES plan. This included engaging the Florida Association of Counties and the National Association of Counties to determine the eligible uses of CARES Act funds based on federal statute and guidance issued by the U.S. Treasury and FDEM. Additionally, the County conducted an exhaustive review of expenditure plans adopted by 12 other large Florida counties that received their full allocation of Coronavirus Relief Funds directly from the Treasury to identify the funding strategies these counties adopted as well as best practices to incorporate into the Leon CARES plan. Finally, the County also coordinated extensively with the local business community, healthcare and human service providers, and other local government stakeholders (Constitutional and Judicial Officers and the City of Tallahassee) to identify a broad range of community needs resulting from the COVID-19 public health emergency.

As a result of these extensive efforts, the County quickly developed and implemented the Leon CARES expenditure plan for the rapid administration of funds in compliance with all state and federal requirements. The Leon CARES plan extensively leveraged a variety of community partnerships, supplemented these partnerships with Leon County personnel and resources to achieve the greatest community impact, and involved the largest public information campaign in the County's history to educate citizens and raise awareness of the assistance made available through the plan. The Leon CARES plan served as a model for other counties throughout the state and also positioned the County to receive an additional \$11 million allocation from the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, which allowed the Board's approval of the Leon CARES plan at the July 14, 2020 Budget Workshop, the County Administrator provided the Board with weekly updates on the County's progress in implementing the plan.

This item provides a detailed final report of the Leon CARES expenditure plan and its positive impacts for citizens, businesses, local nonprofits, and other partners throughout Leon County. The item discusses in detail how Leon County leveraged partnerships and established targeted assistance programs to address the community's greatest needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, which included:

- Funding for critical public health needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic including enhanced communitywide testing and contact tracing capabilities, purchase and distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE), and targeted efforts to serve the medical needs of Leon County low-income residents in partnership with local primary healthcare providers;
- The Leon CARES Individual Assistance Program, which provided critical financial assistance for past-due rent, mortgage, and utility bills to households throughout Leon County experiencing economic hardship due to COVID-19;
- The Leon CARES Small Business Assistance Program, which provided direct assistance to local small businesses to offset business impacts or increased expenditures related to COVID-19;
- The Leon CARES Human Services Grant program, which provided up to \$20,000 of one-time assistance to community human service agencies to support unanticipated programmatic and operational expenses incurred due to COVID-19;
- The Leon CARES Nonprofit Assistance Grant Program, which provided assistance to local nonprofit agencies to offset revenue impacts or increased expenditures related to COVID-19;
- Additional funding to support a variety of community needs resulting from the COVID-19 public health emergency, including funding to address communitywide food insecurity, childcare assistance, mental health services, and homelessness services; and
- Funding to recover expenses incurred directly by local government, County Constitutional Offices, and Judicial Offices to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

In total, the following graphic summarizes the community-wide impacts of Leon County's successful implementation of the \$62.2 million Leon CARES plan. The County will utilize this graphic (also included as Attachment #1 to this item) to promote the success of the Leon CARES assistance programs and their positive impacts throughout the community.



Section 3: Leon CARES Community Impact Report

Background:

This item provides a comprehensive review and a detailed final report of the Leon CARES expenditure plan and its positive impacts for citizens, families, local businesses, community nonprofit organizations, and other community partners throughout Leon County. As discussed in detail throughout this item, Leon County successfully leveraged its initial \$51.2 million allocation of Coronavirus Relief Funds under the federal "Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act" (the "CARES Act," H.R. 748), as well as an additional \$11 million allocation from the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, to address the community's greatest needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, such as critical public health needs, housing and utility assistance, small business assistance, food insecurity, childcare assistance, support for mental health and homelessness services, and more.

The Background section of the item provides an overview of the federal "Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act" (the "CARES Act," H.R. 748) which Congress passed in March 2020, as well as administrative guidance subsequently issued by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, which indicated in greater detail the eligible uses of Coronavirus Relief Funds provided under the Act. The Background section also includes a discussion of the development of the Leon CARES expenditure plan, its approval by the Board of County Commissioners, and the County's implementation and broad community promotion of the plan. This section also discusses several subsequent modifications to the plan approved by the Board to further expedite and enhance funding assistance and to ensure that the County would be able to draw down its full allocation of Coronavirus Relief Funds prior to the December 30, 2020 spending deadline established in the CARES Act.

The Analysis section of this item provides a detailed final report of the positive impacts throughout the community resulting from the implementation of the Leon CARES expenditure plan. This report includes a comprehensive discussion of each funding category in the Leon CARES plan, including the direct assistance programs (such as the Leon CARES Individual Assistance, Small Business Assistance, and Human Services Grant programs) as well as partnerships with other organizations to address public health and human service needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic (such as testing, contract tracing, food distribution, child care assistance, homelessness services, and others). A series of images, charts, and tables are also included in the Analysis section to illustrate the distribution and extent of assistance provided through the various Leon CARES assistance programs throughout the community.

Overview of the "Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act" (the "CARES Act," H.R. 748):

On March 27, 2020 Congress passed the "Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act" (the "CARES Act," H.R. 748) to provide direct economic assistance in response to the financial fallout related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The CARES Act established a \$150 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund for state and local government to help offset necessary expenditures incurred due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. As provided in the CARES Act, 12 Florida counties with a population greater than 500,000 received direct allocations from the U.S. Treasury totaling \$2.47 billion. Counties less than 500,000 in population were not eligible to receive a direct payment under the CARES Act; however, the bill allowed states to distribute funds to local governments under 500,000 in population. On June 10, 2020, the Governor announced that the State of Florida would disburse the remaining funds allocated to Florida (totaling up to \$1.275 billion)

to counties with a population below 500,000 through the Florida Division of Emergency Management (FDEM) for expenditures eligible for reimbursement. Based on the formula, Leon County was eligible to receive up to \$51.2 million on a reimbursement basis for eligible expenditures under the CARES Act. The Board approved a funding agreement with FDEM at the June 16, 2020 meeting to receive these funds (Attachment #2).

As provided in the CARES Act, Coronavirus Relief Funds must be used to cover costs that:

- Were necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19;
- 2. Were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020 (the date of enactment of the CARES Act) for the state or local government; and
- 3. Were incurred between March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020.

Following Congress' adoption of the CARES Act, the U.S. Treasury issued guidance and "frequently asked questions" documents with additional information regarding eligible uses of these funds. Pursuant to this guidance, eligible uses of Coronavirus Relief Funds included the following specific categories:

- Medical expenses
- Public health expenses
- Payroll expenses for public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees whose services are substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency
- Expenses to facilitate compliance with COVID-19 related public health measures
- Expenses related to the provision of economic support in connection with the COVID-19 public health emergency
- Any other COVID-19-related expenses reasonably necessary to the function of government that satisfy the Fund's eligibility criteria

The Treasury guidance also specifically noted that funds may not be used to fill shortfalls in government revenue to cover expenditures that would not otherwise qualify under the CARES Act.

Summary of the Leon CARES Expenditure Plan:

In addition to the statutory and administrative guidelines discussed above, in developing the Leon CARES expenditure plan, Leon County conducted an extensive evaluation of other local government best practices as well as local community needs. This included engaging the Florida Association of Counties and the National Association of Counties to confirm the eligible uses of CARES Act funds based on federal law and guidance issued by the U.S. Treasury and FDEM. Also, Leon County reviewed the expenditure plans adopted by 12 other large Florida counties that received direct funding by the Treasury as provided in the CARES Act to identify the funding strategies and best practices those counties adopted. Finally, the County also coordinated extensively with the local business community, healthcare and human service providers, and other local government stakeholders including the Constitutional and Judicial Officers and the City of

Tallahassee to identify a broad range of community needs resulting from the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Based on the analysis of state and federal requirements and other local government best practices discussed above, the County Administrator presented and the Board adopted the Leon CARES expenditure plan at the July 14, 2020 Budget Workshop (Attachment #3). Following the Board's approval, the County Administrator provided the Board with weekly updates on the County's progress in implementing the plan.

As approved by the Board, the plan established three funding categories to ensure the most efficient distribution of funds to meet the immediate needs of citizens, businesses, nonprofits, the local health care community, and other local governmental partners. The table below summarizes these expenditure categories as approved by the Board at the July 14, 2020 Budget Workshop, followed by a brief description of each:

Category:	Funding (% of Total – Approx.):
Public Health, Safety, and Compliance	\$18.2 million (35%)
Individual, Community, and Small Business Assistance	\$24.4 million (48%)
Reserve/Replenishment Account	\$8.5 million (17%)
<u>Total:</u>	<u>\$51.2 million (100%)</u>

* Due to rounding, some totals may not correspond with the sum of the separate figures.

• Public Health, Safety, and Compliance:

This category dedicated funding for public health expenses related to Leon County's immediate COVID-19 response efforts including enhanced communitywide testing and contact tracing capabilities, purchase and distribution of personal protective equipment (PPE), and targeted efforts to serve the medical needs of Leon County low-income residents in partnership with local primary healthcare providers. In addition, this category included funding to recover expenses incurred directly by local government, County Constitutional Offices, and Judicial Offices to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency. This category of funding supported expenses that are not eligible for reimbursement under the FEMA Public Assistance (PA) program including facility improvements, service adjustments, and acquisition of materials and equipment to ensure the continued safe provision of services to the public.

• Individual, Community, and Small Business Assistance:

This category dedicated funding to provide direct emergency financial relief for individuals and families, support for community-wide social service needs, and direct financial assistance to local

businesses throughout Leon County to stimulate economic recovery through the following programs:

- The Leon CARES Individual Assistance Program provided critical financial assistance for past-due rent, mortgage, and utility bills to households throughout Leon County experiencing economic hardship due to COVID-19.
- The Leon CARES Small Business Assistance Program provided direct assistance to local small businesses to offset business impacts or increased expenditures related to COVID-19.
- The Leon CARES Community Assistance program dedicated funding to support a variety of community needs resulting from the COVID-19 public health emergency, including funding to address communitywide food insecurity, childcare assistance, mental health services, and homelessness services. This category also provided up to \$20,000 of onetime assistance to local human service agencies to support unanticipated programmatic and operational expenses incurred due to COVID-19.

• Reserve/Replenishment Account:

This category established reserve funding to address future needs or for any potential changes in federal guidance that may allow for new uses without impacting existing categories.

As approved by the Board during the July 14, 2020 Budget Workshop, the County extensively leveraged partnerships with several community organizations sub-grantee funding agreements to implement many of the programs discussed above. The agreements specified that the County would reimburse these partner organizations for eligible expenses incurred on or prior to December 30, 2020, as provided in the CARES Act. In addition, the County engaged Ernst & Young, an international tax, accounting, and business consultancy, to quickly develop and deploy a responsive solution for the expeditious administration of funds in compliance with the requirements of the CARES Act. This included the full extent of program infrastructure required for processing several thousand applications for assistance including an online application portal, application review and management system, and call center support capability to ensure an efficient, streamlined application process.

Following the Board's approval of the Leon CARES expenditure plan at the July 14, 2020 Budget Workshop, the County worked aggressively to promote awareness of the various assistance programs; provide application assistance to citizens, businesses, and nonprofit agencies; and ensure that the County's full \$51.2 million funding allocation would be expended by the December 30, 2020 deadline provided in the CARES Act. The County engaged landlords and property managers, utility companies, nonprofit organizations, local affordable housing providers, community and neighborhood associations, and schools to promote the Leon CARES Individual Assistance program and to provide details on program eligibility and the application process to share with potential applicants. This included door-to-door outreach in targeted neighborhoods including the Frenchtown, Griffin Heights, Bond, South City, and Providence neighborhoods. Also, the Tallahassee-Leon County Office of Economic Vitality (OEV) conducted extensive community outreach and communications efforts related to the Leon CARES Small Business Assistance program through its website, newsletter, social media platforms, and print materials, reaching thousands

of local businesses. OEV also leveraged partnerships with the Big Bend Minority Chamber of Commerce, Capital City Chamber of Commerce, Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce, and the Florida A&M University Small Business Development Center to provide support with promoting the program and providing technical assistance to businesses seeking to apply. The County also partnered with United Partners for Human Services (UPHS), the Council on Culture and Arts (COCA), and the Institute for Nonprofit Innovation and Excellence (INIE) to promote awareness of the Leon CARES nonprofit assistance programs throughout the local nonprofit community.

To complement and leverage the extensive promotional efforts discussed above, the County's Community and Media Relations team implemented a robust, targeted, multi-modal public information campaign across a variety of communications media beginning in mid-August. This campaign involved radio, print media, geofenced messaging, streaming video, digital displays, outdoor marketing, street teams, community partner networks, and social media promotion. In total, Leon CARES messaging has been seen, read, or heard more than 26 million times.

Subsequent Modifications and Enhancements to the Leon CARES Expenditure Plan:

At the September 29, 2020 meeting, the Board approved several modifications to the Leon CARES expenditure plan to enhance and further expedite funding assistance to meet the community's greatest needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. These enhancements were also designed to minimize the risk that any of the County's allocated funding would remain unspent by the December 30 CARES Act deadline and thereby revert to the Treasury. The enhancements approved by the Board are summarized below, and full details regarding these enhancements are provided in Attachment #4.

- For the Leon CARES Individual Assistance program, increased the income eligibility threshold from 80% of the area median income (AMI) to 120% of AMI, increased the maximum award amount from \$3,000 to \$5,000 per household, and provided award payments directly to applicants in place of paying the applicant's landlord, mortgage holder, or utility provider.
- Provided eligibility for most nonprofit organizations to apply for relief funding through the Leon CARES Small Business Assistance program.
- For the Leon CARES Small Business Assistance program, expanded the eligibility for businesses in the "Hardest Hit" category, reduced documentation for very small "Hardest Hit" businesses, and expanded allowable documentation. In addition, the base funding amounts were increased to \$5,000 - \$12,500 based on number of employees and the supplemental award amounts were increased to \$20,000 for the "Hardest Hit" businesses, \$20,000 for MWSBE businesses, and \$5,000 for "Rebounding" businesses.
- The Board authorized the County Administrator to reallocate funding between programs and the Reserve/Replenishment Account as needed to maximize the use and impact of the County's allocation of CARES Act Funding. The Reserve/Replenishment Account was reallocated to the Individual, Community, and Small Business Assistance funding category.

Subsequently, at the December 8, 2020 meeting, the Board approved the reallocation of projected Leon CARES program balances to support the community's highest outstanding public health and human

service needs. As reported in the associated agenda item (included as Attachment #5), approximately \$4.26 million of the funds budgeted for the various Leon CARES programs was projected to remain available as of December 30 when the County's sub-grantee agreements with partner organizations were set to expire.

As discussed in the December 8, 2020 agenda item, the U.S. Treasury issued updated guidance in November indicating that CARES Act funds could be used to cover 100 percent of payroll and benefit expenses for public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees whose services are substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Accordingly, this enabled the County to immediately draw down its full \$51.2 million CARES Act allocation from the State through the reimbursement of these expenses. By employing this strategy, Leon CARES program funds were no longer subject to CARES Act requirements including the December 30, 2020 expenditure deadline. This strategy allowed the County to expedite the reimbursement of its full funding allocation, while ensuring that funds were available to provide adequate cash flow to implement the Leon CARES program without utilizing other County funds. Additionally, this revised guidance allowed for \$1 million of the County's CARES Act funding to be reallocated in support of the micro-lending program for minority and women-owned small businesses approved by the Board at the November 17, 2020 meeting.

In light of the updated Treasury guidance and the County's reimbursement strategy which no longer restricted these unspent funds to the original December 30 expenditure deadline provided in the CARES Act, the Board approved reallocating the \$4.26 million in projected program balances to support Leon CARES public health and community partners into calendar year 2021 as summarized below. Additional details regarding the program budget updates approved by the Board are available in Attachment #5.

- Reallocated \$2.011 million to the Florida Department of Health-Leon to support public health expenses through June 2021 including community-wide COVID-19 testing and contact tracing.
- Reallocated \$715,000 to the three local Federally Qualified Health Clinics ("FQHCs"; Bond Community Health Center, Neighborhood Medical Center, and North Florida Medical Center) to provide additional COVID-19 testing events, flu vaccinations for individuals diagnosed or exposed to COVID-19, and purchase of additional PPE.
- Reallocated \$1.3 million to support the programmatic, operational, and capital needs of homeless service providers in Leon County including the purchase of vans to transport clients to medical appointments, completion of previously approved facility upgrades of the homeless sheltering facilities and trainings on homeless service delivery during a pandemic.
- Reallocated \$102,000 to support a community mental health navigator position housed at FDOH-Leon to provide outreach in high-risk and low-income neighborhoods to educate and raise awareness on mental health services and treatments in the community in response to the mental health impacts resulting from the pandemic.
- Reallocated \$60,000 to support the Second Harvest of the Big Bend in purchasing a refrigerated van to expand meal deliveries to underserved neighborhoods in Leon County.

• Reallocated \$40,000 to provide technology support to childcare facilities licensed with the Early Learning Coalition such as tablets for touchless COVID-19 screening.

Also, at the December 8, 2020 meeting, the Board accepted an additional \$11 million allocation of Coronavirus Relief Funds from the Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC) to reimburse expenses related to housing and utility assistance provided by the County through the Leon CARES Individual Assistance program. The County was uniquely positioned to receive this additional allocation as a result of the design of the Individual Assistance program, which was consistent with the FHFC's program requirements and able to quickly process and award successful applications. In addition, the County strategically accepted a surplus of Individual Assistance applications in order to be positioned to accept and spend any additional funding that may become available. These factors enabled the County to quickly expend these additional funds prior to the December 30, 2020 CARES Act deadline in accordance with FHFC's program requirements.

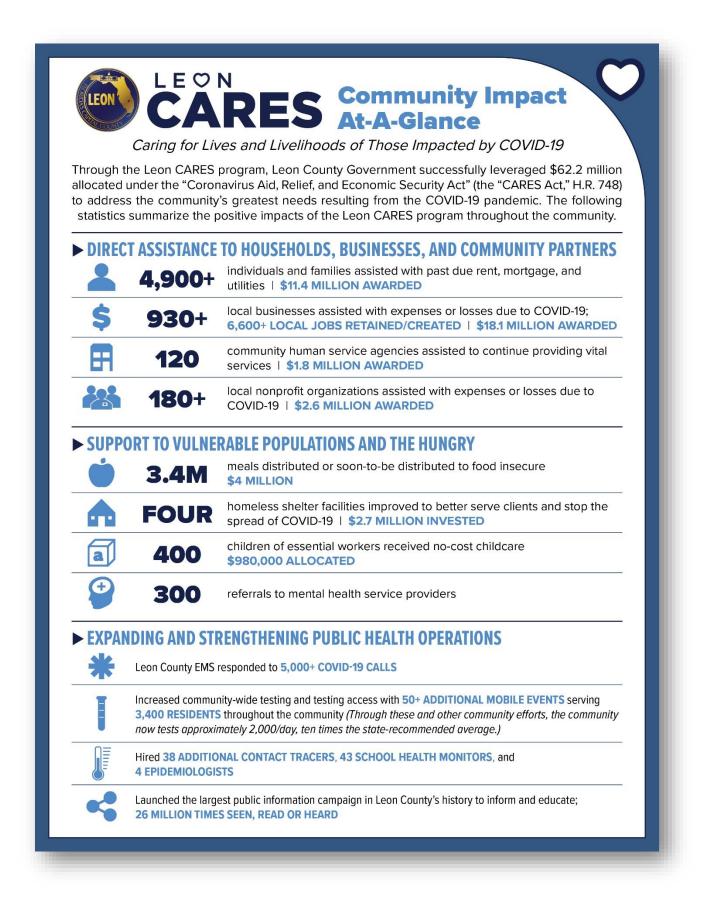
In total, Leon County has successfully leveraged approximately \$62.2 million to address the community's greatest needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, as described in detail in the Analysis section below. This includes the County's initial allocation of \$51.2 million in Coronavirus Relief Funds as well as the additional \$11 million subsequently allocated to the County by the Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC).

Analysis:

The Analysis section of this item provides a detailed final report of the positive impacts throughout the community resulting from the implementation of the Leon CARES expenditure plan. This report includes a comprehensive discussion of each funding category in the Leon CARES plan, including the direct assistance programs (such as the Leon CARES Individual Assistance, Small Business Assistance, and Human Services Grant programs) as well as partnerships with other organizations to address public health and human service needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic (such as testing, contract tracing, food distribution, child care assistance, and others).

In total, and as discussed in greater detail in the remainder of this item, the following graphic summarizes the community-wide impacts of Leon County's successful implementation of the \$62.2 million Leon CARES plan. The County will utilize this graphic (also included as Attachment #1 to this item) to promote the success of the Leon CARES assistance programs and their positive impacts throughout the community.

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Public Health, Safety, and Compliance Expenditures

• COVID-19 Testing and Contact Tracing:

Leon CARES funding in this category supported over 50 mobile COVID-19 testing events through May 2021 to supplement state-supported testing efforts, testing approximately 3,400 citizens. Leon CARES funding also supported the hiring of over 80 personnel by FDOH-Leon to support enhanced COVID-19 testing, contact tracing, and school monitoring, and has supported Leon County EMS in responding to over 5,000 COVID-19 calls in the community.

In April 2020, the federal government set a testing goal for states to test 2% of their population per month as a measure to help states and communities safely reopen businesses and ease social distancing measures intended to slow the spread of the novel coronavirus. This equates to approximately 5,876 tests per month in Leon County, or 200 tests per day. To meet this testing goal, FDOH-Leon partnered with the local Federally Qualified Health Centers (Bond Community Health Center, Neighborhood Medical Center, and North Florida Medical Center) to implement several strategies to increase our community's local testing and contact tracing capacity with Leon CARES funding support. To date, these partners have hosted more than 30 drive-up testing sites and mobile testing units at schools, churches, and community centers to supplement state-supported testing efforts such as the testing site established at Florida A&M University's Bragg Stadium, and the FQHCs plan to host 20 more community COVID-19 testing events through May

2021 using funds reallocated by the Board during the December 8, 2020 meeting. In total, these mobile testing events supported by Leon CARES funding are expected to test 3,400 citizens through May 2021. Supported by these efforts, Leon County now significantly exceeds the federal testing goal by approximately ten times the recommended number, with an overall average of approximately 2,000 tests per day administered communitywide.



Walk-Up COVID-19 Testing Site

These Leon CARES-supported community testing events initially focused primarily in high-risk areas identified by FDOH-Leon in zip codes 32304, 32303, and 32301, but were later expanded to include other areas throughout the county, including Woodville, Fort Braden, and Lake Jackson. The neighborhood-based mobile testing units do not require an appointment and are free to all citizens.



Local COVID-19 Walk-Up Testing Efforts

In addition, utilizing Leon CARES funding, FDOH-Leon has hired 38 additional contact tracers, 4 epidemiologists, and 3 call center employees to support the expansion of testing and contact tracing community-wide. These funds have also supported FDOH-Leon's deployment of 43 health monitors and contact tracers to address COVID-19 cases in all Leon County Schools.

The Leon CARES expenditure plan also dedicated funding to the local FQHCs, the Apalachee Center, Florida A&M University Pharmacy, and Capital Medical Society's We Care Foundation to support other direct COVID-19-related expenses to serve the medical needs of low-income residents in Leon County. In addition to targeted testing efforts, Leon CARES funding was provided to these local healthcare partners to support the distribution of flu vaccinations for individuals diagnosed or exposed to COVID-19, the purchase of PPE materials, outreach messaging efforts and other public health measures.



The Leon CARES program supported the purchase of PPE and other public health expenses for Bond Community Health Center and other local FQHCs

• Leon County Government's Direct Response Expenditures:

As part of the Leon CARES expenditure plan, the County dedicated funds to recover costs incurred directly in responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency. These funds covered expenses that are not eligible for reimbursement under the FEMA Public Assistance (PA) program and also

covered the non-federal matching requirement for eligible County expenses under the PA program. Leon County's direct public health expenditures included expenses to ensure the continued safe provision of governmental services to the public such as facility improvements, service adjustments, and acquisition of materials and equipment. While these expenses were incurred throughout the organization, this funding notably supported the acquisition of medical equipment, infection control supplies, and personnel protective equipment to ensure the health and safety of Leon County EMS staff while providing the highest level of care to the community in



Protective "Sneeze Guards" Installed at County Facilities

response to the public health emergency. Leon CARES funding has supported Leon County EMS in responding to over 5,000 COVID-19 calls in the community since March 2020. These funds also provided for the reimbursement of expenses incurred by Leon County to support non-congregate homeless sheltering, the County's robust public education and awareness campaign promoting the Leon CARES plan, and consultant services for the infrastructure and administration of the direct assistance programs discussed in detail later in this item.

• Constitutional Offices, Judicial offices, and City of Tallahassee Reimbursement:

The Leon CARES expenditure plan dedicated funding for the County Constitutional Offices, Judicial Offices, and the City of Tallahassee to recover costs incurred as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency. The County has coordinated extensively with these local partners to identify a broad range of eligible expenditures to be supported on a reimbursement basis. Constitutional and Judicial Offices have submitted reimbursement requests for COVID-19-related expenses such as PPE, telecommunications equipment, minor facility modifications such as plexiglass shields, and other similar expenses. The County has also entered into a sub-grantee agreement with the City of Tallahassee to provide similar expenditure reimbursements.

Individual, Community, and Small Business Assistance Expenditures

This category of the Leon CARES expenditure plan dedicated funding to provide direct emergency financial relief for individuals and families, support for community-wide social service needs, and assistance to local businesses throughout Leon County (including within the City of Tallahassee) to stimulate economic recovery. As discussed in the following subsections of this item, this category included several direct assistance programs (the Leon CARES Individual Assistance, Small Business Assistance, Human Services Grant, and Nonprofit Assistance Grant programs) as well as a variety of community partnerships to address food insecurity, childcare assistance, mental health services, and homelessness services.

Leon CARES Direct Assistance Programs:

The Leon CARES Individual Assistance, Small Business Assistance, and Human Services Grant programs launched on August 17, 2020. Subsequently, as directed by the Board on September 29, 2020, the County launched the Nonprofit Assistance Grant Program on October 7, 2020. Overall, the County received approximately 11,000 submitted applications for assistance and distributed or awarded nearly \$34 million across all four direct assistance programs. A summary of each program impacts is provided below.

In addition, following approval of the Leon CARES expenditure plan in July 2020, the County Administrator executed a final agreement with Ernst & Young (EY), the County's contracted consulting team assisting with the implementation of the Leon CARES plan, to quickly develop and deploy a responsive solution for the expeditious administration of the Individual Assistance and Small Business Assistance programs in compliance with the requirements of the CARES Act. A team of County staff from work areas throughout the organization immediately began conducting daily work sessions with the EY team to develop and implement these programs as well as the program infrastructure for processing several thousand applications for assistance. This included an online application portal, application review and management system, and call center support capability to ensure an efficient, streamlined application process. As part of these collaborative efforts in developing the application process for these programs,

EY also conducted a series of training sessions with community partners to assist citizens and local businesses with navigating the application process prior to these programs' launch date. Throughout the implementation of the Leon CARES program, EY's support was critical to facilitating the expedient processing of the high volume of applications, accurately tracking and reporting expended funds, and ensuring full compliance with state and federal funding and accounting requirements.

• Leon CARES Individual Assistance Program:

Leon CARES funding in this category supported the distribution of \$11.5 million in financial assistance to assist with past-due rent, mortgage, and utility expenses for over 4,900 applicants impacted by COVID-19. The average award for the Leon CARES Individual Assistance program was \$2,337 per applicant.

The Leon CARES Individual Assistance Program provided critical financial support to households throughout Leon County experiencing severe economic hardship due to COVID-19. Given the uncertainty surrounding additional federal relief from Congress, the Leon CARES Individual Assistance program offered immediate help for Leon County citizens to avoid homelessness or utility disconnection as a result of economic hardship due to COVID-19. The program provided up to \$5,000 in one-time assistance to households earning less than 120% of the area median income to support past-due rent, mortgage, and utility bills. Launched on August 17, 2020, the Leon CARES Individual Assistance program provided a total of \$11.5 million in financial assistance to eligible households upon program conclusion in December.

Prior to the program's launch, the County engaged landlords and property managers, utility companies, non-profit organizations, local affordable housing providers, and community and neighborhood associations to promote the Individual Assistance program and to provide details on program eligibility and the application process to share with potential applicants. These efforts included partnering with Leon County Schools to distribute program materials to the principals of each school to share with students and their parents, and door-to-door outreach in targeted neighborhoods including the Frenchtown, Griffin Heights, Bond, South City, and Providence neighborhoods. The County also contracted with the Tallahassee Urban League, the Greater Frenchtown Area Revitalization Council, and ECHO, Inc. to serve as "community navigators" in increasing awareness of the Individual Assistance Program and providing support to citizens in need of application assistance. These community navigators strategically deployed street teams in targeted areas of the community to promote and educate citizens on the Leon CARES program. Personalized application assistance was also offered at these community navigators' offices as well as all Leon County Library facilities and the Office of Human Services and Community Partnerships. In total, more than 2,300 Leon County residents received personalized assistance with their applications. In addition, Ernst & Young operated a Leon CARES Call Center Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. to provide technical support. Since August 2020, the Leon CARES Call Center supported more than 20,000 calls from applicants.



Leon County Staff Providing Personalized Assistance to Leon CARES Applicants

Overall, the Leon CARES Individual Assistance program awarded funding to over 4,900 applicants with an average award of \$2,337. Through the Leon CARES Individual Assistance program, the County provided immediate financial assistance to these households to support past-due housing (rent and mortgage) and utility bills, helping these citizens and families to avoid evictions or utility disconnection resulting from economic hardship due to COVID-19. A breakdown of the past-due expenses supported through the program, as well as the distribution of awards throughout Leon County by zip code, is provided on the following page.

		2 1
Past-Due Expense:	Total # of Awards:	Total Funding Awarded:
Housing & Utilities Assistance	2,405	\$6,310,502
Housing Assistance	1,401	\$3,994,998
Utilities Assistance	1,110	\$1,184,875
Total:	4,916	\$11,490,377

Table 2: Leon CARES Individual Assistance Awards by Past-Due Expense

Zip Code:	Total # of Awards:	Total Funding Awarded:
32301	813	\$1,840,604
32303	1091	\$2,536,137
32304	1173	\$2,611,710
32305	556	\$1,356,530
32307	1	\$1,902
32308	1	\$1,449
32309	236	\$568,549
32310	141	\$367,090
32311	553	\$1,324,187
32312	202	\$489,607
32317	109	\$265,482
Total:	4,916	\$11,490,377

Table 3: Leon CARES Individual Assistance Awards by Zip Code

As reflected in the tables above, \$11,490,377 was awarded to 4,916 applicants through the Leon CARES Individual Assistance program. Individual Assistance grants were awarded to households throughout Leon County, with the majority of awards provided to households located within the 32301, 32303, and 32304 zip codes. Approximately \$6.9 million (61%) of the total program funding was awarded to over 3,000 applicants in these areas.

Furthermore, as requested by Commissioners during the July 14, 2020 Regular Meeting, Table 4 on the following page provides the distribution of awards to households within the Frenchtown, Bond/Southside, and Griffin Heights neighborhoods. As reflected in the table, funding was awarded to over 400 applicants in these neighborhoods, totaling \$1.1 million (approximately 10% of the overall program funding awarded).

Neighborhood:	# of Awards:	Funding Awarded:
Frenchtown	111	\$303,527
Bond/South City	242	\$590,752
Griffin Heights	84	\$211,087
Neighborhood Impacts:	437	\$1,105,366

Table 4: Individual Assistance Awards in Frenchtown,	
Bond/South City, and Griffin Heights	

• Leon CARES Small Business Assistance Program:

Leon CARES funding in this category supported the distribution of \$18.1 million in financial assistance to over 930 small businesses impacted by COVID-19 (full list provided in Attachment #6). Of these totals, \$7.8 million in assistance was provided to 248 minority-owned and womanowned businesses. Countywide, the Leon CARES Small Business Assistance program provided an average award of \$19,450 per business, supporting the creation and retention of more than 6,600 local jobs.

As discussed earlier in this item, the Leon CARES Small Business Assistance Program provided direct assistance to local small businesses that have been financially impacted by COVID-19. Nationwide, many businesses have been forced to shut down for periods of time resulting in severe impacts to their revenues; others have incurred significant expenses related to keeping their employees and customers safe. Demonstrating the substantial need for small business assistance in Leon County, the Leon CARES expenditure plan dedicated funding to support the restart, re-launch, and re-opening of local businesses that experienced closures due to COVID-19. The Small Business Assistance Grants were awarded to qualifying small businesses to cover business expenses directly related to COVID-19 including employee wages, vendor bills, rent, utilities, promotion, and employee/customer safety costs. As detailed previously, this grant program offered baseline awards based on the business' number of employees, as well as supplemental awards for businesses that have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. Funding award amounts, as increased by the Board during the September 29, 2020 meeting, were determined based on the following:

Baseline Awards:

- \$5,000 was awarded to eligible businesses with 1-10 employees;
- \$7,500 was awarded to eligible businesses with 11-24 employees;
- \$10,000 was awarded to eligible businesses with 25-49 employees; and
- \$12,500 was awarded to eligible businesses with 50-100 employees.

Supplemental Awards:

- \$20,000 was awarded to eligible "Hardest Hit" businesses classified within sectors directly impacted by the state of Florida's Stay at Home Order including Accommodation & Food Services (NAICS 72); Retail Trade (NAICS 44-45); Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation (NAICS 71); or Other Services (NAICS 81).
- \$20,000 was awarded to businesses that provided documentation of certification as a minority-owned and women-owned small enterprise with the Office of Economic Vitality and/or with the Florida Department of Management Services' Office of Supplier Diversity as of June 1, 2020;
- \$5,000 awarded to "Rebounding" businesses that certified that they hired two or more new full-time or part-time employees within the previous 30 days of their application submission.

Launched on August 17, 2020, the Leon CARES Small Business Assistance program provided a total of \$18.1 million in financial assistance to 932 local small business community upon conclusion in December. Of these totals, \$7.8 million in assistance (approximately 43% of program funds) was provided to 248 minority-owned and woman-owned businesses. The following highlights some of the feedback the County has received from SBA awardees; a full list of businesses awarded funding under the Leon CARES Small Business Assistance program is included as Attachment #6 to this item.



"The Leon CARES grant has allowed Retrofit Records to continue to provide our community with music culture, something especially needed during these trying times. Stay home and listen to the records!" -Retrofit Records, Leon CARES Small Business Assistance Grant Awardee

The Tallahassee-Leon County Office of Economic Vitality (OEV) conducted extensive community outreach and communications efforts related to the Small Business Assistance grant through its website, newsletter, social media platforms, and print materials, reaching thousands of local businesses. OEV also leveraged its distribution of face coverings to local businesses to raise awareness among business owners and employees about the program. OEV's technical center was available for business owners to receive computer access and assistance with applying for the grant program. OEV also partnered with the Big Bend Minority Chamber of Commerce, Capital City Chamber of Commerce, Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce, and the Florida A&M University Small Business Development Center to provide support with promoting the program and providing technical assistance to businesses seeking to apply. As contracted, these partners assisted local businesses applying for the program with assembling required documentation, explaining rules, entering information into an application portal, and liaising between the County and the applicant to provide follow up information if needed. In addition, the Chambers have conducted training and engagement activities for local businesses to assess needs, coordinate resources, and implement training to support their recovery from the impacts of COVID-19.



"Thank you for your support of Leon CARES! The smartest thing I've ever done businesswise is open in Leon County. You guys have been amazing to us! Thanks again." -Ma's Diner, Leon CARES Small Business Assistance Grant Awardee

Overall, the County awarded Small Business Assistance funds to 932 local businesses with an average award amount of \$19,450. The Leon CARES Small Business Assistance Program supported various sizes and sectors of local businesses located throughout Leon County. A breakdown of awards by business size and supplemental awards, as well as the distribution of awards throughout Leon County by zip code, is provided in Tables 5-7 on the following page.

# of Employees:	# of Businesses Awarded:	Total Amount Awarded:
1-10 Employees	782	\$3,910,000
11-24 Employees	92	\$690,000
25-49 Employees	42	\$415,000
50-100 Employees	16	\$200,000
Overall Total:	932	\$5,215,000

Table 5: Leon CARES Small Business Assistance Baseline Awards

Table 6: Leon CARES Small Business Assistance Supplemental Awards

Supplemental Award:	# of Businesses Awarded:	Total Amount Awarded:
Hardest Hit	343	\$6,860,000
MWSBE	248	\$4,960,000
Rebounding	218	\$1,090,000
Overall Total:	810	\$12,910,000

Zip Code:	Total # of Awards:	Total Funding Awarded:
32301	227	\$4,570,000
32303	200	\$3,922,500
32304	73	\$1,402,500
32305	46	\$890,000
32308	122	\$2,227,500
32309	58	\$1,075,000
32310	66	\$1,322,500
32311	48	\$955,000
32312	70	\$1,342,500
32317	22	\$417,500
Total:	932	\$18,125,000

Table 7: Leon CARES Small Business Assistance Awards by Zip Code

As reflected in Table 5, over \$5.2 million in baseline awards were awarded to local businesses with less than 100 employees. The majority of baseline award funding was provided to very small businesses in the community, with 75% of total baseline funding awarded across 782 businesses with ten or fewer employees. In addition, over 800 supplemental awards, totaling \$12.9 million, were awarded to eligible local businesses that have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. As reflected in Table 7, funding assistance through the Leon CARES Small Business was distributed to small businesses throughout Leon County. Nearly half (47%) of SBA program funds were awarded to businesses located within the 32301 and 32303 zip codes, with over \$4.3 million distributed to nearly 430 businesses in these areas. In summary, approximately 6,600 local jobs

are estimated to have been created or retained as a result of the Leon CARES Small Business Assistance funding awarded to local businesses.

• COVID-19 Economic Disaster Relief (CEDR) and Local Economic Assistance for Nonprofits (LEAN) Program Reimbursements:

The Leon CARES program provided for the reimbursement of the grant funding provided through the COVID-19 Economic Disaster Relief (CEDR) and Local Economic Assistance for Nonprofits (LEAN) grant programs to the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency. In April 2020, the Blueprint Intergovernmental Agency activated the CEDR grant program to assist local businesses the LEAN grant program to assist local non-profits impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The CEDR program, administered by OEV, allocated a total of approximately \$1.2 million in grant funding to nearly 500 local businesses with 50 or fewer employees. The CEDR program provided up to \$5,000 for local small businesses, based on the number of employees, to address the impact financial impacts of COVID-19. As designed, the CEDR grant provided rapid grant funding to businesses to bridge their limited cash reserves as they pursued financing and capital from other sources such as state and federal relief programs. The LEAN program, also administered by OEV, allocated over \$600,000 in grant funding to nearly 270 local nonprofit organizations. The LEAN program provided \$2,500 to eligible nonprofit organizations to support the continuity of service operations and sustain their viability through the COVID-19 economic crisis. Overall, CEDR grants supported the retention of over 4,900 local jobs with an additional 2,400 local jobs supported through the LEAN grant program – many of which were further protected by the subsequent assistance provided to these entities through the Leon CARES programs discussed throughout this item.

• Revolving Micro-Lending Program in Partnership with FAMU Federal Credit Union

During the November 17, 2020 meeting, the Board authorized the County Administrator to execute an agreement with FAMU Federal Credit Union (FAMU FCU) to establish the Essential Micro-Lending Program for black, minority, and women-owned businesses. As approved by the Board, Leon County has committed \$1 million in CARES funding for the micro-lending program, which is anticipated to launch in late January 2021 to enhance and diversify the existing capital pool in the market for minority businesses. The County also leveraged a commitment of \$250,000 from FAMU FCU for the administrative, marketing, and operational costs of the program.

The County's commitment to the Essential Micro-Lending Program was reallocated from expenditures originally budgeted within the Leon CARES expenditure plan which are now being reimbursed instead through the FEMA Public Assistance program. When the Leon CARES program was originally established in July, if CARES funding supported loans, any loan repayments made after December 30, 2020 were required to be returned to the United States Treasury Department, which rendered a revolving loan program impractical. However, as a result of the updated U.S. Treasury guidance discussed earlier in this item, the County's CARES reimbursement from the State is no longer subject to the grant restrictions, including the December 30, 2020 spending deadline in the CARES Act. Accordingly, loan repayments made through the Essential Micro-Lending Program can continue to be utilized for new loans into the future.

At this time, the County has executed the Memorandum of Understanding with FAMU FCU outlining the conditions of the Essential Micro-Lending Program. As designed, the Essential Micro-Lending Program is intended to flexible by providing the opportunity for applicants with lower credit scores to obtain a loan, lower allowable loan amounts, and negotiable repayment terms. An overview of the terms, rates, and loan limits for the Essential Micro-Lending Program is provided below:

- Application fee: \$25 (lowered from standard application fee of \$250)
- Eligible loan amounts: Up to \$50,000
- Loan terms: Negotiable 5-year terms, with option for a five-year balloon and opportunity to refinance after the initial 5-year terms to ensure continuity of affordable payment options
- Interest rates: Wall Street Journal Prime Rate plus 2-4%
- Eligible uses: Business line of credit, business equipment, other operating capital, and other funding as negotiated
- Loan eligibility: Credit score of 550 for secured and unsecured loans; income to debt ratio of no less than 1.25x; and no collateral requirement for loans under \$15,000 (unless FAMU FCU determines a specific credit risk exist)

The County, through the Office of Economic Vitality, has collaborated with FAMU FCU in creating marketing materials and identifying avenues for the distribution of information to the target market. OEV has also engaged local stakeholders, including the Capital City and Big Bend Minority Chambers of Commerce, in promoting the Essential Micro-Lending Program. FAMU FCU will also refer businesses to the Florida A&M Small Business Development Center and other partner organizations for technical assistance with the loan package submissions. In addition, as part of its financial commitment to the program, FAMU FCU will offer a financial literacy program and business financial assistance including one-on-one consulting and mentorship for loan applicants. Finally, FAMU FCU will provide semi-annual reports to OEV to monitor the program performance and to ensure capital is reaching black, minority, and women-owned businesses. The semi-annual reports will be submitted in accordance with the County's fiscal year, spanning from October 1-March 30 and April 1-September 30 of each year. The first semi-annual report will be submitted in the fall of 2021.

• Human Services Grant Program:

Leon CARES funding in this category supported the distribution of over \$1.8 million to more than 120 local human service agencies serving local citizens and communities impacted by COVID-19 (full list provided in Attachment #7).

The Leon CARES Human Services Grant program was launched on August 17 to provide one-time funding assistance to local human services nonprofit 501(c)(3) organizations serving individuals and communities impacted by COVID-19. The Human Services Grant program provided grants up to \$20,000 to eligible human services agencies serving local individuals and communities impacted by COVID-19. Grant funds were provided to support unanticipated programmatic and

operational expenses on a reimbursement basis such as PPE, laptops, as well as costs incurred associated with expanding programs to address an increase in needs of Leon County residents due to COVID-19. Award amounts to each agency were based on specific requests submitted by the agencies during the application process. In total, the County awarded more than \$1.8 million to 121 local human services agencies throughout Leon County upon conclusion of the program on August 28. A breakdown of the Human Services Grants by funding awards is provided below, and a full list of human services agencies awarded funding under this program is included as Attachment #7 to this item.

Funding Awards:	# of Organizations Awarded:
\$1,000 - \$2,500	8
\$3,000 - \$10,000	20
\$10,001 - \$15,000	16
\$15,001 - \$20,000	77
Total # of Organizations:	121

Table 8: Leon CARES Human Services Grant Award Amounts

Prior to launch of the Leon CARES Human Services Grant program, the Leon County Office of Human Services and Community Partnerships conducted webinars and shared resources with the local nonprofit community on the application and reimbursement request process. The County also partnered with United Partners for Human Services (UPHS) to promote awareness of the program to local human services nonprofit organizations. Throughout the program, the County and UPHS continued to provide the highest level of support to local organizations seeking to apply for the program and to awardees seeking to submit reimbursement requests.

• Nonprofit Assistance Grant Program:

Leon CARES funding in this category supported the distribution of \$2.6 million in financial assistance to more than 180 local nonprofits impacted by COVID-19 (full list provided in Attachment #8). Leon County provided an average award of \$14,429 per organization, supporting the retention or creation of over 750 local jobs.

During the September 29, 2020 meeting, the Board amended the Leon CARES expenditure plan to make certain nonprofit organizations eligible to apply for grant funding, similar to the Leon CARES Small Business Assistance program. Accordingly, the Leon CARES Nonprofit Assistance Grant Program was launched on October 7, 2020 to provide qualifying nonprofit organizations with grants of \$5,000 to \$12,500 based on the number of employees, and "Hardest Hit" and "Rebounding" supplemental awards similar to those provided through the Leon CARES SBA Program. Unlike the Leon CARES SBA Program, however, the Nonprofit Grant Assistance Program did not provide a MWSBE supplemental award, as there is not currently a certification available for nonprofit organizations to demonstrate minority and/or woman ownership. Eligible nonprofit organizations that experienced a 25% loss or more of revenue or increase in costs directly related to COVID-19 were awarded funds to support operational/admirative and safety expenses such as employee wages, vendor bills, and social distancing equipment expenses.

The Nonprofit Assistance Grant Program was administered completely in-house through the Leon County Office Financial Stewardship, in coordination with the Leon County Office of Human Services and Community Partnerships. The County also partnered with the United Partners for Human Services (UPHS), the Council on Culture and Arts (COCA), and the Institute for Nonprofit Innovation and Excellence (INIE) to promote awareness of the program throughout the local nonprofit community and provide assistance to organizations seeking to apply. Overall, the County awarded 184 Nonprofit Assistance grants totaling over \$2.6 million to support local nonprofits that have experienced financial impacts directly related to COVID-19. A breakdown of awards by organization size and supplemental awards is provided below:

# of Employees: # of Organizations Awarded: Tota		Total Amount Awarded:
1-10 Employees	151	\$755,000
11-24 Employees	11	\$82,500
25-49 Employees	13	\$130,000
50-100 Employees	9	\$112,500
Overall Total:	184	\$1,080,000

Table 9: Leon CARES Nonprofit Assistance Baseline Awards

Table 10: Leon CARES Nonprofit Assistance Supplemental Awards

Supplemental Award:	# of Organizations Awarded:	Total Amount Awarded:
Hardest Hit	55	\$1,080,000
Rebounding	99	\$495,000
Overall Total:	154	\$1,575,000

As reflected in the tables above, the majority of baseline award funding was provided to very small nonprofit organizations in the community, with 70% of total baseline funding awarded across 151 nonprofits with ten or fewer employees. In addition, 154 supplemental awards totaling nearly \$1.6 million were awarded to eligible local nonprofits.

The following highlights some of the feedback the County has received from nonprofit grant awardees, and a full list of local nonprofit organizations awarded funding under this program is included as Attachment #8 to this item. In addition, the Council on Culture and Arts provided an analysis of the arts, culture, history, and heritage nonprofit organizations awarded under the program which is included as Attachment #9.



"Our educators have been hard at work adapting to the pandemic, and Leon CARES funding supports the planning and delivery of our virtual, in-person, and hybrid programs. CARS funding is also going toward inventory and supplies, PPE, and marketing our reopening plans."

-Challenger Learning Center, Leon CARES Nonprofit Assistance Grant Awardee

"Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the John G. Riley Center has switched to a virtual platform to showcase our major events such as the Season of Emancipation, Riley Membership Reception and Annual Rock-A-Thon. Through the CARES Act resources, the John G. Riley Center & Museum has been able to reach new audiences virtually with our exhibits and heritage projects."

-John G. Riley Center & Museum, Leon CARES Nonprofit Assistance Grant Awardee

Leon CARES Community Partnerships:

As discussed earlier in this item, the County entered into sub-grantee agreements with several partner organizations to implement the various Leon CARES community assistance programs. Through these partnerships, the Leon CARES plan supported a broad range of community needs resulting from the COVID-19 public health emergency, including funding to address communitywide food insecurity, childcare assistance, mental health services, and homelessness services. The following provides a summary of the impacts of these partnerships throughout the community.

• Food Insecurity

Leon CARES funding supported America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend (Second Harvest) in ordering over \$4 million of food to provide over 3.4 million meals across the community. In addition, Leon CARES funding supported Second Harvest's hiring of program staff and purchase of refrigerator trucks and other equipment to distribute these meals to the community's most vulnerable populations.

Since July 2020, Second Harvest has led a variety of food distribution efforts including at the COVID-19 mobile testing sites discussed earlier in this item, standing up free drive-thru food distribution events throughout the community, and expanding feeding programs targeted for seniors, children, and high-risk and homeless populations. While Leon CARES funding will continue to support Second Harvest's food distribution efforts through the current calendar year, the following provides a summary of these efforts and their impacts in the community to date:

 Expanded School Backpack Program: Second Harvest is currently providing an average 3,000 bags of food per week to Leon County Schools students through the School Backpack program with funding from Leon CARES. As reported in its mid-year report, Second Harvest ended the 2020 calendar year with nearly 40,000 bags of food distributed across 18 schools. The following table provides an overview of distribution by school:

Leon County School Site:	Total # of Bags Distributed:
Astoria Park Elementary	3,984
Bond Elementary	2,979
Boys & Girls Club of the Big Bend at Sunrise	120
Conley Elementary	135
Fort Braden Elementary	3,367
Gilchrist Elementary	90
Gretchen Everhart	110
Hartsfield Elementary	1,600
John G. Riley Elementary	3,480
Nims Middle	3,872
Oak Ridge Elementary	4,700
Pineview Elementary	5,688
Ruediger Elementary	253
Sabal Palm Elementary	4,092
Sail High	48
Second Chance	960
Springwood Elementary	3,919
Woodville Elementary	260
Total:	39,657

 Table 11: School Backpack Program, Mid-Year Distribution Totals by School

- Expanded Senior Grocery Program: With Leon CARES funding support, Second Harvest expanded its Senior Grocery program, which is utilized by non-profit organizations and churches to deliver meals to low-income and cognitively impaired senior citizens. By the end of the 2020 calendar year, Second Harvest provided 800 grocery boxes to food-insecure seniors in Leon County. Second Harvest also partnered with the United Way, 2-1-1 of the Big Bend, and DoorDash to deliver a number of these meals directly to seniors' homes.
- High-Risk and Homeless Feeding Operations: Second Harvest, using Leon CARES funding, has established a new program to provide meals to individuals experiencing homelessness or living with varying disabilities. Second Harvest, in coordination with local partners such as the Big Bend Continuum of Care and Ability 1st, has distributed over 33,000 ready-to-eat meals to individuals who have seen a reduction in service due to the suspension of outreach programs administered by churches and other non-profits to prevent the spread of COVID-19.



Local Food Distribution Efforts Supported by Leon CARES Funding

 Mobile Feeding Expansion: Leon CARES funding has also supported the expansion of Second Harvest's mobile feeding pantry sites to distribute dry and refrigerated food products to residents across Leon County. Second Harvest has expanded the mobile feeding program to additional sites throughout the community to target underserved populations in the community. From September through December 2020, Second Harvest led nearly 70 Leon CARES-supported food distribution events, serving more than 21,300 Leon County residents. These statistics do not include the amount of food distributed through Second Harvest's partner agencies or citizens served through the other food distribution programs discussed above.



Second Harvest Mobile Food Distribution Event Supported by Leon CARES Funding

• Childcare Assistance

Leon CARES funding in this category provided cost-free childcare assistance for more than 400 children across 300 households in Leon County with essential workers.

As presented during the July 14, 2020 Budget Workshop, local human service partners identified childcare assistance as one of the highest needs in the community as a result of COVID-19. In an effort to address this need, the County contracted with the Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend (ELC) to provide up to five months of childcare assistance to certain essential services workers, as identified in State of Florida Executive Order Number 20-91. Prior to implementation of the Leon CARES expenditure plan, the ELC received state funding to provide childcare vouchers for income-eligible essential services workers in the health care industry as well as public safety first responders. Using Leon CARES funding, the ELC was able to provide childcare vouchers for

essential workers in other industries not supported by the funding received from the state, such as food and agriculture, energy and utilities, and transportation and logistics.

Using Leon CARES funding, ELC has provided cost-free childcare for more than 400 children across 300 households in Leon County. These households were provided up to \$800 in monthly financial assistance for up to five months (August through December 2020). Additional Leon CARES funding was also dedicated to providing technology support to childcare facilities licensed with the ELC, such as for touchless COVID-19 tablets screening, to ensure the safe provision of services. In total, the Leon CARES expenditure plan provided nearly \$945,000 for these services.



Leon CARES Childcare Assistance Promotion

• Mental Health Services

Leon CARES funding in this category facilitated more than 300 referrals for mental health services during the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the hiring of a community mental health navigator at FDOH-Leon to continue to educate and raise awareness of mental health services and treatments available in the community.

In response to the increased need for access to mental health services as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the County contracted with 2-1-1 Big Bend to enhance access to mental health resources in the community to individuals that are experiencing mental health crisis. Utilizing Leon CARES funding, 2-1-1 Big Bend has expanded mental health call staffing and contracted mental health counseling to triage mental health crisis calls to appropriate free or low-cost mental health services in Leon County 24 hours a day. Since August 2020, these mental health navigators have facilitated more than 300 client referrals directly to services at Apalachee Center, the FSU Psychology School, Bond Community Health Center, and Neighborhood Medical Center.

In addition, Leon CARES funding has been allocated for the hiring of a community mental health navigator position housed at FDOH-Leon. As recommended by the Big Bend Mental Health Council (whose membership includes the FSU Medical School, FDOH-Leon, and the FAMU School of Social Work and is chaired by Dr. Jay Reeve, President and CEO of Apalachee Center, Inc.), the navigator is expected to be onboarded in February 2021 and will provide outreach to high-risk neighborhoods identified by FDOH-Leon as well as other low-income neighborhoods in order to educate and raise awareness on mental health services and treatments in the community. The position will be supported by Leon CARES funding for two years. FDOH-Leon, in collaboration with the Mental Health Council, will seek local, state, and federal grants and additional financial partnerships with the City of Tallahassee, hospitals, and the universities for future funding.

Homelessness Support

Leon CARES funding in this category supported physical improvements at four local homeless shelters to meet COVID-19 sheltering guidelines established by the CDC, as well as the purchase of vehicles to facilitate socially-distanced transportation of homeless service clients to medical appointments, grocery stores, and other destinations. The Leon CARES program also provided \$1 million to the Kearney Center to facilitate FEMA reimbursement for non-congregate homeless sheltering expenses.

Leon CARES funding has been dedicated to the four emergency shelters designated for the homeless population in Leon County (the Kearney Center, Hope Community, Capital City Youth Services, and Refuge House) to support renovation of their facilities to meet CDC guidelines. Following the execution of the CARES subgrant agreements, the homeless shelter providers conducted bid solicitation for proposed renovations in accordance with federal procurement requirements. Shelter renovations commenced in October 2020 including HVAC system upgrades, expansion of kitchen and eating areas, and installation of keyless and touchless entrance systems. As of January, the majority of renovations have been completed with the remaining projects in progress and anticipated to be complete this spring.

In addition, Leon CARES funding provided the Refuge House, Hope Community, and Capital City Youth Services the ability to purchase vans equipped with PPE to transport clients while ensuring they remain socially distanced. Each of the vans purchased are equipped to transport approximately 8 clients at a time, and are estimated to support hundreds of clients on an annual basis. The Leon CARES-funded vans have supported these homeless service providers transporting clients to medical in appointments, grocery stores, church, and other local destinations. In addition, these vans have also been utilized by the providers for delivery of supplies, increased street outreach efforts, and other COVID-19related operations. Also, the Kearney Center has been approved by FEMA to seek reimbursement for non-congregate



Refuge House Renovations to Provide Socially-Distanced Kitchen Areas

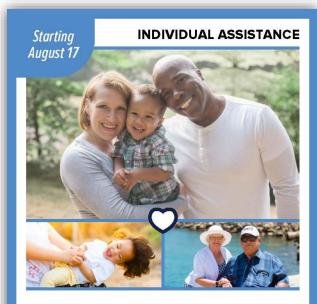
homeless sheltering expenses related to COVID-19, and during the December 8, 2020 meeting the Board approved reallocating \$1 million in Leon CARES funding to support the 25% match required for the Kearney Center to draw down these funds.

Leon CARES funding has also supported the Florida Housing Coalition and the Big Bend Continuum of Care in providing technical training for all local homeless service providers. At this time, the Florida Housing Coalition and the Big Bend Continuum of Care have six online training sessions scheduled through February 2021 which center on continuing service delivery during a pandemic. Each of the trainings feature different homeless and housing services-related topics including case management in supportive housing, mental health basics, and data-informed decision making and program improvements. Overall, more than 220 participants from all of the local homeless service providers are expected to participate in these trainings.

Leon CARES Promotional Campaign:

Following the Board's approval of the Leon CARES expenditure plan at the July 14, 2020 Budget Workshop, the County launched an extensive promotional campaign to ensure that citizens, businesses, local nonprofit organizations, and other stakeholders were aware of the various Leon CARES assistance programs available and how to apply. The County engaged landlords and property managers, utility companies, nonprofit organizations, local affordable housing providers, community and neighborhood associations, and schools to promote the Leon CARES Individual Assistance program and to provide details on program eligibility and the application process to share with potential applicants. This included doorto-door outreach in targeted neighborhoods including the Frenchtown, Griffin Heights, Bond, South City, and Providence neighborhoods. Also, the Tallahassee-Leon County Office of Economic Vitality (OEV) has conducted extensive community outreach and communications efforts related to the Leon CARES Small Business Assistance program through its website, newsletter, social media platforms, and print materials, reaching thousands of local businesses. OEV has also leveraged partnerships with the Big Bend Minority Chamber of Commerce, Capital City Chamber of Commerce, Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce, and the Florida A&M University Small Business Development Center to provide support with promoting the program and providing technical assistance to businesses seeking to apply. The County has also partnered with United Partners for Human Services (UPHS), the Council on Culture and Arts (COCA), and the Institute for Nonprofit Innovation and Excellence (INIE) to promote awareness of the Leon CARES nonprofit assistance programs throughout the local nonprofit community.

To complement and leverage the extensive promotional efforts discussed above, the County's Community and Media Relations team also implemented a robust, targeted, multi-modal public information campaign across a variety of communications media beginning in mid-August. This campaign involved radio, print media, geofenced messaging, streaming video, digital displays, outdoor marketing, street teams, community partner networks, and social media promotion. Upon conclusion of the direct assistance programs in December 2020, Leon CARES messaging has been seen, read, or heard more than 26 million times. Examples of the County's promotional materials are provided below as well as in Attachment #10.





If you have been impacted by COVID-19, you may be eligible to receive direct assistance through Leon County's Leon CARES program. Leon CARES provides federal funds to meet critical community needs related to COVID-19.



Individual Assistance – Assists Leon County households with past-due rent, mortgage and utility bills.

Starting Aug. 17, Leon County's one-stop portal at LeonCountyCARES.com will allow you to:

- ☑ Apply for direct assistance
- 🗹 Verify your program eligibility
- ☑ **Receive** assistance from other Leon CARES-supported community programs

See back for program eligibility requirements.





CARING FOR LIVES & LIVELIHOODS

If your business has been impacted by COVID-19, you may be eligible to receive direct assistance through Leon County's Leon CARES program. Leon CARES provides federal funds to meet critical community needs related to COVID-19.

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Small Business Assistance – Assists Leon County small businesses with COVID-19 expenses such as employee wages, vendor bills, rent, utilities, promotion, and safety costs.

Starting Aug. 17, Leon County's one-stop portal at LeonCountyCARES.com will allow you to:

- Main Apply for direct assistance
- ☑ Verify your program eligibility
- ☑ **Receive** assistance from other Leon CARES-supported community programs

See back for eligible expenses.

Leon CARES Individual Assistance and Small Business Assistance Program Brochures

Summary and Conclusion:

As discussed throughout this item, Leon County Government successfully leveraged \$62.2 million in federal Coronavirus Relief Funds to address the community's greatest needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. In total, Leon County has successfully leveraged approximately \$62.2 million to address the community's greatest needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, as described in detail throughout this item. This includes the County's initial allocation of \$51.2 million in Coronavirus Relief Funds as well as the additional \$11 million subsequently allocated to the County by the Florida Housing Finance Corporation (FHFC). The final budgets for each category of the Leon CARES expenditure plan are reflected in Table 12 on the following page.

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Leon CARES Expenditure Category:	Total Budget:	Community Impacts:
Public Health, Safety, and Compliance	\$16,039,199 (26%)	
		2,000 tests per day community-wide
Florida Department of Health-Leon	\$3,510,199	85 nurses, contact tracers, and school monitors hired
Bond, NMC, North Florida Medical Centers, and Apalachee Center	\$1,429,000	50+ mobile testing events serving 3,400 citizens (through May 2021)
City of Tallahassee	\$5,000,000	Reimbursement of COVID-related expenditures
Constitutional and Judicial Offices	\$1,100,000	Reimbursement of COVID-related expenditures
Leon County Government	\$5,000,000	Reimbursement of COVID-related expenditures
Individual, Community, and Small Business Assistance	\$46,181,126 (74%)	
Individual Assistance	\$11,900,000	4,900+ applicants assisted with past-due housing/utility bills
Local Human Service Agency Assistance	\$1,850,000	121 agencies awarded funds to reimburse COVID-related expenditures
Food Insecurity	\$4,074,850	3.4 million meals
Childcare Support	\$983,000	400 children of essential workers assisted
Mental Health Services	\$187,000	300 referrals to mental health service providers
		4 local homeless shelter facilities improved
Homelessness Support	\$2,774,000	\$1 million to provide local FEMA match for non-congregate homeless sheltering
Local Economic Asst for Nonprofits (LEAN) Reimbursement	\$602,500	270 nonprofit organizations assisted Supported retention of 2,400 local jobs
Small Business Assistance Program	\$18,730,990	930+ small businesses assisted 6,600+ local jobs created/retained
Local Chambers of Commerce Support	\$300,000	540 small businesses supported with technical assistance/training
COVID-19 Economic Disaster Relief	¢1 150 706	500 small businesses assisted
(CEDR) Reimbursement	\$1,158,786	Supported retention of 4,900 local jobs
Nonprofit Grant Program	\$2,620,000	180+ nonprofit organizations assisted
Micro Lending Program	\$1,000,000	Program anticipated to launch in January 2021
Leon CARES Expenditure Totals:	\$62,220,325	

Table 12: Final Leon CARES Program Expenditures

Update on Additional Federal Rent and Utility Assistance:

On December 21, 2020, Congress approved a nearly 6,000-page end-of-year legislative package that included a new \$908 billion COVID-19 relief bill (H.R. 133). Among other provisions, the bill provides \$25 billion to states, U.S. territories, tribes, and large localities to "provide financial assistance and housing stability services to eligible households." The U.S. Treasury will distribute these funds in the same manner as the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund; however, the bill expands eligible entities to any jurisdiction with a population greater than 200,000 (reduced from 500,000 under the CARES Act). As such, Leon County is eligible to receive approximately \$8.8 million to implement this program, based on an analysis conducted by NACo, and will be able to receive funds directly from the Treasury.

In order to receive this direct federal funding, the U.S. Treasury established a deadline of January 12, 2021 for eligible recipients to request their allocation and execute a funding agreement. Accordingly, the County Administrator has submitted this request on behalf of the County, an agenda item will be presented during the Board's January 26 meeting additional information regarding this program and to seek the Board's ratification of this request and approval of an associated budget amendment. The Treasury is expected to disburse this funding on or around January 30, 2021.

This new rent and utility assistance program will be much more narrowly defined than the previous funding the County received under the CARES Act. H.R. 133, the COVID-19 relief bill passed by Congress in December, provides very specific criteria for this program. As a brief summary, this funding will be available only for rent and utility assistance, must be paid directly to landlords and utility providers (unless the landlord refuses to participate), and can only be awarded to households with income at 80% or below the Area Median Income (AMI), with priority given to households under 50% AMI or who are at imminent risk of eviction. As indicated above, a separate agenda item will be presented during the Board's January 26 meeting with additional details regarding this program.

Staff Recommendation:

1. Accept the Leon CARES Community Impact Report.

Attachments:

- 1. "Leon CARES Community Impact At-A-Glance" Infographic
- 2. June 16, 2020 agenda item, "Funding Agreement with the Florida Division of Emergency Management to Receive CARES Act Funds"
- 3. July 14, 2020 Budget Workshop item, "Proposed Leon CARES Expenditure Plan for Coronavirus Relief Funds"
- 4. September 29, 2020 agenda item, "Status Update and Recommended Enhancements to the Leon CARES Expenditure Plan"
- 5. December 8, 2020 agenda item, "Leon CARES Program Budgets and Projected Expenditures and Acceptance of Additional Coronavirus Relief Funds"
- 6. List of Leon CARES Small Business Assistance Program Awardees
- 7. List of Leon CARES Human Services Grant Awardees
- 8. List of Leon CARES Nonprofit Assistance Grant Awardees

- 9. Council on Culture and Arts Memo on Arts, Culture, History, and Heritage Nonprofit Awardees
- 10. Leon CARES Promotional Materials

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

31 CFR Part 35

RIN 1505-AC77

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

AGENCY: Department of the Treasury

ACTION: Interim Final Rule

SUMMARY: The Secretary of the Treasury (Treasury) is issuing this Interim Final Rule to implement the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund established under the American Rescue Plan Act.

DATES: *Effective date:* The provisions in this Interim Final Rule are effective [___], 2021. *Comment date:* Comments must be received on or before [___], 2021.

ADDRESSES: Please submit comments electronically through the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <u>http://www.regulations.gov</u> [(if hard copy, preferably an original and two copies to the [Office of the Undersecretary for Domestic Finance], Attention: [Name], Room [####] MT, Department of the Treasury, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20220. Because postal mail may be subject to processing delay, it is recommended that comments be submitted electronically.] All comments should be captions with "Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Interim Final Rule Comments." Please include your name, organization affiliation, address, email address and telephone number in your comment. Where appropriate, a comment should include a short executive summary (no more than [#] single-spaced pages).] In general, comments received will be posted on <u>http://www.regulations.gov</u> without change, including any business or personal information provided. Comments received, including attachments and other supporting materials, will be part of the public record and subject to public disclosure. Do not enclose any information in your comment or supporting materials that you consider confidential or inappropriate for public disclosure.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

[Name], [Title], [Office], 202-622-[####], or [Name], [Title], [Office], 202-622-[####].

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

- I. Background Information
 - A. Overview

Since the first case of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) was discovered in the United States in January 2020, the disease has infected over 32 million and killed over 575,000 Americans.¹ The disease has impacted every part of life: as social distancing became a necessity, businesses closed, schools transitioned to remote education, travel was sharply reduced, and millions of Americans lost their jobs. In April 2020, the national unemployment rate reached its highest level in over seventy years following the most severe month-over-month decline in employment on record.² As of April 2021, there were still 8.2 million fewer jobs than before the pandemic.³ During this time, a significant share of households have faced food and housing insecurity.⁴ Economic disruptions impaired the flow of credit to households, State and

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, COVID Data Tracker, http://www.covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#datatracker-home (last visited May 8, 2021).

² U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Unemployment Rate [UNRATE], retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/UNRATE, May 3, 2021. U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Employment Level [LNU02000000], retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/LNU02000000, May 3, 2021.

³ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, All Employees, Total Nonfarm [PAYEMS], retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/PAYEMS, May 7, 2021.

⁴ Nirmita Panchal et al., The Implications of COVID-19 for Mental Health and Substance Abuse (Feb. 10, 2021), https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/the-implications-of-covid-19-for-mental-

local governments, and businesses of all sizes.⁵ As businesses weathered closures and sharp declines in revenue, many were forced to shut down, especially small businesses.⁶

Amid this once-in-a-century crisis, State, territorial, Tribal, and local governments (State, local, and Tribal governments) have been called on to respond at an immense scale. Governments have faced myriad needs to prevent and address the spread of COVID-19, including testing, contact tracing, isolation and quarantine, public communications, issuance and enforcement of health orders, expansions to health system capacity like alternative care facilities, and in recent months, a massive nationwide mobilization around vaccinations. Governments also have supported major efforts to prevent COVID-19 spread through safety measures in settings like nursing homes, schools, congregate living settings, dense worksites, incarceration settings, and public facilities. The pandemic's impacts on behavioral health, including the toll of pandemic-related stress, have increased the need for behavioral health resources.

At the same time, State, local and Tribal governments launched major efforts to address the economic impacts of the pandemic. These efforts have been tailored to the needs of their communities and have included expanded assistance to unemployed workers; food assistance;

health-and-substance-

use/#:~:text=Older%20adults%20are%20also%20more,prior%20to%20the%20current%20crisis; U.S. Census Bureau, Household Pulse Survey: Measuring Social and Economic Impacts during the Coronavirus Pandemic, https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/household-pulse-survey.html (last visited Apr. 26, 2021); Rebecca T. Leeb et al., Mental Health-Related Emergency Department Visits Among Children Aged <18 Years During the COVID Pandemic – United States, January 1 – October 17, 2020, Morb. Mortal. Wkly. Rep. 69(45):1675-80 (Nov. 13, 2020), https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6945a3.htm.

⁵ Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Monetary Policy Report (June 12, 2020), https://www.federalreserve.gov/monetarypolicy/2020-06-mpr-summary.htm.

⁶ Joseph R. Biden, Remarks by President Biden on Helping Small Businesses (Feb. 22, 2021), https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/02/22/remarks-by-president-biden-on-helping-small-businesses/.

rent, mortgage, and utility support; cash assistance; internet access programs; expanded services to support individuals experiencing homelessness; support for individuals with disabilities and older adults; and assistance to small businesses facing closures or revenue loss or implementing new safety measures.

In responding to the public health emergency and its negative economic impacts, State, local, and Tribal governments have seen substantial increases in costs to provide these services, often amid substantial declines in revenue due to the economic downturn and changing economic patterns during the pandemic.⁷ Facing these budget challenges, many State, local, and Tribal governments have been forced to make cuts to services or their workforces, or delay critical investments. From February to May of 2020, State, local, and Tribal governments reduced their workforces by more than 1.5 million jobs and, in April of 2021, State, local, and Tribal government employment remained nearly1.3 million jobs below pre-pandemic levels.⁸ These cuts to State, local, and Tribal government services is high, with State, local, and Tribal governments on the frontlines of fighting the pandemic. Furthermore, State, local, and Tribal government austerity measures can hamper overall economic growth, as occurred in the recovery from the Great Recession.⁹

⁸ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, All Employees, State Government [CES9092000001] and All Employees, Local Government [CES9093000001], retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/CES9092000001 and https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/CES9093000001 (last visited May 8, 2021).

⁷ Michael Leachman, House Budget Bill Provides Needed Fiscal Aid for States, Localities, Tribal Nations, and Territories (Feb. 10, 2021), https://www.cbpp.org/research/state-budget-and-tax/house-budget-bill-provides-needed-fiscal-aid-for-states-localities.

⁹ Tracy Gordon, State and Local Budgets and the Great Recession, Brookings Institution (Dec. 31, 2012), http://www.brookings.edu/articles/state-and-local-budgets-and-the-great-recession.

Finally, although the pandemic's impacts have been widespread, both the public health and economic impacts of the pandemic have fallen most severely on communities and populations disadvantaged before it began. Low-income communities, people of color, and Tribal communities have faced higher rates of infection, hospitalization, and death,¹⁰ as well as higher rates of unemployment and lack of basic necessities like food and housing.¹¹ Pre-existing social vulnerabilities magnified the pandemic in these communities, where a reduced ability to work from home and, frequently, denser housing amplified the risk of infection. Higher rates of pre-existing health conditions also may have contributed to more severe COVID-19 health outcomes.¹² Similarly, communities or households facing economic insecurity before the pandemic were less able to weather business closures, job losses, or declines in earnings and were less able to participate in remote work or education due to the inequities in access to reliable and affordable broadband infrastructure.¹³ Finally, though schools in all areas faced challenges, those in high poverty areas had fewer resources to adapt to remote and hybrid

¹⁰ Sebastian D. Romano et al., Trends in Racial and Ethnic Disparities in COVID-19 Hospitalizations, by Region – United States, March-December 2020, MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2021, 70:560-565 (Apr. 16, 2021), https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7015e2.htm?s_cid=mm7015e2_w.

¹¹ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Tracking the COVID-19 Recession's Effects on Food, Housing, and Employment Hardships, https://www.cbpp.org/research/poverty-and-inequality/tracking-the-covid-19-recessions-effects-on-housing-and (last visited May 4, 2021).

¹² Lisa R. Fortuna et al., Inequity and the Disproportionate Impact of COVID-19 on Communities of Color in the United States: The Need for Trauma-Informed Social Justice Response, Psychological Trauma Vol. 12(5):443-45 (2020), *available at* https://psycnet.apa.org/fulltext/2020-37320-001.pdf.

¹³ Emily Vogles et al., 53% of Americans Say the Internet Has Been Essential During the COVID-19 Outbreak (Apr. 30, 2020), https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2020/04/30/53-of-americans-say-the-internet-has-been-essential-during-the-covid-19-outbreak/.

learning models.¹⁴ Unfortunately, the pandemic also has reversed many gains made by communities of color in the prior economic expansion.¹⁵

B. The Statute and Interim Final Rule

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was signed into law by the President.¹⁶ Section 9901 of ARPA amended Title VI of the Social Security Act¹⁷ (the Act) to add section 602, which establishes the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund, and section 603, which establishes the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (together, the Fiscal Recovery Funds).¹⁸ The Fiscal Recovery Funds are intended to provide support to State, local, and Tribal governments (together, recipients) in responding to the impact of COVID-19 and in their efforts to contain COVID-19 on their communities, residents, and businesses. The Fiscal Recovery Funds build on and expand the support provided to these governments over the last year, including through the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF).¹⁹

¹⁴ Emma Dorn et al., COVID-19 and student learning in the United States: The hurt could last a lifetime (June 2020), https://webtest.childrensinstitute.net/sites/default/files/documents/COVID-19-and-student-learning-in-the-United-States_FINAL.pdf; Andrew Bacher-Hicks et al., Inequality in Household Adaptation to Schooling Shocks: Covid-Induced Online Engagement in Real Time, J. of Public Econ. Vol. 193(C) (July 2020), *available at* https://www.nber.org/papers/w27555.

¹⁵ See, e.g., Tyler Atkinson & Alex Richter, Pandemic Disproportionately Affects Women, Minority Labor Force Participation, https://www.dallasfed.org/research/economics/2020/1110 (last visited May 9, 2021); Jared Bernstein & Janelle Jones, The Impact of the COVID19 Recession on the Jobs and Incomes of Persons of Color, https://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/6-2-20bud_0.pdf (last visited May 9, 2021).

¹⁶ American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) § 9901, Pub. L. No. 117-2, codified at 42 U.S.C. § 802 *et seq*.

¹⁷ 42 U.S.C. 801 *et seq*.

¹⁸ §§ 602, 603 of the Act.

¹⁹ The CRF was established by the section 601 of the Act as added by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), Pub. L. No. 116-136, 134 Stat. 281 (2020).

Through the Fiscal Recovery Funds, Congress provided State, local, and Tribal governments with significant resources to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency and its economic impacts through four categories of eligible uses. Section 602 and section 603 contain the same eligible uses; the primary difference between the two sections is that section 602 establishes a fund for States, territories, and Tribal governments and section 603 establishes a fund for metropolitan cities, nonentitlement units of local government, and counties. Sections 602(c)(1) and 603(c)(1) provide that funds may be used:

- a) To respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality;
- b) To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers;
- c) For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the COVID–19 public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency; and
- In addition, Congress clarified two types of uses which do not fall within these four categories. Sections 602(c)(2)(B) and 603(c)(2) provide that these eligible uses do not include, and thus funds may not be used for, depositing funds into any pension fund. Section 602(c)(2)(A) also provides, for States and territories, that the eligible uses do not include:

d) To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

"directly or indirectly offset[ting] a reduction in the net tax revenue of [the] State or territory resulting from a change in law, regulation, or administrative interpretation."

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The ARPA provides a substantial infusion of resources to meet pandemic response needs and rebuild a stronger, more equitable economy as the country recovers. First, payments from the Fiscal Recovery Funds help to ensure that State, local, and Tribal governments have the resources needed to continue to take actions to decrease the spread of COVID-19 and bring the pandemic under control. Payments from the Fiscal Recovery Funds may also be used by recipients to provide support for costs incurred in addressing public health and economic challenges resulting from the pandemic, including resources to offer premium pay to essential workers, in recognition of their sacrifices over the last year. Recipients may also use payments from the Fiscal Recovery Funds to replace State, local, and Tribal government revenue lost due to COVID-19, helping to ensure that governments can continue to provide needed services and avoid cuts or layoffs. Finally, these resources lay the foundation for a strong, equitable economic recovery, not only by providing immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses, but also by addressing the systemic public health and economic challenges that may have contributed to more severe impacts of the pandemic among low-income communities and people of color.

Within the eligible use categories outlined in the Fiscal Recovery Funds provisions of ARPA, State, local, and Tribal governments have flexibility to determine how best to use payments from the Fiscal Recovery Funds to meet the needs of their communities and populations. The Interim Final Rule facilitates swift and effective implementation by establishing a framework for determining the types of programs and services that are eligible under the ARPA along with examples of uses that State, local, and Tribal governments may consider. These uses build on eligible expenditures under the CRF, including some expansions in eligible uses to respond to the public health emergency, such as vaccination campaigns. They

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also reflect changes in the needs of communities, as evidenced by, for example, nationwide data demonstrating disproportionate impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency on certain populations, geographies, and economic sectors. The Interim Final Rule takes into consideration these disproportionate impacts by recognizing a broad range of eligible uses to help States, local, and Tribal governments support the families, businesses, and communities hardest hit by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Implementation of the Fiscal Recovery Funds also reflect the importance of public input, transparency, and accountability. Treasury seeks comment on all aspects of the Interim Final Rule and, to better facilitate public comment, has included specific questions throughout this Supplementary Information. Treasury encourages State, local, and Tribal governments in particular to provide feedback and to engage with Treasury regarding issues that may arise regarding all aspects of this Interim Final Rule and Treasury's work in administering the Fiscal Recovery Funds. In addition, the Interim Final Rule establishes certain regular reporting requirements, including by requiring State, local, and Tribal governments to publish information regarding uses of Fiscal Recovery Funds payments in their local jurisdiction. These reporting requirements reflect the need for transparency and accountability, while recognizing and minimizing the burden, particularly for smaller local governments. Treasury urges State, territorial, Tribal, and local governments to engage their constituents and communities in developing plans to use these payments, given the scale of funding and its potential to catalyze broader economic recovery and rebuilding.

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II. Eligible Uses

A. Public Health and Economic Impacts

Sections 602(c)(1)(A) and 603(c)(1)(A) provide significant resources for State, territorial, Tribal governments, and counties, metropolitan cities, and nonentitlement units of local governments (each referred to as a recipient) to meet the wide range of public health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

These provisions authorize the use of payments from the Fiscal Recovery Funds to respond to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19 or its negative economic impacts. Section 602 and section 603 also describe several types of uses that would be responsive to the impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits and aid to impacted industries, such as tourism, travel, and hospitality.²⁰

Accordingly, to assess whether a program or service is included in this category of eligible uses, a recipient should consider whether and how the use would respond to the COVID- 19 public health emergency. Assessing whether a program or service "responds to" the COVID-19 public health emergency requires the recipient to, first, identify a need or negative impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency and, second, identify how the program, service, or other intervention addresses the identified need or impact. While the COVID-19 public health emergency affected many aspects of American life, eligible uses under this category must be in response to the disease itself or the harmful consequences of the economic disruptions resulting from or exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

²⁰ §§602(c)(1)(A), 603(c)(1)(A) of the Act.

The Interim Final Rule implements these provisions by identifying a non-exclusive list of programs or services that may be funded as responding to COVID-19 or the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency, along with considerations for evaluating other potential uses of the Fiscal Recovery Funds not explicitly listed. The Interim Final Rule also provides flexibility for recipients to use payments from the Fiscal Recovery Funds for programs or services that are not identified on these non-exclusive lists but that fall under the terms of section 602(c)(1)(A) or 603(c)(1)(A) by responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency or its negative economic impacts. As an example, in determining whether a program or service responds to the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency, the Interim Final Rule provides that payments from the Fiscal Recovery Funds should be designed to address an economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency. Recipients should assess the connection between the negative economic harm and the COVID-19 public health emergency, the nature and extent of that harm, and how the use of this funding would address such harm.

As discussed, the pandemic and the necessary actions taken to control the spread had a severe impact on households and small businesses, including in particular low-income workers and communities and people of color. While eligible uses under sections 602(c)(1)(A) and 603(c)(1)(A) provide flexibility to recipients to identify the most pressing local needs, Treasury encourages recipients to provide assistance to those households, businesses, and non-profits in communities most disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

1. Responding to COVID-19

On January 21, 2020, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) identified the first case of novel coronavirus in the United States.²¹ By late March, the virus had spread to many States and the first wave was growing rapidly, centered in the northeast.²² This wave brought acute strain on health care and public health systems: hospitals and emergency medical services struggled to manage a major influx of patients; response personnel faced shortages of personal protective equipment; testing for the virus was scarce; and congregate living facilities like nursing homes and prisons saw rapid spread. State, local, and Tribal governments mobilized to support the health care system, issue public health orders to mitigate virus spread, and communicate safety measures to the public. The United States has since faced at least two additional COVID-19 waves that brought many similar challenges: the second in the summer, centered in the south and southwest, and a wave throughout the fall and winter, in which the virus reached a point of uncontrolled spread across the country and over 3,000 people died per day.²³ By early May 2021, the United States has experienced over 32 million confirmed COVID-19 cases and over 575,000 deaths.²⁴

²¹ Press Release, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, First Travel-related Case of 2019 Novel Coronavirus Detected in United States (Jan. 21, 2020), https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2020/p0121-novel-coronavirus-travel-case.html.

²² Anne Schuchat et al., Public Health Response to the Initiation and Spread of Pandemic COVID-19 in the United States, February 24 – April 21, 2021, MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2021, 69(18):551-56 (May 8, 2021), https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6918e2.htm.

²³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, COVID Data Tracker: Trends in Number of COVID-19 Cases and Deaths in the US Reported to CDC, by State/Territory, https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#trends dailytrendscases (last visited May 8, 2021).

Mitigating the impact of COVID-19, including taking actions to control its spread and support hospitals and health care workers caring for the sick, continues to require a major public health response from State, local and Tribal governments. New or heightened public health needs include COVID-19 testing, major expansions in contact tracing, support for individuals in isolation or quarantine, enforcement of public health orders, new public communication efforts, public health surveillance (e.g., monitoring case trends and genomic sequencing for variants), enhancement to health care capacity through alternative care facilities, and enhancement of public health data systems to meet new demands or scaling needs. State, local, and Tribal governments have also supported major efforts to prevent COVID-19 spread through safety measures at key settings like nursing homes, schools, congregate living settings, dense worksites, incarceration settings, and in other public facilities. This has included implementing infection prevention measures or making ventilation improvements in congregate settings, health care settings, or other key locations.

Other response and adaptation costs include capital investments in public facilities to meet pandemic operational needs, such as physical plant improvements to public hospitals and health clinics or adaptations to public buildings to implement COVID-19 mitigation tactics. In recent months, State, local, and Tribal governments across the country have mobilized to support the national vaccination campaign, resulting in over 250 million doses administered to date.²⁵

The need for public health measures to respond to COVID-19 will continue in the months and potentially years to come. This includes the continuation of the vaccination campaign for the general public and, if vaccinations are approved for children in the future, eventually for

²⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, COVID Data Tracker: COVID-19 Vaccinations in the United States, https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#vaccinations (last visited May 8, 2021).

youths. This also includes monitoring the spread of COVID-19 variants, understanding the impact of these variants (especially on vaccination efforts), developing approaches to respond to those variants, and monitoring global COVID-19 trends to understand continued risks to the United States. Finally, the long-term health impacts of COVID-19 will continue to require a public health response, including medical services for individuals with "long COVID," and research to understand how COVID-19 impacts future health needs and raises risks for the millions of Americans who have been infected.

Other areas of public health have also been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. For example, in one survey in January 2021, over 40 percent of American adults reported symptoms of depression or anxiety, up from 11 percent in the first half of 2019.^{26,} The proportion of children's emergency department visits related to mental health has also risen noticeably.²⁷ Similarly, rates of substance misuse and overdose deaths have spiked: preliminary data from the CDC show a nearly 30 percent increase in drug overdose mortality from September 2019 to September 2020.²⁸ Stay-at-home orders and other pandemic responses may have also reduced the ability of individuals affected by domestic violence to access services.²⁹

²⁶ Panchal, *supra* note 4; Mark É. Czeisler et al., Mental Health, Substance Abuse, and Suicidal Ideation During COVID-19 Pandemic– United States, June 24-30 2020, Morb. Mortal. Wkly. Rep. 69(32):1049-57 (Aug. 14, 2020), https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6932a1.htm.

²⁷ Leeb, *supra* note 4.

²⁸ Centers for Disease Prevention and Control, National Center for Health Statistics, Provisional Drug Overdose Death Counts, https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm (last visited May 8, 2021).

 ²⁹ Megan L. Evans, et al., A Pandemic within a Pandemic – Intimate Partner Violence during Covid-19,
 N. Engl. J. Med. 383:2302-04 (Dec. 10, 2020), *available at* https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp2024046.

Finally, some preventative public health measures like childhood vaccinations have been deferred and potentially forgone.³⁰

While the pandemic affected communities across the country, it disproportionately impacted some demographic groups and exacerbated health inequities along racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic lines.³¹ The CDC has found that racial and ethnic minorities are at increased risk for infection, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19, with Hispanic or Latino and Native American or Alaska Native patients at highest risk.³²

Similarly, low-income and socially vulnerable communities have seen the most severe health impacts. For example, counties with high poverty rates also have the highest rates of infections and deaths, with 223 deaths per 100,000 compared to the U.S. average of 175 deaths per 100,000, as of May 2021.³³ Counties with high social vulnerability, as measured by factors such as poverty and educational attainment, have also fared more poorly than the national

³⁰ Jeanne M. Santoli et al., Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Routine Pediatric Vaccine Ordering and Administration – United States, Morb. Mortal. Wkly. Rep. 69(19):591-93 (May 8, 2020), https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6919e2.htm; Marisa Langdon-Embry et al., Notes from the Field: Rebound in Routine Childhood Vaccine Administration Following Decline During the COVID-19 Pandemic – New York City, March 1-June 27, 2020, Morb. Mortal. Wkly. Rep. 69(30):999-1001 (Jul. 31 2020), https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6930a3.htm.

³¹ Office of the White House, National Strategy for the COVID-19 Response and Pandemic Preparedness (Jan. 21, 2021), https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/National-Strategy-for-the-COVID-19-Response-and-Pandemic-Preparedness.pdf.

³² In a study of 13 states from October to December 2020, the CDC found that Hispanic or Latino and Native American or Alaska Native individuals were 1.7 times more likely to visit an emergency room for COVID-19 than White individuals, and Black individuals were 1.4 times more likely to do so than White individuals. *See* Romano, *supra* note 10.

³³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, COVID Data Tracker: Trends in COVID-19 Cases and Deaths in the United States, by County-level Population Factors, https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#pop-factors totaldeaths (last visited May 8, 2021).

average, with 211 deaths per 100,000 as of May 2021.³⁴ Over the last year, Native Americans have experienced more than one and a half times the rate of COVID-19 infections, more than triple the rate of hospitalizations, and more than double the death rate compared to White Americans.³⁵ Low-income and minority communities also exhibit higher rates of pre-existing conditions that may contribute to an increased risk of COVID-19 mortality.³⁶

In addition, individuals living in low-income communities may have had more limited ability to socially distance or to self-isolate when ill, resulting in faster spread of the virus, and were over-represented among essential workers, who faced greater risk of exposure.³⁷ Social distancing measures in response to the pandemic may have also exacerbated pre-existing public health challenges. For example, for children living in homes with lead paint, spending substantially more time at home raises the risk of developing elevated blood lead levels, while

³⁴ The CDC's Social Vulnerability Index includes fifteen variables measuring social vulnerability, including unemployment, poverty, education levels, single-parent households, disability status, non-English speaking households, crowded housing, and transportation access.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, COVID Data Tracker: Trends in COVID-19 Cases and Deaths in the United States, by Social Vulnerability Index, https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#pop-factors totaldeaths (last visited May 8, 2021).

³⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Risk for COVID-19 Infection, Hospitalization, and Death By Race/Ethnicity, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/investigations-discovery/hospitalization-death-by-race-ethnicity.html (last visited Apr. 26, 2021).

³⁶ See, e.g., Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Risk of Severe Illness or Death from COVID-19 (Dec. 10, 2020), https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/health-equity/racial-ethnic-disparities/disparities-illness.html (last visited Apr. 26, 2021).

³⁷ Milena Almagro et al., Racial Disparities in Frontline Workers and Housing Crowding During COVID-19: Evidence from Geolocation Data (Sept. 22, 2020), NYU Stern School of Business (forthcoming), *available at* https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3695249; Grace McCormack et al., Economic Vulnerability of Households with Essential Workers, JAMA 324(4):388-90 (2020), *available at* https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2767630.

screenings for elevated blood lead levels declined during the pandemic.³⁸ The combination of these underlying social and health vulnerabilities may have contributed to more severe public health outcomes of the pandemic within these communities, resulting in an exacerbation of pre-

Eligible Public Health Uses. The Fiscal Recovery Funds provide resources to meet and address these emergent public health needs, including through measures to counter the spread of COVID-19, through the provision of care for those impacted by the virus, and through programs or services that address disparities in public health that have been exacerbated by the pandemic. To facilitate implementation and use of payments from the Fiscal Recovery Funds, the Interim Final Rule identifies a non-exclusive list of eligible uses of funding to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Eligible uses listed under this section build and expand upon permissible expenditures under the CRF, while recognizing the differences between the ARPA and CARES Act, and recognizing that the response to the COVID-19 public health emergency has changed and will continue to change over time. To assess whether additional uses would be eligible under this category, recipients should identify an effect of COVID-19 on public health, including either or both of immediate effects or effects that may manifest over months or years, and assess how the use would respond to or address the identified need.

³⁸ See, e.g., Joseph G. Courtney et al., Decreases in Young Children Who Received Blood Lead Level Testing During COVID-19 – 34 Jurisdictions, January-May 2020, Morb. Mort. Wkly. Rep. 70(5):155-61 (Feb. 5, 2021), https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7005a2.htm; Emily A. Benfer & Lindsay F. Wiley, Health Justice Strategies to Combat COVID-19: Protecting Vulnerable Communities During a Pandemic, Health Affairs Blog (Mar. 19, 2020),

https://www.healthaffairs.org/do/10.1377/hblog20200319.757883/full/.

³⁹ See, e.g., Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *supra* note 34; Benfer & Wiley, *supra* note 38; Nathaniel M. Lewis et al., Disparities in COVID-19 Incidence, Hospitalizations, and Testing, by Area-Level Deprivation – Utah, March 3-July 9, 2020, Morb. Mortal. Wkly. Rep. 69(38):1369-73 (Sept. 25, 2020), https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6938a4.htm.

The Interim Final Rule identifies a non-exclusive list of uses that address the effects of the COVID-19 public health emergency, including:

COVID-19 Mitigation and Prevention. A broad range of services and programming are needed to contain COVID-19. Mitigation and prevention efforts for COVID-19 include vaccination programs; medical care; testing; contact tracing; support for isolation or quarantine; supports for vulnerable populations to access medical or public health services; public health surveillance (e.g., monitoring case trends, genomic sequencing for variants); enforcement of public health orders; public communication efforts; enhancement to health care capacity, including through alternative care facilities; purchases of personal protective equipment; support for prevention, mitigation, or other services in congregate living facilities (e.g., nursing homes, incarceration settings, homeless shelters, group living facilities) and other key settings like schools;⁴⁰ ventilation improvements in congregate settings, health care settings, or other key locations; enhancement of public health data systems; and other public health responses.⁴¹ They also include capital investments in public facilities to meet pandemic operational needs, such as physical plant improvements to public hospitals and health clinics or adaptations

⁴⁰ This includes implementing mitigation strategies consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Prevention, *available at* https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/schools-childcare/operation-strategy.html.

⁴¹ Many of these expenses were also eligible in the CRF. Generally, funding uses eligible under CRF as a response to the direct public health impacts of COVID-19 will continue to be eligible under the ARPA, including those not explicitly listed here (e.g., telemedicine costs, costs to facilitate compliance with public health orders, disinfection of public areas, facilitating distance learning, increased solid waste disposal needs related to PPE, paid sick and paid family and medical leave to public employees to enable compliance with COVID–19 public health precautions), with the following two exceptions: 1) the standard for eligibility of public health and safety payrolls has been updated (see details on page 20) and 2) expenses related to the issuance of tax-anticipation notes are no longer an eligible funding use (see discussion of debt service on page 44).

to public buildings to implement COVID-19 mitigation tactics. These COVID-19 prevention and mitigation programs and services, among others, were eligible expenditures under the CRF and are eligible uses under this category of eligible uses for the Fiscal Recovery Funds.⁴²

- Medical Expenses. The COVID-19 public health emergency continues to have devastating effects on public health; the United States continues to average hundreds of deaths per day and the spread of new COVID-19 variants has raised new risks and genomic surveillance needs.⁴³ Moreover, our understanding of the potentially serious and long-term effects of the virus is growing, including the potential for symptoms like shortness of breath to continue for weeks or months, for multi-organ impacts from COVID-19, or for post-intensive care syndrome.⁴⁴ State and local governments may need to continue to provide care and services to address these near- and longer-term needs.⁴⁵
- *Behavioral Health Care.* In addition, new or enhanced State, local, and Tribal government services may be needed to meet behavioral health needs exacerbated by the pandemic and respond to other public health impacts. These services include mental health treatment, substance misuse treatment, other behavioral health services, hotlines or

⁴² Coronavirus Relief Fund for States, Tribal Governments, and Certain Eligible Local Governments, 86 Fed. Reg. 4182 (Jan. 15, 2021), *available at* https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/CRF-Guidance-Federal-Register_2021-00827.pdf.

⁴³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *supra* note 24.

⁴⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Long-Term Effects (Apr. 8, 2021), https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/long-term-effects.html (last visited Apr. 26, 2021).

⁴⁵ Pursuant to 42 CFR 433.51 and 45 CFR 75.306, Fiscal Recovery Funds may not serve as a State or locality's contribution of certain Federal funds.

warmlines, crisis intervention, overdose prevention, infectious disease prevention, and services or outreach to promote access to physical or behavioral health primary care and preventative medicine.

Public Health and Safety Staff. Treasury recognizes that responding to the public health and negative economic impacts of the pandemic, including administering the services described above, requires a substantial commitment of State, local, and Tribal government human resources. As a result, the Fiscal Recovery Funds may be used for payroll and covered benefits expenses for public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees, to the extent that their services are devoted to mitigating or responding to the COVID–19 public health emergency.⁴⁶ Accordingly, the Fiscal Recovery Funds may be used to support the payroll and covered benefits for the portion of the employee's time that is dedicated to responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency. For administrative convenience, the recipient may consider public health and safety employees to be entirely devoted to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency, and therefore fully covered, if the employee, or his or her operating unit or division, is primarily dedicated to responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Recipients may consider other presumptions for assessing the extent to which an employee, division, or operating unit is engaged in activities that respond to

⁴⁶ In general, if an employee's wages and salaries are an eligible use of Fiscal Recovery Funds, recipients may treat the employee's covered benefits as an eligible use of Fiscal Recovery Funds. For purposes of the Fiscal Recovery Funds, covered benefits include costs of all types of leave (vacation, family-related, sick, military, bereavement, sabbatical, jury duty), employee insurance (health, life, dental, vision), retirement (pensions, 401(k)), unemployment benefit plans (federal and state), workers compensation insurance, and Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) taxes (which includes Social Security and Medicare taxes).

the COVID-19 public health emergency, provided that the recipient reassesses periodically and maintains records to support its assessment, such as payroll records, attestations from supervisors or staff, or regular work product or correspondence demonstrating work on the COVID-19 response. Recipients need not routinely track staff hours.

Expenses to Improve the Design and Execution of Health and Public Health Programs.
 State, local, and Tribal governments may use payments from the Fiscal Recovery Funds to engage in planning and analysis in order to improve programs addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, including through use of targeted consumer outreach, improvements to data or technology infrastructure, impact evaluations, and data analysis.

Eligible Uses to Address Disparities in Public Health Outcomes. In addition, in recognition of the disproportionate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on health outcomes in low-income and Native American communities and the importance of mitigating these effects, the Interim Final Rule identifies a broader range of services and programs that will be presumed to be responding to the public health emergency when provided in these communities. Specifically, Treasury will presume that certain types of services, outlined below, are eligible uses when provided in a Qualified Census Tract (QCT),⁴⁷ to families living in QCTs, or when these services are provided

⁴⁷ Qualified Census Tracts are a common, readily-accessible, and geographically granular method of identifying communities with a large proportion of low-income residents. Using an existing measure may speed implementation and decrease administrative burden, while identifying areas of need at a highly-localized level.

While QCTs are an effective tool generally, many tribal communities have households with a wide range of income levels due in part to non-tribal member, high income residents living in the community. Mixed income communities, with a significant share of tribal members at the lowest levels of income, are often not included as eligible QCTs yet tribal residents are experiencing disproportionate impacts due to the pandemic. Therefore, including all services provided by Tribal governments is a more effective means of ensuring that disproportionately impacted Tribal members can receive services.

by Tribal governments.⁴⁸ Recipients may also provide these services to other populations, households, or geographic areas that are disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. In identifying these disproportionately-impacted communities, recipients should be able to support their determination that the pandemic resulted in disproportionate public health or economic outcomes to the specific populations, households, or geographic areas to be served.

Given the exacerbation of health disparities during the pandemic and the role of pre-existing social vulnerabilities in driving these disparate outcomes, services to address health disparities are presumed to be responsive to the public health impacts of the pandemic. Specifically, recipients may use payments from the Fiscal Recovery Funds to facilitate access to resources that improve health outcomes, including services that connect residents with health care resources and public assistance programs and build healthier environments, such as:

- Funding community health workers to help community members access health services and services to address the social determinants of health;^{49,}
- Funding public benefits navigators to assist community members with navigating and applying for available Federal, State, and local public benefits or services;

⁴⁸ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Qualified Census Tracts and Difficult Development Areas, https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/qct.html (last visited Apr. 26, 2021); U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Lands of Federally Recognized Tribes of the United States (June 2016), https://www.bia.gov/sites/bia.gov/files/assets/bia/ots/webteam/pdf/idc1-028635.pdf (last visited Apr. 26, 2021).

⁴⁹ The social determinants of health are the social and environmental conditions that affect health outcomes, specifically economic stability, health care access, social context, neighborhoods and built environment, and education access. *See, e.g.*, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Healthy People 2030: Social Determinants of Health, https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/social-determinants-health (last visited Apr. 26, 2021).

- Housing services to support healthy living environments and neighborhoods conducive to mental and physical wellness;
- Remediation of lead paint or other lead hazards to reduce risk of elevated blood lead levels among children; and
- Evidence-based community violence intervention programs to prevent violence and mitigate the increase in violence during the pandemic.⁵⁰
- 2. Responding to Negative Economic Impacts

Impacts on Households and Individuals. The public health emergency, including the necessary measures taken to protect public health, resulted in significant economic and financial hardship for many Americans. As businesses closed, consumers stayed home, schools shifted to remote education, and travel declined precipitously, over 20 million jobs were lost in March and April 2020.⁵¹ Although many have returned to work, as of April 2021, the economy remains 8.2 million jobs below its pre-pandemic peak,⁵² and more than 3 million workers have dropped out of the labor market altogether relative to February 2020.⁵³

Rates of unemployment are particularly severe among workers of color and workers with lower levels of educational attainment; for example, the overall unemployment rate in the United

⁵⁰ National Commission on COVID-19 and Criminal Justice, Impact Report: COVID-19 and Crime (Jan. 31, 2021), https://covid19.counciloncj.org/2021/01/31/impact-report-covid-19-and-crime-3/ (showing a spike in homicide and assaults); Brad Boesrup et al., Alarming Trends in US domestic violence during the COVID-19 pandemic, Am. J. of Emerg. Med. 38(12): 2753-55 (Dec. 1, 2020), *available at* https://www.ajemjournal.com/article/S0735-6757(20)30307-7/fulltext (showing a spike in domestic violence).

⁵¹ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, All Employees, Total Nonfarm (PAYEMS), retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/PAYEMS (last visited May 8, 2021).

⁵² Id.

⁵³ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Civilian Labor Force Level [CLF16OV], retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/CLF16OV (last visited May 8, 2021).

States was 6.1 percent in April 2021, but certain groups saw much higher rates: 9.7 percent for Black workers, 7.9 percent for Hispanic or Latino workers, and 9.3 percent for workers without a high school diploma.⁵⁴ Job losses have also been particularly steep among low wage workers, with these workers remaining furthest from recovery as of the end of 2020.⁵⁵ A severe recession–and its concentrated impact among low-income workers–has amplified food and housing insecurity, with an estimated nearly 17 million adults living in households where there is sometimes or often not enough food to eat and an estimated 10.7 million adults living in households that were not current on rent.⁵⁶ Over the course of the pandemic, inequities also manifested along gender lines, as schools closed to in-person activities, leaving many working families without child care during the day.⁵⁷ Women of color have been hit especially hard: the

⁵⁴ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey: Employment status of the civilian population by sex and age (May 8 2021), https://www.bls.gov/news.release/empsit.t01.htm (last visited May 8, 2021); U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey: Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population by race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, sex, and age (May 8, 2021), https://www.bls.gov/web/empsit/cpseea04.htm (last visited May 8, 2021); U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey: Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population by race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, sex, and age (May 8, 2021), https://www.bls.gov/web/empsit/cpseea04.htm (last visited May 8, 2021); U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey: Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population 25 years and over by educational attainment (May 8, 2021), https://www.bls.gov/web/empsit/cpseea05.htm (last visited May 8, 2021).

⁵⁵ Elise Gould & Jori Kandra, Wages grew in 2020 because the bottom fell out of the low-wage labor market, Economic Policy Institute (Feb. 24, 2021), https://files.epi.org/pdf/219418.pdf. *See also*, Michael Dalton et al., The K-Shaped Recovery: Examining the Diverging Fortunes of Workers in the Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic using Business and Household Survey Microdata, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Working Paper Series (Feb. 2021), https://www.bls.gov/osmr/researchpapers/2021/pdf/ec210020.pdf.

⁵⁶ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Tracking the COVID-19 Recession's Effects on Food, Housing, and Employment Hardships, https://www.cbpp.org/research/poverty-and-inequality/tracking-the-covid-19-recessions-effects-on-food-housing-and (last visited May 8, 2021).

⁵⁷ Women have carried a larger share of childcare responsibilities than men during the COVID-19 crisis. *See, e.g.*, Gema Zamarro & María J. Prados, Gender differences in couples' division of childcare, work and mental health during COVID-19, Rev. Econ. Household 19:11-40 (2021), *available at* https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11150-020-09534-7; Titan Alon et al., The Impact of COVID-19 on Gender Equality, National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper 26947 (April 2020), *available at* https://www.nber.org/papers/w26947.

labor force participation rate for Black women has fallen by 3.2 percentage points⁵⁸ during the pandemic as compared to 1.0 percentage points for Black men⁵⁹ and 2.0 percentage points for White women.⁶⁰

As the economy recovers, the effects of the pandemic-related recession may continue to impact households, including a risk of longer-term effects on earnings and economic potential. For example, unemployed workers, especially those who have experienced longer periods of unemployment, earn lower wages over the long term once rehired.⁶¹ In addition to the labor market consequences for unemployed workers, recessions can also cause longer-term economic challenges through, among other factors, damaged consumer credit scores⁶² and reduced familial and childhood wellbeing.⁶³ These potential long-term economic consequences underscore the continued need for robust policy support.

https://www.nclc.org/images/pdf/credit_reports/report-credit-conundrum-2013.pdf.

⁵⁸ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Participation Rate - 20 Yrs. & Over, Black or African American Women [LNS11300032], retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/LNS11300032 (last visited May 8, 2021).

⁵⁹ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Participation Rate - 20 Yrs. & Over, Black or African American Men [LNS11300031], retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/LNS11300031 (last visited May 8, 2021).

⁶⁰ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Participation Rate - 20 Yrs. & Over, White Women [LNS11300029], retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/LNS11300029 (last visited May 8, 2021).

⁶¹ See, e.g., Michael Greenstone & Adam Looney, Unemployment and Earnings Losses: A Look at Long-Term Impacts of the Great Recession on American Workers, Brookings Institution (Nov. 4, 2021), https://www.brookings.edu/blog/jobs/2011/11/04/unemployment-and-earnings-losses-a-look-at-longterm-impacts-of-the-great-recession-on-american-workers/.

⁶² Chi Chi Wu, Solving the Credit Conundrum: Helping Consumers' Credit Records Impaired by the Foreclosure Crisis and Great Recession (Dec. 2013),

⁶³ Irwin Garfinkel, Sara McLanahan, Christopher Wimer, eds., Children of the Great Recession, Russell Sage Foundation (Aug. 2016), *available at* https://www.russellsage.org/publications/children-great-recession.

Impacts on Businesses. The pandemic has also severely impacted many businesses, with small businesses hit especially hard. Small businesses make up nearly half of U.S. private-sector employment⁶⁴ and play a key role in supporting the overall economic recovery as they are responsible for two-thirds of net new jobs.⁶⁵ Since the beginning of the pandemic, however, 400,000 small businesses have closed, with many more at risk.⁶⁶ Sectors with a large share of small business employment have been among those with the most drastic drops in employment.⁶⁷ The negative outlook for small businesses has continued: as of April 2021, approximately 70 percent of small businesses reported that the pandemic has had a moderate or large negative effect on their business, and over a third expect that it will take over 6 months for their business to return to their normal level of operations.⁶⁸

This negative outlook is likely the result of many small businesses having faced periods of closure and having seen declining revenues as customers stayed home.⁶⁹ In general, small businesses can face greater hurdles in accessing credit,⁷⁰ and many small businesses were

⁶⁶ Biden, *supra* note 6.

⁶⁴ Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, *supra* note 5.

⁶⁵ U.S. Small Business Administration, Office of Advocacy, Small Businesses Generate 44 Percent of U.S. Economic Activity (Jan. 30, 2019), https://advocacy.sba.gov/2019/01/30/small-businesses-generate-44-percent-of-u-s-economic-activity/.

⁶⁷ Daniel Wilmoth, U.S. Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy, The Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Small Businesses, Issue Brief No. 16 (Mar. 2021), *available at* https://cdn.advocacy.sba.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/02112318/COVID-19-Impact-On-Small-Business.pdf.

⁶⁸ U.S. Census Bureau, Small Business Pulse Survey, https://portal.census.gov/pulse/data/ (last visited May 8, 2021).

⁶⁹ Olivia S. Kim et al., Revenue Collapses and the Consumption of Small Business Owners in the Early Stages of the COVID-19 Pandemic (Nov. 2020), https://www.nber.org/papers/w28151.

⁷⁰ See e.g., Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, Report to Congress on the Availability of Credit to Small Businesses (Sept. 2017), *available at* https://www.federalreserve.gov/publications/2017-september-availability-of-credit-to-small-businesses.htm.

already financially fragile at the outset of the pandemic.⁷¹ Non-profits, which provide vital services to communities, have similarly faced economic and financial challenges due to the pandemic.⁷²

Impacts to State, Local, and Tribal Governments. State, local, and Tribal governments have felt substantial fiscal pressures. As noted above, State, local, and Tribal governments have faced significant revenue shortfalls and remain over 1 million jobs below their pre-pandemic staffing levels.⁷³ These reductions in staffing may undermine the ability to deliver services effectively, as well as add to the number of unemployed individuals in their jurisdictions.

Exacerbation of Pre-existing Disparities. The COVID-19 public health emergency may have lasting negative effects on economic outcomes, particularly in exacerbating disparities that existed prior to the pandemic.

The negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are particularly pronounced in certain communities and families. Low- and moderate-income jobs make up a substantial portion of both total pandemic job losses,⁷⁴ and jobs that require in-person frontline work, which

⁷¹ Alexander W. Bartik et al., The Impact of COVID-19 on small business outcomes and expectations, PNAS 117(30): 17656-66 (July 28, 2020), *available at* https://www.pnas.org/content/117/30/17656.

⁷² Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, Impacts of COVID-19 on Nonprofits in the Western United States (May 2020), https://www.frbsf.org/community-development/files/impact-of-covid-nonprofits-serving-western-united-states.pdf.

⁷³ Wolfe & Kassa, *supra* note 7; Elijah Moreno & Heather Sobrepena, Tribal entities remain resilient as COVID-19 batters their finances, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis (Nov. 10, 2021), https://www.minneapolisfed.org/article/2020/tribal-entities-remain-resilient-as-covid-19-batters-their-finances.

⁷⁴ Kim Parker et al., Economic Fallout from COVID-19 Continues to Hit Lower-Income Americans the Hardest, Pew Research Center (Sept. 24, 2020), https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/2020/09/24/economic-fallout-from-covid-19-continues-to-hit-lower-income-americans-the-hardest/; Gould, *supra* note 55.

are exposed to greater risk of contracting COVID-19.⁷⁵ Both factors compound pre-existing vulnerabilities and the likelihood of food, housing, or other financial insecurity in low- and moderate-income families and, given the concentration of low- and moderate-income families within certain communities,⁷⁶ raise a substantial risk that the effects of the COVID-19 public health emergency will be amplified within these communities.

These compounding effect of recessions on concentrated poverty and the long-lasting nature of this effect were observed after the 2007-2009 recession, including a large increase in concentrated poverty with the number of people living in extremely poor neighborhoods more than doubling by 2010-2014 relative to 2000.⁷⁷ Concentrated poverty has a range of deleterious impacts, including additional burdens on families and reduced economic potential and social cohesion.⁷⁸ Given the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on low-income households discussed above, there is a risk that the current pandemic-induced recession could further increase concentrated poverty and cause long-term damage to economic prospects in neighborhoods of concentrated poverty.

The negative economic impacts of COVID-19 also include significant impacts to children in disproportionately affected families and include impacts to education, health, and welfare, all

⁷⁵ See infra Section II.B of this Supplementary Information.

⁷⁶ Elizabeth Kneebone, The Changing geography of US poverty, Brookings Institution (Feb. 15, 2017), https://www.brookings.edu/testimonies/the-changing-geography-of-us-poverty/.

⁷⁷ Elizabeth Kneebone & Natalie Holmes, U.S. concentrated poverty in the wake of the Great Recession, Brookings Institution (Mar. 31, 2016), https://www.brookings.edu/research/u-s-concentrated-poverty-in-the-wake-of-the-great-recession/.

⁷⁸ David Erickson et al., The Enduring Challenge of Concentrated Poverty in America: Case Studies from Communities Across the U.S. (2008), *available at* https://www.frbsf.org/community-development/files/cp_fullreport.pdf.

of which contribute to long-term economic outcomes.⁷⁹ Many low-income and minority students, who were disproportionately served by remote or hybrid education during the pandemic, lacked the resources to participate fully in remote schooling or live in households without adults available throughout the day to assist with online coursework.⁸⁰ Given these trends, the pandemic may widen educational disparities and worsen outcomes for low-income students,⁸¹ an effect that would substantially impact their long-term economic outcomes. Increased economic strain or material hardship due to the pandemic could also have a long-term impact on health, educational, and economic outcomes of young children.⁸² Evidence suggests

⁸² HHS, *supra* note 79.

⁷⁹ Educational quality, as early as Kindergarten, has a long-term impact on children's public health and economic outcomes. *See, e.g.*, Tyler W. Watts et al., The Chicago School Readiness Project: Examining the long-term impacts of an early childhood intervention, PLoS ONE 13(7) (2018), *available at* https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0200144; Opportunity Insights, How Can We Amplify Education as an Engine of Mobility? Using big data to help children get the most from school, https://opportunityinsights.org/education/ (last visited Apr. 26, 2021); U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Early Childhood Development and Education, https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-health/interventions-resources/early-childhood-development-and-education (last visited Apr. 26, 2021).

⁸⁰ See, e.g., Bacher-Hicks, supra note 14.

⁸¹ A Department of Education survey found that, as of February 2021, 42 percent of fourth grade students nationwide were offered only remote education, compared to 48 percent of economically disadvantaged students, 54 percent of Black students and 57 percent of Hispanic students. Large districts often disproportionately serve low-income students. *See* Institute of Education Sciences, Monthly School Survey Dashboard, https://ies.ed.gov/schoolsurvey/ (last visited Apr. 26, 2021). In summer 2020, a review found that 74 percent of the largest 100 districts chose remote learning only. *See* Education Week, School Districts' Reopening Plans: A Snapshot (Jul. 15, 2020),

https://www.edweek.org/leadership/school-districts-reopening-plans-a-snapshot/2020/07 (last visited May 4, 2021).

that adverse conditions in early childhood, including exposure to poverty, food insecurity, housing insecurity, or other economic hardships, are particularly impactful.⁸³

The pandemic's disproportionate economic impacts are also seen in Tribal communities across the country—for Tribal governments as well as families and businesses on and off Tribal lands. In the early months of the pandemic, Native American unemployment spiked to 26 percent and, while partially recovered, remains at nearly 11 percent.⁸⁴ Tribal enterprises are a significant source of revenue for Tribal governments to support the provision of government services. These enterprises, notably concentrated in gaming, tourism, and hospitality, frequently closed, significantly reducing both revenues to Tribal governments and employment. As a result, Tribal governments have reduced essential services to their citizens and communities.⁸⁵

Eligible Uses. Sections 602(c)(1)(A) and 603(c)(1)(A) permit use of payments from the Fiscal Recovery Funds to respond to the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Eligible uses that respond to the negative economic impacts of the public health emergency must be designed to address an economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency. In considering whether a program or service would be eligible under this category, the recipient should assess whether, and the extent to which, there has been

⁸³ Hirokazu Yoshikawa, Effects of the Global Coronavirus Disease – 2019 Pandemic on Early Childhood Development: Short- and Long-Term Risks and Mitigating Program and Policy Actions, J. of Pediatrics Vol. 223:188-93 (Aug. 1, 2020), *available at* https://www.jpeds.com/article/S0022-3476(20)30606-5/abstract.

⁸⁴ Based on calculations conducted by the Minneapolis Fed's Center for Indian Country Development using Flood et al. (2020)'s Current Population Survey." Sarah Flood, Miriam King, Renae Rodgers, Steven Ruggles and J. Robert Warren. Integrated Public Use Microdata Series, Current Population Survey: Version 8.0 [dataset]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS, 2020. https://doi.org/10.18128/D030.V8.0; see also Donna Feir & Charles Golding, Native Employment During COVID-19: Hard hit in April but Starting to Rebount? (Aug. 5, 2020), https://www.minneapolisfed.org/article/2020/native-employmentduring-covid-19-hit-hard-in-april-but-starting-to-rebound.

⁸⁵ Moreno & Sobrepena, *supra* note 73.

an economic harm, such as loss of earnings or revenue, that resulted from the COVID-19 public health emergency and whether, and the extent to which, the use would respond or address this harm.⁸⁶ A recipient should first consider whether an economic harm exists and whether this harm was caused or made worse by the COVID-19 public health emergency. While economic impacts may either be immediate or delayed, assistance or aid to individuals or businesses that did not experience a negative economic impact from the public health emergency would not be an eligible use under this category.

In addition, the eligible use must "respond to" the identified negative economic impact. Responses must be related and reasonably proportional to the extent and type of harm experienced; uses that bear no relation or are grossly disproportionate to the type or extent of harm experienced would not be eligible uses. Where there has been a negative economic impact resulting from the public health emergency, States, local, and Tribal governments have broad latitude to choose whether and how to use the Fiscal Recovery Funds to respond to and address the negative economic impact. Sections 602(c)(1)(A) and 603(c)(1)(A) describe several types of uses that would be eligible under this category, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits and aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality.

To facilitate implementation and use of payments from the Fiscal Recovery Funds, the Interim Final Rule identifies a non-exclusive list of eligible uses of funding that respond to the negative economic impacts of the public health emergency. Consistent with the discussion above, the eligible uses listed below would respond directly to the economic or financial harms resulting from and or exacerbated by the public health emergency.

⁸⁶ In some cases, a use may be permissible under another eligible use category even if it falls outside the scope of section (c)(1)(A) of the Act.

- Assistance to Unemployed Workers. This includes assistance to unemployed workers, including services like job training to accelerate rehiring of unemployed workers; these services may extend to workers unemployed due to the pandemic or the resulting recession, or who were already unemployed when the pandemic began and remain so due to the negative economic impacts of the pandemic.
- State Unemployment Insurance Trust Funds. Consistent with the approach taken in the CRF, recipients may make deposits into the state account of the Unemployment Trust Fund established under section 904 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1104) up to the level needed to restore the pre-pandemic balances of such account as of January 27, 2020 or to pay back advances received under Title XII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1321) for the payment of benefits between January 27, 2020 and [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER], given the close nexus between Unemployment Trust Fund costs, solvency of Unemployment Trust Fund systems, and pandemic economic impacts. Further, Unemployment Trust Fund deposits can decrease fiscal strain on Unemployment Insurance systems impacted by the pandemic. States facing a sharp increase in Unemployment Insurance claims during the pandemic may have drawn down positive Unemployment Trust Fund balances and, after exhausting the balance, required advances to fund continuing obligations to claimants. Because both of these impacts were driven directly by the need for assistance to unemployed workers during the pandemic, replenishing Unemployment Trust Funds up to the pre-pandemic level responds to the pandemic's negative economic impacts on unemployed workers.

Assistance to Households. Assistance to households or populations facing negative economic impacts due to COVID-19 is also an eligible use. This includes: food assistance; rent, mortgage, or utility assistance; counseling and legal aid to prevent eviction or homelessness; cash assistance (discussed below); emergency assistance for burials, home repairs, weatherization, or other needs; internet access or digital literacy assistance; or job training to address negative economic or public health impacts experienced due to a worker's occupation or level of training. As discussed above, in considering whether a potential use is eligible under this category, a recipient must consider whether, and the extent to which, the household has experienced a negative economic impact from the pandemic. In assessing whether a household or population experienced economic harm as a result of the pandemic, a recipient may presume that a household or population that experienced unemployment or increased food or housing insecurity or is low- or moderate-income experienced negative economic impacts resulting from the pandemic. For example, a cash transfer program may focus on unemployed workers or low- and moderate-income families, which have faced disproportionate economic harms due to the pandemic. Cash transfers must be reasonably proportional to the negative economic impact they are intended to address. Cash transfers grossly in excess of the amount needed to address the negative economic impact identified by the recipient would not be considered to be a response to the COVID-19 public health emergency or its negative impacts. In particular, when considering the appropriate size of permissible cash transfers made in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, State, local and

Tribal governments may consider and take guidance from the per person amounts previously provided by the Federal government in response to the COVID-19 crisis. Cash transfers that are grossly in excess of such amounts would be outside the scope of eligible uses under section 602(c)(1)(A) and 603(c)(1)(A) and could be subject to recoupment. In addition, a recipient could provide survivor's benefits to surviving family members of COVID-19 victims, or cash assistance to widows, widowers, and dependents of eligible COVID-19 victims.

- *Expenses to Improve Efficacy of Economic Relief Programs*. State, local, and Tribal governments may use payments from the Fiscal Recovery Funds to improve efficacy of programs addressing negative economic impacts, including through use of data analysis, targeted consumer outreach, improvements to data or technology infrastructure, and impact evaluations.
- *Small Businesses and Non-profits.* As discussed above, small businesses and nonprofits faced significant challenges in covering payroll, mortgages or rent, and other operating costs as a result of the public health emergency and measures taken to contain the spread of the virus. State, local, and Tribal governments may provide assistance to small businesses to adopt safer operating procedures, weather periods of closure, or mitigate financial hardship resulting from the COVID-19 public health emergency, including:
 - Loans or grants to mitigate financial hardship such as declines in revenues or impacts of periods of business closure, for example by supporting payroll and benefits costs, costs to retain employees, mortgage, rent, or utilities costs, and other operating costs;

- Loans, grants, or in-kind assistance to implement COVID-19 prevention or mitigation tactics, such as physical plant changes to enable social distancing, enhanced cleaning efforts, barriers or partitions, or COVID-19 vaccination, testing, or contact tracing programs; and
- Technical assistance, counseling, or other services to assist with business planning needs.

As discussed above, these services should respond to the negative economic impacts of COVID-19. Recipients may consider additional criteria to target assistance to businesses in need, including small businesses. Such criteria may include businesses facing financial insecurity, substantial declines in gross receipts (e.g., comparable to measures used to assess eligibility for the Paycheck Protection Program), or other economic harm due to the pandemic, as well as businesses with less capacity to weather financial hardship, such as the smallest businesses, those with less access to credit, or those serving disadvantaged communities. Recipients should consider local economic conditions and business data when establishing such criteria.⁸⁷

• *Rehiring State, Local, and Tribal Government Staff.* State, local, and Tribal governments continue to see pandemic impacts in overall staffing levels: State, local, and Tribal government employment remains more than 1 million jobs lower

⁸⁷ See Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, An Uphill Battle: COVID-19's Outsized Toll on Minority-Owned Firms (Oct. 8, 2020), https://www.clevelandfed.org/newsroom-andevents/publications/community-development-briefs/db-20201008-misera-report.aspx (discussing the impact of COVID-19 on minority owned businesses).

in April 2021 than prior to the pandemic.⁸⁸ Employment losses decrease a state or local government's ability to effectively administer services. Thus, the Interim Final Rule includes as an eligible use payroll, covered benefits, and other costs associated with rehiring public sector staff, up to the pre-pandemic staffing level of the government.

Aid to Impacted Industries. Sections 602(c)(1)(A) and 603(c)(1)(A) recognize that certain industries, such as tourism, travel, and hospitality, were disproportionately and negatively impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency. Aid provided to tourism, travel, and hospitality industries should respond to the negative economic impacts of the pandemic on those and similarly impacted industries. For example, aid may include assistance to implement COVID-19 mitigation and infection prevention measures to enable safe resumption of tourism, travel, and hospitality services, for example, improvements to ventilation, physical barriers or partitions, signage to facilitate social distancing, provision of masks or personal protective equipment, or consultation with infection prevention professionals to develop safe reopening plans.

Aid may be considered responsive to the negative economic impacts of the pandemic if it supports businesses, attractions, business districts, and Tribal development districts operating prior to the pandemic and affected by required

⁸⁸ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, All Employees, State Government [CES9092000001] and All Employees, Local Government [CES9093000001], retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/CES9092000001 and https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/CES9093000001 (last visited May 8, 2021).

closures and other efforts to contain the pandemic. For example, a recipient may provide aid to support safe reopening of businesses in the tourism, travel, and hospitality industries and to business districts that were closed during the COVID-19 public health emergency, as well as aid for a planned expansion or upgrade of tourism, travel, and hospitality facilities delayed due to the pandemic.

When considering providing aid to industries other than tourism, travel, and hospitality, recipients should consider the extent of the economic impact as compared to tourism, travel, and hospitality, the industries enumerated in the statute. For example, on net, the leisure and hospitality industry has experienced an approximately 24 percent decline in revenue and approximately 17 percent decline in employment nationwide due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.⁸⁹ Recipients should also consider whether impacts were due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as opposed to longer-term economic or industrial trends unrelated to the pandemic.

To facilitate transparency and accountability, the Interim Final Rule requires that State, local, and Tribal governments publicly report assistance provided to private-sector businesses under this eligible use, including tourism, travel, hospitality, and other impacted industries, and its connection to negative

⁸⁹ From February 2020 to April 2021, employment in "Leisure and hospitality" has fallen by approximately 17 percent. *See* U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, All Employees, Leisure and Hospitality, retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/USLAH (last visited May 8, 2021). From 2019Q4 to 2020Q4, gross output (e.g. revenue) in arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services has fallen by approximately 24 percent. *See* Bureau of Economic Analysis, News Release: Gross Domestic Product (Third Estimate), Corporate Profits, and GDP by Industry, Fourth Quarter and Year 2020 (Mar. 25, 2021), Table 17, https://www.bea.gov/sites/default/files/2021-03/gdp4q20_3rd.pdf.

economic impacts of the pandemic. Recipients also should maintain records to support their assessment of how businesses or business districts receiving assistance were affected by the negative economic impacts of the pandemic and how the aid provided responds to these impacts.

As discussed above, economic disparities that existed prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency amplified the impact of the pandemic among low-income and minority groups. These families were more likely to face housing, food, and financial insecurity; are overrepresented among low-wage workers; and many have seen their livelihoods deteriorate further during the pandemic and economic contraction. In recognition of the disproportionate negative economic impacts on certain communities and populations, the Interim Final Rule identifies services and programs that will be presumed to be responding to the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency when provided in these communities.

Specifically, Treasury will presume that certain types of services, outlined below, are eligible uses when provided in a QCT, to families and individuals living in QCTs, or when these services are provided by Tribal governments.⁹⁰ Recipients may also provide these services to other populations, households, or geographic areas disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. In identifying these disproportionately impacted communities, recipients should be able to support their determination that the pandemic resulted in disproportionate public health or economic outcomes to the specific populations, households, or geographic areas to be served. The Interim Final Rule identifies a non-exclusive list of uses that address the disproportionate negative economic effects of the COVID-19 public health emergency, including:

⁹⁰ HUD, *supra* note 48.

- Building Stronger Communities through Investments in Housing and Neighborhoods. The economic impacts of COVID-19 have likely been most acute in lower-income neighborhoods, including concentrated areas of high unemployment, limited economic opportunity, and housing insecurity.⁹¹ Services in this category alleviate the immediate economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on housing insecurity, while addressing conditions that contributed to poor public health and economic outcomes during the pandemic, namely concentrated areas with limited economic opportunity and inadequate or poor-quality housing.⁹² Eligible services include:
 - Services to address homelessness such as supportive housing, and to improve access to stable, affordable housing among unhoused individuals;
 - Affordable housing development to increase supply of affordable and high-quality living units; and
 - Housing vouchers, residential counseling, or housing navigation assistance to facilitate household moves to neighborhoods with high levels of economic opportunity and mobility for low-income residents, to help residents increase their economic opportunity and reduce concentrated areas of low economic opportunity.⁹³

⁹¹ Stuart M. Butler & Jonathan Grabinsky, Tackling the legacy of persistent urban inequality and concentrated poverty, Brookings Institution (Nov. 16, 2020), https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2020/11/16/tackling-the-legacy-of-persistent-urban-inequality-and-concentrated-poverty/.

⁹² U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Quality of Housing, https://www.healthypeople.gov/2020/topics-objectives/topic/social-determinants-health/interventions-resources/quality-of-housing#11 (last visited Apr. 26, 2021).

⁹³ The Opportunity Atlas, https://www.opportunityatlas.org/ (last visited Apr. 26, 2021); Raj Chetty & Nathaniel Hendren, The Impacts of Neighborhoods on Intergenerational Mobility I: Childhood Exposure Effects, Quarterly J. of Econ. 133(3):1107-162 (2018), available at https://opportunityinsights.org/paper/neighborhoodsi/.

- Addressing Educational Disparities. As outlined above, school closures and the transition to remote education raised particular challenges for lower-income students, potentially exacerbating educational disparities, while increases in economic hardship among families could have long-lasting impacts on children's educational and economic prospects. Services under this prong would enhance educational supports to help mitigate impacts of the pandemic. Eligible services include:
 - New, expanded, or enhanced early learning services, including pre-kindergarten, Head Start, or partnerships between pre-kindergarten programs and local education authorities, or administration of those services;
 - Providing assistance to high-poverty school districts to advance equitable funding across districts and geographies;
 - Evidence-based educational services and practices to address the academic needs of students, including tutoring, summer, afterschool, and other extended learning and enrichment programs; and
 - Evidence-based practices to address the social, emotional, and mental health needs of students;
- Promoting Healthy Childhood Environments. Children's economic and family circumstances have a long-term impact on their future economic outcomes.⁹⁴ Increases in economic hardship, material insecurity, and parental stress and behavioral health challenges all raise the risk of long-term harms to today's children due to the pandemic. Eligible services to address this challenge include:

⁹⁴ See supra notes 52 and 84.

- New or expanded high-quality childcare to provide safe and supportive care for children;
- Home visiting programs to provide structured visits from health, parent educators, and social service professionals to pregnant women or families with young children to offer education and assistance navigating resources for economic support, health needs, or child development; and
- Enhanced services for child welfare-involved families and foster youth to provide support and training on child development, positive parenting, coping skills, or recovery for mental health and substance use challenges.

State, local, and Tribal governments are encouraged to use payments from the Fiscal Recovery Funds to respond to the direct and immediate needs of the pandemic and its negative economic impacts and, in particular, the needs of households and businesses that were disproportionately and negatively impacted by the public health emergency. As highlighted above, low-income communities and workers and people of color have faced more severe health and economic outcomes during the pandemic, with pre-existing social vulnerabilities like lowwage or insecure employment, concentrated neighborhoods with less economic opportunity, and pre-existing health disparities likely contributing to the magnified impact of the pandemic. The Fiscal Recovery Funds provide resources to not only respond to the immediate harms of the pandemic but also to mitigate its longer-term impact in compounding the systemic public health and economic challenges of disproportionately impacted populations. Treasury encourages recipients to consider funding uses that foster a strong, inclusive, and equitable recovery, especially uses with long-term benefits for health and economic outcomes. *Uses Outside the Scope of this Category*. Certain uses would not be within the scope of this eligible use category, although may be eligible under other eligible use categories. A general infrastructure project, for example, typically would not be included unless the project responded to a specific pandemic public health need (e.g., investments in facilities for the delivery of vaccines) or a specific negative economic impact like those described above (e.g., affordable housing in a QCT). The ARPA explicitly includes infrastructure if it is "necessary" and in water, sewer, or broadband. *See* Section II.D of this Supplementary Information. State, local, and Tribal governments also may use the Fiscal Recovery Funds under sections 602(c)(1)(C) or 603(c)(1)(C) to provide "government services" broadly to the extent of their reduction in revenue. *See* Section II.C of this Supplementary Information.

This category of eligible uses also would not include contributions to rainy day funds, financial reserves, or similar funds. Resources made available under this eligible use category are intended to help meet pandemic response needs and provide relief for households and businesses facing near- and long-term negative economic impacts. Contributions to rainy day funds and similar financial reserves would not address these needs or respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency but would rather constitute savings for future spending needs. Similarly, this eligible use category would not include payment of interest or principal on outstanding debt instruments, including, for example, short-term revenue or tax anticipation notes, or other debt service costs. As discussed below, payments from the Fiscal Recovery Funds are intended to be used prospectively and the Interim Final Rule precludes use of these funds to cover the costs of debt incurred prior to March 3, 2021. Fees or issuance costs associated with the issuance of new debt would also not be covered using payments from the Fiscal Recovery Funds because such costs would not themselves have been incurred to address

the needs of pandemic response or its negative economic impacts. The purpose of the Fiscal Recovery Funds is to provide fiscal relief that will permit State, local, and Tribal governments to continue to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

For the same reasons, this category of eligible uses would not include satisfaction of any obligation arising under or pursuant to a settlement agreement, judgment, consent decree, or judicially confirmed debt restructuring plan in a judicial, administrative, or regulatory proceeding, except to the extent the judgment or settlement requires the provision of services that would respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency. That is, satisfaction of a settlement or judgment would not itself respond to COVID-19 with respect to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, unless the settlement requires the provision of services or aid that did directly respond to these needs, as described above.

In addition, as described in Section V.III of this Supplementary Information, Treasury will establish reporting and record keeping requirements for uses within this category, including enhanced reporting requirements for certain types of uses.

Question 1: Are there other types of services or costs that Treasury should consider as eligible uses to respond to the public health impacts of COVID-19? Describe how these respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Question 2: The Interim Final Rule permits coverage of payroll and benefits costs of public health and safety staff primarily dedicated to COVID-19 response, as well as rehiring of public sector staff up to pre-pandemic levels. For how long should these measures remain in place? What other measures or presumptions might Treasury consider to assess the extent to which public sector staff are engaged in COVID-19 response, and therefore reimbursable, in an easilyadministrable manner? Question 3: The Interim Final Rule permits rehiring of public sector staff up to the government's pre-pandemic staffing level, which is measured based on employment as of January 27, 2021. Does this approach adequately measure the pre-pandemic staffing level in a manner that is both accurate and easily administrable? Why or why not?

Question 4: The Interim Final Rule permits deposits to Unemployment Insurance Trust Funds, or using funds to pay back advances, up to the pre-pandemic balance. What, if any, conditions should be considered to ensure that funds repair economic impacts of the pandemic and strengthen unemployment insurance systems?

Question 5: Are there other types of services or costs that Treasury should consider as eligible uses to respond to the negative economic impacts of COVID-19? Describe how these respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Question 6: What other measures, presumptions, or considerations could be used to assess "impacted industries" affected by the COVID-19 public health emergency?

Question 7: What are the advantages and disadvantages of using Qualified Census Tracts and services provided by Tribal governments to delineate where a broader range of eligible uses are presumed to be responsive to the public health and economic impacts of COVID-19? What other measures might Treasury consider? Are there other populations or geographic areas that were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic that should be explicitly included?

Question 8: Are there other services or costs that Treasury should consider as eligible uses to respond to the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 on low-income populations and communities? Describe how these respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, including its exacerbation of pre-existing challenges in these areas. Question 9: The Interim Final Rule includes eligible uses to support affordable housing and stronger neighborhoods in disproportionately-impacted communities. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of explicitly including other uses to support affordable housing and stronger neighborhoods, including rehabilitation of blighted properties or demolition of abandoned or vacant properties. In what ways does, or does not, this potential use address public health or economic impacts of the pandemic? What considerations, if any, could support use of Fiscal Recovery Funds in ways that do not result in resident displacement or loss of affordable housing units?

B. Premium Pay

Fiscal Recovery Funds payments may be used by recipients to provide premium pay to eligible workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency or to provide grants to third-party employers with eligible workers performing essential work.⁹⁵ These are workers who have been and continue to be relied on to maintain continuity of operations of essential critical infrastructure sectors, including those who are critical to protecting the health and wellbeing of their communities.

Since the start of the COVID-19 public health emergency in January 2020, essential workers have put their physical wellbeing at risk to meet the daily needs of their communities and to provide care for others. In the course of this work, many essential workers have contracted or died of COVID-19.⁹⁶ Several examples reflect the severity of the health impacts

⁹⁵ §§602(c)(1)(B), 603(c)(1)(B) of the Act.

⁹⁶ See, e.g., Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, COVID Data Tracker: Cases & Death among Healthcare Personnel, https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#health-care-personnel (last visited May 4, 2021); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, COVID Data Tracker: Confirmed COVID-19 Cases and Deaths among Staff and Rate per 1,000 Resident-Weeks in Nursing Homes, by Week – United States, https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#nursing-home-staff (last visited May 4, 2021).

for essential workers. Meat processing plants became "hotspots" for transmission, with 700 new cases reported at a single plant on a single day in May 2020.⁹⁷ In New York City, 120 employees of the Metropolitan Transit Authority were estimated to have died due to COVID-19 by mid-May 2020, with nearly 4,000 testing positive for the virus.⁹⁸ Furthermore, many essential workers are people of color or low-wage workers.⁹⁹ These workers, in particular, have borne a disproportionate share of the health and economic impacts of the pandemic. Such workers include:

- Staff at nursing homes, hospitals, and home care settings;
- Workers at farms, food production facilities, grocery stores, and restaurants;
- Janitors and sanitation workers;
- Truck drivers, transit staff, and warehouse workers;
- Public health and safety staff;
- Childcare workers, educators, and other school staff; and
- Social service and human services staff.

During the public health emergency, employers' policies on COVID-19-related hazard

pay have varied widely, with many essential workers not yet compensated for the heightened

⁹⁷ See, e.g., The Lancet, The plight of essential workers during the COVID-19 pandemic, Vol. 395, Issue 10237:1587 (May 23, 2020), *available at* https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736%2820%2931200-9/fulltext.

⁹⁸ Id.

⁹⁹ Joanna Gaitens et al., Covid-19 and essential workers: A narrative review of health outcomes and moral injury, Int'l J. of Envtl. Research and Pub. Health 18(4):1446 (Feb. 4, 2021), *available at* https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33557075/; Tiana N. Rogers et al., Racial Disparities in COVID-19 Mortality Among Essential Workers in the United States, World Med. & Health policy 12(3):311-27 (Aug. 5, 2020), *available at* https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/wmh3.358 (finding that vulnerability to coronavirus exposure was increased among non-Hispanic blacks, who disproportionately occupied the top nine essential occupations).

risks they have faced and continue to face.¹⁰⁰ Many of these workers earn lower wages on average and live in socioeconomically vulnerable communities as compared to the general population.¹⁰¹ A recent study found that 25 percent of essential workers were estimated to have low household income, with 13 percent in high-risk households.¹⁰² The low pay of many essential workers makes them less able to cope with the financial consequences of the pandemic or their work-related health risks, including working hours lost due to sickness or disruptions to childcare and other daily routines, or the likelihood of COVID-19 spread in their households or communities. Thus, the threats and costs involved with maintaining the ongoing operation of vital facilities and services have been, and continue to be, borne by those that are often the most vulnerable to the pandemic. The added health risk to essential workers is one prominent way in which the pandemic has amplified pre-existing socioeconomic inequities.

The Fiscal Recovery Funds will help respond to the needs of essential workers by allowing recipients to remunerate essential workers for the elevated health risks they have faced and continue to face during the public health emergency. To ensure that premium pay is targeted to workers that faced or face heightened risks due to the character of their work, the Interim Final Rule defines essential work as work involving regular in-person interactions or regular physical handling of items that were also handled by others. A worker would not be engaged in essential work and, accordingly may not receive premium pay, for telework performed from a residence.

¹⁰⁰ Economic Policy Institute, Only 30% of those working outside their home are receiving hazard pay (June 16, 2020), https://www.epi.org/press/only-30-of-those-working-outside-their-home-are-receiving-hazard-pay-black-and-hispanic-workers-are-most-concerned-about-bringing-the-coronavirus-home/.

¹⁰¹ McCormack, *supra* note 37.

 $^{^{102}}$ Id.

Sections 602(g)(2) and 603(g)(2) define eligible worker to mean "those workers needed to maintain continuity of operations of essential critical infrastructure sectors and additional sectors as each Governor of a State or territory, or each Tribal government, may designate as critical to protect the health and well-being of the residents of their State, territory, or Tribal government."¹⁰³ The rule incorporates this definition and provides a list of industries recognized as essential critical infrastructure sectors.¹⁰⁴ These sectors include healthcare, public health and safety, childcare, education, sanitation, transportation, and food production and services, among others as noted above. As provided under sections 602(g)(2) and 603(g)(2), the chief executive of each recipient has discretion to add additional sectors to this list, so long as additional sectors are deemed critical to protect the health and well-being of residents.

In providing premium pay to essential workers or grants to eligible employers, a recipient must consider whether the pay or grant would "respond to" to the worker or workers performing essential work. Premium pay or grants provided under this section respond to workers performing essential work if it addresses the heightened risk to workers who must be physically present at a jobsite and, for many of whom, the costs associated with illness were hardest to bear financially. Many of the workers performing critical essential services are low- or moderate-income workers, such as those described above. The ARPA recognizes this by defining premium pay to mean an amount up to \$13 per hour in addition to wages or remuneration the worker otherwise receives and in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$25,000 per eligible worker. To ensure the provision is implemented in a manner that compensates these workers, the Interim

 $^{^{103}}$ §§602(g)(2), 603(g)(2) of the Act.

¹⁰⁴ The list of critical infrastructure sectors provided in the Interim Final Rule is based on the list of essential workers under The Heroes Act, H.R. 6800, 116th Cong. (2020).

Final Rule provides that any premium pay or grants provided using the Fiscal Recovery Funds should prioritize compensation of those lower income eligible workers that perform essential work.

As such, providing premium pay to eligible workers responds to such workers by helping address the disparity between the critical services and risks taken by essential workers and the relatively low compensation they tend to receive in exchange. If premium pay would increase a worker's total pay above 150 percent of their residing state's average annual wage for all occupations, as defined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics, or their residing county's average annual wage, as defined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics, whichever is higher, on an annual basis, the State, local, or Tribal government must provide Treasury and make publicly available, whether for themselves or on behalf of a grantee, a written justification of how the premium pay or grant is responsive to workers performing essential worker during the public health emergency.¹⁰⁵

The threshold of 150 percent for requiring additional written justification is based on an analysis of the distribution of labor income for a sample of 20 occupations that generally correspond to the essential workers as defined in the Interim Final Rule.¹⁰⁶ For these

¹⁰⁵ County median annual wage is taken to be that of the metropolitan or nonmetropolitan area that includes the county. *See* U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, State Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates, https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/oessrcst.htm (last visited May 1, 2021); U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2020 Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Area Estimates listed by county or town, https://www.bls.gov/oes/current/county_links.htm (last visited May 1, 2021).

¹⁰⁶ Treasury performed this analysis with data from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2019 Annual Social and Economic Supplement. In determining which occupations to include in this analysis, Treasury excluded management and supervisory positions, as such positions may not necessarily involve regular in-person interactions or physical handling of items to the same extent as non-managerial positions.

occupations, labor income for the vast majority of workers was under 150 percent of average annual labor income across all occupations. Treasury anticipates that the threshold of 150 percent of the annual average wage will be greater than the annual average wage of the vast majority of eligible workers performing essential work. These enhanced reporting requirements help to ensure grants are directed to essential workers in critical infrastructure sectors and responsive to the impacts of the pandemic observed among essential workers, namely the misalignment between health risks and compensation. Enhanced reporting also provides transparency to the public. Finally, using a localized measure reflects differences in wages and cost of living across the country, making this standard administrable and reflective of essential worker incomes across a diverse range of geographic areas.

Furthermore, because premium pay is intended to compensate essential workers for heightened risk due to COVID-19, it must be entirely additive to a worker's regular rate of wages and other remuneration and may not be used to reduce or substitute for a worker's normal earnings. The definition of premium pay also clarifies that premium pay may be provided retrospectively for work performed at any time since the start of the COVID-19 public health emergency, where those workers have yet to be compensated adequately for work previously performed.¹⁰⁷ Treasury encourages recipients to prioritize providing retrospective premium pay where possible, recognizing that many essential workers have not yet received additional compensation for work conducted over the course of many months. Essential workers who have already earned premium pay for essential work performed during the COVID-19 public health

¹⁰⁷ However, such compensation must be "in addition to" remuneration or wages already received. That is, employers may not reduce such workers' current pay and use Fiscal Recovery Funds to compensate themselves for premium pay previously provided to the worker.

emergency remain eligible for additional payments, and an essential worker may receive both retrospective premium pay for prior work as well as prospective premium pay for current or ongoing work.

To ensure any grants respond to the needs of essential workers and are made in a fair and transparent manner, the rule imposes some additional reporting requirements for grants to third-party employers, including the public disclosure of grants provided. *See* Section VIII of this Supplementary Information, discussing reporting requirements. In responding to the needs of essential workers, a grant to an employer may provide premium pay to eligible workers performing essential work, as these terms are defined in the Interim Final Rule and discussed above. A grant provided to an employer may also be for essential work performed by eligible workers pursuant to a contract. For example, if a municipality contracts with a third party to perform sanitation work, the third-party contractor could be eligible to receive a grant to provide premium pay for these eligible workers.

Question 10: Are there additional sectors beyond those listed in the Interim Final Rule that should be considered essential critical infrastructure sectors?

Question 11: What, if any, additional criteria should Treasury consider to ensure that premium pay responds to essential workers?

Question 12: What consideration, if any, should be given to the criteria on salary threshold, including measure and level, for requiring written justification?

C. Revenue Loss

Recipients may use payments from the Fiscal Recovery Funds for the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the COVID-19

public health emergency.¹⁰⁸ Pursuant to sections 602(c)(1)(C) and 603(c)(1)(C) of the Act, a recipient's reduction in revenue is measured relative to the revenue collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the emergency.

Many State, local, and Tribal governments are experiencing significant budget shortfalls, which can have a devastating impact on communities. State government tax revenue from major sources were down 4.3 percent in the six months ended September 2020, relative to the same period 2019.¹⁰⁹ At the local level, nearly 90 percent of cities have reported being less able to meet the fiscal needs of their communities and, on average, cities expect a double-digit decline in general fund revenues in their fiscal year 2021.¹¹⁰ Similarly, surveys of Tribal governments and Tribal enterprises found majorities of respondents reporting substantial cost increases and revenue decreases, with Tribal governments reporting reductions in healthcare, housing, social services, and economic development activities as a result of reduced revenues.¹¹¹ These budget shortfalls are particularly problematic in the current environment, as State, local, and Tribal governments work to mitigate and contain the COVID-19 pandemic and help citizens weather the economic downturn.

¹⁰⁹ Major sources include personal income tax, corporate income tax, sales tax, and property tax. *See* Lucy Dadayan., States Reported Revenue Growth in July- – September Quarter, Reflecting Revenue Shifts from the Prior Quarter, State Tax and Econ. Rev. (Q. 3, 2020), *available at* https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/103938/state-tax-and-economic-review-2020-q3 0.pdf

¹⁰⁸ ARPA, *supra* note 16.

¹¹⁰ National League of Cities, City Fiscal Conditions (2020), *available at* https://www.nlc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/City Fiscal Conditions 2020 FINAL.pdf

¹¹¹ Surveys conducted by the Center for Indian Country Development at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis in March, April, and September 2020. *See* Moreno & Sobrepena, *supra* note 73.

Further, State, local, and Tribal government budgets affect the broader economic recovery. During the period following the 2007-2009 recession, State and local government budget pressures led to fiscal austerity that was a significant drag on the overall economic recovery.¹¹² Inflation-adjusted State and local government revenue did not return to the previous peak until 2013,¹¹³ while State, local, and Tribal government employment did not recover to its prior peak for over a decade, until August 2019 – just a few months before the COVID-19 public health emergency began.¹¹⁴

Sections 602(c)(1)(C) and 603(c)(1)(C) of the Act allow recipients facing budget shortfalls to use payments from the Fiscal Recovery Funds to avoid cuts to government services and, thus, enable State, local, and Tribal governments to continue to provide valuable services and ensure that fiscal austerity measures do not hamper the broader economic recovery. The Interim Final Rule implements these provisions by establishing a definition of "general revenue" for purposes of calculating a loss in revenue and by providing a methodology for calculating revenue lost due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

https://www.libertystreeteconomics.newyorkfed.org/2012/06/fiscal-drag-from-the-state-and-local-sector.html; Jiri Jonas, Great Recession and Fiscal Squeeze at U.S. Subnational Government Level, IMF Working Paper 12/184, (July 2012), *available at*

https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/wp/2012/wp12184.pdf; Gordon, *supra* note 9.

¹¹² See, e.g., Fitzpatrick, Haughwout & Setren, Fiscal Drag from the State and Local Sector?, Liberty Street Economics Blog, Federal Reserve Bank of New York (June 27, 2012),

¹¹³ State and local government general revenue from own sources, adjusted for inflation using the GDP price index. U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Survey of State Government Finances and U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, National Income and Product Accounts,

¹¹⁴ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, All Employees, State Government [CES9092000001] and All Employees, Local Government [CES9093000001], retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/CES9092000001 and https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/CES9093000001 (last visited Apr. 27, 2021).

General Revenue. The Interim Final Rule adopts a definition of "general revenue" based largely on the components reported under "General Revenue from Own Sources" in the Census Bureau's Annual Survey of State and Local Government Finances, and for purposes of this Interim Final Rule, helps to ensure that the components of general revenue would be calculated in a consistent manner.¹¹⁵ By relying on a methodology that is both familiar and comprehensive, this approach minimizes burden to recipients and provides consistency in the measurement of general revenue across a diverse set of recipients.

The Interim Final Rule defines the term "general revenue" to include revenues collected by a recipient and generated from its underlying economy and would capture a range of different types of tax revenues, as well as other types of revenue that are available to support government services.¹¹⁶ In calculating revenue, recipients should sum across all revenue streams covered as general revenue. This approach minimizes the administrative burden for recipients, provides for greater consistency across recipients, and presents a more accurate representation of the overall impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency on a recipient's revenue, rather than relying

¹¹⁵ U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Survey of State and Local Government Finances, https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/gov-finances.html (last visited Apr. 30, 2021).

¹¹⁶ The Interim Final Rule would define tax revenue in a manner consistent with the Census Bureau's definition of tax revenue, with certain changes (i.e., inclusion of revenue from liquor stores and certain intergovernmental transfers). Current charges are defined as "charges imposed for providing current services or for the sale of products in connection with general government activities." It includes revenues such as public education institution, public hospital, and toll revenues. Miscellaneous general revenue comprises of all other general revenue of governments from their own sources (i.e., other than liquor store, utility, and insurance trust revenue), including rents, royalties, lottery proceeds, and fines.

on financial reporting prepared by each recipient, which vary in methodology used and which generally aggregates revenue by purpose rather than by source.¹¹⁷

Consistent with the Census Bureau's definition of "general revenue from own sources," the definition of general revenue in the Interim Final Rule would exclude refunds and other correcting transactions, proceeds from issuance of debt or the sale of investments, and agency or private trust transactions. The definition of general revenue also would exclude revenue generated by utilities and insurance trusts. In this way, the definition of general revenue focuses on sources that are generated from economic activity and are available to fund government services, rather than a fund or administrative unit established to account for and control a particular activity.¹¹⁸ For example, public utilities typically require financial support from the State, local, or Tribal government, rather than providing revenue to such government, and any revenue that is generated by public utilities typically is used to support the public utility's continued operation, rather than being used as a source of revenue to support government services generally.

The definition of general revenue would include all revenue from Tribal enterprises, as this revenue is generated from economic activity and is available to fund government services. Tribes are not able to generate revenue through taxes in the same manner as State and local governments and, as a result, Tribal enterprises are critical sources of revenue for Tribal

¹¹⁷ Fund-oriented reporting, such as what is used under the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB), focuses on the types of uses and activities funded by the revenue, as opposed to the economic activity from which the revenue is sourced. *See* Governmental Accounting Standards Series, Statement No. 54 of the Governmental Accounting Standards Board: Fund Balance Reporting and Governmental Fund Type Definitions, No. 287-B (Feb. 2009).

¹¹⁸ *Supra* note 116.

governments that enable Tribal governments to provide a range of services, including elder care, health clinics, wastewater management, and forestry.

Finally, the term "general revenue" includes intergovernmental transfers between State and local governments, but excludes intergovernmental transfers from the Federal government, including Federal transfers made via a State to a local government pursuant to the CRF or as part of the Fiscal Recovery Funds. States and local governments often share or collect revenue on behalf of one another, which results in intergovernmental transfers. When attributing revenue to a unit of government, the Census Bureau's methodology considers which unit of government imposes, collects, and retains the revenue and assigns the revenue to the unit of government that meets at least two of those three factors.¹¹⁹ For purposes of measuring loss in general revenue due to the COVID-19 public health emergency and to better allow continued provision of government services, the retention and ability to use the revenue is a more critical factor. Accordingly, and to better measure the funds available for the provision of government services, the definition of general revenue would include intergovernmental transfers from States or local governments other than funds transferred pursuant to ARPA, CRF, or another Federal program. This formulation recognizes the importance of State transfers for local government revenue.¹²⁰

Calculation of Loss. In general, recipients will compute the extent of the reduction in revenue by comparing actual revenue to a counterfactual trend representing what could have been expected to occur in the absence of the pandemic. This approach measures losses in

¹¹⁹ U.S. Census Bureau, Government Finance and Employment Classification Manual (Dec. 2000), https://www2.census.gov/govs/class/classfull.pdf

¹²⁰ For example, in 2018, state transfers to localities accounted for approximately 27 percent of local revenues. U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Survey of State and Local Government Finances, Table 1 (2018), https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/2018/econ/local/public-use-datasets.html.

revenue relative to the most recent fiscal year prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency by using the most recent pre-pandemic fiscal year as the starting point for estimates of revenue growth absent the pandemic. In other words, the counterfactual trend starts with the last full fiscal year prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency and then assumes growth at a constant rate in the subsequent years. Because recipients can estimate the revenue shortfall at multiple points in time throughout the covered period as revenue is collected, this approach accounts for variation across recipients in the timing of pandemic impacts.¹²¹ Although revenue may decline for reasons unrelated to the COVID-19 public health emergency, to minimize the administrative burden on recipients and taking into consideration the devastating effects of the COVID-19 public health emergency, any diminution in actual revenues relative to the counterfactual pre-pandemic trend would be presumed to have been due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

For purposes of measuring revenue growth in the counterfactual trend, recipients may use a *growth adjustment* of either 4.1 percent per year or the recipient's average annual revenue growth over the three full fiscal years prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency, whichever is higher. The option of 4.1 percent represents the average annual growth across all State and local government "General Revenue from Own Sources" in the most recent three years

¹²¹ For example, following the 2007-09 recession, local government property tax collections did not begin to decline until 2011, suggesting that property tax collection declines can lag downturns. *See* U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Personal current taxes: State and local: Property taxes [S210401A027NBEA], retrieved from Federal Reserve Economic Data, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, https://fred.stlouisfed.org/graph/?g=r3YI (last visited Apr. 22, 2021). Estimating the reduction in revenue

https://fred.stlouisfed.org/graph/?g=r3YI (last visited Apr. 22, 2021). Estimating the reduction in revenue at points throughout the covered period will allow for this type of lagged effect to be taken into account during the covered period.

of available data.¹²² This approach provides recipients with a standardized growth adjustment when calculating the counterfactual revenue trend and thus minimizes administrative burden, while not disadvantaging recipients with revenue growth that exceeded the national average prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency by permitting these recipients to use their own revenue growth rate over the preceding three years.

Recipients should calculate the extent of the reduction in revenue as of four points in time: December 31, 2020; December 31, 2021; December 31, 2022; and December 31, 2023. To calculate the extent of the reduction in revenue at each of these dates, recipients should follow a four-step process:

- <u>Step 1</u>: Identify revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the public health emergency (i.e., last full fiscal year before January 27, 2020), called the *base year revenue*.
- <u>Step 2</u>: Estimate *counterfactual revenue*, which is equal to *base year revenue* *
 [(1 + growth adjustment) ^(n/12)], where n is the number of months elapsed since
 the end of the base year to the calculation date, and growth adjustment is the
 greater of 4.1 percent and the recipient's average annual revenue growth in the
 three full fiscal years prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- <u>Step 3</u>: Identify *actual revenue*, which equals revenues collected over the past twelve months as of the calculation date.

¹²² Together with revenue from liquor stores from 2015 to 2018. This estimate does not include any intergovernmental transfers. A recipient using the three-year average to calculate their growth adjustment must be based on the definition of general revenue, including treatment of intergovernmental transfers. 2015 – 2018 represents the most recent available data. *See* U.S. Census Bureau, State & Local Government Finance Historical Datasets and Tables (2018), https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/gov-finances/data/datasets.html.

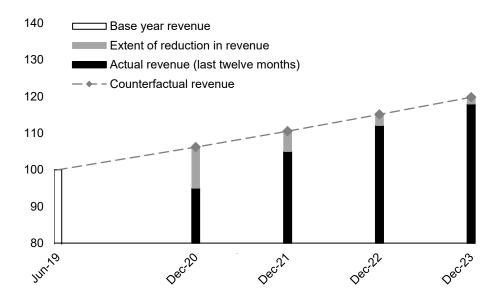
• <u>Step 4</u>: The extent of the reduction in revenue is equal to *counterfactual revenue* less *actual revenue*. If actual revenue exceeds counterfactual revenue, the extent of the reduction in revenue is set to zero for that calculation date.

For illustration, consider a hypothetical recipient with *base year revenue* equal to 100. In Step 2, the hypothetical recipient finds that 4.1 percent is greater than the recipient's average annual revenue growth in the three full fiscal years prior to the public health emergency. Furthermore, this recipient's base year ends June 30. In this illustration, *n* (months elapsed) and

counterfactual revenue would be equal to:

As of:	12/31/2020	12/31/2021	12/31/2022	12/31/2023
<i>n</i> (months elapsed)	18	30	42	54
Counterfactual revenue:	106.2	110.6	115.1	119.8

The overall methodology for calculating the reduction in revenue is illustrated in the figure below:



Upon receiving Fiscal Recovery Fund payments, recipients may immediately calculate revenue loss for the period ending December 31, 2020.

Sections 602(c)(1)(C) and 603(c)(1)(C) of the Act provide recipients with broad latitude to use the Fiscal Recovery Funds for the provision of government services. Government services can include, but are not limited to, maintenance or pay-go funded building¹²³ of infrastructure, including roads; modernization of cybersecurity, including hardware, software, and protection of critical infrastructure; health services; environmental remediation; school or educational services; and the provision of police, fire, and other public safety services. However, expenses associated with obligations under instruments evidencing financial indebtedness for borrowed money would not be considered the provision of government services, as these financing expenses do not directly provide services or aid to citizens. Specifically, government services would not include interest or principal on any outstanding debt instrument, including, for example, short-term revenue or tax anticipation notes, or fees or issuance costs associated with the issuance of new debt. For the same reasons, government services would not include satisfaction of any obligation arising under or pursuant to a settlement agreement, judgment, consent decree, or judicially confirmed debt restructuring in a judicial, administrative, or regulatory proceeding, except if the judgment or settlement required the provision of government services. That is, satisfaction of a settlement or judgment itself is not a government service, unless the settlement required the provision of government services. In addition, replenishing financial reserves (e.g., rainy day or other reserve funds) would not be considered provision of a

¹²³ Pay-go infrastructure funding refers to the practice of funding capital projects with cash-on-hand from taxes, fees, grants, and other sources, rather than with borrowed sums.

government service, since such expenses do not directly relate to the provision of government services.

Question 13: Are there sources of revenue that either should or should not be included in the Interim Final Rule's measure of "general revenue" for recipients? If so, discuss why these sources either should or should not be included.

Question 14: In the Interim Final Rule, recipients are expected to calculate the reduction in revenue on an aggregate basis. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of, and any potential concerns with, this approach, including circumstances in which it could be necessary or appropriate to calculate the reduction in revenue by source.

Question 15: Treasury is considering whether to take into account other factors, including actions taken by the recipient as well as the expiration of the COVID-19 public health emergency, in determining whether to presume that revenue losses are "due to" the COVID-19 public health emergency. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this presumption, including when, if ever, during the covered period it would be appropriate to reevaluate the presumption that all losses are attributable to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Question 16: Do recipients anticipate lagged revenue effects of the public health emergency? If so, when would these lagged effects be expected to occur, and what can Treasury to do support these recipients through its implementation of the program?

Question 17: In the Interim Final Rule, paying interest or principal on government debt is not considered provision of a government service. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this approach, including circumstances in which paying interest or principal on government debt could be considered provision of a government service.

D. Investments in Infrastructure

To assist in meeting the critical need for investments and improvements to existing infrastructure in water, sewer, and broadband, the Fiscal Recovery Funds provide funds to State, local, and Tribal governments to make necessary investments in these sectors. The Interim Final Rule outlines eligible uses within each category, allowing for a broad range of necessary investments in projects that improve access to clean drinking water, improve wastewater and stormwater infrastructure systems, and provide access to high-quality broadband service. Necessary investments are designed to provide an adequate minimum level of service and are unlikely to be made using private sources of funds. Necessary investments include projects that are required to maintain a level of service that, at least, meets applicable health-based standards, taking into account resilience to climate change, or establishes or improves broadband service to unserved or underserved populations to reach an adequate level to permit a household to work or attend school, and that are unlikely to be met with private sources of funds.¹²⁴

It is important that necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure be carried out in ways that produce high-quality infrastructure, avert disruptive and costly delays, and promote efficiency. Treasury encourages recipients to ensure that water, sewer, and broadband projects use strong labor standards, including project labor agreements and community benefits agreements that offer wages at or above the prevailing rate and include local hire provisions, not only to promote effective and efficient delivery of high-quality infrastructure projects but also to support the economic recovery through strong employment opportunities for workers. Using these practices in construction projects may help to ensure a reliable supply of

¹²⁴ Treasury notes that using funds to support or oppose collective bargaining would not be included as part of "necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure."

skilled labor that would minimize disruptions, such as those associated with labor disputes or workplace injuries.

To provide public transparency on whether projects are using practices that promote ontime and on-budget delivery, Treasury will seek information from recipients on their workforce plans and practices related to water, sewer, and broadband projects undertaken with Fiscal Recovery Funds. Treasury will provide additional guidance and instructions on the reporting requirements at a later date.

1. Water and Sewer Infrastructure

The ARPA provides funds to State, local, and Tribal governments to make necessary investments in water and sewer infrastructure.¹²⁵ By permitting funds to be used for water and sewer infrastructure needs, Congress recognized the critical role that clean drinking water and services for the collection and treatment of wastewater and stormwater play in protecting public health. Understanding that State, local, and Tribal governments have a broad range of water and sewer infrastructure needs, the Interim Final Rule provides these governments with wide latitude to identify investments in water and sewer infrastructure that are of the highest priority for their own communities, which may include projects on privately-owned infrastructure. The Interim Final Rule does this by aligning eligible uses of the Fiscal Recovery Funds with the wide range of types or categories of projects that would be eligible to receive financial assistance through the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) or Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF).¹²⁶

 $^{^{125}}$ §§ 602(c)(1)(D), 603(c)(1)(D) of the Act.

¹²⁶ Environmental Protection Agency, Drinking Water State Revolving fund, https://www.epa.gov/dwsrf (last visited Apr. 30, 2021); Environmental Protection Agency, Clean Water State Revolving Fund, https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf (last visited Apr. 30, 2021).

Established by the 1987 amendments¹²⁷ to the Clean Water Act (CWA),¹²⁸ the CWSRF provides financial assistance for a wide range of water infrastructure projects to improve water quality and address water pollution in a way that enables each State to address and prioritize the needs of their populations. The types of projects eligible for CWSRF assistance include projects to construct, improve, and repair wastewater treatment plants, control non-point sources of pollution, improve resilience of infrastructure to severe weather events, create green infrastructure, and protect waterbodies from pollution.¹²⁹ Each of the 51 State programs established under the CWSRF have the flexibility to direct funding to their particular environmental needs, and each State may also have its own statutes, rules, and regulations that guide project eligibility.¹³⁰

¹²⁷ Water Quality Act of 1987, P.L. 100-4.

¹²⁸ Federal Water Pollution Control Act as amended, codified at 33 U.S.C. §§ 1251 *et. seq.*, common name (Clean Water Act). In 2009, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act created the Green Project Reserve, which increased the focus on green infrastructure, water and energy efficient, and environmentally innovative projects. P.L. 111-5. The CWA was amended by the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 to further expand the CWSRF's eligibilities. P.L. 113-121. The CWSRF's eligibilities were further expanded in 2018 by the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018, P.L. 115-270.

¹²⁹ See Environmental Protection Agency, The Drinking Water State Revolving Funds: Financing America's Drinking Water, EPA-816-R-00-023 (Nov. 2000),

https://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPDF.cgi/200024WB.PDF?Dockey=200024WB.PDF; *See also* Environmental Protection Agency, Learn About the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/learn-about-clean-water-state-revolving-fund-cwsrf (last visited Apr. 30, 2021).

¹³⁰ 33 U.S.C. § 1383(c). *See also* Environmental Protection Agency, Overview of Clean Water State Revolving Fund Eligibilities(May 2016), https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-07/documents/overview_of_cwsrf_eligibilities_may_2016.pdf; Claudia Copeland, Clean Water Act: A Summary of the Law, Congressional Research Service (Oct. 18, 2016),

https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL30030.pdf; Jonathan L Ramseur, Wastewater Infrastructure: Overview, Funding, and Legislative Developments, Congressional Research Service (May 22, 2018), https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R44963.pdf.

The DWSRF was modeled on the CWSRF and created as part of the 1996 amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA),¹³¹ with the principal objective of helping public water systems obtain financing for improvements necessary to protect public health and comply with drinking water regulations.¹³² Like the CWSRF, the DWSRF provides States with the flexibility to meet the needs of their populations.¹³³ The primary use of DWSRF funds is to assist communities in making water infrastructure capital improvements, including the installation and replacement of failing treatment and distribution systems.¹³⁴ In administering these programs, States must give priority to projects that ensure compliance with applicable health and environmental safety requirements; address the most serious risks to human health; and assist systems most in need on a per household basis according to State affordability criteria.¹³⁵

By aligning use of Fiscal Recovery Funds with the categories or types of eligible projects under the existing EPA state revolving fund programs, the Interim Final Rule provides recipients with the flexibility to respond to the needs of their communities while ensuring that investments in water and sewer infrastructure made using Fiscal Recovery Funds are necessary. As discussed above, the CWSRF and DWSRF were designed to provide funding for projects that protect public health and safety by ensuring compliance with wastewater and drinking water health

06/documents/dwsrf_eligibility_handbook_june_13_2017_updated_508_version.pdf; Environmental Protection Agency, Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment: Sixth Report to Congress (March 2018), https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-

 $10/documents/corrected_sixth_drinking_water_infrastructure_needs_survey_and_assessment.pdf``.$

¹³³ Id.

¹³⁴ *Id*.

¹³⁵ 42 U.S.C. 300j-12(b)(3)(A).

¹³¹ 42 U.S.C. 300j-12.

¹³² Environmental Protection Agency, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Eligibility Handbook, (June 2017), https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-

standards.¹³⁶ The need to provide funding through the state revolving funds suggests that these projects are less likely to be addressed with private sources of funding; for example, by remediating failing or inadequate infrastructure, much of which is publicly owned, and by addressing non-point sources of pollution. This approach of aligning with the EPA state revolving fund programs also supports expedited project identification and investment so that needed relief for the people and communities most affected by the pandemic can deployed expeditiously and have a positive impact on their health and wellbeing as soon as possible. Further, the Interim Final Rule is intended to preserve flexibility for award recipients to direct funding to their own particular needs and priorities and would not preclude recipients from applying their own additional project eligibility criteria.

In addition, responding to the immediate needs of the COVID-19 public health emergency may have diverted both personnel and financial resources from other State, local, and Tribal priorities, including projects to ensure compliance with applicable water health and quality standards and provide safe drinking and usable water.¹³⁷ Through sections 602(c)(1)(D) and 603(c)(1)(D), the ARPA provides resources to address these needs. Moreover, using Fiscal Recovery Funds in accordance with the priorities of the CWA and SWDA to "assist systems most in need on a per household basis according to state affordability criteria" would also have

¹³⁶ Environmental Protection Agency, Learn About the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, https://www.epa.gov/cwsrf/learn-about-clean-water-state-revolving-fund-cwsrf (last visited Apr. 30, 2021); 42 U.S.C. 300j-12.

¹³⁷ House Committee on the Budget, State and Local Governments are in Dire Need of Federal Relief (Aug. 19, 2020), https://budget.house.gov/publications/report/state-and-local-governments-are-dire-need-federal-relief.

the benefit of providing vulnerable populations with safe drinking water that is critical to their health and, thus, their ability to work and learn.¹³⁸

Recipients may use Fiscal Recovery Funds to invest in a broad range of projects that improve drinking water infrastructure, such as building or upgrading facilities and transmission, distribution, and storage systems, including replacement of lead service lines. Given the lifelong impacts of lead exposure for children, and the widespread nature of lead service lines, Treasury encourages recipients to consider projects to replace lead service lines.

Fiscal Recovery Funds may also be used to support the consolidation or establishment of drinking water systems. With respect to wastewater infrastructure, recipients may use Fiscal Recovery Funds to construct publicly owned treatment infrastructure, manage and treat stormwater or subsurface drainage water, facilitate water reuse, and secure publicly owned treatment works, among other uses. Finally, consistent with the CWSRF and DWSRF, Fiscal Recovery Funds may be used for cybersecurity needs to protect water or sewer infrastructure, such as developing effective cybersecurity practices and measures at drinking water systems and publicly owned treatment works.

Many of the types of projects eligible under either the CWSRF or DWSRF also support efforts to address climate change. For example, by taking steps to manage potential sources of pollution and preventing these sources from reaching sources of drinking water, projects eligible under the DWSRF and the ARPA may reduce energy required to treat drinking water. Similarly,

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¹³⁸ Environmental Protection Agency, Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (Nov. 2019), https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2019-11/documents/fact_sheet_-

_dwsrf_overview_final_0.pdf; Environmental Protection Agency, National Benefits Analysis for Drinking Water Regulations, https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/national-benefits-analysis-drinking-water-regulations (last visited Apr. 30, 2020).

projects eligible under the CWSRF include measures to conserve and reuse water or reduce the energy consumption of public water treatment facilities. Treasury encourages recipients to consider green infrastructure investments and projects to improve resilience to the effects of climate change. For example, more frequent and extreme precipitation events combined with construction and development trends have led to increased instances of stormwater runoff, water pollution, and flooding. Green infrastructure projects that support stormwater system resiliency could include rain gardens that provide water storage and filtration benefits, and green streets, where vegetation, soil, and engineered systems are combined to direct and filter rainwater from impervious surfaces. In cases of a natural disaster, recipients may also use Fiscal Recovery Funds to provide relief, such as interconnecting water systems or rehabilitating existing wells during an extended drought.

Question 18: What are the advantages and disadvantages of aligning eligible uses with the eligible project type requirements of the DWSRF and CWSRF? What other water or sewer project categories, if any, should Treasury consider in addition to DWSRF and CWSRF eligible projects? Should Treasury consider a broader general category of water and sewer projects?

Question 19: What additional water and sewer infrastructure categories, if any, should Treasury consider to address and respond to the needs of unserved, undeserved, or rural communities? How do these projects differ from DWSFR and CWSRF eligible projects?

Question 20: What new categories of water and sewer infrastructure, if any, should Treasury consider to support State, local, and Tribal governments in mitigating the negative impacts of climate change? Discuss emerging technologies and processes that support resiliency of water and sewer infrastructure. Discuss any challenges faced by States and local governments when pursuing or implementing climate resilient infrastructure projects.

Question 21: Infrastructure projects related to dams and reservoirs are generally not eligible under the CWSRF and DWSRF categories. Should Treasury consider expanding eligible infrastructure under the Interim Final Rule to include dam and reservoir projects? Discuss public health, environmental, climate, or equity benefits and costs in expanding the eligibility to include these types of projects.

2. Broadband Infrastructure.

The COVID-19 public health emergency has underscored the importance of universally available, high-speed, reliable, and affordable broadband coverage as millions of Americans rely on the internet to participate in, among critical activities, remote school, healthcare, and work. Recognizing the need for such connectivity, the ARPA provides funds to State, territorial, local, and Tribal governments to make necessary investments in broadband infrastructure.

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) highlighted the growing necessity of broadband in daily lives through its analysis of NTIA Internet Use Survey data, noting that Americans turn to broadband Internet access service for every facet of daily life including work, study, and healthcare.¹³⁹ With increased use of technology for daily activities and the movement by many businesses and schools to operating remotely during the pandemic, broadband has become even more critical for people across the country to carry out their daily lives.

¹³⁹ See, e.g., https://www.ntia.gov/blog/2020/more-half-american-households-used-internet-health-related-activities-2019-ntia-data-show; https://www.ntia.gov/blog/2020/nearly-third-american-employees-worked-remotely-2019-ntia-data-show; and generally, https://www.ntia.gov/data/digital-nation-data-explorer.

By at least one measure, however, tens of millions of Americans live in areas where there is no broadband infrastructure that provides download speeds greater than 25 Mbps and upload speeds of 3 Mbps.¹⁴⁰ By contrast, as noted below, many households use upload and download speeds of 100 Mbps to meet their daily needs. Even in areas where broadband infrastructure exists, broadband access may be out of reach for millions of Americans because it is unaffordable, as the United States has some of the highest broadband prices in the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).¹⁴¹ There are disparities in availability as well; historically, Americans living in territories and Tribal lands as well as rural areas have disproportionately lacked sufficient broadband infrastructure.¹⁴² Moreover, rapidly growing demand has, and will likely continue to, quickly outpace infrastructure capacity, a phenomenon acknowledged by various states around the country that have set scalability requirements to account for this anticipated growth in demand.¹⁴³

¹⁴⁰ As an example, data from the Federal Communications Commission shows that as of June 2020, 9.07 percent of the U.S. population had no available cable or fiber broadband providers providing greater than 25 Mbps download speeds and 3 Mbps upload speeds. Availability was significantly less for rural versus urban populations, with 35.57 percent of the rural population lacking such access, compared with 2.57 percent of the urban population. Availability was also significantly less for tribal versus non-tribal populations, with 35.93 percent of the tribal population lacking such access, compared with 8.74 of the non-tribal population. Federal Communications Commission, Fixed Broadband Deployment, https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/#/ (last visited May 9, 2021).

¹⁴¹ How Do U.S. Internet Costs Compare To The Rest Of The World?, BroadbandSearch Blog Post, *available at* https://www.broadbandsearch.net/blog/internet-costs-compared-worldwide.

¹⁴² See, e.g., Federal Communications Commission, Fourteenth Broadband Deployment Report, *available at* https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-21-18A1.pdf.

¹⁴³ See, e.g., Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity, Broadband Grants, h (last visited May 9, 2021), https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/ConnectIllinois/Pages/BroadbandGrants.aspx; Kansas Office of Broadband Development, Broadband Acceleration Grant,

https://www.kansascommerce.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Broadband-Acceleration-Grant.pdf (last visited May 9, 2021); New York State Association of Counties, Universal Broadband: Deploying High Speed Internet Access in NYS (Jul. 2017),

https://www.nysac.org/files/BroadbandUpdateReport2017(1).pdf.

The Interim Final Rule provides that eligible investments in broadband are those that are designed to provide services meeting adequate speeds and are provided to unserved and underserved households and businesses. Understanding that States, territories, localities, and Tribal governments have a wide range of varied broadband infrastructure needs, the Interim Final Rule provides award recipients with flexibility to identify the specific locations within their communities to be served and to otherwise design the project.

Under the Interim Final Rule, eligible projects are expected to be designed to deliver, upon project completion, service that reliably meets or exceeds symmetrical upload and download speeds of 100 Mbps. There may be instances in which it would not be practicable for a project to deliver such service speeds because of the geography, topography, or excessive costs associated with such a project. In these instances, the affected project would be expected to be designed to deliver, upon project completion, service that reliably meets or exceeds 100 Mbps download and between at least 20 Mbps and 100 Mbps upload speeds and be scalable to a minimum of 100 Mbps symmetrical for download and upload speeds.¹⁴⁴ In setting these standards, Treasury identified speeds necessary to ensure that broadband infrastructure is sufficient to enable users to generally meet household needs, including the ability to support the simultaneous use of work, education, and health applications, and also sufficiently robust to meet increasing household demands for bandwidth. Treasury also recognizes that different communities and their members may have a broad range of internet needs and that those needs may change over time.

¹⁴⁴ This scalability threshold is consistent with scalability requirements used in other jurisdictions. *Id.*

In considering the appropriate speed requirements for eligible projects, Treasury considered estimates of typical households demands during the pandemic. Using the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Broadband Speed Guide, for example, a household with two telecommuters and two to three remote learners today are estimated to need 100 Mbps download to work simultaneously.¹⁴⁵ In households with more members, the demands may be greater, and in households with fewer members, the demands may be less.

In considering the appropriate speed requirements for eligible projects, Treasury also considered data usage patterns and how bandwidth needs have changed over time for U.S. households and businesses as people's use of technology in their daily lives has evolved. In the few years preceding the pandemic, market research data showed that average upload speeds in the United States surpassed over 10 Mbps in 2017¹⁴⁶ and continued to increase significantly, with the average upload speed as of November, 2019 increasing to 48.41 Mbps,¹⁴⁷ attributable, in part to a shift to using broadband and the internet by individuals and businesses to create and share content using video sharing, video conferencing, and other applications.¹⁴⁸

The increasing use of data accelerated markedly during the pandemic as households across the country became increasingly reliant on tools and applications that require greater

¹⁴⁵ Federal Communications Commission, Broadband Speed Guide,

https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/broadband-speed-guide (last visited Apr. 30, 2021).

¹⁴⁶ Letter from Lisa R. Youngers, President and CEO of Fiber Broadband Association to FCC, WC Docket No. 19-126 (filed Jan. 3, 2020), including an Appendix with research from RVA LLC, *Data Review Of The Importance of Upload Speeds* (Jan. 2020), and Ookla speed test data, *available at https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/101030085118517/FCC%20RDOF%20Jan%203%20Ex%20Parte.pdf*.

Additional information on historic growth in data usage is provided in Schools, Health & Libraries Broadband Coalition, *Common Sense Solutions for Closing the Digital Divide*, Apr. 29, 2021.

¹⁴⁷ *Id. See also* United States's Mobile and Broadband Internet Speeds - Speedtest Global Index, *available at* https://www.speedtest.net/global-index/united-states#fixed.

¹⁴⁸ *Id*.

internet capacity, both to download data but also to upload data. Sending information became as important as receiving it. A video consultation with a healthcare provider or participation by a child in a live classroom with a teacher and fellow students requires video to be sent and received simultaneously.¹⁴⁹ As an example, some video conferencing technology platforms indicate that download and upload speeds should be roughly equal to support two-way, interactive video meetings.¹⁵⁰ For both work and school, client materials or completed school assignments, which may be in the form of PDF files, videos, or graphic files, also need to be shared with others. This is often done by uploading materials to a collaboration site, and the upload speed available to a user can have a significant impact on the time it takes for the content to be shared with others. ¹⁵¹ These activities require significant capacity from home internet connections to both download and upload data, especially when there are multiple individuals in one household engaging in these activities simultaneously.

This need for increased broadband capacity during the pandemic was reflected in increased usage patterns seen over the last year. As OpenVault noted in recent advisories, the pandemic significantly increased the amount of data users consume. Among data users observed by OpenVault, per-subscriber average data usage for the fourth quarter of 2020 was 482.6 gigabytes per month, representing a 40 percent increase over the 344 gigabytes consumed in the fourth quarter of 2019 and a 26 percent increase over the third quarter 2020 average of

¹⁵⁰ See, e.g., Zoom, System Requirements for Windows, macOS, and Linux, https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362023-System-requirements-for-Windows-macOS-and-Linux#h d278c327-e03d-4896-b19a-96a8f3c0c69c (last visited May 8, 2021).

¹⁴⁹ One high definition Zoom meeting or class requires approximately 3.8 Mbps/3.0 Mbps (up/down).

¹⁵¹ By one estimate, to upload a one gigabit video file to YouTube would take 15 minutes at an upload speed of 10 Mbps compared with 1 minute, 30 seconds at an upload speed of 100 Mbps, and 30 seconds at an upload speed of 300 Mbps. Reviews.org: What is Symmetrical Internet? (March 2020).

383.8 gigabytes.¹⁵² OpenVault also noted significant increases in upstream usage among the data users it observed, with upstream data usage growing 63 percent – from 19 gigabytes to 31 gigabytes – between December, 2019 and December, 2020.¹⁵³ According to an OECD Broadband statistic from June 2020, the largest percentage of U.S. broadband subscribers have services providing speeds between 100 Mbps and 1 Gbps.¹⁵⁴

Jurisdictions and Federal programs are increasingly responding to the growing demands of their communities for both heightened download and upload speeds. For example, Illinois now requires 100 Mbps symmetrical service as the construction standard for its state broadband grant programs. This standard is also consistent with speed levels, particularly download speed levels, prioritized by other Federal programs supporting broadband projects. Bids submitted as part of the FCC in its Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF), established to support the construction of broadband networks in rural communities across the country, are given priority if they offer faster service, with the service offerings of 100 Mbps download and

¹⁵² OVBI: Covid-19 Drove 15 percent Increase in Broadband Traffic in 2020, OpenVault, Quarterly Advisory, (Feb. 10, 2021), *available at* https://openvault.com/ovbi-covid-19-drove-51-increase-in-broadband-traffic-in-2020; *See* OpenVault's data set incorporates information on usage by subscribers across multiple continents, including North America and Europe. Additional data and detail on increases in the amount of data users consume and the broadband speeds they are using is provided in *OpenVault Broadband Insights Report Q4*, Quarterly Advisory (Feb. 10, 2021), *available at* https://openvault.com/complimentary-report-4q20/.

¹⁵³ OVBI Special Report: 202 Upstream Growth Nearly 4X of Pre-Pandemic Years, OpenVault, Quarterly Advisory, (April 1, 20201), *available at* https://openvault.com/ovbi-special-report-2020-upstream-growth-rate-nearly-4x-of-pre-pandemic-years/; Additional data is provided in *OpenVault Broadband Insights Pandemic Impact on Upstream Broadband Usage and Network Capacity, available at* https://openvault.com/upstream-whitepaper/.

¹⁵⁴ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Fixed broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, per speed tiers (June 2020), https://www.oecd.org/sti/broadband/5.1-FixedBB-SpeedTiers-2020-06.xls www.oecd.org/sti/broadband/broadband-statistics.

20 Mbps upload being included in the "above baseline" performance tier set by the FCC.¹⁵⁵ The Broadband Infrastructure Program (BBIP)¹⁵⁶ of the Department of Commerce, which provides Federal funding to deploy broadband infrastructure to eligible service areas of the country also prioritizes projects designed to provide broadband service with a download speed of not less than 100 Mbps and an upload speed of not less than 20 Mbps.¹⁵⁷

The 100 Mbps upload and download speeds will support the increased and growing needs of households and businesses. Recognizing that, in some instances, 100 Mbps upload speed may be impracticable due to geographical, topographical, or financial constraints, the Interim Final Rule permits upload speeds of between at least 20 Mbps and 100 Mbps in such instances. To provide for investments that will accommodate technologies requiring symmetry in download and upload speeds, as noted above, eligible projects that are not designed to deliver, upon project completion, service that reliably meets or exceeds symmetrical speeds of 100 Mbps because it would be impracticable to do so should be designed so that they can be scalable to such speeds. Recipients are also encouraged to prioritize investments in fiber optic infrastructure where feasible, as such advanced technology enables the next generation of application solutions for all communities.

Under the Interim Final Rule, eligible projects are expected to focus on locations that are unserved or underserved. The Interim Final Rule treats users as being unserved or underserved if they lack access to a wireline connection capable of reliably delivering at least minimum speeds

¹⁵⁵ *Rural Digital Opportunity Fund*, Report and Order, 35 FCC Rcd 686, 690, para. 9 (2020), *available at* https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-launches-20-billion-rural-digital-opportunity-fund-0.

¹⁵⁶ The BIPP was authorized by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, Section 905, Public Law 116-260, 134 Stat. 1182 (Dec. 27, 2020).

¹⁵⁷ Section 905(d)(4) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021.

of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload as households and businesses lacking this level of access are generally not viewed as being able to originate and receive high-quality voice, data, graphics, and video telecommunications. This threshold is consistent with the FCC's benchmark for an "advanced telecommunications capability."¹⁵⁸ This threshold is also consistent with thresholds used in other Federal programs to identify eligible areas to be served by programs to improve broadband services. For example, in the FCC's RDOF program, eligible areas include those without current (or already funded) access to terrestrial broadband service providing 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload speeds.¹⁵⁹ The Department of Commerce's BBIP also considers households to be "unserved" generally if they lack access to broadband service with a download speed of not less than 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload, among other conditions. In selecting an area to be served by a project, recipients are encouraged to avoid investing in locations that have existing agreements to build reliable wireline service with minimum speeds of 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload by December 31, 2024, in order to avoid duplication of efforts and resources.

Recipients are also encouraged to consider ways to integrate affordability options into their program design. To meet the immediate needs of unserved and underserved households and businesses, recipients are encouraged to focus on projects that deliver a physical broadband connection by prioritizing projects that achieve last mile-connections. Treasury also encourages recipients to prioritize support for broadband networks owned, operated by, or affiliated with

¹⁵⁸ Deployment Report, supra note 142.

¹⁵⁹ Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, supra note 156.

local governments, non-profits, and co-operatives—providers with less pressure to turn profits and with a commitment to serving entire communities.

Under sections 602(c)(1)(A) and 603(c)(1)(A), assistance to households facing negative economic impacts due to COVID-19 is also an eligible use, including internet access or digital literacy assistance. As discussed above, in considering whether a potential use is eligible under this category, a recipient must consider whether, and the extent to which, the household has experienced a negative economic impact from the pandemic.

Question 22: What are the advantages and disadvantages of setting minimum symmetrical download and upload speeds of 100 Mbps? What other minimum standards would be appropriate and why?

Question 23: Would setting such a minimum be impractical for particular types of projects? If so, where and on what basis should those projects be identified? How could such a standard be set while also taking into account the practicality of using this standard in particular types of projects? In addition to topography, geography, and financial factors, what other constraints, if any, are relevant to considering whether an investment is impracticable?

Question 24: What are the advantages and disadvantages of setting a minimum level of service at 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload in projects where it is impracticable to set minimum symmetrical download and upload speeds of 100 Mbps? What are the advantages and disadvantages of setting a scalability requirement in these cases? What other minimum standards would be appropriate and why?

Question 25: What are the advantages and disadvantages of focusing these investments on those without access to a wireline connection that reliably delivers 25 Mbps download by 3 Mbps upload? Would another threshold be appropriate and why?

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Question 26: What are the advantages and disadvantages of setting any particular threshold for identifying unserved or underserved areas, minimum speed standards or scalability minimum? Are there other standards that should be set (e.g., latency)? If so, why and how? How can such threshold, standards, or minimum be set in a way that balances the public's interest in making sure that reliable broadband services meeting the daily needs of all Americans are available throughout the country with the providing recipients flexibility to meet the varied needs of their communities?

III. Restrictions on Use

As discussed above, recipients have considerable flexibility to use Fiscal Recovery Funds to address the diverse needs of their communities. To ensure that payments from the Fiscal Recovery Funds are used for these congressionally permitted purposes, the ARPA includes two provisions that further define the boundaries of the statute's eligible uses. Section 602(c)(2)(A) of the Act provides that States and territories may not "use the funds ... to either directly or indirectly offset a reduction in ... net tax revenue ... resulting from a change in law, regulation, or administrative interpretation during the covered period that reduces any tax ... or delays the imposition of any tax or tax increase." In addition, sections 602(c)(2)(B) and 603(c)(2) prohibit any recipient, including cities, nonentitlement units of government, and counties, from using Fiscal Recovery Funds for deposit into any pension fund. These restrictions support the use of funds for the congressionally permitted purposes described in Section II of this Supplementary Information by providing a backstop against the use of funds for purposes outside of the eligible use categories.

These provisions give force to Congress's clear intent that Fiscal Recovery Funds be spent within the four eligible uses identified in the statute—(1) to respond to the public health

emergency and its negative economic impacts, (2) to provide premium pay to essential workers, (3) to provide government services to the extent of eligible governments' revenue losses, and (4) to make necessary water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure investments—and not otherwise. These four eligible uses reflect Congress's judgment that the Fiscal Recovery Funds should be expended in particular ways that support recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency. The further restrictions reflect Congress's judgment that tax cuts and pension deposits do not fall within these eligible uses. The Interim Final Rule describes how Treasury will identify when such uses have occurred and how it will recoup funds put toward these impermissible uses and, as discussed in Section VIII of this Supplementary Information, establishes a reporting framework for monitoring the use of Fiscal Recovery Funds for eligible uses.

A. Deposit into Pension Funds

The statute provides that recipients may not use Fiscal Recovery Funds for "deposit into any pension fund." For the reasons discussed below, Treasury interprets "deposit" in this context to refer to an extraordinary payment into a pension fund for the purpose of reducing an accrued, unfunded liability. More specifically, the Interim Final Rule does not permit this assistance to be used to make a payment into a pension fund if both:

- 1. the payment reduces a liability incurred prior to the start of the COVID-19 public health emergency, and
- 2. the payment occurs outside the recipient's regular timing for making such payments.

Under this interpretation, a "deposit" is distinct from a "payroll contribution," which occurs when employers make payments into pension funds on regular intervals, with contribution amounts based on a pre-determined percentage of employees' wages and salaries.

As discussed above, eligible uses for premium pay and responding to the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency include hiring and compensating public sector employees. Interpreting the scope of "deposit" to exclude contributions that are part of payroll contributions is more consistent with these eligible uses and would reduce administrative burden for recipients. Accordingly, if an employee's wages and salaries are an eligible use of Fiscal Recovery Funds, recipients may treat the employee's covered benefits as an eligible use of Fiscal Recovery Funds. For purposes of the Fiscal Recovery Funds, covered benefits include costs of all types of leave (vacation, family-related, sick, military, bereavement, sabbatical, jury duty), employee insurance (health, life, dental, vision), retirement (pensions, 401(k)), unemployment benefit plans (Federal and State), workers' compensation insurance, and Federal Insurance Contributions Act taxes (which includes Social Security and Medicare taxes).

Treasury anticipates that this approach to employees' covered benefits will be comprehensive and, for employees whose wage and salary costs are eligible expenses, will allow all covered benefits listed in the previous paragraph to be eligible under the Fiscal Recovery Funds. Treasury expects that this will minimize the administrative burden on recipients by treating all the specified covered benefit types as eligible expenses, for employees whose wage and salary costs are eligible expenses.

Question 27: Beyond a "deposit" and a "payroll contribution," are there other types of payments into a pension fund that Treasury should consider?

B. Offset a Reduction in Net Tax Revenue

For States and territories (recipient governments¹⁶⁰), section 602(c)(2)(A)—the offset provision—prohibits the use of Fiscal Recovery Funds to directly or indirectly offset a reduction in net tax revenue resulting from a change in law, regulation, or administrative interpretation¹⁶¹ during the covered period. If a State or territory uses Fiscal Recovery Funds to offset a reduction in net tax revenue, the ARPA provides that the State or territory must repay to the Treasury an amount equal to the lesser of (i) the amount of the applicable reduction attributable to the impermissible offset and (ii) the amount received by the State or territory under the ARPA. *See* Section IV of this Supplementary Information. As discussed below Section IV of this Supplementary Information, a State or territory that chooses to use Fiscal Recovery Funds to offset a reduction in net tax revenue does not forfeit its entire allocation of Fiscal Recovery Funds (unless it misused the full allocation to offset a reduction in net tax revenue) or any non-ARPA funding received.

The Interim Final Rule implements these conditions by establishing a framework for States and territories to determine the cost of changes in law, regulation, or interpretation that reduce tax revenue and to identify and value the sources of funds that will offset—i.e., cover the cost of—any reduction in net tax revenue resulting from such changes. A recipient government would only be considered to have used Fiscal Recovery Funds to offset a reduction in net tax revenue resulting from changes in law, regulation, or interpretation if, and to the extent that, the

¹⁶⁰ In this sub-section, "recipient governments" refers only to States and territories. In other sections, "recipient governments" refers more broadly to eligible governments receiving funding from the Fiscal Recovery Funds.

¹⁶¹ For brevity, referred to as "changes in law, regulation, or interpretation" for the remainder of this preamble.

recipient government could not identify sufficient funds from sources other than the Fiscal Recovery Funds to offset the reduction in net tax revenue. If sufficient funds from other sources cannot be identified to cover the full cost of the reduction in net tax revenue resulting from changes in law, regulation, or interpretation, the remaining amount not covered by these sources will be considered to have been offset by Fiscal Recovery Funds, in contravention of the offset provision. The Interim Final Rule recognizes three sources of funds that may offset a reduction in net tax revenue other than Fiscal Recovery Funds—organic growth, increases in revenue (e.g., an increase in a tax rate), and certain cuts in spending.

In order to reduce burden, the Interim Final Rule's approach also incorporates the types of information and modeling already used by States and territories in their own fiscal and budgeting processes. By incorporating existing budgeting processes and capabilities, States and territories will be able to assess and evaluate the relationship of tax and budget decisions to uses of the Fiscal Recovery Funds based on information they likely have or can obtain. This approach ensures that recipient governments have the information they need to understand the implications of their decisions regarding the use of the Fiscal Recovery Funds—and, in particular, whether they are using the funds to directly or indirectly offset a reduction in net tax revenue, making them potentially subject to recoupment.

Reporting on both the eligible uses and on a State's or territory's covered tax changes that would reduce tax revenue will enable identification of, and recoupment for, use of Fiscal Recovery Funds to directly offset reductions in tax revenue resulting from tax relief. Moreover, this approach recognizes that, because money is fungible, even if Fiscal Recovery Funds are not explicitly or directly used to cover the costs of changes that reduce net tax revenue, those funds may be used in a manner inconsistent with the statute by indirectly being used to substitute for

the State's or territory's funds that would otherwise have been needed to cover the costs of the reduction. By focusing on the cost of changes that reduce net tax revenue—and how a recipient government is offsetting those reductions in constructing its budget over the covered period—the framework prevents efforts to use Fiscal Recovery Funds to indirectly offset reductions in net tax revenue for which the recipient government has not identified other offsetting sources of funding.

As discussed in greater detail below in this preamble, the framework set forth in the Interim Final Rule establishes a step-by-step process for determining whether, and the extent to which, Fiscal Recovery Funds have been used to offset a reduction in net tax revenue. Based on information reported annually by the recipient government:

- First, each year, each recipient government will identify and value the changes in law, regulation, or interpretation that would result in a reduction in net tax revenue, as it would in the ordinary course of its budgeting process. The sum of these values in the year for which the government is reporting is the amount it needs to "pay for" with sources other than Fiscal Recovery Funds (total value of revenue reducing changes).
- Second, the Interim Final Rule recognizes that it may be difficult to predict how a change would affect net tax revenue in future years and, accordingly, provides that if the total value of the changes in the year for which the recipient government is reporting is below a de minimis level, as discussed below, the recipient government need not identify any sources of funding to pay for revenue reducing changes and will not be subject to recoupment.
- Third, a recipient government will consider the amount of actual tax revenue recorded in the year for which they are reporting. If the recipient government's actual tax revenue is

greater than the amount of tax revenue received by the recipient for the fiscal year ending 2019, adjusted annually for inflation, the recipient government will not be considered to have violated the offset provision because there will not have been a reduction in net tax revenue.

- Fourth, if the recipient government's actual tax revenue is less than the amount of tax revenue received by the recipient government for the fiscal year ending 2019, adjusted annually for inflation, in the reporting year the recipient government will identify any sources of funds that have been used to permissibly offset the total value of covered tax changes other than Fiscal Recovery Funds. These are:
 - State or territory tax changes that would increase any source of general fund revenue, such as a change that would increase a tax rate; and
 - Spending cuts in areas not being replaced by Fiscal Recovery Funds.

The recipient government will calculate the value of revenue reduction remaining after applying these sources of offsetting funding to the total value of revenue reducing changes—that, is, how much of the tax change has not been paid for. The recipient government will then compare that value to the difference between the baseline and actual tax revenue. A recipient government will not be required to repay to the Treasury an amount that is greater than the recipient government's actual tax revenue shortfall relative to the baseline (i.e., fiscal year 2019 tax revenue adjusted for inflation). This "revenue reduction cap," together with Step 3, ensures that recipient governments can use organic revenue growth to offset the cost of revenue reductions.

• Finally, if there are any amounts that could be subject to recoupment, Treasury will provide notice to the recipient government of such amounts. This process is discussed in greater detail in Section IV of this Supplementary Information.

Together, these steps allow Treasury to identify the amount of reduction in net tax revenue that both is attributable to covered changes and has been directly or indirectly offset with Fiscal Recovery Funds. This process ensures Fiscal Recovery Funds are used in a manner consistent with the statute's defined eligible uses and the offset provision's limitation on these eligible uses, while avoiding undue interference with State and territory decisions regarding tax and spending policies.

The Interim Final Rule also implements a process for recouping Fiscal Recovery Funds that were used to offset reductions in net tax revenue, including the calculation of any amounts that may be subject to recoupment, a process for a recipient government to respond to a notice of recoupment, and clarification regarding amounts excluded from recoupment. *See* Section IV of this Supplementary Information.

The Interim Final Rule includes several definitions that are applicable to the implementation of the offset provision.

Covered change. The offset provision is triggered by a reduction in net tax revenue resulting from "a change in law, regulation, or administrative interpretation." A covered change includes any final legislative or regulatory action, a new or changed administrative interpretation, and the phase-in or taking effect of any statute or rule where the phase-in or taking effect was not prescribed prior to the start of the covered period. Changed administrative interpretations would not include corrections to replace prior inaccurate interpretations; such corrections would instead be treated as changes implementing legislation enacted or regulations issued prior to the covered period; the operative change in those circumstances is the underlying legislation or regulation that occurred prior to the covered period. Moreover, only the changes within the control of the State or territory are considered covered changes. Covered changes do not include a change in rate that is triggered automatically and based on statutory or regulatory criteria in effect prior to the covered period. For example, a state law that sets its earned income tax credit (EITC) at a fixed percentage of the Federal EITC will see its EITC payments automatically increase-and thus its tax revenue reduced—because of the Federal government's expansion of the EITC in the ARPA.¹⁶² This would not be considered a covered change. In addition, the offset provision applies only to actions for which the change in policy occurs during the covered period; it excludes regulations or other actions that implement a change or law substantively enacted prior to March 3, 2021. Finally, Treasury has determined and previously announced that income tax changes—even those made during the covered period—that simply conform with recent changes in Federal law (including those to conform to recent changes in Federal taxation of unemployment insurance benefits and taxation of loan forgiveness under the Paycheck Protection Program) are permissible under the offset provision.

Baseline. For purposes of measuring a reduction in net tax revenue, the Interim Final Rule measures actual changes in tax revenue relative to a revenue baseline (baseline). The baseline will be calculated as fiscal year 2019 (FY 2019) tax revenue indexed for inflation in

¹⁶² See, e.g., Tax Policy Center, How do state earned income tax credits work?, https://www.taxpolicycenter.org/briefing-book/how-do-state-earned-income-tax-credits-work/ (last visited May 9, 2021).

each year of the covered period, with inflation calculated using the Bureau of Economic Analysis's Implicit Price Deflator.¹⁶³

FY 2019 was chosen as the starting year for the baseline because it is the last full fiscal year prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency.¹⁶⁴ This baseline year is consistent with the approach directed by the ARPA in sections 602(c)(1)(C) and 603(c)(1)(C), which identify the "most recent full fiscal year of the [State, territory, or Tribal government] prior to the emergency" as the comparator for measuring revenue loss. U.S. gross domestic product is projected to rebound to pre-pandemic levels in 2021,¹⁶⁵ suggesting that an FY 2019 pre-pandemic baseline is a reasonable comparator for future revenue levels. The FY 2019 baseline revenue will be adjusted annually for inflation to allow for direct comparison of actual tax revenue in each year (reported in nominal terms) to baseline revenue in common units of measurement; without inflation adjustment, each dollar of reported actual tax revenue would be worth less than each dollar of baseline revenue expressed in 2019 terms.

Reporting year. The Interim Final Rule defines "reporting year" as a single year within the covered period, aligned to the current fiscal year of the recipient government during the covered period, for which a recipient government reports the value of covered changes and any sources of offsetting revenue increases ("in-year" value), regardless of when those changes were enacted. For the fiscal years ending in 2021 or 2025 (partial years), the term "reporting year"

¹⁶³ U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, GDP Price Deflator, https://www.bea.gov/data/prices-inflation/gdp-price-deflator (last visited May 9, 2021).

¹⁶⁴ Using Fiscal Year 2019 is consistent with section 602 as Congress provided for using that baseline for determining the impact of revenue loss affecting the provision of government services. *See* section 602(c)(1)(C).

¹⁶⁵ Congressional Budget Office, An Overview of the Economic Outlook: 2021 to 2031 (February 1, 2021), *available at* https://www.cbo.gov/publication/56965.

refers to the portion of the year falling within the covered period. For example, the reporting year for a fiscal year beginning July 2020 and ending June 2021 would be from March 3, 2021 to July 2021.

Tax revenue. The Interim Final Rule's definition of "tax revenue" is based on the Census Bureau's definition of taxes, used for its Annual Survey of State Government Finances.¹⁶⁶ It provides a consistent, well-established definition with which States and territories will be familiar and is consistent with the approach taken in Section II.C of this Supplementary Information describing the implementation of sections 602(c)(1)(C) and 603(c)(1)(C) of the Act, regarding revenue loss. Consistent with the approach described in Section II.C of this Supplementary Information, tax revenue does not include revenue taxed and collected by a different unit of government (e.g., revenue from taxes levied by a local government and transferred to a recipient government).

Framework. The Interim Final Rule provides a step-by-step framework, to be used in each reporting year, to calculate whether the offset provision applies to a State's or territory's use of Fiscal Recovery Funds:

(1) Covered changes that reduce tax revenue. For each reporting year, a recipient government will identify and value covered changes that the recipient government predicts will have the effect of reducing tax revenue in a given reporting year, similar to the way it would in the ordinary course of its budgeting process. The value of these covered changes may be reported based on estimated values produced by a budget model, incorporating reasonable assumptions, that aligns with the recipient government's existing approach for measuring the

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¹⁶⁶ U.S. Census Bureau, Annual Survey of State and Local Government Finances Glossary, https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/state/about/glossary.html (last visited Apr. 30, 2021).

effects of fiscal policies, and that measures relative to a current law baseline. The covered changes may also be reported based on actual values using a statistical methodology to isolate the change in year-over-year revenue attributable to the covered change(s), relative to the current law baseline prior to the change(s). Further, estimation approaches should not use dynamic methodologies that incorporate the projected effects of macroeconomic growth because macroeconomic growth is accounted for separately in the framework. Relative to these dynamic scoring methodologies, scoring methodologies that do not incorporate projected effects of macroeconomic growth rely on fewer assumptions and thus provide greater consistency among States and territories. Dynamic scoring that incorporates macroeconomic growth may also increase the likelihood of underestimation of the cost of a reduction in tax revenue.

In general and where possible, reporting should be produced by the agency of the recipient government responsible for estimating the costs and effects of fiscal policy changes. This approach offers recipient governments the flexibility to determine their reporting methodology based on their existing budget scoring practices and capabilities. In addition, the approach of using the projected value of changes in law that enact fiscal policies to estimate the net effect of such policies is consistent with the way many States and territories already consider tax changes.¹⁶⁷

(2) *In excess of the de minimis*. The recipient government will next calculate the total value of all covered changes in the reporting year resulting in revenue reductions, identified in Step 1. If the total value of the revenue reductions resulting from these changes is below the de

¹⁶⁷ See, e.g., Megan Randall & Kim Rueben, Tax Policy Center, Sustainable Budgeting in the States: Evidence on State Budget Institutions and Practices (Nov. 2017), *available at* https://www.taxpolicycenter.org/sites/default/files/publication/149186/sustainable-budgeting-in-the-states 1.pdf.

minimis level, the recipient government will be deemed not to have any revenue-reducing changes for the purpose of determining the recognized net reduction. If the total is above the de minimis level, the recipient government must identify sources of in-year revenue to cover the full costs of changes that reduce tax revenue.

The de minimis level is calculated as 1 percent of the reporting year's baseline. Treasury recognizes that, pursuant to their taxing authority, States and territories may make many small changes to alter the composition of their tax revenues or implement other policies with marginal effects on tax revenues. They may also make changes based on projected revenue effects that turn out to differ from actual effects, unintentionally resulting in minor revenue changes that are not fairly described as "resulting from" tax law changes. The de minimis level recognizes the inherent challenges and uncertainties that recipient governments face, and thus allows relatively small reductions in tax revenue without consequence. Treasury determined the 1 percent level by assessing the historical effects of state-level tax policy changes in state EITCs implemented to effect policy goals other than reducing net tax revenues.¹⁶⁸ The 1 percent de minimis level reflects the historical reductions in revenue due to minor changes in state fiscal policies.

(3) *Safe harbor*. The recipient government will then compare the reporting year's actual tax revenue to the baseline. If actual tax revenue is greater than the baseline, Treasury will deem the recipient government not to have any recognized net reduction for the reporting year, and therefore to be in a safe harbor and outside the ambit of the offset provision. This approach is consistent with the ARPA, which contemplates recoupment of Fiscal Recovery Funds only in the event that such funds are used to offset a reduction in net tax revenue. If net tax revenue has not

¹⁶⁸ Data provided by the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center for state-level EITC changes for 2004-2017.

been reduced, this provision does not apply. In the event that actual tax revenue is above the baseline, the organic revenue growth that has occurred, plus any other revenue-raising changes, by definition must have been enough to offset the in-year costs of the covered changes.

(4) *Consideration of other sources of funding*. Next, the recipient government will identify and calculate the total value of changes that could pay for revenue reduction due to covered changes and sum these items. This amount can be used to pay for up to the total value of revenue-reducing changes in the reporting year. These changes consist of two categories:

(a) Tax and other increases in revenue. The recipient government must identify and consider covered changes in policy that the recipient government predicts will have the effect of increasing general revenue in a given reporting year. As when identifying and valuing covered changes that reduce tax revenue, the value of revenue-raising changes may be reported based on estimated values produced by a budget model, incorporating reasonable assumptions, aligned with the recipient government's existing approach for measuring the effects of fiscal policies, and measured relative to a current law baseline, or based on actual values using a statistical methodology to isolate the change in year-over-year revenue attributable to the covered change(s). Further, and as discussed above, estimation approaches should not use dynamic scoring methodologies that incorporate the effects of macroeconomic growth because growth is accounted for separately under the Interim Final Rule. In general and where possible, reporting should be produced by the agency of the recipient government responsible for estimating the costs and effects of fiscal policy changes. This approach offers recipient governments the flexibility to determine their reporting methodology based on their existing budget scoring practices and capabilities.

(b) Covered spending cuts. A recipient government also may cut spending in certain areas to pay for covered changes that reduce tax revenue, up to the amount of the recipient government's net reduction in total spending as described below. These changes must be reductions in government outlays not in an area where the recipient government has spent Fiscal Recovery Funds. To better align with existing reporting and accounting, the Interim Final Rule considers the department, agency, or authority from which spending has been cut and whether the recipient government has spent Fiscal Recovery Funds on that same department, agency, or authority. This approach was selected to allow recipient governments to report how Fiscal Recovery Funds have been spent using reporting units already incorporated into their budgeting process. If they have not spent Fiscal Recovery Funds in a department, agency, or authority, the full amount of the reduction in spending counts as a covered spending cut, up to the recipient government's net reduction in total spending. If they have, the Fiscal Recovery Funds generally would be deemed to have replaced the amount of spending cut and only reductions in spending above the amount of Fiscal Recovery Funds spent on the department, agency, or authority would count.

To calculate the amount of spending cuts that are available to offset a reduction in tax revenue, the recipient government must first consider whether there has been a reduction in total net spending, excluding Fiscal Recovery Funds (net reduction in total spending). This approach ensures that reported spending cuts actually create fiscal space, rather than simply offsetting other spending increases. A net reduction in total spending is measured as the difference between total spending in each reporting year, excluding Fiscal Recovery Funds spent, relative to total spending for the recipient's fiscal year ending in 2019, adjusted for inflation. Measuring reductions in spending relative to 2019 reflects the fact that the fiscal space created by a

spending cut persists so long as spending remains below its original level, even if it does not decline further, relative to the same amount of revenue. Measuring spending cuts from year to year would, by contrast, not recognize any available funds to offset revenue reductions unless spending continued to decline, failing to reflect the actual availability of funds created by a persistent change and limiting the discretion of States and territories. In general and where possible, reporting should be produced by the agency of the recipient government responsible for estimating the costs and effects of fiscal policy changes. Treasury chose this approach because while many recipient governments may score budget legislation using projections, spending cuts are readily observable using actual values.

This approach—allowing only spending reductions in areas where the recipient government has not spent Fiscal Recovery Funds to be used as an offset for a reduction in net tax revenue—aims to prevent recipient governments from using Fiscal Recovery Funds to supplant State or territory funding in the eligible use areas, and then use those State or territory funds to offset tax cuts. Such an approach helps ensure that Fiscal Recovery Funds are not used to "indirectly" offset revenue reductions due to covered changes.

In order to help ensure recipient governments use Fiscal Recovery Funds in a manner consistent with the prescribed eligible uses and do not use Fiscal Recovery Funds to indirectly offset a reduction in net tax revenue resulting from a covered change, Treasury will monitor changes in spending throughout the covered period. If, over the course of the covered period, a spending cut is subsequently replaced with Fiscal Recovery Funds and used to indirectly offset a reduction in net tax revenue resulting from a covered change, Treasury may consider such change to be an evasion of the restrictions of the offset provision and seek recoupment of such amounts.

(5) Identification of amounts subject to recoupment. If a recipient government (i) reports covered changes that reduce tax revenue (Step 1); (ii) to a degree greater than the de minimis (Step 2); (iii) has experienced a reduction in net tax revenue (Step 3); and (iv) lacks sufficient revenue from other, permissible sources to pay for the entirety of the reduction (Step 4), then the recipient government will be considered to have used Fiscal Recovery Funds to offset a reduction in net tax revenue, up to the amount that revenue has actually declined. That is, the maximum value of reduction in revenue due to covered changes which a recipient government must cover is capped at the difference between the baseline and actual tax revenue.¹⁶⁹ In the event that the baseline is above actual tax revenue and the difference between them is less than the sum of revenue reducing changes that are not paid for with other, permissible sources, organic revenue growth has implicitly offset a portion of the reduction. For example, if a recipient government reduces tax revenue by \$1 billion, makes no other changes, and experiences revenue growth driven by organic economic growth worth \$500 million, it need only pay for the remaining \$500 million with sources other than Fiscal Recovery Funds. The revenue reduction cap implements this approach for permitting organic revenue growth to cover the cost of tax cuts.

Finally, as discussed further in Section IV of this Supplementary Information, a recipient government may request reconsideration of any amounts identified as subject to recoupment under this framework. This process ensures that all relevant facts and circumstances, including information regarding planned spending cuts and budgeting assumptions, are considered prior to a determination that an amount must be repaid. Amounts subject to recoupment are calculated

¹⁶⁹ This cap is applied in section 35.8(c) of the Interim Final Rule, calculating the amount of funds used in violation of the tax offset provision.

on an annual basis; amounts recouped in one year cannot be returned if the State or territory subsequently reports an increase in net tax revenue.

To facilitate the implementation of the framework above, and in addition to reporting required on eligible uses, in each year of the reporting period, each State and territory will report to Treasury the following items:

- Actual net tax revenue for the reporting year;
- Each revenue-reducing change made to date during the covered period and the in-year value of each change;
- Each revenue-raising change made to date during the covered period and the in-year value of each change;
- Each covered spending cut made to date during the covered period, the in-year value of each cut, and documentation demonstrating that each spending cut is covered as prescribed under the Interim Final Rule;

Treasury will provide additional guidance and instructions the reporting requirements at a later date.

Question 28: Does the Interim Final Rule's definition of tax revenue accord with existing State and territorial practice and, if not, are there other definitions or elements Treasury should consider? Discuss why or why not.

Question 29: The Interim Final Rule permits certain spending cuts to cover the costs of reductions in tax revenue, including cuts in a department, agency, or authority in which the recipient government is not using Fiscal Recovery Funds. How should Treasury and recipient governments consider the scope of a department, agency, or authority for the use of funds to

ensure spending cuts are not being substituted with Fiscal Recovery Funds while also avoiding an overbroad definition of that captures spending that is, in fact, distinct?

Question 30: Discuss the budget scoring methodologies currently used by States and territories. How should the Interim Final Rule take into consideration differences in approaches? Please discuss the use of practices including but not limited to macrodynamic scoring, microdynamic scoring, and length of budget windows.

Question 31: If a recipient government has a balanced budget requirement, how will that requirement impact its use of Fiscal Recovery Funds and ability to implement this framework?

Question 32: To implement the framework described above, the Interim Final Rule establishes certain reporting requirements. To what extent do recipient governments already produce this information and on what timeline? Discuss ways that Treasury and recipient governments may better rely on information already produced, while ensuring a consistent application of the framework.

Question 33: Discuss States' and territories' ability to produce the figures and numbers required for reporting under the Interim Final Rule. What additional reporting tools, such as a standardized template, would facilitate States' and territories' ability to complete the reporting required under the Interim Final Rule?

C. Other Restrictions on Use

Payments from the Fiscal Recovery Funds are also subject to pre-existing limitations provided in other Federal statutes and regulations and may not be used as non-Federal match for other Federal programs whose statute or regulations bar the use of Federal funds to meet

matching requirements. For example, payments from the Fiscal Recovery Funds may not be used to satisfy the State share of Medicaid.¹⁷⁰

As provided for in the award terms, payments from the Fiscal Recovery Funds as a general matter will be subject to the provisions of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (2 CFR 200) (the Uniform Guidance), including the cost principles and restrictions on general provisions for selected items of cost.

D. Timeline for Use of Fiscal Recovery Funds

Section 602(c)(1) and section 603(c)(1) require that payments from the Fiscal Recovery Funds be used only to cover costs incurred by the State, territory, Tribal government, or local government by December 31, 2024. Similarly, the CARES Act provided that payments from the CRF be used to cover costs incurred by December 31, 2021.¹⁷¹ The definition of "incurred" does not have a clear meaning. With respect to the CARES Act, on the understanding that the CRF was intended to be used to meet relatively short-term needs, Treasury interpreted this requirement to mean that, for a cost to be considered to have been incurred, performance of the service or delivery of the goods acquired must occur by December 31, 2021. In contrast, the ARPA, passed at a different stage of the COVID-19 public health emergency, was intended to provide more general fiscal relief over a broader timeline. In addition, the ARPA expressly permits the use of Fiscal Recovery Funds for improvements to water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, which entail a longer timeframe. In recognition of this, Treasury is interpreting

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¹⁷⁰ See 42 CFR 433.51 and 45 CFR 75.306.

¹⁷¹ Section 1001 of Division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 amended section 601(d)(3) of the Act by extending the end of the covered period for CRF expenditures from December 30, 2020 to December 31, 2021.

the requirement in section 602 and section 603 that costs be incurred by December 31, 2024, to require only that recipients have obligated the Fiscal Recovery Funds by such date. The Interim Final Rule adopts a definition of "obligation" that is based on the definition used for purposes of the Uniform Guidance, which will allow for uniform administration of this requirement and is a definition with which most recipients will be familiar.

Payments from the Fiscal Recovery Funds are grants provided to recipients to mitigate the fiscal effects of the COVID-19 public health emergency and to respond to the public health emergency, consistent with the eligible uses enumerated in sections 602(c)(1) and 603(c)(1).¹⁷² As such, these funds are intended to provide economic stimulus in areas still recovering from the economic effects of the pandemic. In implementing and interpreting these provisions, including what it means to "respond to" the COVID-19 public health emergency, Treasury takes into consideration pre-pandemic facts and circumstances (e.g., average revenue growth prior to the pandemic) as well as impact of the pandemic that predate the enactment of the ARPA (e.g., replenishing Unemployment Trust balances drawn during the pandemic). While assessing the effects of the COVID-19 public health emergency necessarily takes into consideration the facts and circumstances that predate the ARPA, use of Fiscal Recovery Funds is forward looking.

As discussed above, recipients are permitted to use payments from the Fiscal Recovery Funds to respond to the public health emergency, to respond to workers performing essential work by providing premium pay or providing grants to eligible employers, and to make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure, which all relate to prospective uses. In addition, sections 602(c)(1)(C) and 603(c)(1)(C) permit recipients to use

¹⁷² §§ 602(a), 603(a), 602(c)(1) and 603(c)(1) of the Act.

Fiscal Recovery Funds for the provision of government services. This clause provides that the amount of funds that may be used for this purpose is measured by reference to the reduction in revenue due to the public health emergency relative to revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year, but this reference does not relate to the period during which recipients may use the funds, which instead refers to prospective uses, consistent with the other eligible uses.

Although as discussed above the eligible uses of payments from the Fiscal Recovery Funds are all prospective in nature, Treasury considers the beginning of the covered period for purposes of determining compliance with section 602(c)(2)(A) to be the relevant reference point for this purpose. The Interim Final Rule thus permits funds to be used to cover costs incurred beginning on March 3, 2021. This aligns the period for use of Fiscal Recovery Funds with the period during which these funds may not be used to offset reductions in net tax revenue. Permitting Fiscal Recovery Funds to be used to cover costs incurred beginning on this date will also mean that recipients that began incurring costs in the anticipation of enactment of the ARPA and in advance of the issuance of this rule and receipt of payment from the Fiscal Recovery Funds would be able to cover them using these payments.¹⁷³

As set forth in the award terms, the period of performance will run until December 31, 2026, which will provide recipients a reasonable amount of time to complete projects funded with payments from the Fiscal Recovery Funds.

¹⁷³ Given the nature of this program, recipients will not be permitted to use funds to cover pre-award costs, *i.e.*, those incurred prior to March 3, 2021.

IV. Recoupment Process

Under the ARPA, failure to comply with the restrictions on use contained in sections 602(c) and 603(c) of the Act may result in recoupment of funds.¹⁷⁴ The Interim Final Rule implements these provisions by establishing a process for recoupment.

Identification and Notice of Violations. Failure to comply with the restrictions on use will be identified based on reporting provided by the recipient. As discussed further in Sections III.B and VIII of this Supplementary Information, Treasury will collect information regarding eligible uses on a quarterly basis and on the tax offset provision on an annual basis. Treasury also may consider other information in identifying a violation, such as information provided by members of the public. If Treasury identifies a violation, it will provide written notice to the recipient along with an explanation of such amounts.

Request for Reconsideration. Under the Interim Final Rule, a recipient may submit a request for reconsideration of any amounts identified in the notice provided by Treasury. This reconsideration process provides a recipient the opportunity to submit additional information it believes supports its request in light of the notice of recoupment, including, for example, additional information regarding the recipient's use of Fiscal Recovery Funds or its tax revenues. The process also provides the Secretary with an opportunity to consider all information relevant to whether a violation has occurred, and if so, the appropriate amount for recoupment.

The Interim Final Rule also establishes requirements for the timing of a request for reconsideration. Specifically, if a recipient wishes to request reconsideration of any amounts identified in the notice, the recipient must submit a written request for reconsideration to the

¹⁷⁴ §§ 602(e) and 603(e) of the Act.

Secretary within 60 calendar days of receipt of such notice. The request must include an explanation of why the recipient believes that the finding of a violation or recoupable amount identified in the notice of recoupment should be reconsidered. To facilitate the Secretary's review of a recipient's request for reconsideration, the request should identify all supporting reasons for the request. Within 60 calendar days of receipt of the recipient's request for reconsideration, the recipient of the recipient's request for reconsideration of the Secretary's decision to affirm, withdraw, or modify the notice of recoupment. Such notification will include an explanation of the decision, including responses to the recipient's supporting reasons and consideration of additional information provided.

The process and timeline established by the Interim Final Rule are intended to provide the recipient with an adequate opportunity to fully present any issues or arguments in response to the notice of recoupment.¹⁷⁵ This process will allow the Secretary to respond to the issues and considerations raised in the request for reconsideration taking into account the information and arguments presented by the recipient along with any other relevant information.

Repayment. Finally, the Interim Final Rule provides that any amounts subject to recoupment must be repaid within 120 calendar days of receipt of any final notice of recoupment or, if the recipient has not requested reconsideration, within 120 calendar days of the initial notice provided by the Secretary.

Question 34: Discuss the timeline for requesting reconsideration under the Interim Final Rule. What, if any, challenges does this timeline present?

¹⁷⁵ The Interim Final Rule also provides that Treasury may extend any deadlines.

V. Payments in Tranches to Local Governments and Certain States

Section 603 of the Act provides that the Secretary will make payments to local governments in two tranches, with the second tranche being paid twelve months after the first payment. In addition, section 602(b)(6)(A)(ii) provides that the Secretary may withhold payment of up to 50 percent of the amount allocated to each State and territory for a period of up to twelve months from the date on which the State or territory provides its certification to the Secretary. Any such withholding for a State or territory is required to be based on the unemployment rate in the State or territory as of the date of the certification.

The Secretary has determined to provide in this Interim Final Rule for withholding of 50 percent of the amount of Fiscal Recovery Funds allocated to all States (and the District of Columbia) other than those with an unemployment rate that is 2.0 percentage points or more above its pre-pandemic (i.e., February 2020) level. The Secretary will refer to the latest available monthly data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics as of the date the certification is provided. Based on data available at the time of public release of this Interim Final Rule, this threshold would result in a majority of States being paid in two tranches.

Splitting payments for the majority of States is consistent with the requirement in section 603 of the Act to make payments from the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund to local governments in two tranches. ¹⁷⁶ Splitting payments to States into two tranches will help

¹⁷⁶ With respect to Federal financial assistance more generally, States are subject to the requirements of the Cash Management Improvement Act (CMIA), under which Federal funds are drawn upon only on an as needed basis and States are required to remit interest on unused balances to Treasury. Given the statutory requirement for Treasury to make payments to States within a certain period, these requirements of the CMIA and Treasury's implementing regulations at 31 CFR part 205 will not apply to payments from the Fiscal Recovery Funds. Providing funding in two tranches to the majority of States reflects, to the maximum extent permitted by section 602 of the Act, the general principles of Federal cash management and stewardship of federal funding, yet will be much less restrictive than the usual requirements to which States are subject.

encourage recipients to adapt, as necessary, to new developments that could arise over the coming twelve months, including potential changes to the nature of the public health emergency and its negative economic impacts. While the U.S. economy has been recovering and adding jobs in aggregate, there is still considerable uncertainty in the economic outlook and the interaction between the pandemic and the economy.¹⁷⁷ For these reasons, Treasury believes it will be appropriate for a majority of recipients to adapt their plans as the recovery evolves. For example, a faster-than-expected economic recovery in 2021 could lead a recipient to dedicate more Fiscal Recovery Funds to longer-term investments starting in 2022. In contrast, a slower-than-expected economic recovery in 2021 could lead a recipient to use additional funds for near-term stimulus in 2022.

At the same time, the statute contemplates the possibility that elevated unemployment in certain States could justify a single payment. Elevated unemployment is indicative of a greater need to assist unemployed workers and stimulate a faster economic recovery. For this reason, the Interim Final Rule provides that States and territories with an increase in their unemployment rate over a specified threshold may receive a single payment, with the expectation that a single tranche will better enable these States and territories to take additional immediate action to aid the unemployed and strengthen their economies.

Following the initial pandemic-related spike in unemployment in 2020, States' unemployment rates have been trending back towards pre-pandemic levels. However, some States' labor markets are healing more slowly than others. Moreover, States varied widely in

¹⁷⁷ The potential course of the virus, and its impact on the economy, has contributed to a heightened degree of uncertainty relative to prior periods. *See, e.g.*, Dave Altig et al., Economic uncertainty before and during the COVID-19 pandemic, J. of Public Econ. (Nov. 2020), *available at* https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0047272720301389

their pre-pandemic levels of unemployment, and some States remain substantially further from their pre-pandemic starting point. Consequently, Treasury is delineating States with significant remaining elevation in the unemployment rate, based on the net difference to pre-pandemic levels.

Treasury has established that significant remaining elevation in the unemployment rate is a net change in the unemployment rate of 2.0 percentage points or more relative to pre-pandemic levels. In the four previous recessions going back to the early 1980s, the national unemployment rate rose by 3.6, 2.3, 2.0, and 5.0 percentage points, as measured from the start of the recession to the eventual peak during or immediately following the recession.¹⁷⁸ Each of these increases can therefore represent a recession's impact on unemployment. To identify States with significant remaining elevation in unemployment, Treasury took the lowest of these four increases, 2.0 percentage points, to indicate states where, despite improvement in the unemployment rate, current labor market conditions are consistent still with a historical benchmark for a recession.

No U.S. territory will be subject to withholding of its payment from the Fiscal Recovery Funds. For Puerto Rico, the Secretary has determined that the current level of the unemployment rate (8.8 percent, as of March 2021¹⁷⁹) is sufficiently high such that Treasury should not withhold any portion of its payment from the Fiscal Recovery Funds regardless of its change in

¹⁷⁸ Includes the period during and immediately following recessions, as defined by the National Bureau of Economic Research. National Bureau of Economic Research, US Business Cycle Expansions and Contractions, https://www.nber.org/research/data/us-business-cycle-expansions-and-contractions (last visited Apr. 27, 20201). Based on data from U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Unemployment Rate [UNRATE], retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/UNRATE (last visited Apr. 27, 2021).

¹⁷⁹ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Economic News Release – Table 1. Civilian labor force and unemployment by state and selected area, seasonally adjusted, https://www.bls.gov/news.release/laus.t01.htm (last visited Apr. 30, 2021).

unemployment rate relative to its pre-pandemic level. For U.S. territories that are not included in the Bureau of Labor Statistics' monthly unemployment rate data, the Secretary will not exercise the authority to withhold amounts from the Fiscal Recovery Funds.

VI. Transfer

The statute authorizes State, territorial, and Tribal governments; counties; metropolitan cities; and nonentitlement units of local government (counties, metropolitan cities, and nonentitlement units of local government are collectively referred to as "local governments") to transfer amounts paid from the Fiscal Recovery Funds to a number of specified entities. By permitting these transfers, Congress recognized the importance of providing flexibility to governments seeking to achieve the greatest impact with their funds, including by working with other levels or units of government or private entities to assist recipient governments in carrying out their programs. This includes special-purpose districts that perform specific functions in the community, such as fire, water, sewer, or mosquito abatement districts.

Specifically, under section 602(c)(3), a State, territory, or Tribal government may transfer funds to a "private nonprofit organization . . . a Tribal organization . . . a public benefit corporation involved in the transportation of passengers or cargo, or a special-purpose unit of State or local government."¹⁸⁰ Similarly, section 603(c)(3) authorizes a local government to transfer funds to the same entities (other than Tribal organizations).

The Interim Final Rule clarifies that the lists of transferees in Sections 602(c)(3) and 603(c)(3) are not exclusive. The Interim Final Rule permits State, territorial, and Tribal governments to transfer Fiscal Recovery Funds to other constituent units of government or

¹⁸⁰ § 602(c)(3) of the Act.

private entities beyond those specified in the statute. Similarly, local governments are authorized to transfer Fiscal Recovery Funds to other constituent units of government (e.g., a county is able to transfer Fiscal Recovery Funds to a city, town, or school district within it) or to private entities. This approach is intended to help provide funding to local governments with needs that may exceed the allocation provided under the statutory formula.

State, local, territorial, and Tribal governments that receive a Federal award directly from a Federal awarding agency, such as Treasury, are "recipients." A transferee receiving a transfer from a recipient under sections 602(c)(3) and 603(c)(3) will be a subrecipient. Subrecipients are entities that receive a subaward from a recipient to carry out a program or project on behalf of the recipient with the recipient's Federal award funding. The recipient remains responsible for monitoring and overseeing the subrecipient's use of Fiscal Recovery Funds and other activities related to the award to ensure that the subrecipient complies with the statutory and regulatory requirements and the terms and conditions of the award. Recipients also remain responsible for the duration of the award.

Transfers under sections 602(c)(3) and 603(c)(3) must qualify as an eligible use of Fiscal Recovery Funds by the transferor. Once Fiscal Recovery Funds are received, the transferee must abide by the restrictions on use applicable to the transferor under the ARPA and other applicable law and program guidance. For example, if a county transferred Fiscal Recovery Funds to a town within its borders to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the town would be bound by the eligible use requirements applicable to the county in carrying out the county's goal. This also means that county A may not transfer Fiscal Recovery Funds to county B for use in

county B because such a transfer would not, from the perspective of the transferor (county A), be an eligible use in county A.

Section 603(c)(4) separately provides for transfers by a local government to its State or territory. A transfer under section 603(c)(4) will not make the State a subrecipient of the local government, and such Fiscal Recovery Funds may be used by the State for any purpose permitted under section 602(c). A transfer under section 603(c)(4) will result in a cancellation or termination of the award on the part of the transferor local government and a modification of the award to the transferee State or territory. The transferor must provide notice of the transfer to Treasury in a format specified by Treasury. If the local government does not provide such notice, it will remain legally obligated to Treasury under the award and remain responsible for ensuring that the awarded Fiscal Recovery Funds are being used in accordance with the statute and program guidance and for reporting on such uses to Treasury. A State that receives a transfer from a local government under section 603(c)(4) will be bound by all of the use restrictions set forth in section 602(c) with respect to the use of those Fiscal Recovery Funds, including the prohibitions on use of such Fiscal Recovery Funds to offset certain reductions in taxes or to make deposits into pension funds.

Question 35: What are the advantages and disadvantages of treating the list of transferees in sections 602(c)(3) and 603(c)(3) as nonexclusive, allowing States and localities to transfer funds to entities outside of the list?

Question 36: Are there alternative ways of defining "special-purpose unit of State or local government" and "public benefit corporation" that would better further the aims of the Funds?

VII. Nonentitlement Units of Government

The Fiscal Recovery Funds provides for \$19.53 billion in payments to be made to States and territories which will distribute the funds to nonentitlement units of local government (NEUs); local governments which generally have populations below 50,000. These local governments have not yet received direct fiscal relief from the Federal government during the COVID-19 public health emergency, making Fiscal Recovery Funds payments an important source of support for their public health and economic responses. Section 603 requires Treasury to allocate and pay Fiscal Recovery Funds to the States and territories and requires the States and territories to distribute Fiscal Recovery Funds to NEUs based on population within 30 days of receipt unless an extension is granted by the Secretary. The Interim Final Rule clarifies certain aspects regarding the distribution of Fiscal Recovery by States and territories to NEUs, as well as requirements around timely payments from the Fiscal Recovery Funds.

The ARPA requires that States and territories allocate funding to NEUs in an amount that bears the same proportion as the population of the NEU bears to the total population of all NEUs in the State or territory, subject to a cap (described below). Because the statute requires States and territories to make distributions based on population, States and territories may not place additional conditions or requirements on distributions to NEUs, beyond those required by the ARPA and Treasury's implementing regulations and guidance. For example, a State may not impose stricter limitations than permitted by statute or Treasury regulations or guidance on an NEU's use of Fiscal Recovery Funds based on the NEU's proposed spending plan or other policies. States and territories are also not permitted to offset any debt owed by the NEU against the NEU's distribution. Further, States and territories may not provide funding on a reimbursement basis—e.g., requiring NEUs to pay for project costs up front before being

reimbursed with Fiscal Recovery Funds payments—because this funding model would not comport with the statutory requirement that States and territories make distributions to NEUs within the statutory timeframe.

Similarly, States and territories distributing Fiscal Recovery Funds payments to NEUs are responsible for complying with the Fiscal Recovery Funds statutory requirement that distributions to NEUs not exceed 75 percent of the NEU's most recent budget. The most recent budget is defined as the NEU's most recent annual total operating budget, including its general fund and other funds, as of January 27, 2020. Amounts in excess of such cap and therefore not distributed to the NEU must be returned to Treasury by the State or territory. States and territories may rely for this determination on a certified top-line budget total from the NEU.

Under the Interim Final Rule, the total allocation and distribution to an NEU, including the sum of both the first and second tranches of funding, cannot exceed the 75 percent cap. States and territories must permit NEUs without formal budgets as of January 27, 2020 to selfcertify their most recent annual expenditures as of January 27, 2020 for the purpose of calculating the cap. This approach will provide an administrable means to implement the cap for small local governments that do not adopt a formal budget.

Section 603(b)(3) of the Social Security Act provides for Treasury to make payments to counties but provides that, in the case of an amount to be paid to a county that is not a unit of general local government, the amount shall instead be paid to the State in which such county is located, and such State shall distribute such amount to each unit of general local government within such county in an amount that bears the same proportion to the amount to be paid to such county as the population of such units of general local government bears to the total population of such county. As with NEUs, States may not place additional conditions or requirements on

distributions to such units of general local government, beyond those required by the ARPA and Treasury's implementing regulations and guidance.

In the case of consolidated governments, section 603(b)(4) allows consolidated governments (e.g., a city-county consolidated government) to receive payments under each allocation based on the respective formulas. In the case of a consolidated government, Treasury interprets the budget cap to apply to the consolidated government's NEU allocation under section 603(b)(2) but not to the consolidated government's county allocation under section 603(b)(3).

If necessary, States and territories may use the Fiscal Recovery Funds under section 602(c)(1)(A) to fund expenses related to administering payments to NEUs and units of general local government, as disbursing these funds itself is a response to the public health emergency and its negative economic impacts. If a State or territory requires more time to disburse Fiscal Recovery Funds to NEUs than the allotted 30 days, Treasury will grant extensions of not more than 30 days for States and territories that submit a certification in writing in accordance with section 603(b)(2)(C)(ii)(I). Additional extensions may be granted at the discretion of the Secretary.

Question 37: What are alternative ways for States and territories to enforce the 75 percent cap while reducing the administrative burden on them?

Question 38: What criteria should Treasury consider in assessing requests for extensions for further time to distribute NEU payments?

VIII. Reporting

States (defined to include the District of Columbia), territories, metropolitan cities, counties, and Tribal governments will be required to submit one interim report and thereafter

quarterly Project and Expenditure reports through the end of the award period on December 31, 2026. The interim report will include a recipient's expenditures by category at the summary level from the date of award to July 31, 2021 and, for States and territories, information related to distributions to nonentitlement units. Recipients must submit their interim report to Treasury by August 31, 2021. Nonentitlement units of local government are not required to submit an interim report.

The quarterly Project and Expenditure reports will include financial data, information on contracts and subawards over \$50,000, types of projects funded, and other information regarding a recipient's utilization of the award funds. The reports will include the same general data (e.g., on obligations, expenditures, contracts, grants, and sub-awards) as those submitted by recipients of the CRF, with some modifications. Modifications will include updates to the expenditure categories and the addition of data elements related to specific eligible uses, including some of the reporting elements described in sections above. The initial quarterly Project and Expenditure report will cover two calendar quarters from the date of award to September 30, 2021, and must be submitted to Treasury by October 31, 2021. The subsequent quarterly reports will cover one calendar quarter and must be submitted to Treasury within 30 days after the end of each calendar quarter.

Nonentitlement units of local government will be required to submit annual Project and Expenditure reports until the end of the award period on December 31, 2026. The initial annual Project and Expenditure report for nonentitlement units of local government will cover activity from the date of award to September 30, 2021 and must be submitted to Treasury by October 31, 2021. The subsequent annual reports must be submitted to Treasury by October 31 each year.

States, territories, metropolitan cities, and counties with a population that exceeds 250,000 residents will also be required to submit an annual Recovery Plan Performance report to Treasury. The Recovery Plan Performance report will provide the public and Treasury information on the projects that recipients are undertaking with program funding and how they are planning to ensure project outcomes are achieved in an effective, efficient, and equitable manner. Each jurisdiction will have some flexibility in terms of the form and content of the Recovery Plan Performance report, as long as it includes the minimum information required by Treasury. The Recovery Plan Performance report will include key performance indicators identified by the recipient and some mandatory indicators identified by Treasury, as well as programmatic data in specific eligible use categories and the specific reporting requirements described in the sections above. The initial Recovery Plan Performance report will cover the period from the date of award to July 31, 2021 and must be submitted to Treasury by August 31, 2021. Thereafter, Recovery Plan Performance reports will cover a 12-month period, and recipients will be required to submit the report to Treasury within 30 days after the end of the 12-month period. The second Recovery Plan Performance report will cover the period from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, and must be submitted to Treasury by July 31, 2022. Each annual Recovery Plan Performance report must be posted on the public-facing website of the recipient. Local governments with fewer than 250,000 residents, Tribal governments, and nonentitlement units of local government are not required to develop a Recovery Plan Performance report.

Treasury will provide additional guidance and instructions on the reporting requirements outlined above for the Fiscal Recovery Funds at a later date.

IX. Comments and Effective Date

This Interim Final Rule is being issued without advance notice and public comment to allow for immediate implementation of this program. As discussed below, the requirements of advance notice and public comment do not apply "to the extent that there is involved . . . a matter relating to agency . . . grants."¹⁸¹ The Interim Final Rule implements statutory conditions on the eligible uses of the Fiscal Recovery Funds grants, and addresses the payment of those funds, the reporting on uses of funds, and potential consequences of ineligible uses. In addition and as discussed below, the Administrative Procedure Act also provides an exception to ordinary notice-and-comment procedures "when the agency for good cause finds (and incorporates the finding and a brief statement of reasons therefor in the rules issued) that notice and public procedure thereon are impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest."¹⁸² This good cause justification also supports waiver of the 60-day delayed effective date for major rules under the Congressional Review Act at 5 U.S.C. 808(2). Although this Interim Final Rule is effective immediately, comments are solicited from interested members of the public and from recipient governments on all aspects of the Interim Final Rule.

These comments must be submitted on or before [INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER].

¹⁸¹ 5 U.S.C. 553(a)(2).

 $^{^{182}}$ 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(3)(B); *see also* 5 U.S.C. 553(d)(3) (creating an exception to the requirement of a 30-day delay before the effective date of a rule "for good cause found and published with the rule").

X. Regulatory Analyses

Executive Orders 12866 and 13563

This Interim Final Rule is economically significant for the purposes of Executive Orders 12866 and 13563. Treasury, however, is proceeding under the emergency provision at Executive Order 12866 section 6(a)(3)(D) based on the need to act expeditiously to mitigate the current economic conditions arising from the COVID-19 public health emergency. The rule has been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in accordance with Executive Order 12866. This rule is necessary to implement the ARPA in order to provide economic relief to State, local, and Tribal governments adversely impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Under Executive Order 12866, OMB must determine whether this regulatory action is "significant" and, therefore, subject to the requirements of the Executive Order and subject to review by OMB. Section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866 defines a significant regulatory action as an action likely to result in a rule that may:

- (1) Have an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more, or adversely affect a sector of the economy; productivity; competition; jobs; the environment; public health or safety; or State, local, or Tribal governments or communities in a material way (also referred to as "economically significant" regulations);
- (2) Create a serious inconsistency or otherwise interfere with an action taken or planned by another agency;
- (3) Materially alter the budgetary impacts of entitlements, grants, user fees, or loan programs or the rights and obligations of recipients thereof; or

(4) Raise novel legal or policy issues arising out of legal mandates, the President's priorities, or the principles stated in the Executive Order.

This regulatory action is an economically significant regulatory action subject to review by OMB under section 3(f) of Executive Order 12866. Treasury has also reviewed these regulations under Executive Order 13563, which supplements and explicitly reaffirms the principles, structures, and definitions governing regulatory review established in Executive Order 12866. To the extent permitted by law, section 1(b) of Executive Order 13563 requires that an agency:

- (1) Propose or adopt regulations only upon a reasoned determination that their benefits justify their costs (recognizing that some benefits and costs are difficult to quantify);
- (2) Tailor its regulations to impose the least burden on society, consistent with obtaining regulatory objectives taking into account, among other things, and to the extent practicable, the costs of cumulative regulations;
- (3) Select, in choosing among alternative regulatory approaches, those approaches that maximize net benefits (including potential economic, environmental, public health and safety, and other advantages; distributive impacts; and equity);
- (4) To the extent feasible, specify performance objectives, rather than the behavior or manner of compliance a regulated entity must adopt; and
- (5) Identify and assess available alternatives to direct regulation, including providing economic incentives—such as user fees or marketable permits—to encourage the desired behavior, or providing information that enables the public to make choices.

Executive Order 13563 also requires an agency "to use the best available techniques to quantify anticipated present and future benefits and costs as accurately as possible." OMB's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA) has emphasized that these techniques may

include "identifying changing future compliance costs that might result from technological innovation or anticipated behavioral changes."

Treasury has assessed the potential costs and benefits, both quantitative and qualitative, of this regulatory action, and is issuing this Interim Final Rule only on a reasoned determination that the benefits exceed the costs. In choosing among alternative regulatory approaches, Treasury selected those approaches that would maximize net benefits. Based on the analysis that follows and the reasons stated elsewhere in this document, Treasury believes that this Interim Final Rule is consistent with the principles set forth in Executive Order 13563. Treasury also has determined that this regulatory action does not unduly interfere with States, territories, Tribal governments, and localities in the exercise of their governmental functions.

This Regulatory Impact Analysis discusses the need for regulatory action, the potential benefits, and the potential costs.

Need for Regulatory Action. This Interim Final Rule implements the \$350 billion Fiscal Recovery Funds of the ARPA, which Congress passed to help States, territories, Tribal governments, and localities respond to the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency and its economic impacts. As the agency charged with execution of these programs, Treasury has concluded that this Interim Final Rule is needed to ensure that recipients of Fiscal Recovery Funds fully understand the requirements and parameters of the program as set forth in the statute and deploy funds in a manner that best reflects Congress' mandate for targeted fiscal relief. This Interim Final Rule is primarily a transfer rule: it transfers \$350 billion in aid from the Federal government to states, territories, Tribal governments, and localities, generating a significant macroeconomic effect on the U.S. economy. In making this transfer, Treasury has sought to implement the program in ways that maximize its potential benefits while minimizing

its costs. It has done so by aiming to target relief in key areas according to the congressional mandate; offering clarity to States, territories, Tribal governments, and localities while maintaining their flexibility to respond to local needs; and limiting administrative burdens.

Analysis of Benefits. Relative to a pre-statutory baseline, the Fiscal Recovery Funds provide a combined \$350 billion to State, local, and Tribal governments for fiscal relief and support for costs incurred responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. Treasury believes that this transfer will generate substantial additional economic activity, although given the flexibility accorded to recipients in the use of funds, it is not possible to precisely estimate the extent to which this will occur and the timing with which it will occur. Economic research has demonstrated that state fiscal relief is an efficient and effective way to mitigate declines in jobs and output during an economic downturn.¹⁸³ Absent such fiscal relief, fiscal austerity among State, local, and Tribal governments could exert a prolonged drag on the overall economic recovery, as occurred following the 2007-09 recession.¹⁸⁴

This Interim Final Rule provides benefits across several areas by implementing the four eligible funding uses, as defined in statute: strengthening the response to the COVID-19 public health emergency and its economic impacts; easing fiscal pressure on State, local, and Tribal governments that might otherwise lead to harmful cutbacks in employment or government

¹⁸⁴ See, e.g., Fitzpatrick, Haughwout & Setren, Fiscal Drag from the State and Local Sector?, Liberty Street Economics Blog, Federal Reserve Bank of New York (June 27, 2012), https://www.libertystreeteconomics.newyorkfed.org/2012/06/fiscal-drag-from-the-state-and-local-sector.html; Jiri Jonas, Great Recession and Fiscal Squeeze at U.S. Subnational Government Level, IMF Working Paper 12/184, (July 2012), *available at*

https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/wp/2012/wp12184.pdf; Gordon, *supra* note 9.

¹⁸³ Gabriel Chodorow-Reich et al., Does State Fiscal Relief during Recessions Increase Employment? Evidence from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, American Econ. J.: Econ. Policy, 4:3 118-45 (Aug. 2012), *available at* https://www.aeaweb.org/articles?id=10.1257/pol.4.3.118

services; providing premium pay to essential workers; and making necessary investments in certain types of infrastructure. In implementing the ARPA, Treasury also sought to support disadvantaged communities that have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. The Fiscal Recovery Funds as implemented by the Interim Final Rule can be expected to channel resources toward these uses in order to achieve substantial near-term economic and public health benefits, as well as longer-term benefits arising from the allowable investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure and aid to families.

These benefits are achieved in the Interim Final Rule through a broadly flexible approach that sets clear guidelines on eligible uses of Fiscal Recovery Funds and provides State, local, and Tribal government officials discretion within those eligible uses to direct Fiscal Recovery Funds to areas of greatest need within their jurisdiction. While preserving recipients' overall flexibility, the Interim Final Rule includes several provisions that implement statutory requirements and will help support use of Fiscal Recovery Funds to achieve the intended benefits. The remainder of this section clarifies how Treasury's approach to key provisions in the Interim Final Rule will contribute to greater realization of benefits from the program.

• <u>Revenue Loss</u>: Recipients will compute the extent of reduction in revenue by comparing actual revenue to a counterfactual trend representing what could have plausibly been expected to occur in the absence of the pandemic. The counterfactual trend begins with the last full fiscal year prior to the public health emergency (as required by statute) and projects forward with an annualized growth adjustment. Treasury's decision to incorporate a growth adjustment into the calculation of revenue loss ensures that the formula more fully captures revenue shortfalls relative to recipients' pre-pandemic expectations. Moreover, recipients will have the opportunity to re-calculate revenue loss

at several points throughout the program, recognizing that some recipients may experience revenue effects with a lag. This option to re-calculate revenue loss on an ongoing basis should result in more support for recipients to avoid harmful cutbacks in future years. In calculating revenue loss, recipients will look at general revenue in the aggregate, rather than on a source-by-source basis. Given that recipients may have experienced offsetting changes in revenues across sources, Treasury's approach provides a more accurate representation of the effect of the pandemic on overall revenues.

Premium Pay: Per the statute, recipients have broad latitude to designate critical • infrastructure sectors and make grants to third-party employers for the purpose of providing premium pay or otherwise respond to essential workers. While the Interim Final Rule generally preserves the flexibility in the statute, it does add a requirement that recipients give written justification in the case that premium pay would increase a worker's annual pay above a certain threshold. To set this threshold, Treasury analyzed data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics to determine a level that would not require further justification for premium pay to the vast majority of essential workers, while requiring higher scrutiny for provision of premium pay to higher-earners who, even without premium pay, would likely have greater personal financial resources to cope with the effects of the pandemic. Treasury believes the threshold in the Interim Final Rule strikes the appropriate balance between preserving flexibility and helping encourage use of these resources to help those in greatest need. The Interim Final Rule also requires that eligible workers have regular in-person interactions or regular physical handling of items that were also handled by others. This requirement will also help encourage use of

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financial resources for those who have endured the heightened risk of performing essential work.

- Withholding of Payments to Recipients: Treasury believes that for the vast majority of recipient entities, it will be appropriate to receive funds in two separate payments. As discussed above, withholding of payments ensures that recipients can adapt spending plans to evolving economic conditions and that at least some of the economic benefits will be realized in 2022 or later. However, consistent with authorities granted to Treasury in the statute, Treasury recognizes that a subset of States with significant remaining elevation in the unemployment rate could face heightened additional near-term needs to aid unemployed workers and stimulate the recovery. Therefore, for a subset of State governments, Treasury will not withhold any funds from the first payment. Treasury believes that this approach strikes the appropriate balance between the general reasons to provide funds in two payments and the heightened additional near-term needs in specific States. As discussed above, Treasury set a threshold based on historical analysis of unemployment rates in recessions.
- <u>Hiring Public Sector Employees</u>: The Interim Final Rule states explicitly that recipients may use funds to restore their workforces up to pre-pandemic levels. Treasury believes that this statement is beneficial because it eliminates any uncertainty that could cause delays or otherwise negatively impact restoring public sector workforces (which, at time of publication, remain significantly below pre-pandemic levels).

Finally, the Interim Final Rule aims to promote and streamline the provision of assistance to individuals and communities in greatest need, particularly communities that have been historically disadvantaged and have experienced disproportionate impacts of the COVID-19 crisis. Targeting relief is in line with Executive Order 13985 On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government, which laid out an Administration-wide priority to support "equity for all, including people of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality."¹⁸⁵ To this end, the Interim Final Rule enumerates a list of services that may be provided using Fiscal Recovery Funds in low-income areas to address the disproportionate impacts of the pandemic in these communities; establishes the characteristics of essential workers eligible for premium pay and encouragement to serve workers based on financial need; provides that recipients may use Fiscal Recovery Funds to restore (to pre-pandemic levels) state and local workforces, where women and people of color are disproportionately represented;¹⁸⁶ and targets investments in broadband infrastructure to unserved and underserved areas. Collectively, these provisions will promote use of resources to facilitate the provision of assistance to individuals and communities with the greatest need.

Analysis of Costs. This regulatory action will generate administrative costs relative to a pre-statutory baseline. This includes, chiefly, costs required to administer Fiscal Recovery Funds, oversee subrecipients and beneficiaries, and file periodic reports with Treasury. It also requires States to allocate Fiscal Recovery Funds to nonentitlement units, which are smaller units of local government that are statutorily required to receive their funds through States.

¹⁸⁵ Executive Order on Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities through the Federal Government (Jan. 20, 2021), https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/01/20/executive-order-advancing-racial-equity-and-support-for-underserved-communities-through-the-federal-government/ (last visited May 9, 2021).

¹⁸⁶ David Cooper, Mary Gable & Algernon Austin, Economic Policy Institute Briefing Paper, The Public-Sector Jobs Crisis: Women and African Americans hit hardest by job losses in state and local governments, https://www.epi.org/publication/bp339-public-sector-jobs-crisis (last visited May 9, 2021).

Treasury expects that the administrative burden associated with this program will be moderate for a grant program of its size. Treasury expects that most recipients receive direct or indirect funding from Federal government programs and that many have familiarity with how to administer and report on Federal funds or grant funding provided by other entities. In particular, States, territories, and large localities will have received funds from the CRF and Treasury expects them to rely heavily on established processes developed last year or through prior grant funding, mitigating burden on these governments.

Treasury expects to provide technical assistance to defray the costs of administration of Fiscal Recovery Funds to further mitigate burden. In making implementation choices, Treasury has hosted numerous consultations with a diverse range of direct recipients—States, small cities, counties, and Tribal governments —along with various communities across the United States, including those that are underserved. Treasury lacks data to estimate the precise extent to which this Interim Final Rule generates administrative burden for State, local, and Tribal governments, but seeks comment to better estimate and account for these costs, as well as on ways to lessen administrative burdens.

Executive Order 13132

Executive Order 13132 (entitled Federalism) prohibits an agency from publishing any rule that has federalism implications if the rule either imposes substantial, direct compliance costs on State, local, and Tribal governments, and is not required by statute, or preempts state law, unless the agency meets the consultation and funding requirements of section 6 of the Executive Order. This Interim Final Rule does not have federalism implications within the meaning of the Executive Order and does not impose substantial, direct compliance costs on State, local, and Tribal governments or preempt state law within the meaning of the Executive Order. The

compliance costs are imposed on State, local, and Tribal governments by sections 602 and 603 of the Social Security Act, as enacted by the ARPA. Notwithstanding the above, Treasury has engaged in efforts to consult and work cooperatively with affected State, local, and Tribal government officials and associations in the process of developing the Interim Final Rule. Pursuant to the requirements set forth in section 8(a) of Executive Order 13132, Treasury certifies that it has complied with the requirements of Executive Order 13132.

Administrative Procedure Act

The Administrative Procedure Act (APA), 5 U.S.C. 551 et seq., generally requires public notice and an opportunity for comment before a rule becomes effective. However, the APA provides that the requirements of 5 U.S.C. 553 do not apply "to the extent that there is involved . . . a matter relating to agency . . . grants." The Interim Final Rule implements statutory conditions on the eligible uses of the Fiscal Recovery Funds grants, and addresses the payment of those funds, the reporting on uses of funds, and potential consequences of ineligible uses. The rule is thus "both clearly and directly related to a federal grant program." *National Wildlife Federation v. Snow*, 561 F.2d 227, 232 (D.C. Cir. 1976). The rule sets forth the "process necessary to maintain state . . . eligibility for federal funds," *id.*, as well as the "method[s] by which states can . . . qualify for federal aid," and other "integral part[s] of the grant program," *Center for Auto Safety v. Tiemann*, 414 F. Supp. 215, 222 (D.D.C. 1976). As a result, the requirements of 5 U.S.C. 553 do not apply.

The APA also provides an exception to ordinary notice-and-comment procedures "when the agency for good cause finds (and incorporates the finding and a brief statement of reasons therefor in the rules issued) that notice and public procedure thereon are impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest." 5 U.S.C. 553(b)(3)(B); *see also* 5 U.S.C.

553(d)(3) (creating an exception to the requirement of a 30-day delay before the effective date of a rule "for good cause found and published with the rule"). Assuming 5 U.S.C. 553 applied, Treasury would still have good cause under sections 553(b)(3)(B) and 553(d)(3) for not undertaking section 553's requirements. The ARPA is a law responding to a historic economic and public health emergency; it is "extraordinary" legislation about which "both Congress and the President articulated a profound sense of 'urgency." Petry v. Block, 737 F.2d 1193, 1200 (D.C. Cir. 1984). Indeed, several provisions implemented by this Interim Final Rule (sections 602(c)(1)(A) and 603(c)(1)(A)) explicitly provide funds to "respond to the public health emergency," and the urgency is further exemplified by Congress's command (in sections 602(b)(6)(B) and 603(b)(7)(A)) that, "[t]o the extent practicable," funds must be provided to Tribes and cities "not later than 60 days after the date of enactment." See Philadelphia Citizens in Action v. Schweiker, 669 F.2d 877, 884 (3d Cir. 1982) (finding good cause under circumstances, including statutory time limits, where APA procedures would have been "virtually impossible"). Finally, there is an urgent need for States to undertake the planning necessary for sound fiscal policymaking, which requires an understanding of how funds provided under the ARPA will augment and interact with existing budgetary resources and tax policies. Treasury understands that many states require immediate rules on which they can rely, especially in light of the fact that the ARPA "covered period" began on March 3, 2021. The statutory urgency and practical necessity are good cause to forego the ordinary requirements of noticeand-comment rulemaking.

Congressional Review Act

The Administrator of OIRA has determined that this is a major rule for purposes of Subtitle E of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement and Fairness Act of 1996 (also known as the

Congressional Review Act or CRA) (5 U.S.C. 804(2) et seq.). Under the CRA, a major rule takes effect 60 days after the rule is published in the Federal Register. 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(3). Notwithstanding this requirement, the CRA allows agencies to dispense with the requirements of section 801 when the agency for good cause finds that such procedure would be impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest and the rule shall take effect at such time as the agency promulgating the rule determines. 5 U.S.C. 808(2). Pursuant to section 808(2), for the reasons discussed above, Treasury for good cause finds that a 60-day delay to provide public notice is impracticable and contrary to the public interest.

Paperwork Reduction Act

The information collections associated with State, territory, local, and Tribal government applications materials necessary to receive Fiscal Recovery Funds (e.g., payment information collection and acceptance of award terms) have been reviewed and approved by OMB pursuant to the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. Chapter 35) (PRA) emergency processing procedures and assigned control number 1505-0271. The information collections related to ongoing reporting requirements, as discussed in this Interim Final Rule, will be submitted to OMB for emergency processing in the near future. Under the PRA, an agency may not conduct or sponsor and a respondent is not required to respond to, an information collection unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimates of hourly burden under this program are set forth in the table below. Burden estimates below are preliminary.

Reporting	# Respondents (Estimated)	# Responses Per Respondent	Total Responses	Hours per response	Total Burden in Hours	Cost to Respondent (\$48.80 per hour*)
Recipient Payment Form	5,050	1	5,050	.25 (15 minutes)	1,262.5	\$61,610
Acceptance of Award Terms	5,050	1	5,050	.25 (15 minutes)	1,262.5	\$61,610
Title VI Assurances	5,050	1	5,050	.50 (30 minutes)	2,525	\$123,220
Quarterly Project and Expenditure Report	5,050	4 per year after first year	20,200	25	505,000	\$24,644,000
Annual Project and Expenditure Report from NEUs	TBD	1 per year	20,000- 40,000 (Estimate only)	15	300,000 - 600,000	\$14,640,000 - \$29,280,000
Annual Recovery Plan Performance report	418	1 per year	418	100	41,800	\$2,039,840
Total	5,050 – TBD	N/A	55,768 - 75,768	141	851,850 - 1,151,850	\$41,570,280 - \$56,210,280

* Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Accountants and Auditors, on the Internet at https://www.bls.gov/ooh/business-and-financial/accountants-and-auditors.htm (visited March 28, 2020). Base wage of \$33.89/hour increased by 44 percent to account for fully loaded employer cost of employee compensation (benefits, etc.) for a fully loaded wage rate of \$48.80.

Periodic reporting is required by section 602(c) of Section VI of the Social Security Act and under the Interim Final Rule.

As discussed in Section VIII of this Supplementary Information, recipients of Fiscal Recovery Funds will be required to submit one interim report and thereafter quarterly Project and Expenditure reports until the end of the award period. Recipients must submit interim reports to Treasury by August 31, 2021. The quarterly Project and Expenditure reports will include financial data, information on contracts and subawards over \$50,000, types of projects funded, and other information regarding a recipient's utilization of the award funds.

Nonentitlement unit recipients will be required to submit annual Project and Expenditure reports until the end of the award period. The initial annual Project and Expenditure report for Nonentitlement unit recipients must be submitted to Treasury by October 31, 2021. The subsequent annual reports must be submitted to Treasury by October 31 each year. States, territories, metropolitan cities, and counties with a population that exceeds 250,000 residents will also be required to submit an annual Recovery Plan Performance report to Treasury. The Recovery Plan Performance report will include descriptions of the projects funded and information on the performance indicators and objectives of the award. Each annual Recovery Plan Performance report must be posted on the public-facing website of the recipient. Treasury will provide additional guidance and instructions on the all the reporting requirements outlined above for the Fiscal Recovery Funds program at a later date.

These and related periodic reporting requirements are under consideration and will be submitted to OMB for approval under the PRA emergency provisions in the near future.

Treasury invites comments on all aspects of the reporting and recordkeeping requirements including: (a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility; (b) the accuracy of the estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (c) ways to enhance the

quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; (d) ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information; and (e) estimates of capital or start-up costs and costs of operation, maintenance, and purchase of services to provide information. Comments should be sent by the comment deadline to the www.regulations.gov docket with a copy to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, U.S. Office of Management and Budget, 725 17th Street NW, Washington, DC 20503; or email to oira_submission@omb.eop.gov.

Regulatory Flexibility Analysis

The Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) generally requires that when an agency issues a proposed rule, or a final rule pursuant to section 553(b) of the Administrative Procedure Act or another law, the agency must prepare a regulatory flexibility analysis that meets the requirements of the RFA and publish such analysis in the Federal Register. 5 U.S.C. 603, 604.

Rules that are exempt from notice and comment under the APA are also exempt from the RFA requirements, including the requirement to conduct a regulatory flexibility analysis, when among other things the agency for good cause finds that notice and public procedure are impracticable, unnecessary, or contrary to the public interest. Since this rule is exempt from the notice and comment requirements of the APA, Treasury is not required to conduct a regulatory flexibility analysis.

RULE TEXT

List of Subjects in 31 CFR Part 35

Executive compensation, State and Local Governments, Tribal Governments, Public health

emergency.

Title 31—Money and Finance: Treasury

Part 35 - PANDEMIC RELIEF PROGRAMS

1. The authority citation for Part 35 is revised to read as follows:

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 802(f); 42 U.S.C. 803(f); 31 U.S.C. 321; Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Pub. L. 116-260), Division N, Title V, Subtitle B; Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (enacted as part of the Riegle Community and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994 (Pub. L. 103-325)), as amended (12 U.S.C. 4701 et seq.), Section 104A; Pub. L. 117-2.

2. Revise the part heading as shown above.

3. Add Subpart A to read as follows:

Subpart A— CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS

Sec.

35.1 Purpose.
35.2 Applicability.
35.3 Definitions.
35.4 Reservation of Authority, Reporting.
35.5 Use of Funds.
35.6 Eligible Uses.
35.7 Pensions.
35.8 Tax.
35.9. Compliance with Applicable Laws.
35.10. Recoupment.
35.11 Payments to States.
35.12. Distributions to Nonentitlement Units of Local Government and Units of General Local Government.

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 802(f); 42 U.S.C. 803(f)

§ 35.1 Purpose.

This part implements section 9901 of the American Rescue Plan Act (Subtitle M of Title IX of Public Law 117-2), which amends Title VI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 801 et seq.) by adding sections 602 and 603 to establish the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund.

§ 35.2 Applicability.

This part applies to States, territories, Tribal governments, metropolitan cities, nonentitlement units of local government, counties, and units of general local government that accept a payment or transfer of funds made under section 602 or 603 of the Social Security Act.

§ 35.3 Definitions.

Baseline means tax revenue of the recipient for its fiscal year ending in 2019, adjusted for inflation in each reporting year using the Bureau of Economic Analysis's Implicit Price Deflator for the gross domestic product of the United States.

County means a county, parish, or other equivalent county division (as defined by the Census Bureau).

Covered benefits include, but are not limited to, the costs of all types of leave (vacation, family-related, sick, military, bereavement, sabbatical, jury duty), employee insurance (health, life, dental, vision), retirement (pensions, 401(k)), unemployment benefit plans (Federal and State), workers' compensation insurance, and Federal Insurance Contributions Act taxes (which includes Social Security and Medicare taxes).

Covered change means a change in law, regulation, or administrative interpretation. A change in law includes any final legislative or regulatory action, a new or changed administrative

interpretation, and the phase-in or taking effect of any statute or rule if the phase-in or taking effect was not prescribed prior to the start of the covered period.

Covered period means, with respect to a State, Territory, or Tribal government, the period that:

(1) Begins on March 3, 2021; and

(2) Ends on the last day of the fiscal year of such State, Territory, or Tribal government in which all funds received by the State, Territory, or Tribal government from a payment made under section 602 or 603 of the Social Security Act have been expended or returned to, or recovered by, the Secretary.

COVID-19 means the Coronavirus Disease 2019.

COVID-19 public health emergency means the period beginning on January 27, 2020 and until the termination of the national emergency concerning the COVID-19 outbreak declared pursuant to the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et. seq.).

Deposit means an extraordinary payment of an accrued, unfunded liability. The term deposit does not refer to routine contributions made by an employer to pension funds as part of the employer's obligations related to payroll, such as either a pension contribution consisting of a normal cost component related to current employees or a component addressing the amortization of unfunded liabilities calculated by reference to the employer's payroll costs.

Eligible employer means an employer of an eligible worker who performs essential work.

Eligible workers means workers needed to maintain continuity of operations of essential critical infrastructure sectors, including health care; emergency response; sanitation, disinfection, and cleaning work; maintenance work; grocery stores, restaurants, food production, and food delivery; pharmacy; biomedical research; behavioral health work; medical testing and

diagnostics; home- and community-based health care or assistance with activities of daily living; family or child care; social services work; public health work; vital services to Tribes; any work performed by an employee of a State, local, or Tribal government; educational work, school nutrition work, and other work required to operate a school facility; laundry work; elections work; solid waste or hazardous materials management, response, and cleanup work; work requiring physical interaction with patients; dental care work; transportation and warehousing; work at hotel and commercial lodging facilities that are used for COVID-19 mitigation and containment; work in a mortuary; work in critical clinical research, development, and testing necessary for COVID-19 response.

(1) With respect to a recipient that is a metropolitan city, nonentitlement unit of local government, or county, workers in any additional sectors as each chief executive officer of such recipient may designate as critical to protect the health and well-being of the residents of their metropolitan city, nonentitlement unit of local government, or county; or

(2) With respect to a State, Territory, or Tribal government, workers in any additional sectors as each Governor of a State or Territory, or each Tribal government, may designate as critical to protect the health and well-being of the residents of their State, Territory, or Tribal government.

Essential work means work that:

(1) Is not performed while teleworking from a residence; and

(2) Involves:

(i) Regular in-person interactions with patients, the public, or coworkers of the individual that is performing the work; or

(ii) Regular physical handling of items that were handled by, or are to be handled by patients, the public, or coworkers of the individual that is performing the work.

Funds means, with respect to a recipient, amounts provided to the recipient pursuant to a payment made under section 602(b) or 603(b) of the Social Security Act or transferred to the recipient pursuant to section 603(c)(4) of the Social Security Act.

General revenue means money that is received from tax revenue, current charges, and miscellaneous general revenue, excluding refunds and other correcting transactions, proceeds from issuance of debt or the sale of investments, agency or private trust transactions, and intergovernmental transfers from the Federal government, including transfers made pursuant to section 9901 of the American Rescue Plan Act. General revenue does not include revenues from utilities. Revenue from Tribal business enterprises must be included in general revenue.

Intergovernmental transfers means money received from other governments, including grants and shared taxes.

Metropolitan city has the meaning given that term in section 102(a)(4) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302(a)(4)) and includes cities that relinquish or defer their status as a metropolitan city for purposes of receiving allocations under section 106 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 5306) for fiscal year 2021.

Net reduction in total spending is measured as the State or Territory's total spending for a given reporting year excluding its spending of funds, subtracted from its total spending for its fiscal year ending in 2019, adjusted for inflation using the Bureau of Economic Analysis's Implicit Price Deflator for the gross domestic product of the United States.

Nonentitlement unit of local government means a "city," as that term is defined in section 102(a)(5) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302(a)(5)), that is not a metropolitan city.

Nonprofit means a nonprofit organization that is exempt from Federal income taxation and that is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Obligation means an order placed for property and services and entering into contracts, subawards, and similar transactions that require payment.

Pension fund means a defined benefit plan and does not include a defined contribution plan.

Premium pay means an amount of up to \$13 per hour that is paid to an eligible worker, in addition to wages or remuneration the eligible worker otherwise receives, for all work performed by the eligible worker during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Such amount may not exceed \$25,000 with respect to any single eligible worker. Premium pay will be considered to be in addition to wages or remuneration the eligible worker otherwise receives if, as measured on an hourly rate, the premium pay is:

(1) With regard to work that the eligible worker previously performed, pay and remuneration equal to the sum of all wages and remuneration previously received plus up to \$13 per hour with no reduction, substitution, offset, or other diminishment of the eligible worker's previous, current, or prospective wages or remuneration; or

(2) With regard to work that the eligible worker continues to perform, pay of up to \$13 that is in addition to the eligible worker's regular rate of wages or remuneration, with no reduction, substitution, offset, or other diminishment of the workers' current and prospective wages or remuneration.

Qualified census tract has the same meaning given in 26 U.S.C. 42(d)(5)(B)(ii)(I).

Recipient means a State, Territory, Tribal government, metropolitan city, nonentitlement unit of local government, county, or unit of general local government that receives a payment made under section 602(b) or 603(b) of the Social Security Act or transfer pursuant to section 603(c)(4) of the Social Security Act.

Reporting year means a single year or partial year within the covered period, aligned to the current fiscal year of the State or Territory during the covered period.

Secretary means the Secretary of the Treasury.

State means each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia

Small business means a business concern or other organization that:

(1) Has no more than 500 employees, or if applicable, the size standard in number of employees established by the Administrator of the Small Business Administration for the industry in which the business concern or organization operates, and

(2) Is a small business concern as defined in section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

Tax Revenue means revenue received from a compulsory contribution that is exacted by a government for public purposes excluding refunds and corrections and, for purposes of § 35.8, intergovernmental transfers. Tax revenue does not include payments for a special privilege granted or service rendered, employee or employer assessments and contributions to finance retirement and social insurance trust systems, or special assessments to pay for capital improvements.

Territory means the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or American Samoa.

Tribal enterprise means a business concern:

(1) That is wholly owned by one or more Tribal governments, or by a corporation that is wholly owned by one or more Tribal governments; or

(2) That is owned in part by one or more Tribal governments, or by a corporation that is wholly owned by one or more Tribal governments, if all other owners are either United States citizens or small business concerns, as these terms are used and consistent with the definitions in 15 U.S.C. 657a(b)(2)(D).

Tribal government means the recognized governing body of any Indian or Alaska Native tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village, community, component band, or component reservation, individually identified (including parenthetically) in the list published on January 29, 2021, pursuant to section 104 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5131).

Unemployment rate means the U-3 unemployment rate provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics as part of the Local Area Unemployment Statistics program, measured as total unemployment as a percentage of the civilian labor force.

Unemployment trust fund means an unemployment trust fund established under section 904 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1104).

Unit of general local government has the meaning given to that term in section 102(a)(1) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5302(a)(1)).

Unserved and underserved households or businesses means one or more households or businesses that are not currently served by a wireline connection that reliably delivers at least 25 Mbps download speed and 3 Mbps of upload speed.

§ 35.4 Reservation of Authority, Reporting.

(a) *Reservation of authority*. Nothing in this part shall limit the authority of the Secretary to take action to enforce conditions or violations of law, including actions necessary to prevent evasions of this subpart.

(b) *Extensions or accelerations of timing*. The Secretary may extend or accelerate any deadline or compliance date of this part, including reporting requirements that implement this subpart, if the Secretary determines that such extension or acceleration is appropriate. In determining whether an extension or acceleration is appropriate, the Secretary will consider the period of time that would be extended or accelerated and how the modified timeline would facilitate compliance with this subpart.

(c) *Reporting and requests for other information*. During the covered period, recipients shall provide to the Secretary periodic reports providing detailed accounting of the uses of funds, all modifications to a State or Territory's tax revenue sources, and such other information as the Secretary may require for the administration of this section. In addition to regular reporting requirements, the Secretary may request other additional information as may be necessary or appropriate, including as may be necessary to prevent evasions of the requirements of this subpart. False statements or claims made to the Secretary may result in criminal, civil, or administrative sanctions, including fines, imprisonment, civil damages and penalties, debarment from participating in Federal awards or contracts, and/or any other remedy available by law.

§ 35.5 Use of funds.

(a) *In General.* A recipient may only use funds to cover costs incurred during the period beginning March 3, 2021, and ending December 31, 2024, for one or more of the purposes enumerated in sections 602(c)(1) and 603(c)(1) of the Social Security Act, as applicable,

including those enumerated in section § 35.6 of this subpart, subject to the restrictions set forth in sections 602(c)(2) and 603(c)(2) of the Social Security Act, as applicable.

(b) *Costs incurred*. A cost shall be considered to have been incurred for purposes of paragraph (a) of this section if the recipient has incurred an obligation with respect to such cost by December 31, 2024.

(c) *Return of funds*. A recipient must return any funds not obligated by December 31, 2024, and any funds not expended to cover such obligations by December 31, 2026.

§ 35.6 Eligible uses.

(a) *In General*. Subject to §§ 35.7 and 35.8 of this subpart, a recipient may use funds for one or more of the purposes described in paragraphs (b)-(e) of this section

(b) *Responding to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts.* A recipient may use funds to respond to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, including for one or more of the following purposes:

(1) *COVID-19 response and prevention*. Expenditures for the mitigation and prevention of COVID-19, including:

(i) Expenses related to COVID-19 vaccination programs and sites, including staffing, acquisition of equipment or supplies, facilities costs, and information technology or other administrative expenses;

(ii) COVID-19-related expenses of public hospitals, clinics, and similar facilities;

(iii) COVID-19 related expenses in congregate living facilities, including skilled nursing facilities, long-term care facilities, incarceration settings, homeless shelters, residential foster care facilities, residential behavioral health treatment, and other group living facilities;

(iv) Expenses of establishing temporary public medical facilities and other measures to increase COVID-19 treatment capacity, including related construction costs and other capital investments in public facilities to meet COVID-19-related operational needs;

(v) Expenses of establishing temporary public medical facilities and other measures to increase COVID-19 treatment capacity, including related construction costs and other capital investments in public facilities to meet COVID-19-related operational needs;

(vi) Costs of providing COVID-19 testing and monitoring, contact tracing, and monitoring of case trends and genomic sequencing for variants;

(vii) Emergency medical response expenses, including emergency medical transportation, related to COVID-19;

(viii) Expenses for establishing and operating public telemedicine capabilities for COVID-19-related treatment;

(ix) Expenses for communication related to COVID-19 vaccination programs and communication or enforcement by recipients of public health orders related to COVID-19;

(x) Expenses for acquisition and distribution of medical and protective supplies, including sanitizing products and personal protective equipment;

(xi) Expenses for disinfection of public areas and other facilities in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency;

(xii) Expenses for technical assistance to local authorities or other entities on mitigation of COVID-19-related threats to public health and safety;

(xiii) Expenses for quarantining or isolation of individuals;

(xiv) Expenses of providing paid sick and paid family and medical leave to public employees to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions;

(xv) Expenses for treatment of the long-term symptoms or effects of COVID-19, including post-intensive care syndrome;

(xvi) Expenses for the improvement of ventilation systems in congregate settings, public health facilities, or other public facilities;

(xvii) Expenses related to establishing or enhancing public health data systems; and

(xviii) Mental health treatment, substance misuse treatment, and other behavioral health services.

(2) *Public Health and Safety Staff.* Payroll and covered benefit expenses for public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees to the extent that the employee's time is spent mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

(3) *Hiring State and Local Government Staff.* Payroll, covered benefit, and other costs associated with the recipient increasing the number of its employees up to the number of employees that it employed on January 27, 2020.

(4) Assistance to Unemployed Workers. Assistance, including job training, for individuals who want and are available for work, including those who have looked for work sometime in the past 12 months or who are employed part time but who want and are available for full-time work;

(5) *Contributions to State Unemployment Insurance Trust Funds*. Contributions to an Unemployment Trust Fund up to the level required to restore the Unemployment Trust Fund to its balance on January 27, 2020 or to pay back advances received under Title XII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1321) for the payment of benefits between January 27, 2020 and [INSERT DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER];

(6) *Small Businesses*. Assistance to small businesses, including loans, grants, in-kind assistance, technical assistance or other services, that responds to the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency;

(7) *Nonprofits*. Assistance to nonprofit organizations, including loans, grants, in-kind assistance, technical assistance or other services, that responds to the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency;

(8) *Assistance to Households*. Assistance programs, including cash assistance programs, that respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency;

(9) *Aid to Impacted Industries*. Aid to tourism, travel, hospitality, and other impacted industries that responds to the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency;

(10) *Expenses to Improve Efficacy of Public Health or Economic Relief Programs*. Administrative costs associated with the recipient's COVID-19 public health emergency assistance programs, including services responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, that are not federally funded.

(11) *Survivor's Benefits*. Benefits for the surviving family members of individuals who have died from COVID-19, including cash assistance to widows, widowers, or dependents of individuals who died of COVID-19;

(12) *Disproportionately Impacted Populations and Communities*. A program, service, or other assistance that is provided in a Qualified Census Tract, that is provided to households and populations living in a Qualified Census Tract, that is provided by a Tribal government, or that is provided to other households, businesses, or populations disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency, such as:

(i) Programs or services that facilitate access to health and social services, including:

(A) Assistance accessing or applying for public benefits or services;

(B) Remediation of lead paint or other lead hazards; and

(C) Community violence intervention programs;

(ii) Programs or services that address housing insecurity, lack of affordable housing, or homelessness, including:

(A) Supportive housing or other programs or services to improve access to stable, affordable housing among individuals who are homeless;

(B) Development of affordable housing to increase supply of affordable and high-quality living units; and

(C) Housing vouchers and assistance relocating to neighborhoods with higher levels of economic opportunity and to reduce concentrated areas of low economic opportunity;

(iii) Programs or services that address or mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency on education, including:

(A) New or expanded early learning services;

(B) Assistance to high-poverty school districts to advance equitable funding across districts and geographies; and

(C) Educational and evidence-based services to address the academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs of students;

(iv) Programs or services that address or mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency on childhood health or welfare, including:

(A) New or expanded childcare;

(B) Programs to provide home visits by health professionals, parent educators, and social service professionals to individuals with young children to provide education and assistance for economic support, health needs, or child development; and

(C) Services for child welfare-involved families and foster youth to provide support and education on child development, positive parenting, coping skills, or recovery for mental health and substance use.

(c) *Providing Premium Pay to Eligible Workers*. A recipient may use funds to provide premium pay to eligible workers of the recipient who perform essential work or to provide grants to eligible employers, provided that any premium pay or grants provided under this paragraph (c) must respond to eligible workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency. A recipient uses premium pay or grants provided under this paragraph (c) to respond to eligible workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency if it prioritizes low- and moderate-income persons. The recipient must provide, whether for themselves or on behalf of a grantee, a written justification to the Secretary of how the premium pay or grant provided under this paragraph (c) responds to eligible workers performing essential work if the premium pay or grant would increase an eligible worker's total wages and remuneration above 150 percent of such eligible worker's residing State's average annual wage for all occupations or their residing county's average annual wage, whichever is higher.

(d) *Providing Government Services*. For the provision of government services to the extent of a reduction in the recipient's general revenue, calculated according to paragraphs (d)(1) and (d)(2).

(1) *Frequency*. A recipient must calculate the reduction in its general revenue using information as-of December 31, 2020, December 31, 2021, December 31, 2022, and December 31, 2023 (each, a calculation date) and following each calculation date.

(2) Calculation. A reduction in a recipient's general revenue equals:

 $Max \{ [Base Year Revenue * (1 + Growth Adjustment)^{\left(\frac{n_t}{12}\right)}] - Actual General Revenue_t; 0 \}$ Where:

(i) Base Year Revenue is the recipient's general revenue for the most recent full fiscal year prior to the COVD-19 public health emergency;

(ii) Growth Adjustment is equal to the greater of 4.1 percent (or 0.041) and the recipient's average annual revenue growth over the three full fiscal years prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

(iii) n equals the number of months elapsed from the end of the base year to the calculation date.

(iv) Actual General Revenue is a recipient's actual general revenue collected during 12month period ending on each calculation date;

(v) Subscript *t* denotes the specific calculation date.

(e) *To Make Necessary Investments in Infrastructure*. A recipient may use funds to make investments in:

(1) Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund investments. Projects or activities of the type that would be eligible under section 603(c) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1383(c)) or section 1452 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j-12); or,

(2) *Broadband*. Broadband infrastructure that is designed to provide service to unserved or underserved households and businesses and that is designed to, upon completion:

(A) Reliably meet or exceed symmetrical 100 Mbps download speed and upload speeds; or

(B) In cases where it is not practicable, because of the excessive cost of the project or geography or topography of the area to be served by the project, to provide service meeting the standards set forth in paragraph (e)(2)(A) of this section:

(i) Reliably meet or exceed 100 Mbps download speed and between at least 20 Mbps and100 Mbps upload speed; and

(ii) Be scalable to a minimum of 100 Mbps download speed and 100 Mbps upload speed.§ 35.7 Pensions.

A recipient may not use funds for deposit into any pension fund.

§ 35.8 Tax.

(a) *Restriction*. A State or Territory shall not use funds to either directly or indirectly offset a reduction in the net tax revenue of the State or Territory resulting from a covered change during the covered period.

(b) *Violation*. Treasury will consider a State or Territory to have used funds to offset a reduction in net tax revenue if, during a reporting year:

(1) *Covered Change*. The State or Territory has made a covered change that, either based on a reasonable statistical methodology to isolate the impact of the covered change in actual revenue or based on projections that use reasonable assumptions and do not incorporate the effects of macroeconomic growth to reduce or increase the projected impact of the covered change, the State or Territory assesses has had or predicts to have the effect of reducing tax revenue relative to current law;

(2) *Exceeds the De Minimis Threshold*. The aggregate amount of the measured or predicted reductions in tax revenue caused by covered changes identified under paragraph (b)(1) of this section, in the aggregate, exceeds 1 percent of the State's or Territory's baseline;

(3) *Reduction in Net Tax Revenue*. The State or Territory reports a reduction in net tax revenue, measured as the difference between actual tax revenue and the State's or Territory's baseline, each measured as of the end of the reporting year; and

(4) *Consideration of Other Changes*. The aggregate amount of measured or predicted reductions in tax revenue caused by covered changes is greater than the sum of the following, in each case, as calculated for the reporting year:

(i) The aggregate amount of the expected increases in tax revenue caused by one or more covered changes that, either based on a reasonable statistical methodology to isolate the impact of the covered change in actual revenue or based on projections that use reasonable assumptions and do not incorporate the effects of macroeconomic growth to reduce or increase the projected impact of the covered change, the State or Territory assesses has had or predicts to have the effect of increasing tax revenue; and

(ii) Reductions in spending, up to the amount of the State's or Territory's net reduction in total spending, that are in:

(A) Departments, agencies, or authorities in which the State or Territory is not using funds; and

(B) Departments, agencies, or authorities in which the State or Territory is using funds, in an amount equal to the value of the spending cuts in those departments, agencies, or authorities, minus funds used.

(c) *Amount and Revenue Reduction Cap.* If a State or Territory is considered to be in violation pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section, the amount used in violation of paragraph (a) of this section is equal to the lesser of:

(1) The reduction in net tax revenue of the State or Territory for the reporting year, measured as the difference between the State's or Territory's baseline and its actual tax revenue, each measured as of the end of the reporting year; and,

(2) The aggregate amount of the reductions in tax revenues caused by covered changes identified in paragraph (b)(1) of this section, minus the sum of the amounts in identified in paragraphs (b)(4)(i)-(ii).

§ 35.9. Compliance with Applicable Laws.

A recipient must comply with all other applicable Federal statutes, regulations, and executive orders, and a recipient shall provide for compliance with the American Rescue Plan Act, this Subpart, and any interpretive guidance by other parties in any agreements it enters into with other parties relating to these funds.

§ 35.10. Recoupment.

(a) *Identification of Violations* – (1) *In general.* Any amount used in violation of §§ 35.6 or 35.7 of this subpart may be identified at any time prior to December 31, 2026.

(2) Annual Reporting of Amounts of Violations. On an annual basis, a recipient that is a State or Territory must calculate and report any amounts used in violation of § 35.8 of this subpart.

(b) Calculation of Amounts Subject to Recoupment – (1) In general. Except as provided in paragraph (b)(2), Treasury will calculate any amounts subject to recoupment resulting from a violation of §§ 35.6 or 35.7 of this subpart as the amounts used in violation of such restrictions.

(2) *Violations of Section 35.8.* Treasury will calculate any amounts subject to recoupment resulting from a violation of § 35.8 of this subpart, equal to the lesser of:

(i) The amount set forth in § 35.8(c) of this subpart; and,

(ii) The amount of funds received by such recipient.

(c) *Notice*. If Treasury calculates an amount subject to recoupment under paragraph (b) of this section, Treasury will provide the recipient a written notice of the amount subject to recoupment along with an explanation of such amounts.

(d) *Request for Reconsideration*. Unless Treasury extends the time period, within 60 calendar days of receipt of a notice of recoupment provided under paragraph (c) of this section, a recipient may submit a written request to Treasury requesting reconsideration of any amounts subject to recoupment under paragraph (b) of this section. To request reconsideration of any amounts subject to recoupment, a recipient must submit to Treasury a written request that includes:

(i) An explanation of why the recipient believes all or some of the amount should not be subject to recoupment; and

(ii) A discussion of supporting reasons, along with any additional information.

(e) *Final Amount Subject to Recoupment*. Unless Treasury extends the time period, within 60 calendar days of receipt of the recipient's request for reconsideration provided pursuant to paragraph (d) of this section, the recipient will be notified of the Secretary's decision to affirm, withdraw, or modify the notice of recoupment. Such notification will include an

explanation of the decision, including responses to the recipient's supporting reasons and consideration of additional information provided.

(f) *Repayment of Funds*. Unless Treasury extends the time period, a recipient shall repay to the Secretary any amounts subject to recoupment in accordance with instructions provided by Treasury:

(i) Within 120 calendar days of receipt of the notice of recoupment provided under paragraph (c) of this section, in the case of a recipient that does not submit a request for reconsideration in accordance with the requirements of paragraph (d) of this section, or

(ii) Within 120 calendar days of receipt of the Secretary's decision under paragraph (e) of this section, in the case of a recipient that submits a request for reconsideration in accordance with the requirements of paragraph (d) of this section.

§ 35.11 Payments to States.

(a) *In General.* With respect to any State or Territory that has an unemployment rate as of the date that it submits an initial certification for payment of funds pursuant to section 602(d)(1) of the Social Security Act that is less than two percentage points above its unemployment rate in February 2020, the Secretary will withhold 50 percent of the amount of funds allocated under section 602(b) of the Social Security Act to such State or territory until the date that is twelve months from the date such initial certification is provided to the Secretary.

(b) *Payment of Withheld Amount*. In order to receive the amount withheld under paragraph (a) of this section, the State or Territory must submit to the Secretary at least 30 days prior to the date referenced in paragraph (a) the following information:

(i) A certification, in the form provided by the Secretary, that such State or Territory requires the payment to carry out the activities specified in section 602(c) of the Social Security Act and will use the payment in compliance with section 602(c) of the Social Security Act; and,

(ii) Any reports required to be filed by that date pursuant to this part that have not yet been filed.

§ 35.12. Distributions to Nonentitlement Units of Local Government and Units of General Local Government.

(a) *Nonentitlement Units of Local Government*. Each State or Territory that receives a payment from Treasury pursuant to section 603(b)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act shall distribute the amount of the payment to nonentitlement units of government in such State or Territory in accordance with the requirements set forth in section 603(b)(2)(C) of the Social Security Act and without offsetting any debt owed by such nonentitlement units of local governments against such payments.

(b) *Budget Cap.* A State or Territory may not make a payment to a nonentitlement unit of local government pursuant to section 603(b)(2)(C) of the Social Security Act and paragraph (a) of this section in excess of the amount equal to 75 percent of the most recent budget for the nonentitlement unit of local government as of January 27, 2020. A State or Territory shall permit a nonentitlement unit of local government without a formal budget as of January 27, 2020, to provide a certification from an authorized officer of the nonentitlement unit of local government as of January 27, 2020, and a State or Territory may rely on such certification for purposes of complying with this subsection.

(c) *Units of General Local Government*. Each State or Territory that receives a payment from Treasury pursuant to section 603(b)(3)(B)(ii) of the Social Security Act, in the case of an

amount to be paid to a county that is not a unit of general local government, shall distribute the amount of the payment to units of general local government within such county in accordance with the requirements set forth in section 603(b)(3)(B)(ii) of the Social Security Act and without offsetting any debt owed by such units of general local government against such payments.

(d) *Additional Conditions*. A State or Territory may not place additional conditions or requirements on distributions to nonentitlement units of local government or units of general local government beyond those required by section 603 of the Social Security Act or this subpart.

Dated:

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FACT SHEET: The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Will Deliver \$350 Billion for State, Local, Territorial, and Tribal Governments to Respond to the COVID-19 Emergency and Bring Back Jobs

May 10, 2021

Aid to state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments will help turn the tide on the pandemic, address its economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery

Today, the U.S. Department of the Treasury announced the launch of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, established by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, to provide \$350 billion in emergency funding for eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments. Treasury also released details on how these funds can be used to respond to acute pandemic response needs, fill revenue shortfalls among these governments, and support the communities and populations hardest-hit by the COVID-19 crisis. With the launch of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, eligible jurisdictions will be able to access this funding in the coming days to address these needs.

State, local, territorial, and Tribal governments have been on the frontlines of responding to the immense public health and economic needs created by this crisis – from standing up vaccination sites to supporting small businesses – even as these governments confronted revenue shortfalls during the downturn. As a result, these governments have endured unprecedented strains, forcing many to make untenable choices between laying off educators, firefighters, and other frontline workers or failing to provide other services that communities rely on. Faced with these challenges, state and local governments have cut over 1 million jobs since the beginning of the crisis. The experience of prior economic downturns has shown that budget pressures like these often result in prolonged fiscal austerity that can slow an economic recovery.

To support the immediate pandemic response, bring back jobs, and lay the groundwork for a strong and equitable recovery, the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 established the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, designed to deliver \$350 billion to state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to bolster their response to the COVID-19 emergency and its economic impacts. Today, Treasury is launching this much-needed relief to:

- Support urgent COVID-19 response efforts to continue to decrease spread of the virus and bring the pandemic under control;
- Replace lost public sector revenue to strengthen support for vital public services and help retain jobs;
- Support immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses; and,
- Address systemic public health and economic challenges that have contributed to the inequal impact of the pandemic on certain populations.

The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide substantial flexibility for each jurisdiction to meet local needs—including support for households, small businesses, impacted industries, essential workers, and the communities hardest-hit by the crisis. These funds also deliver resources that recipients can invest in building, maintaining, or upgrading their water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

Starting today, eligible state, territorial, metropolitan city, county, and Tribal governments may request Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds through the Treasury Submission Portal. Concurrent with this program launch, Treasury has published an Interim Final Rule that implements the provisions of this program.

FUNDING AMOUNTS

The American Rescue Plan provides a total of \$350 billion in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to help eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments meet their present needs and build the foundation for a strong recovery. Congress has allocated this funding to tens of thousands of jurisdictions. These allocations include:

Туре	Amount (\$ billions)		
States & District of Columbia	\$195.3		
Counties	\$65.1		
Metropolitan Cites	\$45.6		
Tribal Governments	\$20.0		
Territories	\$4.5		
Non-Entitlement Units of Local Government	\$19.5		

Treasury expects to distribute these funds directly to each state, territorial, metropolitan city, county, and Tribal government. Local governments that are classified as non-entitlement units will receive this funding through their applicable state government. Treasury expects to provide further guidance on distributions to non-entitlement units next week.

Local governments should expect to receive funds in two tranches, with 50% provided beginning in May 2021 and the balance delivered 12 months later. States that have experienced a net increase in the unemployment rate of more than 2 percentage points from February 2020 to the latest available data as of the date of certification will receive their full allocation of funds in a single payment; other states will receive funds in two equal tranches. Governments of U.S. territories will receive a single payment. Tribal governments will receive two payments, with the first payment available in May and the second payment, based on employment data, to be delivered in June 2021.

USES OF FUNDING

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments with a substantial infusion of resources to meet pandemic response needs and rebuild a stronger, more equitable economy as the country recovers. Within the categories of eligible uses, recipients have broad flexibility to decide how best to use this funding to meet the needs of their communities. Recipients may use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to:

- **Support public health expenditures,** by funding COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and certain public health and safety staff;
- Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency, including economic harms to workers, households, small businesses, impacted industries, and the public sector;
- **Replace lost public sector revenue**, using this funding to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the pandemic;
- **Provide premium pay for essential workers**, offering additional support to those who have borne and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical infrastructure sectors; and,
- Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand access to broadband internet.

Within these overall categories, Treasury's Interim Final Rule provides guidelines and principles for determining the types of programs and services that this funding can support, together with examples of allowable uses that recipients may consider. As described below, Treasury has also designed these provisions to take into consideration the disproportionate impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency on those hardest-hit by the pandemic.

1. Supporting the public health response

Mitigating the impact of COVID-19 continues to require an unprecedented public health response from state, local, territorial, and Tribal 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. Recipients may use this funding to address a broad range of public health needs across COVID-19 mitigation, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and public health resources. Among other services, these funds can help support:

- Services and programs to contain and mitigate the spread of COVID-19, including:
 - ✓ Vaccination programs
 - ✓ Medical expenses
 - ✓ Testing
 - ✓ Contact tracing
 - ✓ Isolation or quarantine
 - ✓ PPE purchases
 - Support for vulnerable populations to access medical or public health services
 - Public health surveillance (e.g., monitoring for variants)
 - ✓ Enforcement of public health orders
 - ✓ Public communication efforts

- ✓ Enhancement of healthcare capacity, including alternative care facilities
- Support for prevention, mitigation, or other services in congregate living facilities and schools
- Enhancement of public health data systems
- ✓ Capital investments in public facilities to meet pandemic operational needs
- ✓ Ventilation improvements in key settings like healthcare facilities

- Services to address behavioral healthcare needs exacerbated by the pandemic, including:
 - ✓ Mental health treatment
 - ✓ Substance misuse treatment
 - ✓ Other behavioral health services
 - ✓ Hotlines or warmlines

- ✓ Crisis intervention
- ✓ Services or outreach to promote access to health and social services
- Payroll and covered benefits expenses for public health, healthcare, human services, public safety and similar employees, to the extent that they work on the COVID-19 response. For public health and safety workers, recipients can use these funds to cover the full payroll and covered benefits costs for employees or operating units or divisions primarily dedicated to the COVID-19 response.

2. 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, over 20 million jobs were lost between February and April 2020. Although many have since returned to work, as of April 2021, the economy remains more than 8 million jobs below its prepandemic peak, and more than 3 million workers have dropped out of the labor market altogether since February 2020.

To help alleviate the economic hardships caused by the pandemic, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds enable eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to provide a wide range of assistance to individuals and households, small businesses, and impacted industries, in addition to enabling governments to rehire public sector staff and rebuild capacity. Among these uses include:

- **Delivering assistance to workers and families**, including aid to unemployed workers and job training, as well as aid to households facing food, housing, or other financial insecurity. In addition, these funds can support survivor's benefits for family members of COVID-19 victims.
- Supporting small businesses, helping them to address financial challenges caused by the pandemic and to make investments in COVID-19 prevention and mitigation tactics, as well as to provide technical assistance. To achieve these goals, recipients may employ this funding to execute a broad array of loan, grant, in-kind assistance, and counseling programs to enable small businesses to rebound from the downturn.
- Speeding the recovery of the tourism, travel, and hospitality sectors, supporting industries that were particularly hard-hit by the COVID-19 emergency and are just now beginning to mend. Similarly impacted sectors within a local area are also eligible for support.
- Rebuilding public sector capacity, by rehiring public sector staff and replenishing unemployment insurance (UI) trust funds, in each case up to pre-pandemic levels. Recipients may also use this funding to build their internal capacity to successfully implement economic relief programs, with investments in data analysis, targeted outreach, technology infrastructure, and impact evaluations.

3. Serving the hardest-hit communities and families

While the pandemic has affected communities across the country, it has disproportionately impacted low-income families and communities of color and has exacerbated systemic health and economic inequities. Low-income and socially vulnerable communities have experienced the most severe health impacts. For example, counties with high poverty rates also have the highest rates of infections and deaths, with 223 deaths per 100,000 compared to the U.S. average of 175 deaths per 100,000.

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds allow for a broad range of uses to address the disproportionate public health and economic impacts of the crisis on the hardest-hit communities, populations, and households. Eligible services include:

- Addressing health disparities and the social determinants of health, through funding for community health workers, public benefits navigators, remediation of lead hazards, and community violence intervention programs;
- Investments in housing and neighborhoods, such as services to address individuals experiencing homelessness, affordable housing development, housing vouchers, and residential counseling and housing navigation assistance to facilitate moves to neighborhoods with high economic opportunity;
- Addressing educational disparities through new or expanded early learning services, providing
 additional resources to high-poverty school districts, and offering educational services like
 tutoring or afterschool programs as well as services to address social, emotional, and mental
 health needs; and,
- **Promoting healthy childhood environments,** including new or expanded high quality childcare, home visiting programs for families with young children, and enhanced services for child welfare-involved families and foster youth.

Governments may use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to support these additional services if they are provided:

- within a Qualified Census Tract (a low-income area as designated by the Department of Housing and Urban Development);
- to families living in Qualified Census Tracts;
- by a Tribal government; or,
- to other populations, households, or geographic areas disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

4. Replacing lost public sector revenue

State, local, territorial, and Tribal governments that are facing budget shortfalls may use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to avoid cuts to government services. With these additional resources, recipients can continue to provide valuable public services and ensure that fiscal austerity measures do not hamper the broader economic recovery. Many state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments have experienced significant budget shortfalls, which can yield a devastating impact on their respective communities. Faced with budget shortfalls and pandemic-related uncertainty, state and local governments cut staff in all 50 states. These budget shortfalls and staff cuts are particularly problematic at present, as these entities are on the front lines of battling the COVID-19 pandemic and helping citizens weather the economic downturn.

Recipients may use these funds to replace lost revenue. Treasury's Interim Final Rule establishes a methodology that each recipient can use to calculate its reduction in revenue. Specifically, recipients will compute the extent of their reduction in revenue by comparing their actual revenue to an alternative representing what could have been expected to occur in the absence of the pandemic. Analysis of this expected trend begins with the last full fiscal year prior to the public health emergency and projects forward at either (a) the recipient's average annual revenue growth over the three full fiscal years prior to the public health emergency or (b) 4.1%, the national average state and local revenue growth rate from 2015-18 (the latest available data).

For administrative convenience, Treasury's Interim Final Rule allows recipients to presume that any diminution in actual revenue relative to the expected trend is due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Upon receiving Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, recipients may immediately calculate the reduction in revenue that occurred in 2020 and deploy funds to address any shortfall. Recipients will have the opportunity to re-calculate revenue loss at several points through the program, supporting those entities that experience a lagged impact of the crisis on revenues.

Importantly, once a shortfall in revenue is identified, recipients will have broad latitude to use this funding to support government services, up to this amount of lost revenue.

5. Providing premium pay for essential workers

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide resources for eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to recognize the heroic contributions of essential workers. Since the start of the public health emergency, essential workers have put their physical well-being at risk to meet the daily needs of their communities and to provide care for others.

Many of these essential workers have not received compensation for the heightened risks they have faced and continue to face. Recipients may use this funding to provide premium pay directly, or through grants to private employers, to a broad range of essential workers who must be physically present at their jobs including, among others:

- ✓ Staff at nursing homes, hospitals, and home-care settings
- Workers at farms, food production facilities, grocery stores, and restaurants
- Janitors and sanitation workers
- ✓ Public health and safety staff
- ✓ Truck drivers, transit staff, and warehouse workers
- ✓ Childcare workers, educators, and school staff
- ✓ Social service and human services staff

Treasury's Interim Final Rule emphasizes the need for recipients to prioritize premium pay for lower income workers. Premium pay that would increase a worker's total pay above 150% of the greater of the state or county average annual wage requires specific justification for how it responds to the needs of these workers.

In addition, employers are both permitted and encouraged to use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to offer retrospective premium pay, recognizing that many essential workers have not yet received additional compensation for work performed. Staff working for third-party contractors in eligible sectors are also eligible for premium pay.

6. Investing in water and sewer infrastructure

Recipients may use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to invest in necessary improvements to their water and sewer infrastructures, including projects that address the impacts of climate change.

Recipients may use 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.

Recipients may also use this funding to invest in wastewater infrastructure projects, including constructing publicly-owned treatment infrastructure, managing and treating stormwater or subsurface drainage water, facilitating water reuse, and securing publicly-owned treatment works.

To help jurisdictions expedite their execution of these essential investments, Treasury's Interim Final Rule aligns types of eligible projects with the wide range of projects that can be supported by the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Water State Revolving Fund and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. Recipients retain substantial flexibility to identify those water and sewer infrastructure investments that are of the highest priority for their own communities.

Treasury's Interim Final Rule also encourages recipients to ensure that water, sewer, and broadband projects use strong labor standards, including project labor agreements and community benefits agreements that offer wages at or above the prevailing rate and include local hire provisions.

7. Investing in broadband infrastructure

The pandemic has underscored the importance of access to universal, high-speed, reliable, and affordable broadband coverage. Over the past year, millions of Americans relied on the internet to participate in remote school, healthcare, and work.

Yet, by at least one measure, 30 million Americans live in areas where there is no broadband service or where existing services do not deliver minimally acceptable speeds. For millions of other Americans, the high cost of broadband access may place it out of reach. The American Rescue Plan aims to help remedy these shortfalls, providing recipients with flexibility to use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to invest in broadband infrastructure.

Recognizing the acute need in certain communities, Treasury's Interim Final Rule provides that investments in broadband be made in areas that are currently unserved or underserved—in other words, lacking a wireline connection that reliably delivers minimum speeds of 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload. Recipients are also encouraged to prioritize projects that achieve last-mile connections to households and businesses.

Using these funds, recipients generally should build broadband infrastructure with modern technologies in mind, specifically those projects that deliver services offering reliable 100 Mbps download and 100

Mbps upload speeds, unless impracticable due to topography, geography, or financial cost. In addition, recipients are encouraged to pursue fiber optic investments.

In view of the wide disparities in broadband access, assistance to households to support internet access or digital literacy is an eligible use to respond to the public health and negative economic impacts of the pandemic, as detailed above.

8. Ineligible Uses

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide substantial resources to help eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments manage the public health and economic consequences of COVID-19. Recipients have considerable flexibility to use these funds to address the diverse needs of their communities.

To ensure that these funds are used for their intended purposes, the American Rescue Plan Act also specifies two ineligible uses of funds:

- States and territories may not use this funding to directly or indirectly offset a reduction in net tax revenue due to a change in law from March 3, 2021 through the last day of the fiscal year in which the funds provided have been spent. The American Rescue Plan ensures that funds needed to provide vital services and support public employees, small businesses, and families struggling to make it through the pandemic are not used to fund reductions in net tax revenue. Treasury's Interim Final Rule implements this requirement. If a state or territory cuts taxes, they must demonstrate how they paid for the tax cuts from sources other than Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds—by enacting policies to raise other sources of revenue, by cutting spending, or through higher revenue due to economic growth. If the funds provided have been used to offset tax cuts, the amount used for this purpose must be paid back to the Treasury.
- No recipient may use this funding to make a deposit to a pension fund. Treasury's Interim Final Rule defines a "deposit" as an extraordinary contribution to a pension fund for the purpose of reducing an accrued, unfunded liability. While pension deposits are prohibited, recipients may use funds for routine payroll contributions for employees whose wages and salaries are an eligible use of funds.

Treasury's Interim Final Rule identifies several other ineligible uses, including funding debt service, legal settlements or judgments, and deposits to rainy day funds or financial reserves. Further, general infrastructure spending is not covered as an eligible use outside of water, sewer, and broadband investments or above the amount allocated under the revenue loss provision. While the program offers broad flexibility to recipients to address local conditions, these restrictions will help ensure that funds are used to augment existing activities and address pressing needs.

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Frequently Asked Questions

AS OF MAY 10, 2021

This document contains answers to frequently asked questions regarding the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSFRF / CLFRF, or Fiscal Recovery Funds). Treasury will be updating this document periodically in response to questions received from stakeholders. Recipients and stakeholders should consult the Interim Final Rule for additional information.

- For overall information about the program, including information on requesting funding, please see https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments
- For general questions about CSFRF / CLFRF, please email <u>SLFRP@treasury.gov</u>
- Upon publication of the Interim Final Rule in the Federal Register, Treasury encourages stakeholders to submit public comments on the Interim Final Rule at regulations.gov

Eligibility and Allocations

1. Which governments are eligible for funds?

The following governments are eligible:

- States and the District of Columbia
- Territories
- Tribal governments
- Counties
- Metropolitan cities
- Non-entitlement units, or smaller local governments

2. Which governments receive funds directly from Treasury?

Treasury will distribute funds directly to each eligible state, territory, metropolitan city, county, or Tribal government. Smaller local governments that are classified as non-entitlement units will receive funds through their applicable state government.

3. Are special-purpose units of government eligible to receive funds?

Special-purpose units of local government will not receive funding allocations; however, a state, territory, local, or Tribal government may transfer funds to a special-purpose unit of government. Special-purpose districts perform specific functions in the community, such as fire, water, sewer or mosquito abatement districts.

4. How are funds being allocated to Tribal governments, and how will Tribal governments find out their allocation amounts?

\$20 billion of Fiscal Recovery Funds was reserved for Tribal governments. The American Rescue Plan Act specifies that \$1 billion will be allocated evenly to all eligible Tribal governments. The remaining \$19 billion will be distributed using an allocation methodology based on enrollment and employment.

There will be two payments to Tribal governments. Each Tribal government's first payment will include (i) an amount in respect of the \$1 billion allocation that is to be divided equally among eligible Tribal governments and (ii) each Tribal government's pro rata share of the Enrollment Allocation. Tribal governments will be notified of their allocation amount and delivery of payment 4-5 days after completing request for funds in the Treasury Submission Portal. The deadline to make the initial request for funds is May 24, 2021.

In mid-May or shortly after completing the initial request for funds, Tribal governments will receive an email notification to re-enter the Treasury Submission Portal to confirm or amend their 2019 employment numbers that were submitted to the Department of the Treasury for the CARES Act's Coronavirus Relief Fund. The deadline to confirm employment numbers is June 7, 2021. Treasury will calculate each Tribal government's pro rata share of the Employment Allocation for those Tribal governments that confirmed or submitted amended employment numbers. In mid-June, Treasury will communicate to Tribal governments the amount of their portion of the Employment Allocation and the anticipated date for the second payment.

Eligible Uses – Responding to the Public Health Emergency / Negative Economic Impacts

5. What types of COVID-19 response, mitigation, and prevention activities are eligible?

A broad range of services are needed to contain COVID-19 and are eligible uses, including vaccination programs; medical care; testing; contact tracing; support for isolation or quarantine; supports for vulnerable populations to access medical or public health services; public health surveillance (e.g., monitoring case trends, genomic sequencing for variants); enforcement of public health orders; public communication efforts; enhancement to health care capacity, including through alternative care facilities; purchases of personal protective equipment; support for prevention, mitigation, or other services in congregate living facilities (e.g., nursing homes, incarceration settings, homeless shelters, group living facilities) and other key settings like schools; ventilation improvements in congregate settings, health care settings, or other key locations; enhancement of public health data systems; and other public health responses. Capital investments in public facilities to meet pandemic operational needs are also eligible, such as physical plant improvements to public hospitals and health clinics or adaptations to public buildings to implement COVID-19 mitigation tactics.

6. If a use of funds was allowable under the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) to respond to the public health emergency, may recipients presume it is also allowable under CSFRF/CLFRF?

Generally, funding uses eligible under CRF as a response to the direct public health impacts of COVID-19 will continue to be eligible under CSFRF/CLFRF, with the following two exceptions: (1) the standard for eligibility of public health and safety payrolls has been updated; and (2) expenses related to the issuance of tax-anticipation notes are not an eligible funding use.

7. If a use of funds is not explicitly permitted in the Interim Final Rule as a response to the public health emergency and its negative economic impacts, does that mean it is prohibited?

The Interim Final Rule contains a non-exclusive list of programs or services that may be funded as responding to COVID-19 or the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency, along with considerations for evaluating other potential uses of Fiscal Recovery Funds not explicitly listed. The Interim Final Rule also provides flexibility for recipients to use Fiscal Recovery Funds for programs or services that are not identified on these non-exclusive lists but which meet the objectives of section 602(c)(1)(A) or 603(c)(1)(A) by responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency with respect to COVID-19 or its negative economic impacts.

8. May recipients use funds to respond to the public health emergency and its negative economic impacts by replenishing state unemployment funds?

Consistent with the approach taken in the CRF, recipients may make deposits into the state account of the Unemployment Trust Fund up to the level needed to restore the prepandemic balances of such account as of January 27, 2020, or to pay back advances received for the payment of benefits between January 27, 2020 and the date when the Interim Final Rule is published in the Federal Register.

9. What types of services are eligible as responses to the negative economic impacts of the pandemic?

Eligible uses in this category include assistance to households; small businesses and non-profits; and aid to impacted industries.

Assistance to households includes, but is not limited to: food assistance; rent, mortgage, or utility assistance; counseling and legal aid to prevent eviction or homelessness; cash assistance; emergency assistance for burials, home repairs, weatherization, or other needs; internet access or digital literacy assistance; or job training to address negative economic or public health impacts experienced due to a worker's occupation or level of training.

Assistance to small business and non-profits includes, but is not limited to:

- loans or grants to mitigate financial hardship such as declines in revenues or impacts of periods of business closure, for example by supporting payroll and benefits costs, costs to retain employees, mortgage, rent, or utilities costs, and other operating costs;
- Loans, grants, or in-kind assistance to implement COVID-19 prevention or mitigation tactics, such as physical plant changes to enable social distancing, enhanced cleaning efforts, barriers or partitions, or COVID-19 vaccination, testing, or contact tracing programs; and
- Technical assistance, counseling, or other services to assist with business planning needs

10. May recipients use funds to respond to the public health emergency and its negative economic impacts by providing direct cash transfers to households?

Yes, provided the recipient considers whether, and the extent to which, the household has experienced a negative economic impact from the pandemic. Additionally, cash transfers must be reasonably proportional to the negative economic impact they are intended to address. Cash transfers grossly in excess of the amount needed to address the negative economic impact identified by the recipient would not be considered to be a response to the COVID-19 public health emergency or its negative impacts. In particular, when considering appropriate size of permissible cash transfers made in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments may consider and take guidance from the per person amounts previously provided by the federal government in response to the COVID crisis.

11. May funds be used to reimburse recipients for costs incurred by state and local governments in responding to the public health emergency and its negative economic impacts prior to passage of the American Rescue Plan?

Use of Fiscal Recovery Funds is generally forward looking. The Interim Final Rule permits funds to be used to cover costs incurred beginning on March 3, 2021.

12. May recipients use funds for general economic development or workforce development?

Generally, not. Recipients must demonstrate that funding uses directly address a negative economic impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency, including funds used for economic or workforce development. For example, job training for unemployed workers may be used to address negative economic impacts of the public health emergency and be eligible.

13. How can recipients use funds to assist the travel, tourism, and hospitality industries?

Aid provided to tourism, travel, and hospitality industries should respond to the negative economic impacts of the pandemic. For example, a recipient may provide aid to support safe reopening of businesses in the tourism, travel and hospitality industries and to districts that were closed during the COVID-19 public health emergency, as well as aid a planned expansion or upgrade of tourism, travel and hospitality facilities delayed due to the pandemic.

Tribal development districts are considered the commercial centers for tribal hospitality, gaming, tourism and entertainment industries.

14. May recipients use funds to assist impacted industries other than travel, tourism, and hospitality?

Yes, provided that recipients consider the extent of the impact in such industries as compared to tourism, travel, and hospitality, the industries enumerated in the statute. For example, nationwide the leisure and hospitality industry has experienced an approximately 17 percent decline in employment and 24 percent decline in revenue, on net, due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Recipients should also consider whether impacts were due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as opposed to longer-term economic or industrial trends unrelated to the pandemic.

Recipients should maintain records to support their assessment of how businesses or business districts receiving assistance were affected by the negative economic impacts of the pandemic and how the aid provided responds to these impacts.

15. How does the Interim Final Rule help address the disparate impact of COVID-19 on certain populations and geographies?

In recognition of the disproportionate impacts of the COVID-19 virus on health and economic outcomes in low-income and Native American communities, the Interim Final Rule identifies a broader range of services and programs that are considered to be in response to the public health emergency when provided in these communities. Specifically, Treasury will presume that certain types of services are eligible uses when provided in a Qualified Census Tract (QCT), to families living in QCTs, or when these services are provided by Tribal governments.

Recipients may also provide these services to other populations, households, or geographic areas disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. In identifying these disproportionately-impacted communities, recipients should be able to support their determination for how the pandemic disproportionately impacted the populations, households, or geographic areas to be served.

Eligible services include:

• Addressing health disparities and the social determinants of health, including: community health workers, public benefits navigators, remediation of lead paint or other lead hazards, and community violence intervention programs;

- Building stronger neighborhoods and communities, including: supportive housing and other services for individuals experiencing homelessness, development of affordable housing, and housing vouchers and assistance relocating to neighborhoods with higher levels of economic opportunity;
- Addressing educational disparities exacerbated by COVID-19, including: early learning services, increasing resources for high-poverty school districts, educational services like tutoring or afterschool programs, and supports for students' social, emotional, and mental health needs; and
- Promoting healthy childhood environments, including: child care, home visiting programs for families with young children, and enhanced services for child welfare-involved families and foster youth.

Eligible Uses – Revenue Loss

16. How is revenue defined for the purpose of this provision?

The Interim Final Rule adopts a definition of "General Revenue" that is based on, but not identical, to the Census Bureau's concept of "General Revenue from Own Sources" in the Annual Survey of State and Local Government Finances.

General Revenue includes revenue from taxes, current charges, and miscellaneous general revenue. It excludes refunds and other correcting transactions, proceeds from issuance of debt or the sale of investments, agency or private trust transactions, and revenue generated by utilities and insurance trusts. General revenue also includes intergovernmental transfers between state and local governments, but excludes intergovernmental transfers from the Federal government, including Federal transfers made via a state to a locality pursuant to the CRF or the Fiscal Recovery Funds.

Tribal governments may include all revenue from Tribal enterprises and gaming operations in the definition of General Revenue.

17. Will revenue be calculated on an entity-wide basis or on a source-by-source basis (e.g. property tax, income tax, sales tax, etc.)?

Recipients should calculate revenue on an entity-wide basis. This approach minimizes the administrative burden for recipients, provides for greater consistency across recipients, and presents a more accurate representation of the net impact of the COVID- 19 public health emergency on a recipient's revenue, rather than relying on financial reporting prepared by each recipient, which vary in methodology used and which generally aggregates revenue by purpose rather than by source.

18. Does the definition of revenue include outside concessions that contract with a state or local government?

Recipients should classify revenue sources as they would if responding to the U.S. Census Bureau's Annual Survey of State and Local Government Finances. According to the Census Bureau's <u>Government Finance and Employment Classification manual</u>, the following is an example of current charges that would be included in a state or local government's general revenue from own sources: "Gross revenue of facilities operated by a government (swimming pools, recreational marinas and piers, golf courses, skating rinks, museums, zoos, etc.); auxiliary facilities in public recreation areas (camping areas, refreshment stands, gift shops, etc.); lease or use fees from stadiums, auditoriums, and community and convention centers; and rentals from concessions at such facilities."

19. What is the time period for estimating revenue loss? Will revenue losses experienced prior to the passage of the Act be considered?

Recipients are permitted to calculate the extent of reduction in revenue as of four points in time: December 31, 2020; December 31, 2021; December 31, 2022; and December 31, 2023. This approach recognizes that some recipients may experience lagged effects of the pandemic on revenues.

Upon receiving Fiscal Recovery Fund payments, recipients may immediately calculate revenue loss for the period ending December 31, 2020.

20. What is the formula for calculating the reduction in revenue?

A reduction in a recipient's General Revenue equals:

Max {[Base Year Revenue* (1+Growth Adjustment) $\left(\frac{n_t}{12}\right)$] - Actual General Revenue_t; 0}

Where:

Base Year Revenue is General Revenue collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the COVD-19 public health emergency.

Growth Adjustment is equal to the greater of 4.1 percent (or 0.041) and the recipient's average annual revenue growth over the three full fiscal years prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

n equals the number of months elapsed from the end of the base year to the calculation date.

Actual General Revenue is a recipient's actual general revenue collected during 12-month period ending on each calculation date.

Subscript *t* denotes the calculation date.

21. Are recipients expected to demonstrate that reduction in revenue is due to the COVID-19 public health emergency?

In the Interim Final Rule, any diminution in actual revenue calculated using the formula above would be presumed to have been "due to" the COVID-19 public health emergency. This presumption is made for administrative ease and in recognition of the broad-based economic damage that the pandemic has wrought.

22. May recipients use pre-pandemic projections as a basis to estimate the reduction in revenue?

No. Treasury is disallowing the use of projections to ensure consistency and comparability across recipients and to streamline verification. However, in estimating the revenue shortfall using the formula above, recipients may incorporate their average annual revenue growth rate in the three full fiscal years prior to the public health emergency.

23. Once a recipient has identified a reduction in revenue, are there any restrictions on how recipients use funds up to the amount of the reduction?

The Interim Final Rule gives recipients broad latitude to use funds for the provision of government services to the extent of reduction in revenue. Government services can include, but are not limited to, maintenance of infrastructure or pay-go spending for building new infrastructure, including roads; modernization of cybersecurity, including hardware, software, and protection of critical infrastructure; health services; environmental remediation; school or educational services; and the provision of police, fire, and other public safety services.

However, paying interest or principal on outstanding debt, replenishing rainy day or other reserve funds, or paying settlements or judgments would not be considered provision of a government service, since these uses of funds do not entail direct provision of services to citizens. This restriction on paying interest or principal on any outstanding debt instrument, includes, for example, short-term revenue or tax anticipation notes, or paying fees or issuance costs associated with the issuance of new debt. In addition, the overarching restrictions on all program funds (e.g., restriction on pension deposits, restriction on using funds for non-federal match where barred by regulation or statute) would apply.

Eligible Uses – General

24. May recipients use funds to replenish a budget stabilization fund, rainy day fund, or similar reserve account?

No. Funds made available to respond to the public health emergency and its negative economic impacts are intended to help meet pandemic response needs and provide immediate stabilization for households and businesses. Contributions to rainy day funds and similar reserves funds would not address these needs or respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency, but would rather be savings for future spending needs.

Similarly, funds made available for the provision of governmental services (to the extent of reduction in revenue) are intended to support direct provision of services to citizens. Contributions to rainy day funds are not considered provision of government services, since such expenses do not directly relate to the provision of government services.

25. May recipients use funds to invest in infrastructure other than water, sewer, and broadband projects (e.g. roads, public facilities)?

Under 602(c)(1)(C) or 603(c)(1)(C), recipients may use funds for maintenance of infrastructure or pay-go spending for building of new infrastructure as part of the general provision of government services, to the extent of the estimated reduction in revenue due to the public health emergency.

Under 602(c)(1)(A) or 603(c)(1)(A), a general infrastructure project typically would not be considered a response to the public health emergency and its negative economic impacts unless the project responds to a specific pandemic-related public health need (e.g., investments in facilities for the delivery of vaccines) or a specific negative economic impact of the pandemic (e.g., affordable housing in a Qualified Census Tract).

26. May recipients use funds to pay interest or principal on outstanding debt?

No. Expenses related to financing, including servicing or redeeming notes, would not address the needs of pandemic response or its negative economic impacts. Such expenses would also not be considered provision of government services, as these financing expenses do not directly provide services or aid to citizens.

This applies to paying interest or principal on any outstanding debt instrument, including, for example, short-term revenue or tax anticipation notes, or paying fees or issuance costs associated with the issuance of new debt.

27. May recipients use funds to satisfy nonfederal matching requirements under the Stafford Act? May recipients use funds to satisfy nonfederal matching requirements generally?

Fiscal Recovery Funds are subject to pre-existing limitations in other federal statutes and regulations and may not be used as non-federal match for other Federal programs whose statute or regulations bar the use of Federal funds to meet matching requirements. For example, expenses for the state share of Medicaid are not an eligible use. For information on FEMA programs, please <u>see here</u>.

Eligible Uses – Premium Pay

28. What criteria should recipients use in identifying essential workers to receive premium pay?

Essential workers are those in critical infrastructure sectors who regularly perform inperson work, interact with others at work, or physically handle items handled by others.

Critical infrastructure sectors include healthcare, education and childcare, transportation, sanitation, grocery and food production, and public health and safety, among others, as provided in the Interim Final Rule. Governments receiving Fiscal Recovery Funds have the discretion to add additional sectors to this list, so long as the sectors are considered critical to protect the health and well-being of residents.

The Interim Final Rule emphasizes the need for recipients to prioritize premium pay for lower income workers. Premium pay that would increase a worker's total pay above 150% of the greater of the state or county average annual wage requires specific justification for how it responds to the needs of these workers.

29. What criteria should recipients use in identifying third-party employers to receive grants for the purpose of providing premium pay to essential workers?

Any third-party employers of essential workers are eligible. Third-party contractors who employ essential workers in eligible sectors are also eligible for grants to provide premium pay. Selection of third-party employers and contractors who receive grants is at the discretion of recipients.

To ensure any grants respond to the needs of essential workers and are made in a fair and transparent manner, the rule imposes some additional reporting requirements for grants to third-party employers, including the public disclosure of grants provided.

30. May recipients provide premium pay retroactively for work already performed?

Yes. Treasury encourages recipients to consider providing premium pay retroactively for work performed during the pandemic, recognizing that many essential workers have not yet received additional compensation for their service during the pandemic.

Eligible Uses - Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure

31. What types of water and sewer projects are eligible uses of funds?

The Interim Final Rule generally aligns eligible uses of the Funds with the wide range of types or categories of projects that would be eligible to receive financial assistance through the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) or Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF).

Under the DWSRF, categories of <u>eligible projects</u> include: treatment, transmission and distribution (including lead service line replacement), source rehabilitation and decontamination, storage, consolidation, and new systems development.

Under the CWSRF, categories of <u>eligible projects</u> include: construction of publiclyowned treatment works, nonpoint source pollution management, national estuary program projects, decentralized wastewater treatment systems, stormwater systems, water conservation, efficiency, and reuse measures, watershed pilot projects, energy efficiency measures for publicly-owned treatment works, water reuse projects, security measures at publicly-owned treatment works, and technical assistance to ensure compliance with the Clean Water Act.

As mentioned in the Interim Final Rule, eligible projects under the DWSRF and CWSRF support efforts to address climate change, as well as to meet cybersecurity needs to protect water and sewer infrastructure. Given the lifelong impacts of lead exposure for children, and the widespread nature of lead service lines, Treasury also encourages recipients to consider projects to replace lead service lines.

32. May construction on eligible water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure projects continue past December 31, 2024, assuming funds have been obligated prior to that date?

Yes. Treasury is interpreting the requirement that costs be incurred by December 31, 2024 to only require that recipients have obligated the funds by such date. The period of performance will run until December 31, 2026, which will provide recipients a reasonable amount of time to complete projects funded with Fiscal Recovery Funds.

33. May recipients use funds as a non-federal match for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) or Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)?

Recipients may not use funds as a state match for the CWSRF and DWSRF due to prohibitions in utilizing federal funds as a state match in the authorizing statutes and regulations of the CWSRF and DWSRF.

34. Does the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) apply to eligible infrastructure projects?

NEPA does not apply to Treasury's administration of the Funds. Projects supported with payments from the Funds may still be subject to NEPA review if they are also funded by other federal financial assistance programs.

35. What types of broadband projects are eligible?

The Interim Final Rule requires eligible projects to reliably deliver minimum speeds of 100 Mbps download and 100 Mbps upload. In cases where it is impracticable due to geography, topography, or financial cost to meet those standards, projects must reliably deliver at least 100 Mbps download speed, at least 20 Mbps upload speed, and be scalable to a minimum of 100 Mbps download speed and 100 Mbps upload speed.

Projects must also be designed to serve unserved or underserved households and businesses, defined as those that are not currently served by a wireline connection that reliably delivers at least 25 Mbps download speed and 3 Mbps of upload speed.

36. For broadband investments, may recipients use funds for related programs such as cybersecurity or digital literacy training?

Yes. Recipients may use funds to provide assistance to households facing negative economic impacts due to Covid-19, including digital literacy training and other programs that promote access to the Internet. Recipients may also use funds for modernization of cybersecurity, including hardware, software, and protection of critical infrastructure, as part of provision of government services up to the amount of revenue lost due to the public health emergency.

Non-Entitlement Units (NEUs)

37. Can states impose requirements or conditions on the transfer of funds to NEUs?

As the statute requires states to make distributions based on population, states may not place additional conditions or requirements on distributions to NEUs, beyond those required by the ARPA and Treasury's implementing regulations and guidance.

For example, states may not impose stricter limitations than permitted by statute or Treasury regulations or guidance on an NEU's use of Fiscal Recovery Funds based on the NEU's proposed spending plan or other policies, nor permitted to offset any debt owed by the NEU against its payment. Further, states may not provide funding on a reimbursement basis (e.g., requiring NEUs to pay for project costs up front before being reimbursed with Fiscal Recovery Fund payments), because this approach would not comport with the statutory requirement that states make distributions to NEUs within the statutory timeframe.

38. Can states transfer additional funds to local governments beyond amount allocated to NEUs?

Yes. The Interim Final Rule permits states, territories, and Tribal governments to transfer Fiscal Recovery Funds to other constituent units of government or private entities beyond those specified in the statute, as long as the transferee abides by the transferor's eligible use and other requirements. Similarly, local governments are authorized to transfer Fiscal Recovery Funds to other constituent units of government (e.g., a county is able to transfer Fiscal Recovery Funds to a city, town or school district within it).

39. What is the definition of "budget" for the purpose of the 75 percent cap on NEU payments, and who is responsible for enforcing this cap?

States are responsible for enforcing the "75 percent cap" on NEU payments, which is a statutory requirement that distributions to NEUs not exceed 75 percent of the NEU's

most recent budget. Treasury interprets the most recent budget as the NEU's most recent annual total operating budget, including its general fund and other funds, as of January 27, 2020. States may rely for this determination on a certified top-line budget total from the NEU. Funding amounts in excess of such cap must be returned to Treasury.

40. May states use funds to pay for the administrative costs of allocating and distributing money to the NEUs?

Yes. If necessary, states may use Fiscal Recovery Funds to support the administrative costs of allocating and distributing money to NEUs, as disbursing these funds itself is a response to the public health emergency and its negative economic impacts.

41. When will states get their payments for NEUs? When will NEUs get their payments?

States can find their state-level allocations for NEUs on the Treasury website. Treasury plans to issue further guidance on distributions and payments to NEUs in the coming days.

State governments that request their own funds under the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund through Treasury's Submission Portal will be considered by Treasury to have requested funding for their non-entitlement units as well.

42. When will NEUs know if they are eligible for payment?

Treasury plans to provide further guidance on distributions and payments to NEUs in the coming days.

Ineligible Uses

43. What is meant by a pension "deposit"? Can governments use funds for routine pension contributions for employees whose payroll and covered benefits are eligible expenses?

Treasury interprets "deposit" in this context to refer to an extraordinary payment into a pension fund for the purpose of reducing an accrued, unfunded liability. More specifically, the interim final rule does not permit this assistance to be used to make a payment into a pension fund if both: (1) the payment reduces a liability incurred prior to the start of the COVID-19 public health emergency, and (2) the payment occurs outside the recipient's regular timing for making such payments.

Under this interpretation, a "deposit" is distinct from a "payroll contribution," which occurs when employers make payments into pension funds on regular intervals, with contribution amounts based on a pre-determined percentage of employees' wages and salaries. In general, if an employee's wages and salaries are an eligible use of Fiscal

Recovery Funds, recipients may treat the employee's covered benefits as an eligible use of Fiscal Recovery Funds.

Reporting

44. What records must be kept by governments receiving funds?

Financial records and supporting documents related to the award must be retained for a period of five years after all funds have been expended or returned to Treasury, whichever is later. This includes those which demonstrate the award funds were used for eligible purposes in accordance with the ARPA, Treasury's regulations implementing those sections, and Treasury's guidance on eligible uses of funds.

45. What reporting will be required, and when will the first report be due?

Recipients will be required to submit an interim report, quarterly project and expenditure reports, and annual recovery plan performance reports as specified below, regarding their utilization of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

<u>Interim reports</u>: States (defined to include the District of Columbia), territories, metropolitan cities, counties, and Tribal governments will be required to submit one interim report. The interim report will include a recipient's expenditures by category at the summary level and for states, information related to distributions to nonentitlement units of local government must also be included in the interim report. The interim report will cover activity from the date of award to July 31, 2021 and must be submitted to Treasury by August 31, 2021. Nonentitlement units of local government are not required to submit an interim report.

<u>Quarterly Project and Expenditure reports</u>: State (defined to include the District of Columbia), territorial, metropolitan city, county, and Tribal governments will be required to submit quarterly project and expenditure reports. This report will include financial data, information on contracts and subawards over \$50,000, types of projects funded, and other information regarding a recipient's utilization of award funds. Reports will be required quarterly with the exception of nonentitlement units, which will report annually. An interim report is due on August 31, 2021. The reports will include the same general data as those submitted by recipients of the Coronavirus Relief Fund, with some modifications to expenditure categories and the addition of data elements related to specific eligible uses. The initial quarterly Project and Expenditure report will cover two calendar quarters from the date of award to September 30, 2021 and must be submitted to Treasury by October 31, 2021. The subsequent quarterly reports will cover one calendar quarter and must be submitted to Treasury within 30 days after the end of each calendar quarter.

Nonentitlement units of local government will be required to submit the project and expenditure report annually. The initial annual Project and Expenditure report for nonentitlement units of local government will cover activity from the date of award to

September 30, 2021 and must be submitted to Treasury by October 31, 2021. The subsequent annual reports must be submitted to Treasury by October 31 each year.

Recovery Plan Performance reports: States (defined to include the District of Columbia), territories, metropolitan cities, and counties with a population that exceeds 250,000 residents will also be required to submit an annual recovery plan performance report to Treasury. This report will include descriptions of the projects funded and information on the performance indicators and objectives of each award, helping local residents understand how their governments are using the substantial resources provided by Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds program. The initial recovery plan performance report will cover activity from date of award to July 31, 2021 and must be submitted to Treasury by August 31, 2021. Thereafter, the recovery plan performance reports will cover a 12-month period and recipients will be required to submit the report to Treasury within 30 days after the end of the 12-month period. The second Recovery Plan Performance report will cover the period from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 and must be submitted to Treasury by July 31, 2022. Each annual recovery plan performance report must be posted on the public-facing website of the recipient. Local governments with fewer than 250,000 residents, Tribal governments, and nonentitlement units of local government are not required to develop a Recovery Plan Performance report.

Treasury will provide further guidance and instructions on the reporting requirements for program at a later date.

46. What provisions of the Uniform Guidance for grants apply to these funds? Will the Single Audit requirements apply?

Most of the provisions of the Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200) apply to this program, including the Cost Principles and Single Audit Act requirements. Recipients should refer to the Assistance Listing for detail on the specific provisions of the Uniform Guidance that do not apply to this program. The Assistance Listing will be available on beta.SAM.gov.

Miscellaneous

47. May governments retain assets purchased with Fiscal Recovery Funds? If so, what rules apply to the proceeds of disposition or sale of such assets?

Yes, if the purchase of the asset was consistent with the limitations on the eligible use of funds. If such assets are disposed of prior to December 31, 2024, the proceeds would be subject to the restrictions on the eligible use of payments.

48. Can recipients use funds for administrative purposes?

Recipients may use funds to cover the portion of payroll and benefits of employees corresponding to time spent on administrative work necessary due to the COVID–19 public health emergency and its negative economic impacts. This includes, but is not

limited to, costs related to disbursing payments of Fiscal Recovery Funds and managing new grant programs established using Fiscal Recovery Funds.

Operational Questions

49. How does an eligible entity request payment?

Eligible entities (other than non-entitlement units) must submit their information to the <u>Treasury Submission Portal</u>. Please visit the <u>Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal</u> <u>Recovery Fund</u> website for more information on the submission process.

50. I cannot log into the Treasury Submission Portal or am having trouble navigating it. Who can help me?

If you have questions about the Treasury Submission Portal or for technical support, please email <u>covidreliefitsupport@treasury.gov</u>.

51. What do I need to do to receive my payment?

All eligible payees are required to have a DUNS Number previously issued by Dun & Bradstreet (<u>https://www.dnb.com</u>/).

All eligible payees are also required to have an active registration with the System for Award Management (SAM) (<u>https://www.sam.gov</u>).

And eligible payees must have a bank account enabled for Automated Clearing House (ACH) direct deposit. Payees with a Wire account are encouraged to provide that information as well.

More information on these and all program pre-submission requirements can be found on the <u>Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund</u> website.

52. Why is Treasury employing id.me for the Treasury Submission Portal?

ID.me is a trusted technology partner to multiple government agencies and healthcare providers. It provides secure digital identity verification to those government agencies and healthcare providers to make sure you're you – and not someone pretending to be you – when you request access to online services. All personally identifiable information provided to ID.me is encrypted and disclosed only with the express consent of the user. Please refer to ID.me Contact Support for assistance with your ID.me account. Their support website is https://help.id.me.

53. Why is an entity not on the list of eligible entities in Treasury Submission Portal?

The ARP statute lays out which governments are eligible for payments. The list of entities within the Treasury Submission Portal includes entities eligible to receive a direct

payment of funds from Treasury, which include states (defined to include the District of Columbia), territories, Tribal governments, counties, and metropolitan cities.

Eligible non-entitlement units of local government will receive a distribution of funds from their respective state government and should not submit information to the Treasury Submission Portal.

If you believe an entity has been mistakenly left off the eligible entity list, please email <u>SLFRP@treasury.gov</u>.

54. What is an Authorized Representative?

An Authorized Representative is an individual with legal authority to bind the government entity (e.g., the Chief Executive Officer of the government entity). An Authorized Representative must sign the Acceptance of Award terms for it to be valid.

55. How does a Tribal government determine their allocation?

Tribal governments will receive information about their allocation when the submission to the Treasury Submission Portal is confirmed to be complete and accurate.

56. How do I know the status of my request for funds (submission)?

Entities can check the status of their submission at any time by logging into <u>Treasury</u> <u>Submission Portal</u>.

57. My Treasury Submission Portal submission requires additional information/correction. What is the process for that?

If your Authorized Representative has not yet signed the award terms, you can edit your submission with in the into <u>Treasury Submission Portal</u>. If your Authorized Representative has signed the award terms, please email <u>SLFRP@treasury.gov</u> to request assistance with updating your information.

58. My request for funds was denied. How do I find out why it was denied or appeal the decision?

Please check to ensure that no one else from your entity has applied, causing a duplicate submission. Please also review the list of all eligible entities on the <u>Coronavirus State and</u> <u>Local Fiscal Recovery Fund</u> website.

If you still have questions regarding your submission, please email <u>SLFRP@treasury.gov</u>.

59. When will entities get their money?

Before Treasury is able to execute a payment, a representative of an eligible government must submit the government's information for verification through the <u>Treasury</u> <u>Submission Portal</u>. The verification process takes approximately four business days. If any errors are identified, the designated point of contact for the government will be contacted via email to correct the information before the payment can proceed. Once verification is complete, the designated point of contact of the eligible government will receive an email notifying them that their submission has been verified. Payments are generally scheduled for the next business day after this verification email, though funds may not be available immediately due to processing time of their financial institution.

60. How does a local government entity provide Treasury with a notice of transfer of funds to its State?

For more information on how to provide Treasury with notice of transfer to a state, please email <u>SLRedirectFunds@treasury.gov</u>.

MEMBER ALERT FROM GFOA'S FEDERAL LIAISON

American Rescue Plan Spending: Recommended Guiding Principles

Signed into law on March 11, 2021, **The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021** ("ARPA") provides \$350 billion in additional funding for state and local governments. **Please click here for GFOA's analysis of ARPA**. The state funding portion is approximately \$195 billion with \$25.5 billion distributed equally among the 50 states and the District of Columbia and the remaining amount distributed according to a formula based on unemployment.

The local funding portion is approximately \$130 billion, equally divided between cities and counties. Localities will receive the funds in two tranches–the first after the U.S. Treasury certifies the proceeds to each jurisdiction and the second one year later.

For cities, \$65 billion is divided between jurisdictions that are Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) entitlement jurisdictions and those that are not. \$45.5 billion of the \$65 billion will be allocated to metropolitan cities utilizing a modified CDBG formula, and the remaining amount for jurisdictions that are non-entitlement CDBG, will be allocated according to population. For the non-entitlement jurisdictions, the amount will not exceed seventy- five percent of their most recent budget as of January 27, 2020. Additionally, non-entitlement jurisdictions proceeds will be allocated through the state for redistribution to local governments.

For counties, the \$65 billion will be allocated based on the county's population. Counties that are CDBG recipients will receive the larger of the population or CDBG-based formula. **Eligible uses of these funds include:**

- Revenue replacement for the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the COVID-19 public health emergency, relative to revenues collected in the most recent fiscal year prior to the emergency,
- COVID-19 expenditures or negative economic impacts of COVID-19, including assistance to small businesses, households, and hard-hit industries, and economic recovery,
- Premium pay for essential workers,
- Investments in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure.

Restrictions on the uses of these funds include:

- Funds allocated to states cannot be used to directly or indirectly to offset tax reductions or delay a tax or tax increase;
- Funds cannot be deposited into any pension fund.

Funding must be spent by the end of calendar year 2024.

As with previous COVID-19 relief packages, implementation will be an extensive process as new or updated guidance and FAQs are developed and released by the U.S. Treasury. For example, the legislation requires each jurisdiction's executive to "certify" that the funds will be used for eligible purposes. That process is currently under development by the U.S. Treasury. GFOA will provide regular updates as information becomes available. If you have specific questions or need clarification, GFOA has launched an online portal to gather member questions to help shape engagement and solicit answers from the Administration. For many jurisdictions, the funding provided under ARPA is substantial and could be transformational for states and local governments in their pandemic rescue and recovery efforts. Elected leaders will need to decide how to best use the additional funding consistent with the ARPA requirements, which are very broad. Finance officers play a critical role in advising elected leaders on the prudent spending of moneys received under ARPA. Finance officers are best positioned to help ensure the long-term value of investments and financial stability of its government using this one-time infusion of resources. When considering how to best advise elected officials and plan for the prudent use of ARPA funds, we offer the following outline of Guiding Principles for the use of ARPA funds:

GFOA American Rescue Plan Act Guiding Principles

<u>Temporary Nature of ARPA Funds</u>. ARPA funds are non-recurring so their use should be applied primarily to non-recurring expenditures.

- Care should be taken to avoid creating new programs or add-ons to existing programs that require an ongoing financial commitment.
- Replenishing reserves used to offset revenue declines during the pandemic should be given high priority to rebuild financial flexibility/stability and restore fiscal resiliency.

- Use of ARPA funds to cover operating deficits caused by COVID-19 should be considered temporary and additional budget restraint may be necessary to achieve/maintain structural balance in future budgets.
- Investment in critical infrastructure is particularly well suited use of ARPA funds because it is a non-recurring expenditure that can be targeted to strategically important long- term assets that provide benefits over many years. However, care should be taken to assess any on-going operating costs that may be associated with the project.

<u>ARPA Scanning and Partnering Efforts</u>. State and local jurisdictions should be aware of plans for ARPA funding throughout their communities.

- Local jurisdictions should be cognizant of state-level ARPA efforts, especially regarding infrastructure, potential enhancements of state funding resources, and existing or new state law requirements.
- Consider regional initiatives, including partnering with other ARPA recipients. It is possible there are many beneficiaries of ARPA funding within your community, such as schools, transportation agencies and local economic development authorities. Be sure to understand what they are planning and augment their efforts; alternatively, creating cooperative spending plans to enhance the structural financial condition of your community.

<u>Take Time and Careful Consideration</u>. ARPA funds will be issued in two tranches to local governments. Throughout the years of outlays, and until the end of calendar year 2024, consider how the funds may be used to address rescue efforts and lead to recovery.

- Use other dedicated grants and programs first whenever possible and save ARPA funds for priorities not eligible for other federal and state assistance programs.
- Whenever possible, expenditures related to the ARPA funding should be spread over the qualifying period (through December 31, 2024) to enhance budgetary and financial stability.
- Adequate time should be taken to carefully consider all alternatives for the prudent use of ARPA funding prior to committing the resources to ensure the best use of the temporary funding.

The influx of funds will undoubtedly benefit state and local finances, and aid in the recovery from the budgetary, economic, and financial impacts of the pandemic. Rating agencies will evaluate a government's use of the ARPA funds in formulating its credit opinion and, importantly, will consider your government's level of reserves and structural budget balance, or efforts to return to structural balance, as part of their credit analysis. Finance officers will play a critical role in highlighting the need to use ARPA funds prudently with an eye towards long-term financial stability and sustainable operating performance. The funding provided under ARPA provides a unique opportunity for state and local governments to make strategic investments in long-lived assets, rebuild reserves to enhance financial stability, and cover temporary operating shortfalls until economic conditions and operations normalize.



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Leon County Board of County Commissioners Agenda Item #13 March 9, 2021

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Vincent S. Long, County Administrator



Title: Status Report on Broadband Access in Rural Communities

Review and Approval:	I: Vincent S. Long, County Administrator							
Department/ Division Review:	Alan Rosenzweig, Deputy County Administrator							
Lead Staff/ Project Team:	Heather Peeples, Special Projects Coordinator							

Statement of Issue:

As requested at the Board's October 13, 2020 meeting, this item provides a status update on broadband access in rural areas of Leon County as well as statewide, regional, and local efforts to increase broadband access.

Fiscal Impact:

This item has no fiscal impact.

Staff Recommendation:

- Option #1: Accept the status report on broadband access in rural communities.
- Option #2: Adopt the Florida Association of Counties Resolution supporting affordable and reliable high-speed internet throughout Florida (Attachment #1).

Report and Discussion

Background:

As requested at the Board's October 13, 2020 meeting, this item provides a status update on broadband access in rural areas of Leon County as well as statewide, regional, and local efforts to increase broadband access.

High-speed internet access, also known as broadband, has become critical to economic opportunity, job creation, education, and civic engagement. However, broadband is frequently less accessible in rural communities across the nation. To understand the issues related to broadband and the efforts at every level of government to ensure citizens have access to this resource, the background section of this item presents an overview of broadband technology including what it is and how it is provided to homes and businesses. This section also details the federal and state agencies responsible for broadband oversight, as well as what authority local government have in expanding broadband networks in their communities.

The analysis section of this item then provides an overview of where gaps in broadband access exists, which are primarily concentrated in rural areas of Leon County. Following the analysis of the available broadband data and coverage maps, the item includes a summary of initiatives to expand broadband in Leon County, the Big Bend region, the state of Florida, and across the United States. These efforts include several federally funded programs including the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Rural Digital Opportunity Fund as well as the establishment of a statewide broadband plan. Other additional initiatives involve coordination with Florida's regional planning councils, the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) and National Association of Counties (NACo). In summary, the federal and state government have put in place legislation and funding programs to support the expansion of broadband infrastructure by private providers, while putting in place several restrictions that limit local governments ability to provide broadband directly to their residents. Finally, the item provides a summary of Leon County's past and current efforts to help residents overcome barriers to internet access including affordability, access to computers and other devices, as well as digital literacy skills.

In the United States, the FCC is responsible for regulating all communications by radio, television, wire, satellite, and cable which includes broadband internet. The FCC currently defines broadband as "high-speed internet access that is always on and faster than the traditional dial-up access" with a minimum download speed of 25 megabits per second (Mbps) and an upload speed of 3 Mbps. There are a number of high-speed technologies that make Broadband accessible, including: Digital Subscriber Line (DSL), Cable Modem, Fiber, Wireless, Satellite and Broadband over Powerlines (BPL). A detailed description of each type is included in Attachment #2. The type of broadband technology used by a household or business depends on several factors including location in an urban or rural area, how broadband internet access is packaged with other services (such as voice telephone and home entertainment), price, and availability. Additional information about the availability of broadband service in Leon County and its rural communities is included in the analysis section of this item.

At the state level, the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) is designated as the lead agency to facilitate the expansion of broadband internet service in the state. During the 2020 Florida Legislative Session, HB 969/SB 1166 transferred the State's broadband program from the Department of Management Services (DMS) to DEO and created the Office of Broadband within its Division of Community Development. The bill also tasked the newly created Office of Broadband with creating a strategic plan to increase the use of broadband internet service in Florida. Additional information regarding the DEO's broadband strategic plan is included in the following analysis section.

At the local level in Florida, counties and cities are limited in their ability to expand broadband access to their citizens. For example, in 2007, the Legislature stripped local governments of their franchising authority for cable and internet. Prior to 2007, Leon County and many local governments throughout the state used this franchising authority and regulatory oversight to negotiate certain investments to benefit the public such as public access channels, wiring/retrofitting public buildings for the internet, etc. Today, the statewide franchising authority rests with DEO, and cable or video customer service complaints are handled by Florida's Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Additionally, there are several significant obstacles should a county or city wish to establish its own broadband network. First, the State imposes ad valorem taxes on county and city owned broadband networks which is not the case for other public utilities or services sold to the public. Pursuant to section 350.81, Florida Statutes, any political subdivision (including counties and municipalities) wishing to offer broadband must also demonstrate that the service will break even within four (4) years of operation, which is virtually impossible given the high capital costs of these types of projects. Developing a municipal broadband network was recently explored by the City of Tallahassee. However, the City Commission ultimately decided not to pursue this option in part due to the significant cost.

In December 2018, the City Commission began a discussion on the perception of a "digital divide" among Tallahassee residents, and explored resolving the issue through the development of a municipal broadband network using the City's fiber optic infrastructure. At a City Commission workshop on March 6, 2019, City staff presented an analysis on the subject, which included state and federal regulations, models of municipal fiber networks, and a high-level cost analysis. City staff estimated a cost of \$76,000 per mile of fiber installed for a total cost of over \$280 million to cover approximately 3,700 miles within the City limits. At a subsequent meeting on March 27,2019, the City Commission directed its staff to work with local universities to gather stakeholder input and deliver a report expanding upon the City's analysis on municipal broadband networks. On December 4, 2019, in partnership with Florida A&M University, City staff presented a report on internet access in the City. The City Commission accepted the report and took no further action.

Despite the legal and financial barriers for local governments to directly expand broadband internet access for their residents, Florida counties have begun to address the issue through collaboration with the State and FCC, regional planning councils, as well as FAC and NACo.

Analysis:

The following analysis provides an overview of the available broadband data, where gaps in access exists, as well as initiatives at the national, statewide, regional, and local level to expand coverage. Currently, the State and FCC uses different methodologies for measuring broadband access, which are explained in further detail. An analysis of broadband access, particularly in the rural areas, is then provided using both methodologies. Following these subsections is an update on efforts to expand internet access locally, in the Big Bend Region, and Statewide. Finally, the item concludes with proposed "next steps" for supporting ongoing initiatives to increase broadband access.

Methods for Measuring Broadband Access

As presented in the background of this item, the nationwide "digital divide" disproportionately impacts those living in rural areas which are defined by the U.S. Census Bureau as areas with a population under 2,500. To measure broadband access, both the FCC and Florida Office of Broadband utilize the FCC's broadband deployment data. This data is collected biannually from internet service providers who are required to self-report each census block they provide services in and at what speed. It should be noted that the data only includes fixed broadband, meaning broadband services are provided to a fixed location like a residence or business. Consequently, mobile broadband such as that provided via cellular networks to mobile phones and other devices is not included.

While the same datasets are utilized, the methodology for measuring access to broadband varies across government agencies. Specifically, the FCC considers a census block to have access if at least one provider offers internet at the minimum broadband speeds in any part of the area. The FCC further measures broadband speeds by identifying the highest speed tier offered in each census block and attributing that speed tier to the entire census block. The Florida Office of Broadband uses the inverse of this methodology. A census block is determined to have broadband access only if all parts of that census block can access broadband at the minimum speed. Additionally, the broadband speed for each census block is measured by the slowest internet download speed available in that area, rather than the highest.

Both methodologies have their limitations as one overestimates the availability of broadband and the other underestimates availability. The FCC acknowledges these limitations and states that, because providers may not offer service to every home in every block in which they report service, its maps over-estimate broadband coverage, particularly in areas with large census blocks. Likewise, the Florida Office of Broadband's map underestimates availability. For instance, neighborhoods that have access to broadband service that are in the same census block as an unpopulated area with low-speed or no internet service are also treated as also having low-speed or no internet service. For example, the State's map reports that the census block that includes FSU's Seminole Golf Course and several surrounding homes is Unserved and without access to broadband. However, the FCC reports that there are four (4) broadband service providers that provide coverage to some part of this census block.

Despite these limitations, both methodologies help provide some measure of broadband access in Leon County and allow for comparisons to other areas. Notably, both methodologies confirm that disparities exist between the urban and rural areas. As shown in the following analysis, broadband

access is highest in the Urban Services Area where there are more internet providers offering faster internet speeds. Areas with fewer providers or lower internet speeds are concentrated in rural, low density, or unpopulated areas where it is more difficult and costly to build the necessary broadband infrastructure.

The following is an analysis of broadband access in Leon County using both the FCC's and State of Florida's methodologies and their respective broadband coverage maps.

Federal Communications Commission National Broadband Map

Attachment #3 is an FCC map color coding census blocks in Leon County by the number of fixed residential broadband providers. The census blocks with the highest number of providers are primarily within the Urban Services Area or more densely populated neighborhoods in the unincorporated area. The census blocks with only one provider are primarily in rural, low-density areas of Leon County or unpopulated areas like the Apalachicola National Forest. As discussed later in this item, the FCC has recently launched the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund which will invest over \$2.4 million in expanding broadband to many of these census blocks across Leon County.

Currently, the FCC reports that there are eight (8) residential broadband providers operating in Leon County. This total does not include the provider MetroNet which began constructing fiber-optic networks in Tallahassee in 2020. The following is a list of each provider and the type of services offered:

- Viasat Satellite
- HughesNet Satellite
- CenturyLink DSL and Fiber
- Comcast/Xfinity Cable
- Consolidated Communications DSL
- Mediacom Cable
- MetroNet Fiber
- Pavlov Media Fixed Wireless
- VSAT Systems Satellite

It should be noted that this list is not exhaustive of all residential broadband providers in Leon County as the FCC does not require all providers to self-report their service areas.

When compared to the state and nation, Leon County residents in rural areas have access to more broadband service providers. As explained previously, the FCC uses the Census Bureau definition of rural, which is any area with a population under 2,500. According to the FCC and as presented in the following table, the vast majority of Leon County's rural population has access to at least two (2) providers, and over 87% have access to three (3) or more providers. In many of the rural areas where the FCC reports multiple broadband providers, satellite internet may be the only type of service available through these providers. While satellite meets the upload and download speed requirements to qualify as broadband, customers often find it less desirable as satellite internet can be impacted by weather events and frequently has low latency, or slower response time. For this

reason, the FCC's Rural Digital Opportunity Fund included latency in the criteria for prioritizing census blocks.

	% of Rural Population 3+ providers	% of Rural Population 2 Providers	% of Rural Population 1 Provider
United States	82.49%	17.28%	0.12%
Florida	78.58%	21.41%	0.01%
Leon County	87.42%	12.57%	0.01%

Source: Federal Communications Commission, Fixed Broadband Deployment Data

State of Florida Minimum Internet Download Speeds Map

As stated previously, the Florida Office of Broadband uses FCC data to measure broadband access but uses a different methodology. Additionally, the FCC's analysis is presented using an online GIS map named the State of Florida Minimum Internet Download Speeds Map, which does not easily lend itself to comparing counties to each other or the state. The purpose of the map is to identify gaps in broadband service by placing each census block into one of four (4) categories *based upon the lowest internet download speed in any part of that census block:*

- Served: 25 Mbps and higher
- Underserved: 10 Mbps to 24.99 Mbps
- Unserved 1 Mbps to 9.99 Mbps
- No Service: No fixed internet service available

Attachment #4 includes several maps highlighting the census blocks in Leon County that fall under each of these categories. Although the Office of Broadband uses a different methodology, the map shows the same trends as those displayed in the FCC's map. Areas considered Served or Underserved that have access to higher internet speeds are primarily within the Urban Services Area or more densely populated neighborhoods in the unincorporated area. The areas classified as Unserved are primarily in rural, low-density areas of Leon County and, unsurprisingly, those areas classified as No Service are primarily in or near unpopulated areas.

While broadband internet is more accessible overall in Leon County than at the state and national level, the FCC and Florida Office of Broadband have identified several areas where access can be expanded or enhanced through infrastructure improvements. The following sections outline the efforts by the FCC and Florida Office of Broadband to expand broadband access. Additionally, a summary of broadband-related initiatives led by NACo and FAC is presented. Recognizing that access to a broadband network does not guarantee that a household has an internet subscription, this report also provides an overview of current Leon County efforts to overcome barriers such as affordability, access to computers and other devices, as well as digital literacy skills.

Federal Communications Commission

As part of its initiatives to bridge the "digital divide" for all Americans, the FCC launched the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) in 2020 to invest in the construction of rural broadband

networks in 49 states and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. As part of Phase 1 of the RDOF, \$20.4 billion was awarded to 180 bidders through an auction bidding process to bring broadband to over five million homes and businesses in census blocks that were entirely unserved. In Florida, 11 bidders were awarded more than \$191 million, with over \$2.4 million awarded to expand broadband to 233 census blocks across Leon County (Attachment #5). Areas of rural Leon County that have lower speeds and low latency will be addressed through infrastructure being provided as part of this expansion. These areas are mainly in the unincorporated areas of the County. The primary bidders in Leon County include Rural Electric Cooperative Consortium and Space Exploration Technologies Corp, also known as SpaceX's Starlink program. Early tests of the Starlink system have proven highly successful in offering rural areas significant increases in broadband speeds and stability in their service.

On its website, the FCC has published a GIS map of all locations that will receive broadband coverage through Phase I of the RDOF program including the bidder selected to serve that area. The map further categorizes each location by service tier, which is based on the available download speed, upload speed, usage allowance, and latency. Attachment #5 is a map of the locations in Leon County that were selected for the RDOF program; although not displayed in the attached map, all of the counties in the region will also benefit from the program.

All Phase I RDOF monies will be distributed over a 10-year period; however, winning bidders must meet periodic buildout requirements that will require them to reach all assigned locations by the end of the sixth year. The timeline for Phase II of the RDOF program has not yet been established. However, the FCC has announced that the last phase of the program will award an estimated \$4.4 billion for locations in census blocks that are partially served or were not funded in Phase I.

Florida Office of Broadband

As stated in the background of this item, the State's broadband program was transferred from DMS to DEO through the passage of HB 969/SB 1166 during the 2020 Florida Legislative Session. Through the passage of this legislation and as outlined in Section 364.013, Florida Statutes, the Florida Office of Broadband was created within DEO's Division of Community Development and directed to perform the following duties effective July 1, 2020:

- Create a strategic plan to increase the use of broadband Internet service in Florida. The plan must include a process to review and verify public input on broadband Internet transmission speeds and availability;
- Build and facilitate local technology planning teams, especially with community members from the areas of education, healthcare, business, tourism, agriculture, economic development, and local government;
- Encourage public use of Internet service through broadband grant programs; and
- Monitor, participate in, and provide input on FCC proceedings that are related to the geographic availability and deployment of broadband Internet in Florida.

HB 969/SB 1166 also provided that the Department of Transportation may, beginning in FY 2022-2023, use up to \$5 million annually from the funds transferred to Florida's Turnpike Enterprise to

the Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance (M-CORES) program for projects that assist in the development of broadband infrastructure within or adjacent to a multiuse corridor.

To assist in the development of a strategic plan, the Office of Broadband submitted a request to the U.S. Department of Commerce for \$3 million to conduct a statewide feasibility study to identify the nature of the state's broadband connectivity gap and determine why it exists. However, in the fall of 2020, the funding request was denied. As a result, the Office of Broadband has partnered with several other organizations to gather the data and feedback needed to develop a plan. For example, the Florida Regional Councils Association recently hosted 10 virtual workshops with each of the state's regional planning councils. Industry sector leaders within each region were invited to participate and discuss broadband internet accessibility. These industry sectors include education, healthcare, private business, community organizations, agriculture, tourism, parks and recreation, economic development, local governments, and internet service providers.

Following the collection of data and input from industry sector leaders, the Office of Broadband will prepare a draft strategic plan and begin implementation once finalized. Currently, DEO has not published a timeline for finalizing or implementing the Office of Broadband strategic plan. It should also be noted that Senator Ausley has filed a bill (HB 1339/SB 1560) for the 2021 Legislative Session to revise the duties of the Office of Broadband to include establishing a Broadband Deployment Task Force, establishing a process to identify eligible households to receive federal Emergency Broadband Benefit Program funds, and revising its GIS map to be consistent with the FCC's newly established Digital Opportunity Data Collection program.

Florida Association of Counties

As part of its Access 67 initiative, the Florida Association of Counties (FAC) advocated for the passage of HB 969/SB 1166 and has continued to work with DEO to provide support as the goals of the legislation are implemented. For instance, FAC is encouraging each member county to adopt a resolution in support of the Florida Office of Broadband and its efforts to increase the availability and effectiveness of broadband internet services throughout the state of Florida (Attachment #1). Should the Board wish to adopt the resolution, this option has been included as Option #2 of this item.

Additionally, FAC is assisting with data collection by surveying county administrators about whether their counties have a broadband study, plan, or report. The survey is still ongoing; however, preliminary results shared with County staff indicate that the majority of respondents do not have an adopted broadband plan. These counties, like Leon County, hope to receive additional analysis and guidance from the Florida Office of Broadband once it has finalized its statewide broadband plan. The exceptions from the survey data are Walton County which contracted with the organization Connected Nation to develop a Technology Action Plan & Broadband Feasibility Study in 2018 as well as the members of the Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council (Charlotte, Collier, and Lee), which received funding from the State to develop a regional broadband plan in 2013.

Moving forward, FAC and the Institute for County Government plan to develop and produce educational content to assist its members in identifying local solutions to broadband access. These

educational efforts will be inclusive of the facilitation of the sharing of best practices among Florida's counties and similar communities and organizations from around the country.

National Association of Counties

In October 2020, NACo announced the formation of its Broadband Task Force. The Task Force is comprised of nearly three dozen county government officials from across the nation who will study the lack of reliable broadband with a particular focus on the challenges facing underserved communities. Florida is represented on the Task Force by Commissioner Terry Burroughs (Okeechobee County) and Commissioner Gregg Weiss (Palm Beach County).

To support the Task Force's efforts, NACo has collaborated with other stakeholders to develop a mobile app to help communities contribute to more accurate mapping of broadband accessibility. The *TestIT* app is a broadband sampling tool that individuals can download to any mobile device to test broadband speed anywhere. A snapshot of each sample is sent to a database which allows NACo and partners to analyze connectivity data across the country and identify areas where broadband service is overstated or underfunded when compared to the FCC's National Broadband Map. Pending the Board's acceptance of this report, the County's Community & Media Relations Office (CMR) will promote NACo's *TestIT* app to Leon County residents.

NACo is also currently surveying its members to identify effective resources and tools for expanding broadband access which will be added to its online list of broadband resources for counties.

Other Initiatives to Support Broadband Access

While the development and expansion of broadband infrastructure has been the primary focus of state and federal organizations working to address the "digital divide," there are several other barriers to internet access that Leon County is working to overcome. These barriers for individuals and businesses include the cost of broadband services, access to computers and other devices, as well as digital literacy skills.

Free Public Internet: Leon County has led several initiatives to support internet access both before and during the pandemic. Most notably, Leon County has historically been and continues to be the community's primary provider of free public internet through the Library. Through the establishment of the Tallahassee FreeNet program in the 1990s, the Leon County Public Library System was one of the nation's first libraries to provide patrons with free internet access. The Library continues to provide free public internet at each of its facilities each of which has at least one desktop computer lab in addition to offering laptops for checkout within the facility.

While the Library was temporarily closed due to the local and statewide "Stay at Home" orders, the County boosted its Wi-Fi at all Library facilities to ensure it was accessible within the parking lots. This practice has continued even after the reopening of the Library and several parking spots have been designated at each facility for those needing to access the Wi-Fi from their vehicles. The Library has also vigorously promoted its mobile hotspot program which allows patrons to access wireless internet wherever they are. Currently the Library has 35 mobile hotspots which are rechargeable devices about the size of a deck of cards that create Wi-Fi by using cell phone data service. Library patrons can check out a device for up to two (2) weeks free of charge. The

program has continued to be successful since it was piloted in 2018. For example, during FY 2019, mobile hotspot devices were checked out 577 times, a 377% increase from FY 2018. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the temporary closure of Library facilities, mobile hotspots were only checked out 390 times during FY 2020.

As noted in the Annual Sustainability Program Status Report presented during the Board's December 8, 2020 meeting, the County's Office of Resource Stewardship is currently exploring options to provide free Wi-Fi in County parks. In 2019, staff purchased a solar picnic table and portable solar standing table. Both units provide shaded areas to sit or stand, have solar powered outlets for charging devices, and are compatible with Wi-Fi hotspots. The solar picnic table will be placed at Anita L. Davis Preserve at Lake Henrietta Park this fall. While the standing table was originally intended for use at outdoor events, staff is considering additional opportunities to use it in the absence of events. Staff is also exploring the potential of adding Wi-Fi hotspots to the units and in other County parks to provide free internet connectivity to community members and park attendees to help address the digital divide.

Promoting Low-Cost Internet Options: To increase internet access, the County continues to share information about low-cost internet options. Throughout the pandemic, the County has promoted Comcast's Internet Essential Program which provides discounted internet and computers to low-income households. Beginning in March 2020, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Comcast has provided new program participants with two months of free internet after which participants pay \$9.95 per month plus tax. This offer will continue through June 30, 2021 and continues to be promoted as a community resource on the County's COVID-19 Information Portal.

The County will also promote the discounted services that are made available through the FCC's Emergency Broadband Benefit Program. This program was established by the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA) (H.R. 133) which included \$3.2 billion for an Emergency Connectivity Broadband Fund. This fund supports the Emergency Broadband Benefit Program, which allows eligible households to receive a discount of up to \$50 per month for broadband services. Participating broadband providers will be eligible to receive reimbursement for such discounts. Households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop, or tablet from participating providers. As of the writing of this item, program eligibility details and participating providers have yet to be announced.

Device Access: To support access to the necessary computer devices to utilize the internet, Leon County has supported local computer refurbishers. Since 2010, Leon County has transferred its computing surplus equipment Goodwill Industries. Through Electronics to its Recycling/Computer Store, Goodwill then offers low cost new and refurbished computers to its customers. Though the Leon CARES program, Lutheran Social Services of North Florida also received funding to expand their Computer Refurbishing & Technical Assistance (CRTA) program as the need for their services grew significantly following the pandemic. As part of the CRTA, low-income individuals and human service agencies in the area can receive low-cost computers as well as free technical assistance. Several non-profits also received funds to purchase computers and other devices through the Leon CARES program which allowed them to continue providing services to clients remotely or in a socially distant manner.

Title: Status Report on Broadband Access in Rural Communities March 9, 2021 Page 11

Digital Literacy: To be able to access the internet, individuals must have some basic digital literacy skills. For those who need assistance with developing digital literacy skills, the Library offers two (2) different services. First, the Library has a *Tech Help 1-on-1* program which allows residents to schedule an appointment in person or over the phone with a staff person that will assist them with mobile devices, the Library desktop PCs, basic Internet skills, etc. The second service offered by the Library is free online computer classes. Through the Library's subscription to Universal Class, patrons can take over 50 computer training courses on topics ranging from basic computer skills to Microsoft Office Suite, Photoshop, and web design.

Next Steps

Currently, there are several ongoing initiatives to expand broadband access at all levels of government. County staff will continue to monitor FCC initiatives, including future phases of the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, and will report back to the Board as needed. Leon County will also continue to support FAC and NACo initiatives to increase internet access. Additionally, pending the Board's adoption of the Resolution supporting affordable and reliable high-speed internet throughout Florida, staff will work with both FAC and the Florida Office of Broadband to assist where possible in development of a statewide strategic plan. The Board will also be provided with updates on the State's strategic plan for broadband access once drafted. Finally, the County will continue its efforts overcome individual barriers to accessing the internet. These efforts include offering free public internet and promoting digital literacy through the Library in addition to ensuring that citizens are aware of programs that provide low-cost broadband services and computer devices.

Options:

- 1. Accept the status report on broadband access in rural communities.
- 2. Adopt the Florida Association of Counties Resolution supporting affordable and reliable high-speed internet throughout Florida (Attachment #1).
- 3. Board direction.

Recommendation:

Options #1 and #2

Attachments:

- 1. FAC Resolution supporting affordable and reliable high-speed internet throughout Florida
- 2. FCC Definitions for Types of Broadband Connections
- 3. FCC National Broadband Map Leon County
- 4. State of Florida Minimum Internet Download Speeds Map Leon County
- 5. Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase I Results Map Leon County

				Leon County W	ater Quality a	nd Springs Prote	ection Infrastruct	ure Improveme						
		Total Project		COST by GRANT YEAR										
Project Name	Project Number	Cost	Funding	Pre-FY17	SFY2016-2017	SFY2017-2018	SFY2018-2019	SFY2019-2020	SFY2020-2021	SFY2021-2022	SFY2022-2023	SFY2023-2024	SFY2024-2025	SFY2025-2026
Leon County Septic to Sewer Project,			STATE	\$75,000										
FY 14-15	LP37110	\$75,000	MATCH											
Lake Munson Target Area WW			STATE	\$500,000										
mprovements, Springs FY 14-15	LP37112	\$1,000,000	MATCH	\$500,000										
Woodside Heights Sewer Connection,			STATE	\$1,950,000	\$350,000									
Springs FY 15-16	LP371112	\$4,600,000	MATCH	\$1,950,000	\$350,000									
Advanced Septic Systems Pilot			STATE	\$750,000	\$750,000									
Project, Springs FY 16-17	LP01102	\$1,500,000	MATCH											
Woodville Sewer System Project			STATE	\$1,500,000										
Phase I-A, Springs FY 16-17	LP37114	\$3,000,000	MATCH	\$1,500,000										
Northeast Lake Munson Sewer			STATE		\$4,600,000									
System Project, Springs FY 17-18	LP0110E	\$9,200,000	MATCH		\$4,600,000									
Belair/Annawood Sewer System			STATE		\$1,750,000									
Project, Springs FY 17-18	LP01108	\$3,500,000	MATCH		\$1,750,000									
Septic System Upgrades, Springs FY 18			STATE			\$0								
19	not requested	\$0	MATCH			\$0								
Woodville Sewer System Project			STATE				\$0							
Construction 1A, Springs FY 19-20	LP37114	\$7,500,000	MATCH				\$0	, . , ,						
Septic System Upgrades, Springs FY 19	funding moved to		STATE				\$0							
20	LP0110E	\$0	MATCH				\$0	\$0						
Comprehensive Wastewater			STATE						\$500,000					
Treatment Facilities, FY 20-21		\$1,000,000	MATCH						\$500,000					
Woodville Sewer System Project			STATE							\$5,300,000				
Construction 1B, Springs FY 21-22	LP37114	\$10,600,000	MATCH							\$5,300,000				
Comprehensive Wastewater			STATE							\$500,000				
Treatment Facilities, FY 21-22		\$1,000,000	MATCH							\$500,000				
Woodville Sewer System Project			STATE								\$4,400,000			
Construction 1C-1, Springs FY 22-23	LP37114	\$8,800,000	MATCH								\$4,400,000			
Comprehensive Wastewater			STATE								\$500,000			
Treatment Facilities, FY 22-23		\$1,000,000	MATCH								\$500,000			
Woodville Sewer System Project			STATE									\$3,775,000		
Construction 1C-2, Springs FY 23-24	LP37114	\$7,550,000	MATCH									\$3,775,000		
Comprehensive Wastewater			STATE									\$500,000		
Freatment Facilities, FY 23-24		\$1,000,000	MATCH									\$500,000		
Comprehensive Wastewater			STATE										\$500,000	
Freatment Facilities, FY 24-25		\$1,000,000	MATCH										\$500,000	
Septic Systems Upgrade/Removal			STATE	\$4,775,000	\$7,450,000	\$0	\$0	\$3,750,000	\$500,000	\$5,800,000	\$4,900,000	\$4,275,000	\$500,000	
TOTALS		\$62,325,000	LOCAL	\$3,950,000	\$6,700,000	\$0	\$0	\$3,750,000	\$500,000	\$5,800,000	\$4,900,000	\$4,275,000	\$500,000	

NOTES: 1. The program reflects maximum local match of 50% for project phases.







May 11, 2021

Leon County and City of Tallahassee Commissions Tallahassee, FL 32301

Dear Leon County and City of Tallahassee Commissions,

As we work together in response to the pandemic's impact on our community, the nonprofit sector is grateful for your leadership and partnership, which has ensured services and resources for our community are provided. As both county and city consider distribution options for the American Relief Plan (ARP) stimulus, the nonprofit sector is pleased to share these updates with you.

- We have worked with county staff to adjust select eligibility requirements in the Leon CARES program. Sector organizations previously ineligible for stimulus will now have an opportunity to compete for funding. The attached memo specifies the changes we request in order to increase access and allow our sector to better service community needs.
- Throughout the pandemic, we've assisted the sector in finding and submitting grants from sources outside and inside the county. Demand from our community to help administrate this work continues to increase. INIE, COCA and UPHS requests funding for administrative support, to meet this need and empower nonprofits of all sizes to find and sustain new resources.
- Our sector survey in April 2021 shows sector service demand continues to increase to meet growing and changing community needs. It confirms the sector needs additional funding to maintain services and lead community recovery efforts. The attached survey illustrates this need.

It is imperative stimulus distribution through programs like LEON Cares continues, to ensure our Tallahassee-Leon County nonprofit sector can offer essential services in times of great need and at a level that serves our community best. This will allow the vital organizations our community depends on to receive resources to continue services, mitigate economic risk and assist our community with managing the impact of COVID-19.

An investment in nonprofits is a direct investment back into our community. As you consider how the American Relief Plan stimulus can make the greatest impact in our community's fight against COVID-19, we ask that you approve this robust package of support for the nonprofit sector.

In service,

Amber R. Tynan Executive Director, UPHS

Martin

Felina Martin Executive Director, INIE

Kathleen Spehar Executive Director, COCA







MEMORANDUM

- TO: Shington Lamy, Director, Office of Human Services and Community Partnerships, Leon County Abena Ojetayo, Director, Housing and Community Resilience, City of Tallahassee
- FROM: Amber R. Tynan, Executive Director, United Partner for Human Services (UPHS) Felina Martin, Executive Director, Institute for Non-Profit Innovation and Excellence (INIE) Kathleen Spehar, Executive Director, Council on Culture & Arts (COCA)
- RE: American Relief Plan request \$3,260,000 sector investment total

DATE: May 11, 2021

As the nonprofit sector leaders that ensure our sector survives and thrives, COCA, INIE and UPHS respectfully request funding from the American Relief Plan. As a cohort, we will provide assistance to the entire nonprofit sector for all ARP CARES funding programs and additional resources to help the sector build sustainability in the "new normal". Since funding will be used to support and sustain the sector, we ask this support stay with the cohort to access in response to changing sector needs.

NONPROFIT GRANT PROGRAM ASSISTANCE: \$3M

We appreciate our conversations with County and City staff about the Leon CARES grant programs and their invitation to share improvements to the eligibility criteria. In our work with nonprofits throughout the pandemic, we learned how the program adjustments could better service the sector's needs. We believe nonprofits should have fair access to these resources. This includes prioritizing organizations that haven't yet received any stimulus funding with those who previously have, while maximizing all funding options available to organizations we represent locally. For this round, the maximum award level is anticipated to be \$20K. Though agencies and organization that directly contract with the City and/or County are not eligible for funding, expanding eligibility could exhaust the current funding allocation and additional revenue may be needed.

Sector data from the 2019 GuideStar report reveals trends in the number and size of nonprofits in Leon County:

2600 Registered Nonprofits in the Leon County
26% Leon County registered nonprofits have gross receipts of \$1 or more, of which:
78% of Leon County active nonprofits reported gross receipts under \$500K

68% of Leon County active nonprofits have expenses of \$100K or more

*active nonprofits are those reporting \$1 of more in gross receipts

Considering the data above, we ask the County to make these eligibility adjustments:

- Established and registered 501c3 organization based in Leon County (no sub-sector restriction)
- Registered 501c3 since January 2019
- Paid and unpaid staff/volunteers
- Unrestricted use of funds for COVID-19 related impact

COHORT SERVICES: \$260,000

Each individual organization (COCA, INIE and UPHS) will serve their members regardless of sub-sector classification. If an organization in need of assistance is not associated with one of our three organizations, they will be referred to the appropriate organization based on their sub-sector classification (COCA – arts, cultural and heritage focus, UPHS –

human services focus and INIE – all other nonprofit organizations).







UPHS: \$80,000

Covers staffing, technical assistance, as well as federal and state funding assistance to leverage and build resources for long term sustainability. **

Tasks to be Performed by Contractor:

- 1. UPHS will provide technical assistance to human service agencies seeking to apply for ARP CARES funding at the local, state and federal level for leveraged impact including:
 - a. Promoting the program(s) to human service agencies.
 - b. Providing technical assistance to all human service agencies.
- 2. UPHS to provide training and engagement activities for local human service agencies seeking to relaunch and r re-open as a direct result of COVID-19 service interruptions, including:
 - a. Training on how to establish client confidence and promote safety measures put in place by agencies because of COVID-19 to meet increased need for services.
 - b. Conduct one-on-one and group risk assessments with UPHS Members to ensure they have adequate equipment, personnel, technology to operate.
 - c. Provide access to best practices, policies, and procedures for solutions to items discovered through risk assessment referenced above.
- 3. UPHS to assess needs, coordinate resources and implement trainings/workshops for current and new agencies that can address the following:
 - a. New technology (i.e. service delivery platforms, online communications and engagement platforms, new software needs, physical distancing practices and new methodologies for continuation of service delivery) because of COVID-19.
 - b. New policies and procedures because of COVID-19.
 - c. New professional development opportunities to meet growing demands and heightened issues within the community specific to housing, homelessness, food insecurity, mental and physical health, etc.

COCA: \$80,000

Covers staffing and technical services upgrades**, to leverage and build additional resources for long term sustainability.

- 1. COCA will engage staff to provide technical assistance to arts, culture, history and heritage organizations seeking to apply for ARP CARES funding at the local, state and federal level for leveraged impact including:
 - a. Promote the program(s) to arts, culture, history and heritage organizations.
 - b. Provide technical assistance to all arts, culture, history and heritage
 - c. Expand database and upgrade communications to arts, culture, history and heritage organizations for ARP CARES programs.
- 2. COCA will provide resources for arts, culture, history and heritage organizations seeking to relaunch, reengage, and re-open as a direct result of COVID-19 programs and services interruptions.
 - a. Conduct one-on-one consultations with COCA Members to ensure they have adequate equipment, personnel, technology, and resources to operate.
 - b. Host public forums on industry-specific recovery plans, safety measures, audience engagement and other methods put in place by organizations because of COVID-19 to meet need for services programs.
 - c. Provide access to best practices, policies, and procedures for solutions to items discovered through consultations referenced above.
 - d. Upgrade technologies to meet changing industry needs.







- 3. COCA will assess needs, coordinate resources and implement services for current and new organizations:
 - a. New technology, communications and engagement platforms; software needs; physical distancing practices and methodologies for continuation of service delivery because of COVID-19.
 - b. New policies and procedures because of COVID-19.
 - c. New professional development opportunities

** Request falls outside scope of services in city and county contracts

Any additional funding needs not supported through tasks outlined by sub-sector specificity covered by COCA (arts, cultural and heritage organizations) and UPHS (human service organizations) at a local, state and federal level will be referred to INIE and their Revenue Resource Center for assistance.

INIE: \$100,000

Covers staffing, technical assistance, grant research assistance and fund development consulting to leverage and build resources for long term sustainability.

- 1. INIE will provide technical assistance for the ARP CARES funding as well as other local, state and national resources related to COVID19 recovery. Technical assistance will include the following:
 - a. Promoting the program(s) to the nonprofit sector
 - b. Providing technical assistance to all nonprofit organizations
 - c. Guidance through ARP CARES application process and online platform
 - d. Conduct training webinars on grant requirements, eligibility and application portal
- 2. INIE will provide research services to include all funding sources (government, foundations and corporate) to aide nonprofit organizations with COVID19 relief grant funding and other revenue resources.
 - a. Initial fund development consultations
 - b. Development pipeline to include a minimum of 5 grant leads
 - c. Access to grant writing/research templates and sponsorship templates
- 3. INIE will provide access to 4 national grant database systems for nonprofits to conduct grant research. The systems will be accessible at the INIE Revenue Research Center located in the TCC Center for Innovation at 300 West Pensacola Street.
- 4. INIE will provide free access to education classes and/or workshops to include in-person or virtual classes on the following:
 - a. Basics of Grant Writing (Education Class)
 - b. Basics of Grant Research (Education Class)
 - c. Online tutorials for grant research systems
 - d. Access to free online webinar library
- 5. INIE will leverage investment with existing COVID-19 CareerSource grant for the sustainability of service

COVID19 IMPACT on NONPROFITS

April 2021

Methodology

The COVID19 Impact on Nonprofits Survey was conducted March 26th - April 5th, 2021 with answers to 15 questions collected using Google Forms. The survey was promoted through direct email, social media and digital newsletters from the Council on Culture and Arts (COCA), United Partners for Human Services (UPHS) and the Institute for Innovation and Excellence (INIE). The Google Forms tool collects submitted data and the results are consolidated into one response according the proposed question. In addition, survey data results were further presented using information obtained by Guidestar.

In some instances, the report will provide a data comparison between a nonprofit sector survey conducted by the Institute for Nonprofit Innovation and Excellence in March 2020 that received 41 responses.

Samples size

Target: 501C3 registered nonprofit organizations based in Leon County/City of Tallahassee. The survey received 68 responses in 2021 and 41 responses in 2020.

At the time of the March 2021 survey, there were 2,600 nonprofit organizations registered in Leon County. Out of 2,600 registered nonprofits, only 28% (or 683) of those nonprofits have gross receipts over \$1. These 683 nonprofits are considered "active nonprofits". Recent findings revealed that 78% of active nonprofits in Leon County reported gross receipts under \$500K and 68% of them have expenses of \$100K or more.

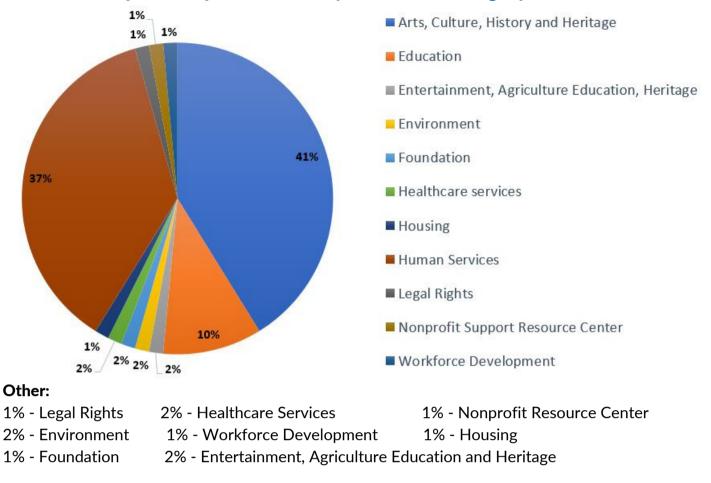


presented in collaboration by

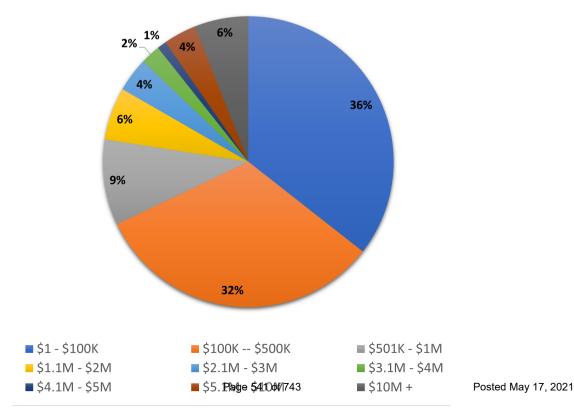




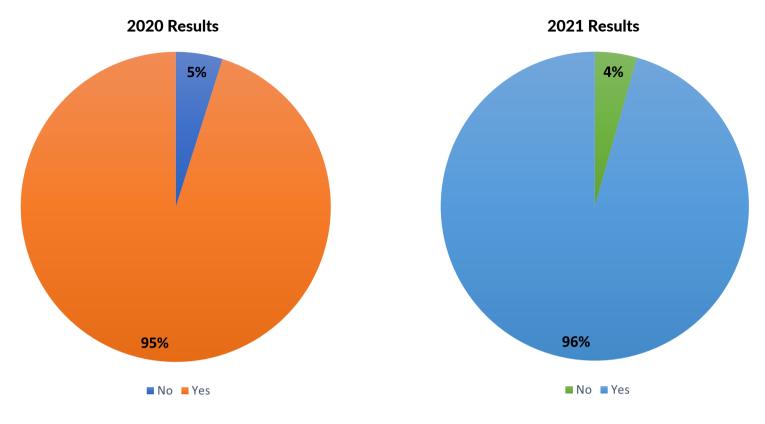
1. 2021 Nonprofit Representation by sub-sector category



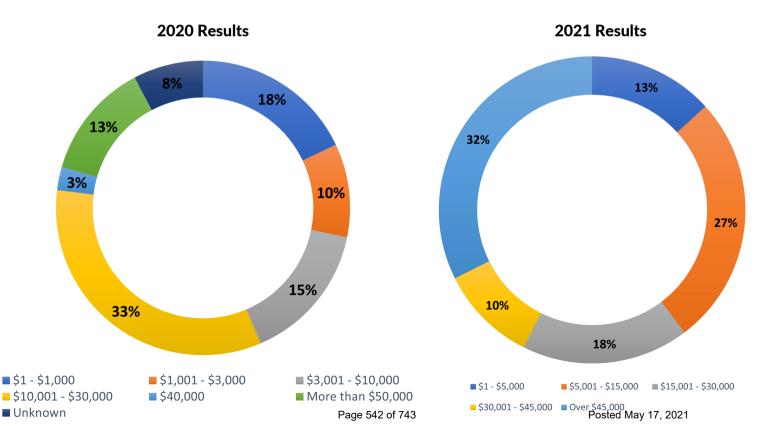
2. 683 Nonprofits have gross receipts over \$1. This represents 26% of the total nonprofits registered in Leon County (2,600). Below is the percentage breakdown by gross receipts.



3. Have you cancelled any events or gatherings as a result of COVID19?



4. If "yes" to question #3, what is the financial loss to your organization for the cancellation of the event(s), program(s), or gatherings?



5. Considering how COVID-19 has impacted your organization, how much@additional financial assistance will you need to sustain your organization through year-end 2021?

57 nonprofits indicated that they would need additional financial assistance to sustain their organization through year-end 2021. The grand total of this

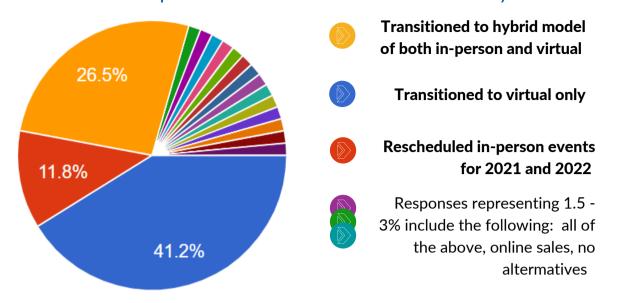
support equals....

\$8,082,000

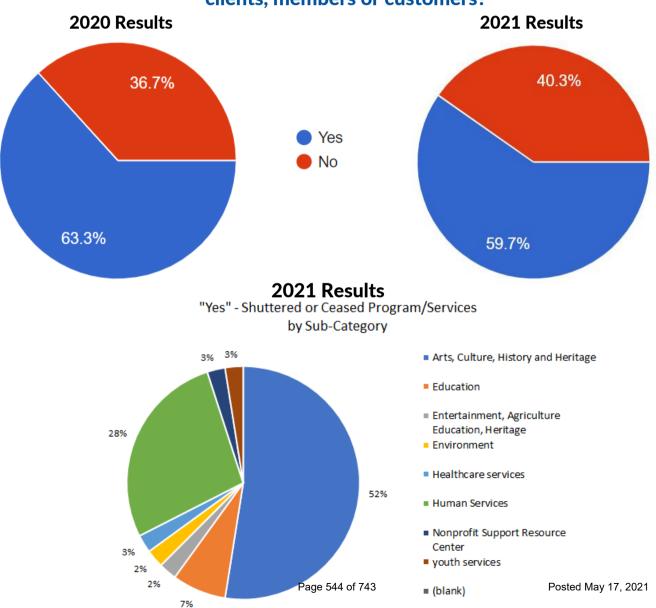


Attachment #10

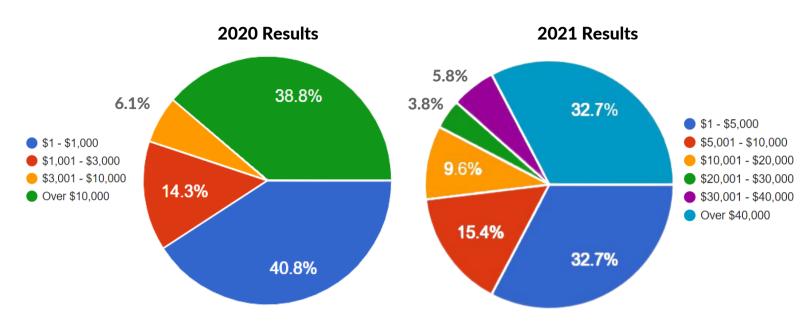
6. How has your organization responded to cancellation of events/classes/activities? This question was not asked in the 2020 survey.



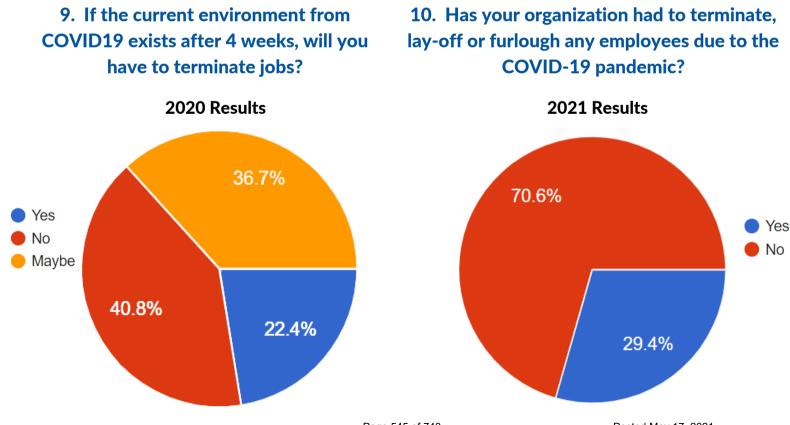
7. Have you shuttered or ceased program/service activity of any kind for clients, members or customers?



Attachment #10 Page 10 of 14 8. If you shuttered or ceased program/service activity, what was the financial loss to your organization?



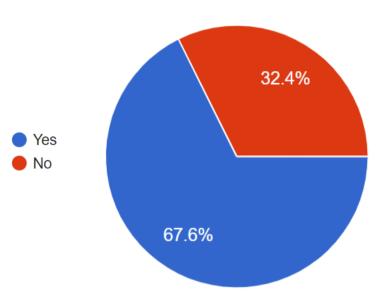
At the onset of the pandemic (2020), 39% of local nonprofits anticipated a loss of \$10K or more, however in 2021 52% experienced losses of \$10K - \$40K and 33% experiencing a loss of \$40K+



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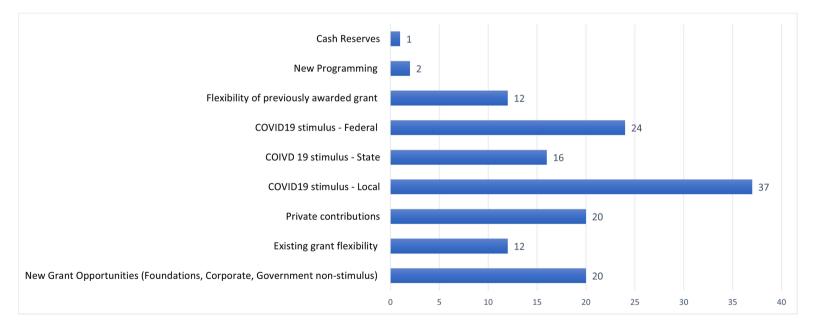
Attachment #10 11. If you lost funding or anticipate a loss of funding, have you bee개여하는 to make up any shortfalls with new funding streams?

This question was not included in the 2020 survey.

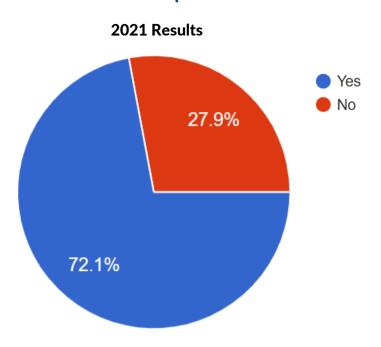


2021 Results

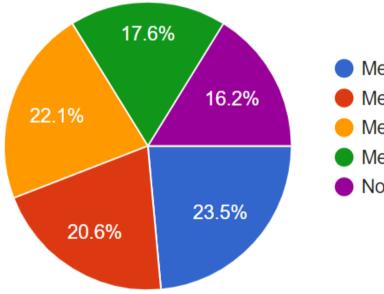
12. If you were able to make up any shortfalls in funding, how have you been able to do so? (Check all that apply)



13. Has the need for your services increased since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic ?



14. If you have an increased in demand for services, what percentage are you able to meet those demands?





- Meeting 75% of demand
- Meeting 50% of demand
- Meeting 25% of demand
- Not able to meet demand



How has the pandemic effected your ability to achieve your mission?

In some ways we have been able to expand - growing our organization to have more of a statewide presence during this remote team, but Zoom fatigue impacts us immensely with our educational events and opportunities. In addition, while, with the afore-mentioned support, we made it through 2020, in 2021, some of our funders have changed their funding cycles and/or reduced their funding so that 2021 is possibly a more concerning year, fiscally, than 2020 ended up being.

It has limited our face-to-face ability to serve, but it has caused the three county region to lose over 10,000 people in our labor pool. We have continued to be down 60-70% in those people accessing our services. The result is that the business community we serve is having a difficult time finding the talent they need to thrive. We think that after all the waivers expire and schools come back completely, that most of those who left the labor pool will return. Many will want to upskill to find a better paying job.

It limited our ability to provide direct services. We simply could not see our clients. Because we could not see them, we could not provide their caregivers with the break that is a large part of our mission. It limited our ability to offer counseling to caregivers who were struggling with how best to care for their loved one. This makes them vulnerable to anger, depression and exhaustion.

It has limited the number of students we can serve, eliminated our live audiences, limited our donations and fundraising, and caused us to incur large additional costs we could not have borne without COVID-related relief.

Well, to be specific, we just lost a \$30k grant, and one grant, which we were planning on for ~\$100k, came in at 30k. So, all in all, that is a loss of around 100k.

We strongly support local government issuing another round of funding for non-profit agencies, particularly small ones like ours. This funding was vital to our being able to maintain services for human trafficking victims in 2020-21 as well as bolster our online presence, a necessity.

United Way of the Big Bend: \$80,000

Covers staffing, technology upgrades and assistance, resiliency training, and infrastructure stabilization and development that will leverage and build resources for long term sustainability.

Tasks to be Performed by Contractor:

1. UWBB will engage staff to provide technical assistance to partner and other agencies providing services in our five impact areas of housing, safety net, early learning, health and mental health, and skills development which are seeking to apply for ARP CARES funding at the local, state, and federal level for leveraged impact including:

a. Promoting the program to partner and other agencies.

b. Providing technical assistance to partner and other agencies working in our target areas of impact.

c. Training partner and other agencies on grant requirements, eligibility criteria, and application portal procedures.

2. UWBB will provide resources for partner and other agencies seeking to rebound, regroup, and reform as a direct result of COVID-19 program and services interruptions including:

a. Consulting with UWBB partner and other agencies to ensure they have adequate equipment, personnel, technology, and resources to operate effectively.

b. Hosting forums on impact area-specific contingency plans ensuring equitable recovery in our areas of impact.

c. Providing training in best practices, policies, and procedures addressing issues and gaps in services discovered through consultations and forums.

d. Upgrading technologies to meet changing community needs in identified areas of impact.

e. Collaborating with agencies to address barriers newly discovered during COVID-19 that impede their ability to fulfill their mission.

f. Facilitating workshops to help agencies strategize use of available resources effectively with the goals of:

*Addressing immediate needs

*Ensuring inclusivity

*Establishing equitable future prosperity

*Maximizing complementary opportunities

3. UWBB will coordinate resources and implement training for partner and other agencies to include:

a. Identifying new technology, software, and communication needs; health and safety practices and protocols, and flexible methodologies for adapting service delivery models to address situations resulting from COVID-19.

b. Facilitating professional development trainings and webinars addressing increased demand in need for services in areas of impact because of COVID-19.

c. Helping partner and other agencies develop new internal policies and procedures needed as identified by adapting service delivery to COVID-19 health and safety protocols.

d. Hosting professional development opportunities including those addressing agency staff self-care needs.



Leon County Board of County Commissioners

Notes for Workshop Agenda Item #3

Leon County Board of County Commissioners Budget Workshop Item #3 May 25, 2021

To:	Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board
From:	Vincent S. Long, County Administrator
Title:	Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERA 2) Funding under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

Review and Approval:	Vincent S. Long, County Administrator			
Department/ Division Review:	Alan Rosenzweig, Deputy County Administrator Wanda Hunter, Assistant County Administrator Scott Ross, Director, Office of Financial Stewardship			
Lead Staff/ Project Team:	Shington Lamy, Director, Office of Human Services & Community Partnerships			
	Andrew Johnson, Assistant to the County Administrator			
	Matthew Wyman, Housing Services Manager			
	Abigail Sanders, Human Services Analyst			

Statement of Issue:

This item seeks Board consideration to accept \$7.01 million in additional federal funding from the U.S. Treasury for Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA 2) to pay rent and/or utilities (including internet services) for eligible applicants.

Fiscal Impact:

This item has a fiscal impact. Leon County has been allocated an additional \$7.01 million in federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program funding from the U.S. Department of the Treasury, of which 15% can be utilized to administer the program.

May 25, 2021 Page 2

1 age 2

Staff Recommendation:

- Option #1: Ratify the request to the U.S. Treasury to receive the County's allocation of \$7.01 million in Emergency Rental Assistance Program 2 funds (Attachment #1).
- Option #2: Approve the utilization of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program 2 funds for the continuation of the Leon County Emergency Rental Assistance Program in accordance with the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021*.
- Option #3: Authorize the County Administrator to make modifications to program criteria for Emergency Rental Assistance Program 2 funds as may be needed to ensure the efficient and timely use of the County's allocation, and enter into subgrant agreements with fund recipients, subject to legal review by the County Attorney.
- Option #4: Authorize the County Administrator to expend up to 15% of the County's funding allocation to continue to administer the Leon County Emergency Rental Assistance Program and the other purposes authorized by the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021*.
- Option #5: Authorize the County Administrator to execute any contract amendments with Tetra Tech necessary for the implementation of ERA 1 and ERA 2.
- Option #6: Authorize the County Administrator to enter into an agreement with the Florida Department of Children and Families for the purpose of sharing ERA program data, subject to legal review by the County Attorney.
- Option #7: Approve the associated Resolution and Budget Amendment (Attachment #2).

Report and Discussion

Background:

This item seeks Board consideration to accept \$7.01 million in additional federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program ("ERA 2") funding from the U.S. Department of the Treasury. These funds are supplemental to the \$8.9 million in Emergency Rental Assistance Program funding accepted by the Board at the January 26, 2021 meeting (the "ERA 1" program funding) which was authorized by Congress in the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021* (H.R. 133). With the Board's approval, this new funding would be utilized to provide additional rent and/or utility assistance to eligible applicants through the existing Leon County Emergency Rental Assistance Program recently launched by the Florida Department of Children and Families which is available to eligible applicants statewide, including within Leon County.

Leon County has been fully committed to ensuring that low-income residents maintain housing stability throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. As discussed in a separate item on the May 25 Budget Workshop agenda regarding the County's allocation of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act, the County successfully leveraged \$62.2 million in federal funding in 2020 to support a broad range of community needs through the Leon CARES plan, including critical public health needs, housing and utility assistance, small business assistance, food insecurity, childcare assistance, support for mental health and homelessness services, and more. In the area of direct financial assistance to individuals and households, the Leon CARES Individual Assistance program provided up to \$5,000 in one-time assistance to households earning less than 120% of the Area Median Income (AMI) to support past-due rent, mortgage, and utility bills. Launched on August 17, 2020, the program provided \$11.5 million in financial assistance to over 4,900 applicants impacted by COVID-19. In addition, and as discussed in further detail in the Analysis section of this item below, Leon County has aggressively implemented its ERA 1 program. Since the Leon County ERA 1 program launched on March 29, 2021, the County has approved rent and utility assistance for more than 800 Leon County households, totaling over \$3.4 million in awards.

The remainder of this budget discussion item provides a detailed update on the County's progress in implementing the ERA 1 program, the State of Florida's efforts to implement a similar ERA 1 program, and a detailed overview of the ERA 2 program authorized under the American Rescue Plan Act.

Analysis:

The Analysis section of this item provides a status update on the County's successful implementation of its ERA 1 program, including a discussion of the County's extensive community outreach and promotion efforts and progress toward expending its full funding allocation. Next, this section presents and describes the statewide Emergency Rental Assistance Program that was recently launched by the Florida Department of Children and Families utilizing the State of Florida's ERA 1 funding allocation. Finally, this item provides an overview of the ERA 2 program authorized under the "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021" (H.R. 1319, referred

to as the "ARPA" throughout this item), which includes several changes from the ERA 1 program, and a discussion of how these changes will be incorporated into the County's ERA 2 program to maximize financial support to low-income residents.

Overview of the ERA 1 Program

On December 27, 2020, President Biden signed H.R. 133 (the "Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021") into law, which established the ERA 1 program and allocated \$25 billion to states, territories, tribal governments, and local governments to provide financial assistance and housing stability services to eligible low-income renter households. As provided in H.R. 133, the U.S. Treasury distributed these funds directly to local governments with a population greater than 200,000, and Leon County received a direct allocation of \$8.9 million. A status update and summary of Leon County's ERA 1 program is provided in the following subsection.

On January 6, 2021, the Treasury published preliminary guidance regarding the ERA 1 program. According to this guidance, no less than 90% of awarded funds must be used to provide direct financial assistance to eligible applicants, including rent, rental arrears, utilities and home energy costs, utilities and home energy costs arrears, and other expenses related to housing due to COVID-19. The remaining 10% of awarded funds may be used for case management and other administrative costs.

For the purposes of the ERA 1, an "eligible household" is defined as a renter household in which at least one or more individuals meets the following criteria:

- Qualifies for unemployment or has experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced a financial hardship due to COVID-19;
- Demonstrates a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability; and
- Has a household income at or below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI).

Also, governmental entities implementing the ERA 1 program must prioritize the following applicants:

- Households with income at or below 50% of AMI, or
- Eligible households that include an individual who has been unemployed for the 90 days prior to application.

Eligible renter households may receive up to 12 months of assistance under the ERA 1 program, as well as an additional three months should the state or local government recipient determine such assistance is needed to ensure housing stability and if grant funds are available. In general, funds must be paid directly to landlords and utility providers. If a landlord does not wish to participate, funds may be paid directly to the eligible household. Applications for rental assistance may be submitted by either an eligible household or by a landlord on behalf of that eligible household. Funding may be used to support both past-due and prospective housing expenses; however, payment of past-due expenses must be prioritized, and past-due expenses must be paid before an

applicant may receive funding for prospective payments. Once a household's past-due expenses are reduced, prospective assistance may be provided for up to three months at a time.

The deadline for expenditure of ERA 1 funds was initially December 31, 2021; however, the ARPA extended this deadline to September 30, 2022. Beginning September 30, 2021, the U.S. Treasury will recapture excess funds not obligated by state and local governments to be reallocated to other eligible entities which, by that time, have obligated 65% or more of their initial allocation. As discussed in the following subsection of this item, Leon County is on target to expend its full ERA 1 funding allocation by early- to mid-summer 2021.

Overview and Summary of Leon County's ERA 1 Program

At the January 26, 2021 meeting, the Board ratified the County's request to the U.S. Treasury to receive Leon County's allocation of \$8.9 million in ERA 1 Program funds and approved the proposed Leon ERA Program (Attachment #3). Immediately following the Board's approval, the County engaged the consulting firm Tetra Tech to assist with implementation of the Leon County ERA program, establish standard operating procedures for the program in accordance with Treasury guidelines, develop strict financial controls and accounting measures to collect and organize documentation to comply with federal reporting requirements for the program, review thousands of applications for eligibility, and manage a call center to provide technical support and application assistance for citizens. Tetra Tech also partnered with Neighborly Software (Neighborly) to provide an online application portal for the Leon County ERA program. Neighborly also provides the online application and data collection platform for Leon County's existing Housing Services Programs, Direct Emergency Assistance Program (DEAP), and Veteran Tech and Neighborly to implement their ERA programs, including Pinellas County, Florida; Broward County, Florida; and Mobile County, Alabama.

Prior to launching Leon County's ERA 1 program, the County conducted an extensive outreach campaign to inform the community about the program and to gather input from stakeholders to maximize accessibility for households that have been most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This included contracting with several local partner organizations including the Tuggerson Group, Tallahassee Urban League, the Greater Frenchtown Revitalization Council, H.E.L.P., Inc., the Community Round Table of Tallahassee 850, and the Mount Olive Community Development Corporation to conduct targeted outreach to low-income neighborhoods such as Frenchtown, Bond, South City, Griffin Heights, and Providence. During the application window for the Leon County ERA program, these organizations held 30 events that included neighborhood canvassing, outdoor gatherings, and real-time Facebook Live events that reached more than 6,500 citizens. To complement this extensive grassroots outreach, Leon County Human Services and Community Partnerships also hosted four webinars with approximately 1,300 local landlords and three more webinars with approximately 60 community grassroot organizations and human services agencies to promote and educate the community about the County's ERA 1 program and launched a multimedia promotional campaign which built from and leveraged the success of the County's previous "Leon CARES" branding efforts.

Two Community Assistance Centers were established at the Leon County Amtrak Building and LeRoy Collins Main Library to provide residents in-person, one-on-one assistance with the online application process. At these locations, residents were pre-screened for eligibility and assisted with setting up their Neighborly and email accounts, uploading supporting documents to their application, and completing and submitting the online applications. The Community Assistance Center at the Amtrak Building continues to assist applicants who require corrections or additional information uploaded to their application. Leon County residents who do not have internet access at home can also visit any of the County's Branch Libraries to access their online application or utilize copiers and scanners to upload documents.

The Leon County ERA 1 program opened on March 29, 2021. Consistent with federal statutory and administrative guidelines for the program, eligible renter households may receive up to a total of 15 months of assistance for past-due or prospective rent and/or utility payments. Prospective payments are provided for three months at a time. These funds are paid directly to landlords and utility providers; however, as allowed and encouraged by U.S. Treasury guidance, the County may issue award payments directly to an applicant should the landlord decide not to participate in the program or is unresponsive. In these instances, eligible applicants would be provided up to \$4,200 directly for rental assistance which is equivalent to three months of rent at the Fair Market Rent value in Leon County for a three-bedroom apartment, which is approximately \$1,400 a month. To date, however, landlords have participated in the program and have been responsive, and as of the publication of this item, the County has not issued direct payments to applicants.

As discussed earlier in this item, the ERA 1 program requires the prioritization of households with income at or below 50% of AMI or below as well as households with at least one member who has been unemployed for the 90 days prior to application. As required by U.S. Treasury guidelines, working with Tetra Tech, the County established policies and procedures for determining the prioritization of households. To comply with this federal requirement, Leon County ERA 1 applications submitted during the first two weeks of the program that meet the criteria (50% or below AMI; or 90 days unemployed) are prioritized for review and award. Those applications are then reviewed in the order in which they are submitted, as indicated by electronic date and time stamps captured through the Neighborly software. Applications submitted after the first two weeks are reviewed and awarded based on their submittal date and time; these awards are also made on a first-eligible, first-served basis. As required by Treasury guidelines, the County's prioritization process was published on the County's website and printed on all program collateral distributed by County staff and community outreach partners. Leon County Human Services and Community Partnerships also presented this information during all webinar events conducted with community grassroots organizations, landlords, utility companies, and human services agencies prior to the launch of the program.

Within the first three weeks following the launch of the program, Leon County received over 5,900 applications for assistance totaling more than \$17 million in requested funding. Based on the overwhelming community response to the program which significantly exceeded the County's funding allocation, the window to submit applications was closed on April 19, 2021. As of the publication of this item, the County has approved more than 800 households for rent and utility assistance totaling more than \$3.4 million in awards. Of note, the County continues to engage and

share information and best practices with other Florida counties regarding the ERA program; at this time, several larger Florida counties continue to report that their volume of applications is comparatively lower than Leon County's and are estimating that it may take several more months to expend their full ERA 1 program allocation.

Leon County continues to review applications and will make award payments to eligible applicants until ERA 1 funds are exhausted. Because the County has received applications for assistance far in excess of the County's ERA 1 allocation, this item recommends utilizing ERA 2 funding to continue making award payments based on applications for assistance received through the ERA 1 program. This strategy is discussed in more detail below in the subsection titled "Overview of the ERA 2 Program."

State of Florida's ERA 1 Program:

On May 10, 2021, the State of Florida through the Department of Children and Families (DCF) launched its own statewide ERA program utilizing its allocation of ERA 1 funding. The State of Florida was allocated approximately \$870 million in ERA 1 funds and has also been allocated \$740 million in ERA 2 funds. The State has established its ERA 1 program to provide assistance to eligible applicants statewide, including applicants in Leon County.

Since the State's ERA Program is funded through ERA 1, the eligibility requirements are identical to Leon County's ERA 1 program. To qualify for the State's program, eligible applicants must:

- Qualify for unemployment or have experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced a financial hardship due to COVID-19;
- Demonstrate a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability; and
- Have a household income at or below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI).

Eligible renter households may receive up to \$2,000 per month and maximum of \$15,000 over the course of the program. Florida residents including Leon County residents can apply at www.OurFlorida.com. Like the County's program, once a resident applies, the application is reviewed to verify eligibility. If the applicant is deemed eligible, the State will calculate the eligible payment based on the rent amount listed in the lease agreement and/or utility bill that is submitted by the applicant. Currently, payments are made directly to the landlord and/or utility company. In accordance with ERA 1 program requirements, households with income at or below 50% of AMI or below or households with an individual who has been unemployed for the 90 days prior to application will be prioritized by the State for award.

Although Leon County residents may apply to the State's ERA program, assistance may not be provided for expenses that have already been covered by the Leon County ERA program. Similarly, Leon County's ERA program may not provide assistance for expenses covered by the State's program. The State is working with counties that received direct ERA funding from the U.S. Treasury, including Leon County, to develop a process to prevent duplication of benefits. On a conference call with DCF hosted on May 17, State program officials indicated that DCF may seek to enter into agreements with Florida counties and cities that are implementing their own local

ERA programs for the purpose of sharing data to determine any potential duplication of benefits. This item recommends the Board authorize the County Administrator to enter into an agreement with DCF, subject to legal review by the County Attorney, for the purpose of sharing ERA program data. As discussed earlier in this item, the implementation of the statewide program may impact the Leon County ERA Program to the extent that eligible Leon County residents receive assistance through the State's program.

Overview of the ERA 2 Program:

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the "American Rescue Plan Act of 2021" (H.R. 1319, referred to as the "ARPA" throughout this item) into law, which included an additional \$21.5 billion for the ERA 2 program to be distributed to states, territories, tribal governments, and local governments in the same manner as the ERA 1 funding allocated previously. Based upon the funding formula provided in the ARPA, Leon County is estimated to receive approximately \$7.01 million. The ARPA requires the Treasury to disburse 40% of each recipient's total allocation within 60 days of the enactment of the legislation. In order to receive this direct payment, eligible local governments were required to submit a request to the Treasury no later than May 10, 2021. The County Administrator timely submitted this request on behalf of the County on May 7, 2021 (Attachment #1). On May 11, 2021, the County received its initial 40% allocation, totaling \$2.8 million. The balance of the County's ERA 2 allocation will be disbursed to the County once 75% of its initial allocation is obligated.

Like the ERA 1 program, ERA 2 is restricted to renter households and is limited to households with income at or below 80% AMI. However, ERA 2 includes several important differences from ERA 1 that, with the Board's approval, will be incorporated into the Leon County ERA Program to ensure the continued administration of the program, to expand access to a greater number of low-income residents that are experiencing financial hardship, and to maximize financial support to low-income residents. A discussion of these differences between ERA 1 and ERA 2 is provided below.

Administrative Expenses:

Under ERA 2, the limit for administrative expenses is increased to 15% compared to 10% for ERA 1. This equates to approximately \$1 million of the County's ERA 2 allocation. A portion of this funding is recommended to extend the County's contract with Tetra Tech for the continued administration of the Leon County ERA Program. As discussed earlier in this item, the County has received an overwhelming community response to its ERA 1 program, and the volume of applications received for the ERA 1 program significantly exceed the County's ERA 1 funding allocation. As such, after ERA 1 funding is exhausted, Tetra Tech would continue to review and process existing applications, and eligible applicants would be paid using ERA 2 funds. The cost for a contract extension with Tetra Tech would be covered using the County's ERA 2 administrative allowance.

COVID-19 Impact:

Under ERA 1, an applicant must certify that at least one household member experienced a financial hardship <u>due directly or indirectly to</u> the COVID-19 pandemic. If an applicant is unable to provide

this certification, then the applicant is not eligible for the ERA 1 program, per Treasury guidelines for the program. A small number of Leon County applicants for ERA 1 funding have not met this criterion (for example, the applicant reported that they were experiencing a financial hardship, although not directly related to COVID-19) and were therefore determined ineligible for the program based on federal program requirements. However, a significant change has been made for the ERA 2 program. Under ERA 2 at least one household member must have experienced a financial hardship <u>during</u> the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, a household may eligible for the program if they have experienced financial hardship during the pandemic, regardless of whether the hardship was caused by COVID-19.

Should the Board approve the Leon County ERA 2 program, Leon County citizens who applied to the ERA 1 program but who were determined ineligible because they did not experience a financial hardship directly or indirectly related to COVID-19 would be reconsidered for assistance. These citizens would be awarded funding under the ERA 2 program if they meet all other eligibility criteria. This would increase the number of Leon County households assisted through this program.

Direct Payments:

Both ERA 1 and ERA 2 allow for direct payments to applicants. However, federal guidelines for the ERA 1 program establish a process that must be implemented to engage landlords and utility companies for participation in the program prior to considering direct payments to applicants. If landlords and/or utility companies do not wish to participate or are determined to be unresponsive based on Treasury guidelines, payments from ERA 1 funds can then be made directly to the applicant. As indicated earlier in this item, however, all applicants' landlords have participated in the program to date.

The ERA 2 program does not require the engagement and participation of landlords and utility companies in the program prior to making direct payments to applicants. Under ERA 2, eligible applicants may receive direct payments from the County. However, under Treasury guidelines, this approach is optional, and the County may continue to implement the existing program as designed to first engage landlords and utilities prior to considering making payments directly to individuals. Accordingly, since all landlords to date have participated in the County's ERA 1 program, it is recommended that this program design continue under the County's ERA 2 program. Using this approach, if a landlord or utility does not wish to participate in the program or is unresponsive, the County may then make award payments directly to eligible applicants.

Use of Funds:

As discussed earlier in this item, under the ERA 1 program, an eligible household may receive up to 15 months of assistance. However, as provided in the ARPA, the aggregate amount of financial assistance an eligible household may receive under ERA 2, when combined with financial assistance provided under ERA 1, may not exceed 18 months. The table below summarizes the differences between the two programs in this regard:

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	ERA 1:	ERA 2:
Past-due rent and/or utilities:	Maximum of 12 months	Maximum of 18 months (including any assistance provided under ERA 1)
Prospective rent/and or utilities:	Provided in 3-month increments; maximum of 15 months (including any assistance for past-due expenses)	Maximum of 18 months (including any assistance provided under ERA 1 and any assistance for past-due expenses under ERA 2)

As indicated above, the ERA 2 program provides additional flexibility in the maximum amount of past-due and prospective assistance that an eligible applicant may receive. ERA 2 also does not require that past-due expenses be paid before an applicant may receive funding for future rental housing expenses. Instead an eligible applicant may receive up to 18 months for past-due rent/utilities, prospective rent/utilities, or a combination of past and prospective rent/utilities as well as other expenses identified in Treasury guidelines (discussed in detail in the following paragraph). However, it is important to note that a household cannot receive more than 18 months under ERA 1 and ERA 2 combined. In order to remain consistent, it is recommended that the Leon County ERA Program maintain the funding parameters established for ERA 1 (up to 12 months for past-due rent/utilities and up to three months for prospective rent/utilities) for the remaining applications by eligible residents not yet funded.

In addition to direct rent and utility assistance, the ARPA provides that ERA 2 funds may be used for other expenses related to housing. As defined under the ARPA, these other expenses are not required to be incurred due to COVID-19 and could include security deposits, rental application fees, hotel costs, and internet services (not including subscription television services). It is recommended that the County's ERA 2 program provide assistance for eligible applicants' internet expenses as allowed by federal program guidelines. Importantly, however, a separate item on the May 25 Budget Workshop agenda seeks the Board's approval of a proposed expenditure plan for the County's allocation of Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the ARPA. The proposed expenditure plan includes funding for a variety of initiatives to serve the community's homeless population which include funding for security deposits, rental application fees, and hotel costs as allowed under the ERA 2 program. Accordingly, these expenses are not recommended to be included in the Leon County ERA 2 program.

If any ERA funds remain after all of the existing applications have been processed, the County would open a new application window to provide the following assistance to eligible households, with Board approval:

• For returning eligible applicants, additional assistance for past-due or prospective rent/utilities for up to 18 months (as indicated above, a household cannot receive more than 18 months under ERA 1 and ERA 2 combined)

٠	For new eligible applicants, assistance for past-due or prospective rent/utilities for up to a
	total of 18 months

• For all eligible applicants (returning and new), assistance for past-due and prospective internet service for up to 18 months

Finally, in addition to the eligible forms of assistance discussed above, the ARPA also allows up to 25% of ERA 2 funding that is not obligated by October 1, 2022 to be utilized for affordable rental housing and eviction prevention purposes for very low-income families (i.e., families with a household income at or below 50% AMI). This would equate to approximately \$1.7 million of the County's total ERA 2 allocation. At this time, the U.S. Treasury has not yet provided specific guidance regarding this provision of the ARPA. Should ERA program funding remain available once all eligible households have been assisted, staff would present a separate agenda item at the appropriate time with an update on any new Treasury guidance related to the use of ERA program funds for affordable rental housing and eviction prevention purposes.

Expiration of Funds:

As amended by the ARPA, the deadline for expenditure of ERA 1 funds is September 30, 2022. The expenditure deadline for ERA 2 funds is September 30, 2025. Approximately \$2.8 million (or 40%) of the County's ERA 2 funding has been disbursed. At least 75% of the distributed funds must be obligated in order to receive the remainder of the County's allocation. Additionally, beginning March 31, 2022, the U.S. Treasury will recapture funds from state and local governments that have not obligated at least 75% of their allocation to be redistributed to other eligible entities which, by that time, have obligated 50% or more of their initial allocation. Should the Board approve the use of the County's ERA 2 funds as discussed in this item, it is expected that the Leon County ERA Program will meet all federal funding deadlines. As discussed above, however, it should be noted that the recent launch of the State's ERA Program may impact the implementation of Leon County's ERA Program to the extent that eligible Leon County residents receive assistance through the State's program. In addition, the State of Florida has received an additional allocation of approximately \$740 million in ERA 2 funding through the ARPA. Notwithstanding this, as discussed above, should any Leon County ERA program funds remain unexpended by October 1, 2022, a separate agenda item will be presented to the Board with policy options and recommendations for expending the remainder of the County's funding allocation.

Conclusion:

Leon County has successfully and aggressively implemented its ERA program to meet the rental and utility needs of low-income residents impacted by COVID-19. In just under three weeks, through strategic targeted marketing and an extensive community outreach and promotional campaign, the County has received more than 5,900 applications for its existing ERA program. The County's allocation of ERA 1 funding will be exhausted before all eligible applicants are awarded funding.

Accordingly, this item recommends the Board's acceptance of ERA 2 funding provided under the American Rescue Plan Act and approval of the strategy discussed throughout this item for the efficient and expedient distribution of these funds. In accordance with program guidance issued

by the U.S. Treasury, it is recommended that the County's ERA program be expanded to provide assistance with internet services for eligible applicants. In addition, based on federal guidelines, applicants are now eligible for up to 18 months of total assistance between the ERA 1 and ERA 2 programs. All eligible applicants who applied under ERA 1 but were not funded would be automatically reconsidered for assistance through the County's ERA 2 program, with no need for citizens to reapply. Finally, in the event that ERA funding remains available after all eligible applicants are processed, Leon County will re-open the online portal for additional applications to be submitted. At that time, additional marketing would be conducted to ensure that eligible applicants are aware of the new funding opportunity.

Future status reports will be provided to the Board on the County's progress in implementing both its ERA 1 and ERA 2 funding allocations. Should ERA 2 funding remain available by October 1, 2022, a future agenda item would be brought back with policy options and recommendations for the Board's consideration for expending the remainder of the County's funding allocation, which may include using ERA funds to support additional affordable housing needs, subject to future Treasury guidance.

Options:

- 1. Ratify the request to the U.S. Treasury to receive the County's allocation of \$7.01 million in Emergency Rental Assistance Program 2 funds (Attachment #1).
- 2. Approve the utilization of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program 2 funds for the continuation of the Leon County Emergency Rental Assistance Program in accordance with the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021*.
- 3. Authorize the County Administrator to make modifications to program criteria for Emergency Rental Assistance Program 2 funds as may be needed to ensure the efficient and timely use of the County's allocation, and enter into subgrant agreements with fund recipients, subject to legal review by the County Attorney.
- 4. Authorize the County Administrator to expend up to 15% of the County's funding allocation to continue to administer the Leon County Emergency Rental Assistance Program and the other purposes authorized by the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021*.
- 5. Authorize the County Administrator to execute any contract amendments with Tetra Tech necessary for the implementation of ERA 1 and ERA 2.
- 6. Authorize the County Administrator to enter into an agreement with the Florida Department of Children and Families for the purpose of sharing ERA program data, subject to legal review by the County Attorney.
- 7. Approve the associated Resolution and Budget Amendment (Attachment #2).
- 8. Board direction.

Recommendation:

Options #1 through #7

Page 13

Attachments:

- 1. Executed Award Terms U.S. Treasury ERA 2 Program
- 2. Resolution and Budget Amendment
- 3. January 26, 2021 Agenda Item: "Emergency Rental Assistance Program Funding"

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE

Eligible grantee name and address:	DUNS Number: 193730645	
Leon County	Taxpayer Identification Number: 596000708	
301 S. Monroe Street	Assistance Listing Number and Title: 21.023-Emergency Rental Assistance	
Tallahassee Florida 32301-1861	Program	

Section 3201(a) of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Pub. L. No. 117-2 (March 11, 2021), authorizes the Department of the Treasury ("Treasury") to make payments to certain eligible grantees to be used to provide emergency rental assistance.

The eligible grantee hereby agrees, as a condition to receiving such payment from Treasury, to the terms attached hereto.

Authorized Representative Signature (above) [To be signed by chief executive officer if recipient is a local government.]

Authorized Representative Name:

Vincent Long

Authorized Representative Title:

Date Signed:

County Administrator

5/7/21

U.S. Department of the Treasury:

Name of Authorized Representative: Jacob Leibenluft Title: Counselor to the Secretary Date: 5/10/2021

PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT NOTICE: The information collected will be used for the U.S. Government to process requests for support. The estimated burden associated with this collection of information is 15 minutes per response. Comments concerning the accuracy of this burden estimate and suggestions for reducing this burden should be directed to the Office of Privacy, Transparency and Records, Department of the Treasury, 1500 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20220. DO NOT send the form to this address. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a valid control number assigned by OMB. PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

AUTHORITY: Solicitation of this information is authorized by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Title III, Pub. L. No. 117-2.

PURPOSE: Treasury is required by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to identify eligible grantees/recipients to provide emergency rental assistance to individuals who qualify for relief under the Act. Eligible grantees/recipients are state, local, and territorial governments which identify households requiring relief according to requirements contained in the Act. Treasury maintains contact information for authorized representatives and contact persons for the purpose of communicating with eligible grantees regarding issues related to implementation of the Act.

ROUTINE USES: The information you furnish may be shared in accordance with the routine uses outlined in the Treasury's system of records notice, Treasury .017 - Correspondence and Contact Information, which can be found at 81 FR 78266 (Nov. 7, 2016).

DISCLOSURE: Disclosure of this information to Treasury is required in order to comply with the requirements the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. Disclosure of this information is voluntary, however, grantees/recipients that do not disclose contact information will be unable to communicate with Treasury on issues related to their obligations under the Act and this may affect the status of their award.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE AWARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. <u>Use of Funds.</u> Recipient understands and agrees that the funds disbursed under this award may only be used for the purposes set forth in subsection (d) of section 3201 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, Pub. L. No. 117-2 (March 11, 2021) ("Section 3201") and any guidance issued by Treasury regarding the Emergency Rental Assistance program established under Section 3201 (the "Guidance").

2. <u>Reallocation of Funds</u>. Recipient understands and agrees that any funds allocated by Treasury to Recipient that are not disbursed to Recipient in accordance with Section 3201(c)(2) as a subsequent payment will be reallocated by Treasury to other eligible recipients under Section 3201(e). Such reallocation of funds shall be made in the manner and by the date, which shall be no sooner than March 31, 2022, as may be set by Treasury. Recipient agrees to obligate at least fifty (50) percent of the total amount of funds allocated by Treasury to Recipient under Section 3201 to be eligible to receive reallocated funds under Section 3201(e).

3. <u>Assistance to Eligible Households</u>. Recipient agrees to permit eligible households (as defined in Section 3201(f)(2)) to submit applications for financial assistance directly to Recipient, and to receive financial assistance directly from Recipient, under programs established by Recipient using funds disbursed under this award. Recipient may make payments to a landlord or utility provider on behalf of an eligible household, but if the landlord or utility provider does not agree to accept such payment after Recipient makes reasonable efforts to obtain its cooperation, Recipient must make such payments directly to the eligible household for the purpose of making payments to the landlord or utility provider.

4. <u>Period of Performance</u>. The period of performance for this award begins on the date hereof and ends on September 30, 2025. Recipient shall not incur any obligations to be paid with the funding from this award after such period of performance ends.

5. Administrative costs.

- a. Recipient may use funds provided to the Recipient to cover both direct and indirect costs.
- b. The total of all administrative costs, whether direct or indirect costs, may not exceed 15 percent of the total amount of the total award.

6. <u>Reporting</u>. Recipient agrees to comply with any reporting obligations established by Treasury as related to this award. Recipient acknowledges that any such information required to be reported pursuant to this section may be publicly disclosed.

7. Maintenance of and Access to Records.

- a. Recipient shall maintain records and financial documents sufficient to support compliance with Section 3201 and the Guidance.
- b. The Treasury Office of Inspector General and the Government Accountability Office, or their authorized representatives, shall have the right of access to records (electronic and otherwise) of Recipient in order to conduct audits or other investigations.
- c. Records shall be maintained by Recipient for a period of five (5) years after the period of performance.
- 8. <u>Cost Sharing.</u>Cost sharing or matching funds are not required to be provided by Recipient.

9. Compliance with Applicable Law and Regulations.

- a. Recipient agrees to comply with the requirements of Section 3201 and the Guidance. Recipient also agrees to comply with all other applicable federal statutes, regulations, and executive orders, and Recipient shall provide for such compliance in any agreements it enters into with other parties relating to this award.
- b. Federal regulations applicable to this award include, without limitation, the following:
 - i. Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, 2 C.F.R. Part 200, other than such provisions as Treasury may determine are inapplicable to this Award and subject to such exceptions as may be otherwise provided by Treasury. Subpart F Audit Requirements of the Uniform Guidance, implementing the Single Audit Act, shall apply to this award.

- ii. Universal Identifier and System for Award Management (SAM), 2 C.F.R. Part 25 and pursuant to which the award term set forth in Appendix A to 2 C.F.R. Part 25 is hereby incorporated by reference.
- iii. Reporting Subaward and Executive Compensation Information, 2 C.F.R. Part 170, pursuant to which the award term set forth in Appendix A to 2 C.F.R. Part 170 is hereby incorporated by reference.
- iv. OMB Guidelines to Agencies on Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement), 2 C.F.R. Part 180 including the requirement to include a term or condition in all lower tier covered transactions (contracts and subcontracts described in 2 C.F.R. Part 180, subpart B) that the award is subject to 2 C.F.R. Part 180 and Treasury's implementing regulation at 31 C.F.R. Part 19.
- v. Recipient Integrity and Performance Matters, pursuant to which the award term set forth in 2 C.F.R. Part 200, Appendix XII to Part 200 is hereby incorporated by reference.
- vi. Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace, 31 C.F.R. Part 20.
- vii. New Restrictions on Lobbying, 31 C.F.R. Part 21.
- c. Statutes and regulations prohibiting discrimination applicable to this award, include, without limitation, the following:
 - i. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. §§ 2000d et seq.) and Treasury's implementing regulations at 31 C.F.R. Part 22, which prohibit discrimination on the grounds of race, color, or national origin under programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance;
 - ii. The Fair Housing Act, Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. § 3601 et seq.), which prohibits discrimination in housing on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status, or disability;
 - iii. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. § 794), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability under any program or activity receiving or benefiting from federal financial assistance;
 - iv. The Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§ 6101 et seq.) and Treasury's implementing regulations at 31 C.F.R. Part 23, which prohibit discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities receiving federal financial assistance; and
 - v. Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended (42 U.S.C. §§ 12101 et seq.), which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability under programs, activities, and services provided or made available by state and local governments or instrumentalities or agencies thereto.

10. <u>False Statements</u>. Recipient understands that false statements or claims made in connection with this award is a violation of federal criminal law and may result in fines, imprisonment, debarment from participating in federal awards or contracts, and/or any other remedy available by law.

11. <u>Conflicts of Interest.</u> Recipient understands and agrees it must maintain a conflict of interest policy consistent with 2 C.F.R. § 200.318(c), and that such conflict of interest policy is applicable to each activity funded under this award. Recipients and subrecipients must disclose in writing to Treasury or the pass-through agency, as appropriate, any potential conflict of interest affecting the awarded funds in accordance with 2 C.F.R. § 200.112.

12. <u>Publications.</u> Any publications produced with funds from this award must display the following language: "This project [is being] [was] supported, in whole or in part, by federal award number [enter project FAIN] awarded to [name of Recipient] by the U.S. Department of the Treasury."

13. Debts Owed the Federal Government.

- a. Any funds paid to Recipient (1) in excess of the amount to which Recipient is finally determined to be authorized to retain under the terms of this award; (2) that are determined by the Treasury Office of Inspector General to have been misused shall constitute a debt to the federal government.
- b. Any debts determined to be owed the federal government must be paid promptly by Recipient. A debt is delinquent if it has not been paid by the date specified in Treasury's initial written demand for payment, unless other satisfactory arrangements have been made. Interest, penalties, and administrative charges shall be charged on delinquent debts in accordance with 31 U.S.C. § 3717 and 31 C.F.R. § 901.9. Treasury will refer any debt that is more than 180 days delinquent to Treasury's Bureau of the Fiscal Service for debt collection services.
- c. Penalties on any debts shall accrue at a rate of not more than 6 percent per year or such other higher rate as authorized by law. Administrative charges, that is, the costs of processing and handling a delinquent debt, shall be determined by Treasury.

14. Disclaimer.

- a. The United States expressly disclaims any and all responsibility or liability to Recipient or third persons for the actions of Recipient or third persons resulting in death, bodily injury, property damages, or any other losses resulting in any way from the performance of this award or any other losses resulting in any way from the performance of this award or any contract, or subcontract under this award.
- b. The acceptance of this award by Recipient does not in any way constitute an agency relationship between the United States and Recipient.

15. Protections for Whistleblowers.

- a. In accordance with 41 U.S.C. § 4712, Recipient may not discharge, demote, or otherwise discriminate against an employee as a reprisal for disclosing information to any of the list of persons or entities provided below that the employee reasonably believes is evidence of gross mismanagement of a federal contract or grant, a gross waste of federal funds, an abuse of authority relating to a federal contract or grant, a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety, or a violation of law, rule, or regulation related to a federal contract (including the competition for or negotiation of a contract) or grant.
- b. The list of persons and entities referenced in the paragraph above includes the following:
 - i. A member of Congress or a representative of a committee of Congress;
 - ii. An Inspector General;
 - iii. The Government Accountability Office;
 - iv. A Treasury employee responsible for contract or grant oversight or management;
 - v. An authorized official of the Department of Justice or other law enforcement agency;
 - vi. A court or grand jury; and/or
 - vii. A management official or other employee of Recipient, contractor, or subcontractor who has the responsibility to investigate, discover, or address misconduct.
- c. Recipient shall inform its employees in writing of the rights and remedies provided under this section, in the predominant native language of the workforce.

16. <u>Increasing Seat Belt Use in the United States.</u> Pursuant to Executive Order 13043, 62 FR 19217 (Apr. 8, 1997), Recipient should and should encourage its contractors to adopt and enforce on-the-job seat belt policies and programs for their employees when operating company-owned, rented or personally owned vehicles.

17. <u>Reducing Text Messaging While Driving</u>. Pursuant to Executive Order 13513, 74 FR 51225 (Oct. 1, 2009), Recipient should encourage its employees, subrecipients, and contractors to adopt and enforce policies that ban text messaging while driving, and Recipient should establish workplace safety policies to decrease accidents caused by distracted drivers.

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida, approved a budget for fiscal year 2020/2021; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners, pursuant to Chapter 129, Florida Statutes, desires to amend the budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida, hereby amends the budget as reflected on the Departmental Budget Amendment Request Form attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

Adopted this 8th day of June, 2021.

LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

By:____

Rick Minor, Chairman Board of County Commissioners

Date:

ATTEST: Gwendolyn Marshall, Clerk of the Court & Comptroller, Leon County, Florida

By:_____

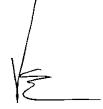
APPROVED AS TO LEGAL SUFFICIENCY: Chasity H. O'Steen, County Attorney Leon County Attorney's Office

By:_____

							At	tachment #2 Page 2 of 2
				-	YEAR 2020			
			БО	DGELAN	IENDMENT	REQUESI		
No:	BAB21025					Agenda Item No:		
Date:	5/17/2020					Agenda Item Date:	5/25/2021	
County A	dministrator					Deputy County Adn	ninistrator	
Vincent S	. Long					Alan Rosenzweig		
				R	equest Detail			
					<u>Revenues</u>			
		Account	Informat	ion		Current Budget	Change	Adjusted Budget
Fund	Org	Acct	Prog		<i>Title</i> ry-Emerg. Rental	-		
127	932079	331612	000		nce Program	-	7,014,389	7,014,389
						Subtotal:	7,014,389	
					Expenditures			
Fund	Org	Account Acct	Informat Prog	ion	<i>Title</i> ry-Emerg. Rental	Current Budget	Change	Adjusted Budget
127	932079	58345	554		nce Program	-	7,014,389	7,014,389
						Subtotal:	7,014,389	
				Pur	oose of Reque	est		
				Inding from th	e United States D	Department of Treasur	y to provide rent	and/or utility
assistance	to eligible lov	w-income ho	useholds (experiencing f	inancial hardship	due to COVID-19.		
	Department				Budg	get Manager		
2625/26								
					Scott Ross	s, Director, Office of	Financial Stewa	ardship
Approved	By:	Resolution	x			Motion	Administrator	

Leon County Board of County Commissioners Agenda Item #22 January 26, 2021

To:Honorable Chairman and Members of the BoardFrom:Vincent S. Long, County Administrator



Title:Emergency Rental Assistance Program Funding

Review and Approval:	Vincent S. Long, County Administrator
Department/ Division	Alan Rosenzweig, Deputy County Administrator
Review:	Scott Ross, Director, Office of Financial Stewardship
Lead Staff/ Project	Andy Johnson, Assistant to the County Administrator
Team:	Nicki Paden, Management Analyst

Statement of Issue:

This item seeks Board acceptance of approximately \$8.9 million in federal funding from the U.S. Treasury, as well as the Board's consideration to establish a proposed Leon County Emergency Rental Assistance Program to expend these funds beginning in March 2021. Pursuant to the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021* (H.R. 133), this funding must be used to provide rent and/or utility assistance to eligible low-income households experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19.

Fiscal Impact:

This item has a fiscal impact. Leon County has been allocated an additional \$8.9 million in federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program funding from the U.S. Department of the Treasury. This funding must be used to assist low-income households that are unable to pay rent and utilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Staff Recommendation:

See next page.

Staff Recommendation:

Option #1:	Ratify the request to the U.S. Treasury to receive the County's allocation of \$8.9 million in Emergency Rental Assistance Program funds (Attachment #1).
Option #2:	Approve the proposed Leon County Emergency Rental Assistance Program and authorize the County Administrator to implement the program, make modifications to program criteria as may be needed to ensure the efficient and timely use of the County's allocation, and enter into subgrant agreements with fund recipients, subject to legal review by the County Attorney.
Option #3:	Authorize the County Administrator to expend up to ten percent (10%) of the County's funding allocation to establish and administer the Leon County Emergency Rental Assistance Program.
Option #4:	Authorize the County Administrator to engage Ernst & Young to assist with implementation of the Leon County Emergency Rental Assistance Program as needed.
Option #5:	Approve the associated Resolution and Budget Amendment (Attachment #2).

Report and Discussion

Background:

This item seeks Board acceptance of approximately \$8.9 million in federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERA Program) funding from the U.S. Department of the Treasury, as well as the Board's consideration to establish a proposed Leon County Emergency Rental Assistance Program (Leon ERA program) to expend these funds. These funds are supplemental to the Coronavirus Relief Funding allocated to state and local governments under the CARES Act passed by Congress in March 2020 which, as presented to the Board during the January 25, 2021 Annual Retreat, Leon County successfully leveraged to provide \$11.5 million in housing and utility assistance to more than 4,900 applicants through the Leon CARES Individual Assistance program in 2020.

As discussed in detail in the Analysis section of this item, the ERA Program funding, which was authorized by Congress in the *Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021* (H.R. 133), must be used to provide rent and/or utility assistance to eligible low-income households experiencing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. H.R. 133 provides specific requirements for the administration of this funding, including eligibility criteria for prospective applicants as well as guidelines for how governmental entities must implement its rental assistance programs using these funds.

Analysis:

On December 21, 2020, Congress passed H.R. 133, which included twelve federal spending bills for FY 2021 as well as an additional \$908 billion COVID-19 relief package. The COVID-19 relief provisions of the bill include the new ERA Program which directs \$25 billion from the U.S. Treasury to states, territories, tribal governments, and local governments to provide financial assistance and housing stability services to eligible low-income households.

As provided in H.R. 133, the U.S. Treasury will distribute these funds in generally the same manner as the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund; however, whereas the CARES Act provided for local governments with a population greater than 500,000 to receive its funding allocation directly from the Treasury, H.R. 133 lowered the population threshold for receiving direct funding to 200,000. As a result, Leon County is eligible to receive its allocation directly from the Treasury, and the County's allocation is expected to be approximately \$8.9 million based upon the allocation formula established in the bill. In order to receive this direct payment, eligible local governments were required to submit a request to the Treasury no later than January 12, 2021. The County Administrator timely submitted this request on behalf of the County on January 11 (Attachment #1) and, as reflected in the options below, this item seeks the Board's ratification of the County's request to receive direct payment and approval of an associated Resolution and Budget Amendment to accept this ERA Program funding (Attachment #2). The Treasury is expected to make these direct payments by January 30, 2021.

On January 6, 2021, the Treasury published preliminary guidance regarding the ERA Program. According to this guidance, no less than 90% of awarded funds must be used to provide direct financial assistance to eligible applicants, including rent, rental arrears, utilities and home energy costs, utilities and home energy costs arrears, and other expenses related to housing. The remaining 10% of awarded funds may be used for case management and other administrative costs.

For the purposes of the ERA Program, an "eligible household" is defined as a renter household in which at least one or more individuals meet the following criteria:

- Qualifies for unemployment or has experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, or experienced a financial hardship due to COVID-19;
- Demonstrates a risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability; and
- Has a household income at or below 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI).

Also, governmental entities implementing this program must prioritize the following applicants:

- Eligible households that include an individual who has been unemployed for the 90 days prior to application, <u>and</u>
- Households with income at or below 50% of AMI.

Eligible households may receive up to 12 months of assistance, as well as an additional 3 months should the County determine such assistance is needed to ensure housing stability and if grant funds are available. In general, funds must be paid directly to landlords and utility providers. If a landlord does not wish to participate, funds may be paid directly to the eligible household. Applications for rental assistance may be submitted by either an eligible household or by a landlord on behalf of that eligible household. Funding may be used to support both past-due and prospective housing expenses; however, payment of past-due expenses must be prioritized, and past-due expenses must be paid before an applicant may receive funding for prospective payments. Once a household's past-due expenses are reduced, prospective assistance may be provided for up to three months at a time. Based upon these required program parameters, it is anticipated that the County's \$8.9 million allocation will provide assistance for approximately 2,000 to 3,000 low-income households in Leon County.

The deadline for expenditure of ERA Program funds is December 31, 2021. Beginning September 30, 2021, the U.S. Treasury will recapture excess funds not obligated by state and local governments to be reallocated to other eligible entities which, by that time, have obligated 65% or more of its initial allocation. The additional re-allocation of funds will be determined based on the demonstrated need for assistance within an eligible entity's jurisdiction. Entities that receive an additional allocation may request a 90-day extension of the December 31, 2021 expenditure deadline.

In addition to accepting the County's allocation of this federal funding, this item seeks the Board's consideration to establish a proposed Leon ERA program to expend these funds and to authorize the County Administrator to implement this program to facilitate the distribution of these funds throughout the community. It is recommended that the Board authorize the County Administrator to expend up to ten percent (10%) of the County's funding allocation, which is authorized by H.R.

Title: Emergency Rental Assistance Program Funding January 26, 2021 Page 5

133 as discussed above. With the Board's approval, the Leon ERA program would be implemented in generally the same manner as the Leon CARES Individual Assistance program, with a target launch date of March 2021. The County would establish a streamlined, easy-to-navigate application process, conduct extensive outreach to citizens and landlords, and continue to leverage all of the County's community partnerships and media platforms to educate the public and raise awareness of the assistance available through the program.

Finally, to facilitate the implementation of the Leon ERA program, this item seeks the Board's consideration to authorize the County Administrator to retain consulting services from Ernst & Young (EY), an international tax, accounting, and business consultancy as needed to assist with aspects of program implementation. The County previously retained EY to assist with administration of the Leon CARES expenditure plan. Like the Leon CARES assistance programs, implementation of the proposed Leon ERA program would require the timely processing of thousands of applications for assistance, and would also require strict financial controls and accounting measures to collect and organize documentation to comply with federal reporting requirements for the program. Any costs associated with retaining EY's services would be paid from the 10% portion of the County's allocation that may be used for administrative expenses. EY offers management consulting services through an available Florida State Term Contract (STC), the use of which complies with Section 5.12 of the County's Procurement Policy related to cooperative purchasing. However, specific requirements related to use of the STC would delay the procurement process beyond the timeframe necessary to implement the Leon ERA program. Accordingly, to ensure the timely implementation of the program, it is recommended that these consulting services be authorized under the authority of the County's Local Declared State of Emergency.

Options:

- 1. Ratify the request to the U.S. Treasury to receive the County's allocation of \$8.9 million in Emergency Rental Assistance Program funds (Attachment #1).
- 2. Approve the proposed Leon County Emergency Rental Assistance Program and authorize the County Administrator to implement the program, make modifications to program criteria as may be needed to ensure the efficient and timely use of the County's allocation, and enter into subgrant agreements with fund recipients, subject to legal review by the County Attorney.
- 3. Authorize the County Administrator to expend up to ten percent (10%) of the County's funding allocation to establish and administer the Leon County Emergency Rental Assistance Program.
- 4. Authorize the County Administrator to engage Ernst & Young to assist with implementation of the Leon County Emergency Rental Assistance Program as needed.
- 5. Approve the associated Resolution and Budget Amendment (Attachment #2).
- 6. Board direction.

Recommendation:

Options #1 through #5

Title: Emergency Rental Assistance Program Funding January 26, 2021 Page 6

Attachments:

- 1. Executed Award Terms U.S. Treasury Emergency Rental Assistance Program
- 2. Resolution and Budget Amendment

Leon County Board of County Commissioners

Notes for Workshop Agenda Item #4

Leon County Board of County Commissioners Budget Workshop Item #4 May 25, 2021

To:	Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board
From:	Vincent S. Long, County Administrator
Title:	Plan to Implement the Essential Libraries Initiative

Review and Approval:	Vincent S. Long, County Administrator
Department/ Division Review:	Alan Rosenzweig, Deputy County Administrator Scott Ross, Director of Financial Stewardship Wanda Hunter, Assistant County Administrator
Lead Staff/ Project Team:	Heather Peeples, Special Projects Coordinator Debra Sears, Director, Library Services Danielle Daguerre, Library Services Manager Michelle Ray, Library Services Manager

Statement of Issue:

This item presents for the Board's consideration a proposed plan to implement the *Essential Libraries Initiative*, a re-envisioning of the Leon County Public Library System to address the changing needs of residents and trends in library use. The plan includes several enhancements to the Library such as new programs and services, capital improvements, existing position reclassifications, and policy revisions to support the initiative.

Fiscal Impact:

This item has a fiscal impact. The preliminary FY 2022 Budget includes \$400,000 in funding for the *Essential Libraries Initiative*. Initial funding will support architectural services for proposed space modifications, preliminary fixtures and furnishings, as well as, certain outdoor amenities for the main and branch libraries. In addition, \$300,000 per year of funding is also contemplated in the out years of the capital improvement program, for a total of \$1.6 million. Pending the results of the architectural work, revised out year funding would be considered as part of future budget cycles. In addition, this item seeks the acceptance of a one-time donation of \$15,000 from the Friends of the Library to support the creation of a Library of Things.

Staff Recommendation:

See next page.

Staff Recommendation:

- Option #1: Adopt the proposed plan to implement the *Essential Libraries Initiative*.
- Option #2: Approve the creation of a Community Resources Specialist position within the Department of Library Services through the realignment of an existing position thereby having no fiscal impact.
- Option #3: Accept the \$15,000 donation from the Friends of the Library to establish a Library of Things, and approve the Resolution and associated Budget Amendment Request (Attachment #4).
- Option #4: Adopt the proposed revised Policy "Library Code of Conduct" (Attachment #5), thereby repealing the current Policy No. 98-15 "Library Patron Rights & Responsibilities."
- Option #5: Adopt the proposed Enabling Resolution to reauthorize the Library Advisory Board (Attachment #6) and approve the revised membership.

Report and Discussion

Background:

This item presents for the Board's consideration a proposed plan to implement the *Essential Libraries Initiative*, a re-envisioning of the Leon County Public Library System to address the changing needs of residents and trends in library use. The plan includes several enhancements to the Library such as new programs and services, capital improvements, existing position reclassifications, and policy revisions to support the initiative.

This budget discussion item presents a proposed *Essential Libraries Initiative* Plan, which advances the following FY2017-FY2021 Strategic Initiative:

• Implement the Leon County Essential Libraries Initiative. (2020-9)

This particular Strategic Initiative aligns with the Board's Governmental Strategic Priorities:

- (G2) Sustain a culture of performance, and deliver effective, efficient services that exceed expectations and demonstrate value.
- (G3) Sustain a culture that respects, engages, and empowers citizens in important decisions facing the community.

Over the last two years, the Library has undergone an extensive re-envisioning process that includes identifying the changing roles of public libraries, refocusing priorities on the needs of the community, and engaging citizens to help develop new strategies to maintain relevance. An overview of this process – referred to as the County's *Essential Libraries Initiative* – as well as the Board's previous actions are summarized in the background section of this item. Following this overview, the analysis section then provides the Board with a summary of findings from listening sessions, surveys, and a statistical review of the community all of which were used to develop a proposed plan to implement the Essential Libraries Initiative with the Leon County Public Library System. The plan presented in this item includes for the Board's consideration recommendations for several new programs and services, a phased plan for identifying and budgeting for capital improvement projects, existing position reclassifications, as well as policy revisions to support the initiative. Finally, the analysis includes a section on "next steps" should the Board adopt the proposed plan to implement the *Essential Libraries Initiative*.

Public libraries were conceived in an age of information scarcity when access to knowledge was limited by physical space and location. In today's networked world, information is in abundance and the spread of powerful digital communication technology has increased access to information, job opportunities, education, government resources, healthcare, and civic participation. Economic, educational, civic and social opportunities are tied to a whole new set of knowledge and skills that barely existed a generation ago, and people without these skills or access will be quickly left behind. These changes do not mean that libraries have become irrelevant, but rather highlight the need for a new organizational model and expanded focus areas to ensure continued relevance.

Unsurprisingly, local and national trends indicate that throughout the nation and here in Leon County, circulation of physical materials is declining while demands for digital content, gathering

space, and interactive programming continues to rise. Libraries are no longer book warehouses. Rather, they are critical social infrastructure and integral to the community's continued resilience and overall well-being. Given their geographic locations throughout the County, as well as the diversity of existing staff skillsets and focus on connecting people to resources, the Library is uniquely positioned to help citizens succeed in today's knowledge-based society.

Over the last several years, national efforts have been made by organizations like the Aspen Institute to support communities in re-envisioning and transforming its public libraries in the digital age. In partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Aspen Institute published a guide, *Rising to the Challenge: Re-Envisioning Public Libraries*. The report provides concrete actions that can be taken to raise the profile of public libraries to the center of the knowledge society, highlight new opportunities and possibilities, increase support for an expanded library role in a networked world and spark a conversation and action to re-envision the 21st century library as a center of learning, innovation and creativity.

Building on these national and local trends, County staff joined representatives from the Knight Creative Communities Institute and the Friends of the Library on a Multi-City/State Tour of Innovative Public Library Systems. By visiting five different library systems across the region, dozens of locations, and meeting with scores of library program experts, County staff and community members saw firsthand how libraries have reinvented themselves to meet community needs in a networked world. While books and other print materials will always play a foundational role in libraries, the communities visited during the tours recognized that a singular focus on lending materials can no longer suffice. The libraries visited during the tours had refocused their mission on improving the lives of its residents and staff viewed these libraries as a partner in addressing a broad range of community challenges.

As approved by the Board during the October 15, 2019 meeting, the FY 2019/20 Strategic Planning Retreat included a discussion on re-envisioning the possibilities of the Leon County Public Library System. The structure of the Retreat mirrored the Aspen Institute's recommended three-step process for realigning libraries' programs, services, staff, and physical spaces with the community's greatest needs and goals: (1) Learning, (2) Leading, and (3) Implementing.

Step 1: Learning - The first step, Learning, involved completing an internal assessment of a public library, which included an overview of 5-year trends in local library use as well as the findings from the multi-city/state tours of other public library systems

Step 2: Leading - The second step, Leading, involved using the results of the Library's internal review, as well as the best practices observed in other libraries, to develop a strategy for aligning the Library with the community and its priorities, aspirations and goals. To reinforce this new, outward focus, staff presented an updated mission statement for the Library, as well as suggested priority focus areas to guide the development of new programs and services.

Step 3: Implementing - The final step, Implementing, involved convening a community dialogue to re-envision the library's role and develop a plan for deploying the library's key assets in new ways to meet the challenges of today and tomorrow. During the Retreat, the Board was presented with a proposal to engage stakeholders, active patrons, and non-library users alike in conversations

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about how libraries can be an essential resource for all residents. The proposal included Listening Sessions and a community survey as well as a review of demographic trends in Leon County that the Library will need to be responsive to. Utilizing the citizen input and other findings from this step, a final, detailed draft of the *Essential Libraries Initiative* was planned for the following Budget Workshop.

However, in the year since the Board's January 2020 Retreat, the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing requirements have significantly impacted Library operations including declines in checkouts of materials, facility occupancy limits, and a suspension of all in-person programming. Additionally, County revenues were impacted resulting in the need for several spending reduction measures. To ensure the plan to implement the *Essential Libraries Initiative* is reflective of the needs of the community post-COVID and adequate funding is available to support proposed recommendations, the final presentation of a plan was delayed to the May 2021 Budget Workshop.

Analysis:

The following analysis presents for the Board's consideration a proposed plan to implement the *Essential Libraries Initiative* and includes the following sections: (1) Summary of Listening Sessions & Surveys; (2) Statistical Review of the Community; (3) Aligning Library Services in Support of Community Needs and Goals; (4) Library Programming Plan by Focus Area; (5) Capital Improvement Projects; (6) Organizational Structure of the Library; (7) Customer Service & the Patron Code of Conduct; (8) Community Engagement & Volunteers; and (9) Next Steps.

Summary of Listening Sessions & Survey

Utilizing the Aspen Institute's guide for convening a community dialogue, the Library used the scheduled 2020 LEADS Listening Sessions as an opportunity to engage stakeholders, active patrons, and non-library users alike in conversations about how libraries can be an essential resource for all residents. To solicit input, the proposed plan for the Library's 2020 LEADS Listening Sessions included the following elements.

<u>Listening Session with Key Stakeholders</u> - On March 2, 2020, the Library convened 25 representatives from a broad range of nonprofits and other agencies whose mission compliments that of the Library or whose clients could directly benefit from library programs and services. The following 20 organizations were represented at the listening session:

- Big Bend 2-1-1
- Capital Area Community Action Agency
- Capital Area Healthy Start Coalition;
- CareerSource Capital Region
- Council on Culture and Arts (COCA)
- Early Learning Coalition of the Big Bend
- Elder Care Services
- Friends of the Library
- Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce
- The Grove Museum;

- IFAS UF Extension
- John G. Riley Center & Museum;
- Library Advisory Board
- Leon County Health Department
- Leon County Schools
- o Midtown Reader
- o Second Harvest
- Tallahassee Senior Center Foundation
- TCC Workforce Development;
- Village Square.

During the session, attendees were provided an opportunity to rank proposed library programs and services or make their own recommendations. The meeting also included a facilitated discussion about how the Library can be a better partner in addressing community issues.

<u>Targeted Community Listening Sessions</u> - Throughout the month of March 2020, Listening Sessions were scheduled at the Main Library and each branch. Listening Sessions were successfully held at the Ft. Braden Branch Library and the Main Library. An additional session was also held with the Library's Teen Advisory Board. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting prohibitions on public gatherings, several Listening Sessions were cancelled. Those that had registered to attend a session were encouraged to provide feedback through the online community survey described in the following section.

<u>Community Survey</u> - An extensive, community-wide survey was developed with Sachs Media Group for the purpose of gathering input from a large and diverse representation of Leon County residents. The survey consisted of multiple-choice questions about the respondents' demographics, perceptions of the Library and staff, the needs of their community, as well as reactions to the Library's proposed program focus areas. In addition, those who did not have a library card or had not recently visited a library were asked additional questions about why this was the case. The survey also included one open-ended question asking, "Is there anything more you would like to share regarding your library or your community?"

The survey was distributed throughout March 2020 using a variety of methods to ensure enough responses for a small margin of error. First, Sachs Media Group sent the survey to a random, representative sample of Leon County voters. Next, information about the *Essential Libraries Initiative* and a link to the community survey was distributed as part of a press release resulting in earned media coverage by multiple local media outlets. The survey was also promoted through the County's website, mobile apps, social media platforms, and emails to both active and inactive library card holders. To help bridge the digital divide and connect with those without regular computer or internet access, a pop-up survey was added to the 276 public computers located within the seven library facilities. As a result, a total of 4,708 responses were collected, with an average of 2,908 respondents answering each question.

A detailed summary of responses to the survey's multiple-choice questions was provided by Sachs Media Group and is included as Attachment #1. Responses to the survey's one open-ended question, along with the comments and suggestions provided during the Listening Session, were compiled and analyzed separately (Attachment #2). The findings from both the survey and Listening Sessions are referenced throughout this item as they relate to specific elements of the *Essential Libraries Infinitive* including new programs, services, or facility improvements. However, the following are several overarching findings:

• Perceptions of Library Programs & Services - While the survey shows significant support from existing patrons for current Library offerings, new and diverse approaches to programs, services, and collection development are needed to appeal to the majority of Leon County resident who are not library users. This is demonstrated by the responses to questions about why respondents do not have a library card or choose to avoid visiting the Library. The leading reason identified for not visiting the Library is "the library doesn't

offer the things that I want." Likewise, the top reason respondents did not have a library card was that "everything I would need at a library I can get from somewhere else."

These perceptions of the Library have undoubtedly impacted card registration. Currently, approximately 43% of County residents have a library card. However, since 2015, the number of card holders has decreased by 21% as fewer people are renewing their existing library card or registering for a card for the first time. Recent revisions to the County's "Eligibility for Library Cards" Policy as well as the launch of online card registration may help to increase new card registrations, but it is likely that card renewals will remain low unless the Library can demonstrate its relevance to a broader range of Leon County residents.

• Support for the Essential Libraries Initiative - The survey and Listening Sessions show overall support for the County's decision to initiate a process of re-envisioning the public library. This is demonstrated by the hundreds of comments suggesting new programs or improvements to services as well as those expressing excitement for future changes. While responses were primarily supportive, there were several individuals that expressed concerns that the changes might result in a loss of the traditional library services that they value, specifically the loss of print materials. These responses highlight the need for increased communication to patrons about the process of "weeding" the Library's collection of books, CDs, DVDs, and other items that are outdated, in poor condition, or have not circulated in over five years.

"Weeding" is a standard practice in public libraries as it makes room for newly purchased materials and ensures that items are up-to-date, relevant, and in good condition. This process is also recommended by the Aspen Institute to free up space for future capital improvement projects, such as coworking and study spaces, program rooms, and seating areas. As circulation of print materials declines and the need for these new spaces increases, "weeding" becomes even more important, but it can also cause unease for patrons who see books being removed from the shelves. However, print books will always be a critical part of the Library's mission and the County will continue to invest in developing a collection that is up-to-date, diverse, and supports the needs and interests of the community. To further ease patron anxiety, our Library has implemented several best practices, many of which were observed during the library tours funded by the Knight Foundation. The tours consisted of representatives from the Knight Creative Communities Institute, Friends of the Library, and key County staff. The grouped visited five award winning libraries in the Southeast. Some of the best practices learned on the tours included:

- Programming that Supports the Collection To support use of the Library's vast collection, the County hosts ongoing book clubs and annual events such as the African American Read-In. However, additional programs and events will be developed to encourage new readers to utilize these available materials.
- Basement "Book Vault" In the Main Library basement, staff have created a "book vault" for low-circulating items. This allows patrons to continue accessing these items

by request without them unnecessarily taking up valuable floor space at Main or the Branch Libraries.

- Library Discard Program For years, the Library has operated a weekly Discard Program, which donates reading materials that have been withdrawn from the collection to local nonprofits and government agencies. Frequent recipients include the Leon County Detention Center, Florida Department of Corrections, local churches, and senior living facilities.
- Donation to the Friends of the Library Materials that are not donated as part of the Library Discard Program are then given to the Friends of Library. If the Friends determine that the item cannot be sold in its shop locally, it will send the item to the online book retailer Better World Books which has access to a global market. The Friends receive a portion of the profits from each item sold and Better World Books recycles those items that no not sell or were not selected for donation to one of its partner literacy programs around the world. These funds are then used to support the purchase of new materials as well as Library programs.
- **Community Engagement & Partnerships** To maintain relevance, the Aspen Institute encourages librarians to "go beyond the walls of the library and into the community, to engage different stakeholder groups and explore how to provide library services that are untethered from the library building itself." The libraries visited during the tours have learned to do this successfully. Several libraries adopted annual goals for the number of programs held outside of the library because they wanted to ensure traditionally underserved areas and populations could access the benefits of the library.

The survey results further demonstrate the need for the Leon County Library to increase outreach and community engagement activities. The second most common reason cited by survey respondents for why they avoid vising a library was "I don't have transportation." This reason was most common among those living in neighborhoods near the Main Library, Dr. B.L. Perry, Jr. Branch, and Jane G. Sauls Fort Braden Branch. Like the libraries visited during the tours, the Leon County Public Library plans to increase outreach to communities that lack transportation by leveraging partnership with other organizations and through the strategic use of volunteers. For example, the Library is currently coordinating with the Tallahassee Housing Authority to schedule several pop-up library events at their affordable housing properties.

• Efficiency through Technology - A common theme of the survey and Listening Sessions comments is appreciation for new efficiencies achieved through technology. Respondents frequently noted the convenience digital materials provide because they are more accessible for those with certain disabilities and easier to obtain for those who cannot travel to a library. Others specifically commended the recent launch of the Library's new app, online card registration, and autorenewal of checked out materials.

Other efficiencies discussed later in this item, such as self-checkout and radio frequency identification technology (RFID), are a significant component of the *Essential Libraries Initiative*. By using technology to reduce staff time spent on manual tasks, the Library will increase face-to-face services and active programs. Communicating these added benefits to patrons will be an important part of launching new technologies and automating processes in the library because, as shown by the comments in Attachment #2, some patrons are fearful that customer service quality will decline. However, as demonstrated by the libraries visited during the tours, these enhancements have allowed libraries to refocus their time and energy on tasks that provide the greatest benefit to the community.

Statistical Review of the Community

In addition to gathering input from citizens and community organizations, staff conducted a statistical review of the population in Leon County (Attachment #3). Utilizing the Office of Economic Vitality (OEV) data center and U.S. Census Bureau reports, staff analyzed the current demographic makeup of Leon County to ensure Library programs are representative of and appealing to our diverse population. Additionally, several community reports and assessments were reviewed in order to identify issues and trends the Library will need to be responsive to now and in the future. These findings, along with the results of the Listening Sessions and community survey, have been utilized to verify the validity of the Library's focus areas and develop the following plan to align the Library's programs and services in support of the community's needs and goals.

Aligning Library Services in Support of Community Needs and Goals

Traditionally, libraries and its staff have been experienced in fielding problems as they walk in the door, not in going out into their communities trying to identify or solve community needs. This model no longer works. One of the primary findings from the tours of other library systems is the importance of being proactive and aligning a library's services in support of the community's needs and goals. For instance, all library programs at Charlotte Mecklenburg must fall into one of the following four focus areas to ensure that they support the greatest needs in its community: Literacy, Educational Success, Economic Opportunity, and Humanities.

This practice is strongly supported by the Aspen Institute's report, which stresses the need for libraries to be more intentional in the ways that they deploy resources and become more deeply embedded in addressing the critical challenges facing the community. To that end, the report suggests that public libraries that align its people, place, and platform assets to create services that prioritize and support local community goals will find the greatest opportunities for success in the years ahead. The Aspen Institute also argues that libraries and its staff are already poised to play leading roles in helping individuals and communities by identifying and filling gaps in services.

As part of the draft *Essential Libraries Initiative* presented to the Board at the January 2020 Retreat, four focus areas were adopted by the County's Library: (1) Literacy and Lifelong Learning (2) Business & Workforce Development (3) Civic & Community Engagement (4) Arts & Humanities. Similar to the four Strategic Priorities upon which Leon County Government's Strategic Plan is built, these high-level focus areas consider the desired future condition and encompass the major areas of the Library's responsibilities which are critical to the success of the community. Each focus area was also presented with preliminary directional statements that are intended to provide specificity and guide how the focus area will be supported.

As part of the Listening Sessions and community survey, citizen input was gathered to refine these components of the *Essential Libraries Initiative* and develop the following plan for implementing new programs and services. The results overwhelmingly support the Library's focus areas and directional statements and help prioritize the resources based upon the community needs identified by citizens For example, Tables #1 summarizes survey responses to a question asking how current programs and services in the respondents' community fare in each of the four focus areas. The results to this question suggest that Leon County residents believe programs and services are most needed in the area of Business & Workforce Development, followed by Civic & Community Engagement, and then Literacy & Lifelong Learning. The vast majority (70%) of survey respondents felt existing Arts & Humanities programs fared "Very Strong" or "Pretty Good."

Table #1 – Survey Responses to the Question "How Do Programs and Services in You	ır
Community Fare in the Following Areas?"	

	POSITIVE (NET)	Very strong	"pretty good"	Somewhat lacking	Totally inadequate
Literacy and Lifelong Learning: Developing the skills needed to be successful socially, mentally, financially, and technologically at any age including promoting traditional and non-traditional forms of literacy.	65%	17%	48%	28%	7%
Business and Workforce Development: Supporting a strong local economy by acting as a resource for businesses and individuals seeking professional development.	56%	11%	45%	35%	9%
Civic and Community Engagement: Serving as a vibrant, active hub of civic discourse and participative democracy, building relationships and bridging gaps in all segments of the community.	62%	14%	49%	30%	8%
Arts and Humanities: Supporting creative, intellectual, and recreational pursuits and fostering cultural enrichment.	70%	20%	50%	23%	7%

To verify the directional statements and aligned programs will best support the Library's four focus areas, the survey also asked respondents to rate the importance of proposed programs and services. Detailed summaries of these questions are provided by focus area in Attachment #1. While some programs received greater support than others, the majority of respondents ranked all proposed programs as either "very important" or "somewhat important," so all have been included in the following program plan. Additional programs and services have also been added based upon the comments received from the survey and Listening Sessions.

Library Programming Plan by Focus Area

A regular schedule of adult and youth programs are currently offered through the Library including various book clubs, the Booked for Lunch author series, Storytime and Baby Time, Crazy 8s Math Club, LEGO Club, The Big Read, and Summer Reading events. Services are also available remotely via the Library's website. Demand is growing for these and other new programs and services that educate, build community, and connect people to needed information and resources. Over the five years prior to the pandemic, the number of Library programs offered annually

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increased by 65% with attendance increasing by 27%. However, when compared to other likesized library systems in the state, the County Library's annual number of programs and program attendance is relatively low. To meet the growing demand and increase the number of residents that utilize the Library, the County should consider have a more robust and diverse programming schedule.

Consequently, a major component of the *Essential Libraries Initiative* is developing new programs that are representative of and appealing to Leon County's diverse population The following is summary of proposed programs to be implemented over the next three years, with the majority planned for implementation in the next one to two years. For some of the proposed programming, the timeline for implementation is dependent upon the return to in-person programming by community partners or identifying funding through grants or as part of future budget cycles. All proposed programs are organized by the focus area and corresponding directional statement that they support. As noted previously, the following are the Library's four focus areas which are recommended to guide the development of all new programs and services:

- 1. Literacy and Lifelong Learning
- 2. Business & Workforce Development
- 3. Civic & Community Engagement
- 4. Arts & Humanities

<u>Literacy & Lifelong Learning</u> - To serve as a resource in developing the skills needed to be successful socially, mentally, financially, and technologically at any age including promoting traditional and non-traditional forms of literacy.

(L1) Champion adult and youth literacy as the foundation for learning and discovery.

(L2) Provide technology training for all ages to ensure a digitally literate community.

(L3) Support lifelong education for seniors and retirees with programs that entertain, educate, and provide connections to community resources. (L4) Develop early learning resources for parents and guardians to teach their children the skills they need to succeed in school.

(L5) Support K-12 students in developing core academic and learning success skills: literacy, problem solving, creativity and innovation, teamwork and collaboration, and communication.

To support the focus area of Literacy & Lifelong Learning, the following programs and services are recommended for implementation:

• Youth Literacy Resources (L1) – As noted in the statistical review section of this item, approximately 39% of Leon County third graders are not reading at grade level. While the County's third-grade literacy rate exceeds that of the state, the gap in youth literacy highlights a community issue that the Library can be a partner in addressing. To support struggling readers and their parents, the Library plans to launch the following youth literacy resources modeled after Richland Library's Education Studio:

• *Reading Specialists*

At Richland Library, select youth librarians at Richland Library have been certified as reading specialists and can offer personalized consultations with parents, tutors or caregivers on reading strategies and interventions. To offer these same services, Leon County's Library is partnering with Leon County Schools and the FSU's Florida Center for Reading Research to provide existing staff librarians with training over the next year.

• Resource Library

To assist with providing reading instruction, the Library's reading specialists would be responsible for curating a collection of books, games, and other materials so parents and children can apply the practices they have learned at home. This would be accomplished within the existing budget for youth materials and grant applications. Additionally, FSU's Florida Center for Reading Research has offered to provide free materials for a variety of age groups.

• Third Grade Reading Skills Camps

By summer 2022, when Library staff have completed the necessary training, the Library will begin offering annual summer reading skills camps for rising third and fourth graders who are struggling with reading. Currently, Richland Library hosts three two-week camps each summer with a maximum enrollment of 15 students per camp session. The camps are staffed by its reading specialists and student interns from the University of South Carolina.

• Technology Training Programs (L2) - According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 6% of Leon County households do not have a computer and 14% do not have a broadband internet subscription. These findings are significant given that access to digital networks and digital literacy skills are now essential for full participation in a modern society. People without these skills or access to information are consequently at a disadvantage. However, the Aspen Institute posits that public libraries are already uniquely positioned to tackle these social inequalities by continuing to provide access to online information and increasing efforts to build digital literacy skills.

Using the Library's existing computer labs, free basic and intermediate digital literacy programming would be offered for various ages with the goal of teaching both the skills needed in today's world, as well as those that will be needed in the future. Programming may include topics such as graphic and web design, photography, AutoCAD, QuickBooks, and Microsoft Office suite. Beginning in fall of 2022 these programs would be coordinated by both contracted instructors as well as existing Library staff who have been provided with additional training and/or certifications in specific software products.

• Senior Programming (L3) – Currently, the County contracts with the Tallahassee Senior Center Foundation to offer programming at the County's community centers, many of which are co-located with Library facilities. As a result, the Library has historically not offered

many programs targeted toward seniors. However, recognizing the growth in Leon County's "Baby Boomer" population, the Library has partnered with the Tallahassee Senior Center Foundation and organizations such as the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, FSU College of Medicine and Dementia Care and Cure Initiative (DCCI) to develop a new series of workshops and events. Programming will cover general well-being information including emotional, mental and financial topics and will serve both seniors and their caregivers. The Library plan to launch these programs in November 2021. All new programs for seniors would complement those offered by the Tallahassee Senior Center Foundation and will be developed in partnership with the Foundation to prevent any duplication of services.

To pilot this initiative, the Library partnered with a local attorney to host a virtual estate planning workshop on June 4, 2020, which was attended by nearly 40 participants. Given the success of this event, new senior programs will continue to be offered both in-person and virtually while the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that seniors and at-risk individuals limit interactions with people indoors the spread of COVID-19. As these populations are vaccinated and begin to resume attendance at in-person events, the Library will also work to expand group programming, like book clubs, crafting groups, and card game events, which help promote social connections and combat isolation among seniors.

- **Kindergarten Readiness (L4)** As noted earlier, nearly 50% of children living below the poverty line in Leon County are not enrolled in any school readiness programs, which results in nearly two-thirds of Leon County children arriving at a Title 1 school not ready for kindergarten. To help address this gap, the Library is partnering with Whole Child Leon to host outdoor Pop-Up Preschool events during summer 2021. Whole Child Leon is planning to hold a series of these events in communities with the lowest rates of kindergarten readiness, some of which will be held at Library facilities. In addition, Library staff have developed additional summer programs that utilize play-based learning to teach young children skills like following multi-step directions; fine motor skills (writing, cutting, pasting, etc.); preliteracy skills (listening and chronological awareness); and hygiene and cleanliness (handwashing and cleaning up). Two hands-on programs for caregivers and pre-school aged children will feature the five early literacy practices of Sing, Talk, Read, Write, and Play and showcase tips, tricks, and resources to help children. Activity bags featuring materials for the hands-on activities will be available at all Library locations.
- Homework Hub (L5) According to the Aspen Institute's report Rising to the Challenge: Re-Envisioning Public Libraries, modern libraries must play a stronger role in childhood learning by being more intentional and strategic to produce better results. The report specifically recommends that libraries step up to "own afterschool learning programs." To achieve this goal, the Library launched its Homework Hub program in March 2021 to pair volunteer tutors with K-8 students.

While in-person programming was suspended, tutoring sessions occurred in a virtual format. However, now that the County has resumed in-person programming, Homework Hub will transition to a hybrid model that will include designated hours at all Library locations when students will receive priority access to tutor rooms, group study areas, and designated computers and laptops. During these times, students will also be able to participate in oneon-one tutoring, homework help clinics, and demonstrations of the Library' online studying tools.

To support these services, the Library is coordinating with Volunteer Services to recruit students from the Colleges of Education at FAMU, Flagler College, and FSU. The Library is also exploring recruiting high school students to provide peer-to-peer tutoring opportunities.

<u>Business & Workforce Development</u> - To support a strong local economy by acting as resource for businesses and individuals seeking professional development.

(B1) Collaborate with the Tallahassee-Leon	(B3) Offer resources for job seekers and
County Office of Economic Development to	those transitioning to new careers.
provide resources and spaces that support local businesses and entrepreneurs.	(B4) Provide opportunities for teens to develop leadership and life skills to ready
(B2) Provide programs that develop skillsets needed to build a thriving workforce.	them for the workforce.

To support the focus area of Business & Workforce Development, the following programs and services are recommended for implementation:

• Coworking Spaces & Resources for Remote Workers (B1) - Prior to the pandemic, trends in local library use suggested that declines in annual visits may have been due in part to fewer people choosing the Library as their preferred place to work or study. This is shown by the declining use of the Library's internet (down 7%), Wi-Fi (down 15%), laptops (down 30%), printing (down 7%) and reservable tutor rooms (down 20%). However, the results of the community survey found that 44% of respondents would want to spend time at the Library if there were designated workspaces. The demand for coworking spaces may be even greater as many workers will continue to work remotely even after recovery from the pandemic.

To ensure the Library is a valued space for the County's growing number of entrepreneurs, small business owners, and telecommuters, the Library's will invest in improving and expanding coworking spaces as well as creating new conference and meeting rooms equipped with audiovisual and videoconference equipment. Other resources for remote workers that are being considered include notary and technology services. As detailed later this item, the County would engage an architectural consulting firm to design coworking spaces at the Main Library and branches.

• Simulator Lab (B2) - Modeled after the Orange County Library System's Melrose Center Simulation Lab, Leon County's Library will create a designated space where patrons can access simulated training for high-demand skilled jobs. For example, by the year 2027, the Capital Region will need over 1,500 construction equipment operators, heavy and tractor-trailer truck drivers, and industrial truck and tractor operators. A Library Simulator Lab with heavy equipment and motor vehicle simulators would help prepare students for the driving

portion of their Commercial Driver License (CDL) exam. For the written portion of the CDL exam, the Leon County Library currently offers free online practice tests through a partnership with the Florida DHSMV.

Depending upon the manufacturer and type of simulator, prices range from \$20,000 - \$50,000 per device. However, simulators are the most cost-effective training tool and provide inexperienced students with an opportunity to learn in a safe and controlled environment. Additionally, the Library is an ideal location for housing a simulator lab as it is open during the weekend and after normal business hours. Currently, staff is coordinating with Tallahassee Community College and Lively Technical College to determine the types of simulators that could be useful to their students as well as local businesses seeking to expedite staff training. At the Blueprint IA Board Budget Workshop in May, OEV will present a proposal for purchasing the simulators using sales tax for workforce development. If approved by the IA Board, \$50,000 will be budgeted in both FY 2023 and FY 2024 to purchase simulators to establish a simulator lab at the Main Library.

- STEM Programs (B2) Leon County and other communities across the country are • experiencing rapid growth in STEM industries and are working to ensure they have a ready workforce. To assist in these efforts, the Library will offer various programs and activities to introduce youth to possible STEM career fields. As approved by the Board at the May 12, 2020 meeting, youth STEM programs were recently supported by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for the 2021 "The Big Read" series. In addition to programs like a demonstration from the MagLab and a guided nature walk with a local horticultural expert, the Library has partnered with the organization STEMS4Girls to host a robotic coding class. This event served as a pilot and will assist the Library in developing after school and/or summer coding programs in 2022. To develop a curriculum for these programs, Library staff is currently compiling and reviewing the free lesson plans, activities, and open source software available to libraries through organizations like Libraries Ready to Code, an initiative of the American Library Association. Additionally, through a grant from the Panhandle Library Access Network, Leon County's Library has purchased a variety of Mobile STEM Labs intended to teach Pre-K through eighth grade students hands-on design and engineering challenges. At the start of the next school year, the Library plans to offer monthly programs using the STEM Labs and, because these materials are mobile, programs may be offered as part of outreach activities.
- Storytime at Job Fairs (B3) In partnership with local employment and workforce services organizations, the Library will support parent jobseekers struggling to find or afford childcare by offering Storytime and other activities during job fairs. In some cases, the Library may host the job fair at one of its facilities or have youth services staff offer Storytime at a job fair at another venue. CareerSource Capital Region has expressed an interest in this service and is exploring hosting hiring fairs at the Library once it can safely resume this practice. Additionally, the Library plans to offer Storytime as part of the annual employment and community resource fair for former offenders. This event is normally hosted each year by the County's Office of Intervention & Detention Alternatives in partnership with the Florida Department of Corrections.

• Life-Skill Training & Resources for Teens (B4) - Over the next year, the Library plans to expand programming for teens to include life-training and other resources to support their academic and social success. The first planned program will be a summer "social IQ" series teaching teens soft skills to prepare them for working and socializing in an adult world. The Library is also expanding its Adulting 101 series with sessions this spring on the topics of "Mindfulness," "Gaining Independence on the Spectrum," and "Self-Defense." Other planned programming includes a teen volunteer fair which is currently being scheduled now that the County has entered Phase 3 of its reopening plan and in-person programming is permitted. As another resource for teens, the Library has also coordinated with Capital City Youth Services to become a nationally designated "Safe Place." The designation means that Library staff are trained and prepared to assist children and adolescents who are "at risk" or in crisis situations.

<u>Civic & Community Engagement</u> - To serve as a vibrant, active hub of civic discourse and participative democracy, building relationships and bridging gaps in all segments of the community.

(C1) Provide opportunities to engage in civil discourse around topics that impact Leon County and are of interest to the community.

(C2) Serve as a gateway to connect people with community services and government programs.

(C3) Collaborate with local colleges and universities to maximize outcomes in areas of mutual interest.

(C4) Act as a resource and partner to local nonprofit service providers in addressing community issues.

To support the focus area of Civic & Community Engaegment, the following programs and services are recommended for implementation:

- Civic Literacy Series (C1) By partnering with community organizations, the Library will host facilitated discussions and resources on relevant topics and issues that impact Leon County residents. To pilot this concept, the Library has begun offering a variety of virtual programs focused on social and civic issues. These programs include a virtual documentary and panel discussion on voter suppression, a resource guide for having discussions about race, equality, and inclusion, as well as a Zoom presentation on mental health offered in partnership with the Tallahassee Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). Additional programs scheduled to launch in summer 2021 include a celebration of Florida's Emancipation Day and Pride Month.
- **Community Resources Specialist (C2)** Due partly to public libraries' role as the default provider of computer and internet access, librarians are often tasked with helping residents find jobs, obtain health information, and connect to government services and benefits. Frequently, libraries are also hubs for vulnerable populations including patrons who are experiencing homelessness, mental illness, or addiction and may otherwise be wary of accessing services from government or social services agencies. In response to these trends, many public libraries have chosen to hire social workers. Of the five libraries visited during

the tours funded by the Knight Foundation four libraries currently employ at least one social worker.

Through the realignment of an existing position, it is recommended that the Board approve the reclassification of one of the Library's current vacancies to create a full-time Community Resources Specialist position for a licensed social worker (Option #2). This position would be responsible for providing one-on-one assistance and referrals for community services including:

- Affordable Housing
- Career Skills Training
- Counseling / Mental Health
- Food / SNAP Benefits
- o Government Services
- o Healthcare / Marketplace
- \circ Immigration
- o Reemployment Guidance

Additionally, the Library's Community Resources Specialist would coordinate with local human services agencies to identify possible partnerships and program opportunities. If approved by the Board, the Library would immediately begin the recruitment and hiring process.

• Expanded Library Internship Program (C3) - To build the capacity needed to increase community outreach efforts and programming, the Library is working with Volunteer Leon as well as local colleges and universities to expand its internship program. Currently, Library staff are working to reestablish partnerships with FSU to recruit student interns from its Master of Library Science (MLS) program for internships beginning in Fall 2021, pending the University's approval of in-person internships. However, using Richland Library as a model, the Library is also reaching out to other academic programs to recruit interns majoring in a variety of fields such as education, social work, as well as marketing and communication.

Expanding the Library's internship program will support many components of the *Essential Libraries Initiative* including increasing outreach to populations with low rates of card registration. Through the use of student interns, the Library will be able to more regularly host programs and services at other locations for community members that lack reliable transportation. Offering programs outside of library facilities is not only a valuable tool for overcoming these barriers to library access but has also become necessary due to the COVID-19 pandemic which has restricted large indoor gatherings and events.

• Partnership to Support Reentry & Family Reunification (C3) - As approved by the Board at the April 13, 2021 meeting, the County and Leon County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) plan to launch a pilot video visitation and family literacy program for the inmates of the Leon County Detention Facility and their families beginning in summer 2021. As detailed in the analysis presented to the Board, libraries are an ideal environment for children to connect with an incarcerated parent as they offer services and resources to the family and are a less traumatic environment than a detention facility. The proposed agreement with LCSO establishes a pilot program at the Main Library, which will have designated spaces for families to visit with their loved ones via a video kiosk. Children in elementary grades will also have the opportunity to select and read a book aloud during the session to help bridge conversation gaps, provide a

focus for both parent and child, and encourage recreational reading as well as skill-building. Children will choose from groups of books by reading level, preselected by librarians, and may take the book home as a keepsake.

Currently, similar video visitation programs are offered by the D.C. Public Library and New York Public Library. Both organizations have created "welcome packets" for inmates' families to educate them about their library and its resources. These libraries have also created programming for these families to provide support and connect them to other community resources. Library staff is currently developing similar resources for these families and has coordinated with LCSO to register inmates for a library card prior to release so they may receive information about Library locations, services, and programs.

• Partnerships to Promote Food Security & Nutritional Health (C4) - According to Second Harvest, food insecurity is an issue that affects one in four Leon County citizens, and COVID-19 has created an additional strain on many community members. In an effort to focus on current community needs, the Library and Sustainability teams have worked to develop collaborative food programming with input from multiple community members and organizations that work in the food insecurity space. The organizations include Second Harvest, Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare, UF/IFAS Extension, South City Foundation, iGrow, and Whole Child Leon.

Planned programs include healthy cooking classes, no/low waste cooking, cooking on a budget, and cooking for those with limited access to food sources (cook ahead, freezing, canning, etc.). To support these programs, the Library will utilize existing program funds to create a mobile culinary unit that can be transported to all locations and used as an outreach tool throughout the County. Additionally, the Library is working with Second Harvest to establish community pantry and food access points at Library locations. These programs are anticipated to launch in September 2021.

<u>Arts & Humanities</u> - To support residents in their creative, intellectual, and recreational pursuits and foster cultural enrichment.

(A1) Offer a diverse physical and digital collection that supports the needs and interests of the community.

(A2) Collaborate with arts, humanities, and other creative organizations to provide programming for all ages.

(A3) Offer timely and relevant cultural events and classes that showcase the community's diversity

(A4) Support creativity through the Library's collection, collaborative spaces, events, and classes.

To support the focus area of Arts & Humaniies, the following programs and services are recommended for implementation:

• Library of Things (A1) - A Library of Things is a collection of items other than books that are being loaned for no charge. Currently, the Leon County Public Library offers a few items

in this category, such as mobile hotspots, telescopes, and seeds. However, many public libraries have developed or expanded its Library of Things as it supports several community goals. For instance, this unique type of collection supports the "sharing economy" and the sustainability efforts, as patrons sharing items or testing items before they buy results in less waste. By loaning expensive electronic devices and home tools, libraries are also providing low-income residents with access to much-needed resources that promote digital literacy or home improvement and maintenance. Additionally, libraries are supporting use of nearby local parks by loaning recreational items.

To support this program, Option #3 accepts a one-time \$15,000 donation from the Friends of the Library. Currently, the Library is gathering feedback from the Library Advisory Board and several local nonprofits to determine what items will be purchased. However, the following are several examples of items that are being considered:

- Musical Instruments: Electronic keyboard, guitars, ukuleles
- Electronic Devices: E-Readers, Portable Podcast / Recording Studio Kits
- Recreational Items: Kayaks, Child and Adult Life Vests, Camping Tent, LED Camping Lanterns
- Tools: LED Work Light, Stud Finder, Laser Level, Extendable Paint Roller Handle, Shovel, Gardening Tools, Post Hole Diggers, Tile Cutter, Hedge Trimmers, Pole Saw, Pressure Washer, Caulking Gun, Wrench Set, Dremel Engraver

In addition to allowing patrons to check these items out for free, the Library will offer educational programs and events utilizing these items. A detailed proposal for the Library of Things, including a list of proposed items to be purchased and educational programs to be developed will be prepared for the Board's consideration at a future Board meeting. Pending the Board's approval the Library anticipates launching the Library of Things in fall 2021.

- Offer tutorials, workshops, or other clubs to teach crafting and maker skills (A2) According to the Urban Libraries Council, maker-focused programs in public libraries help to "develop critical thinking and problem solving skills and facilitate opportunity for collaboration and community engagement that will aid in the next generation of STEM jobs." As part of the *Essential Libraries Initiative*, the Library will increase programming offerings through partnership with local creative organizations and by recruiting volunteers that are subject matter experts. Already the Library has begun to increase joint programming with the IFAS UF Extension which includes recent tutorials on scavenger hunting and vermicomposting. The Library also recently conducted an internal survey to identify staff with expertise around which programs can be developed. As a result, several new and self-directed crafting programs have been launched for both youth and adults and others are planned to launch this summer now that in-person programming can resume.
- **Cultural Series (A3)** To promote diversity and create spaces that represent a community's diverse makeup, the American Library Association recommends that public libraries regularly celebrate heritage months and develop other cultural programs. Currently, Leon County's

Library annually celebrates Black History Month with various programs as well as displays promoting black authors; however, few other cultural celebrations occur throughout the year.

Starting in 2021, the Library has coordinated with the Library Advisory Board to develop an annual schedule of cultural heritage months around which programs can be developed. Additionally, the Library has developed displays and social media outreach to promote related books and materials in the collection. Examples of cultural heritage months and other annual observations celebrated annually by public library systems include Women's History Month, National Hispanic Heritage Month, Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month, Jewish American Heritage Month, Pride Month, and Disability Awareness Month.

• Library Exhibits & Displays (A4) - Currently, the Main Library houses two art display walls in the youth services and adult reference areas as well as several glass display cases. Five of the branch libraries also have glass display cases for exhibits. All of these spaces can be reserved by local artists or organizations wishing to setup an exhibit in accordance with County Policy No. 91-4, "Exhibits and Display Policy - Library." However, requests to setup an exhibit have declined in recent years meaning these display areas are often empty.

To ensure a robust exhibition schedule at Library locations, staff is working to simplify the exhibit request process by developing an online application form and presenting a revised Exhibit and Display Policy for the Board's consideration at a future meeting. Currently, staff is seeking input from the Center of Creative Arts (COCA) on what revisions will help to simplify the exhibit request process and engage more artists, local archives, colleges of art, and community organizations in curating displays within Library facilities. In addition, while the Library will continue to use the existing display cases at the branches, additional art display walls will also be installed at the branches utilizing existing Library budget resources.

• **Music in the Library (A4)** - Like in bookstores and other private retail establishments, public libraries have begun playing soft music to help create a welcoming and relaxing sense of place. According to Richland Library, which was visited as part of the tours, playing music has also proven to be an effective sound mitigation tool and has helped to reduce noise complaints from patrons. Currently, all Leon County facilities are equipped with a built-in intercom system, which can be utilized to play music throughout the buildings. Beginning October 2021, the Library will pilot this initiative by curating a playlist of classical music that is royalty and copyright free, which will then be played on designated days of the week. After assessing patron feedback regarding the change, staff will assess expanding this initiative to additional days of the week and explore the purchase of music streaming services to expand the types of music that can be played.

Capital Improvement Projects

As illustrated by the recent tours, facility improvements are a key part of creating a welcoming environment that facilitates new patterns of interacting, learning and accessing information, and must be sufficiently flexible to accommodate the inevitable changes that will come. In preparation for future capital improvements projects, the Library has taken several steps to maximize the utilization of space open to the public by consolidating staff areas and weeding noncirculating materials. However, due to the fiscal impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, many County capital improvement projects have been delayed to allow revenue streams to stabilize. As a result, it is recommended that the *Essential Libraries Initiative* include a phased, multi-year plan to assess each Library facility.

Pending the Board's approval of the proposed plan for the *Essential Library Initiative*, staff will utilize existing budgeted resources to engage an architectural consulting firm to first develop a capital improvement plan for the Main Library based upon the findings of the tours, Listening Sessions, and community-wide survey. Staff will also seek feedback from both the Library Advisory Board and Friends of the Library. The preliminary FY 2022 budget includes \$300,000 in funding to implement initial capital improvements for the Main Library, as well as funding for updated fixtures and furnishings. Following the Main library, architectural work will be performed for each of the branch libraries. Pending the outcome of the architectural work, additional capital funding will be considered as part of future budget processes for both the Main and Branch Libraries.

In addition to building infrastructure, outdoor spaces are also being evaluated. One project previously identified but delayed due to funding constraints is a walking path at the Fort Braden Library and community garden, which will connect to existing sidewalks to create a one-mile walking loop. As part of the FY 2022 budget, \$100,000 in funding is included to construct this trail. Once complete in spring 2022, the Library will develop and implement specific program opportunities to utilize this new resource.

While the capital improvement plans will identify the specific renovations and projects that will be completed at each facility, the following are possible projects that support proposed programs or are a result of feedback from citizens through the Listening Sessions and survey:

<u>Designated Youth & Teen Spaces</u> – Recognizing that library youth patronage declines as children enter their pre-teen and teen years, public libraries have found success by creating designated spaces for both youth and teens. By separating spaces for youth and teens from those most currently utilized by adults and those wishing to work in quiet spaces, public libraries have also been able to reduce noise complaints and negative interactions among patrons. In turn this has helped to ensure all ages can equally access library services as they wish to.

Currently, all Leon County Libraries have a designated youth space which includes items from the children's collection as well as some toys and computers. At several locations, these spaces have not been updated in decades and often cannot accommodate youth programs like Storytime which must be moved to program rooms which are typically in high demand. Only some County Libraries currently have designated teen spaces; however, these too need to be updated to appeal to this age group and be able to better accommodate planned programs like the afterschool Homework Hub.

<u>Family Computer Areas</u> - Prior to the pandemic, public computer use was declining at all facilities with the exception of the Main Library and Dr. B.L. Perry Branch. In a five-year period, these two locations saw increases of 57% and 33% respectively in the number of residents who rely on the Library for access to computers and internet. Many of these residents are low-income parents who often struggle to find or afford childcare and must bring their children with them to a library

while they work. The result is that Library staff must frequently address complaints regarding noise and unaccompanied children from other patrons working in the same computer area. These complaints were also commonly noted by respondents of the community survey.

To address similar issues, Richland Library established designated family computer areas, a separate space that allows parents to work while watching their children play safely nearby. These spaces helped parents overcome childcare barriers while ensuring the needs of other computer users were being met. As part of the Library's capital improvement plan, enclosed family computer areas would be placed at facilities with the highest rate of computer use.

<u>Flexible Spaces & Furniture</u> – According to the Aspen Institute, the physical library must undergo a transition that embraces the openness and flexibility needed to thrive in a world of constant change. Central to this flexibility is creating spaces that can adapt to the changing operational models of libraries. The libraries visited as part of the recent tours accomplished this in part by investing in "flexible" furniture which can be moved or adjusted to accommodate programs temporarily or allow for more permanent changes based upon patron needs. Examples of "flexible" furniture include shelving on wheels, mobile service desks, as well as tables and chairs that can be used for individual study or easily pushed together to accommodate groups of various sizes. Rather than invest in single-purpose, desktop computer labs which take up a significant amount of space, many libraries are investing in multi-purpose furniture like "laptop bars" that can accommodate those who wish to read and study as well as those working on mobile devices. The results of the community survey suggest that flexible spaces and furniture will help increase the number of people visiting the Library to work or study. Approximately 64% of respondents reported that comfortable chairs and seating would make them want to spend time at the Library.

<u>Outdoor Spaces</u> – Expanding Library facilities to increase the square footage is costly; however, many of the libraries visited during the tours were able to do this through cost-effective enhancements to its outdoor space. Several of Leon County's Branch Libraries currently have sufficient space surrounding the facilities to create covered patios or courtyard that can be used for additional seating or programs. Currently, the Northeast Library has two patio areas, which have been closed off to patrons, but will be reopened with new outdoor seating in the coming months. Outdoor spaces surrounding other Branch Libraries are ideal for placement of walking trails which other public libraries have used to develop programs like walking book clubs or "story walks" which involve displaying illustrated pages of children's books along a trail so families can read as they walk.

<u>Meeting & Program Rooms</u> – Over the last five-years, reservation of the Library's meeting and program rooms has increased by 125%. In this time, the Library added a new meeting room at the Northeast Branch through the consolidation of a staff workspace; however, the demand for meeting spaces by community groups often exceeds availability. This growing demand is reflected in responses to the community survey. Approximately 47% of respondents said that they would want to spend time at the Library if there were "designated study areas or study room." Additionally, several respondents commented on the availability of meeting rooms to accommodate community organization's events and meetings.

As the Library works to diversify and increase program offerings, it is anticipated that there will be greater competition for reservations. In anticipation of increased demand, the Library has identified several spaces at the Main Library and select Branches that can be converted to meeting and program rooms. These spaces have been cleared through further consolidation of staff workspaces as well as "weeding" the collection of non-circulation items.

<u>Security Enhancements</u> – Historically, the Library has chosen to focus security resources, such as cameras and security personnel, at the Main Library as it has the greatest foot traffic. However, the responses to the community survey show a need for additional security enhancements. Approximately 5% of respondent stated that they avoided visiting the Library because the facilitates make them feel "unsafe or vulnerable." This response was most common among young adults ages 18-34 (10%). While the majority of survey respondents indicated no issues with Library security, the County must be responsive to negative perceptions of the Library in order to attract new Library patrons and reverse negative trends.

To address concerns regarding security, several enhancements are proposed as part of the *Essential Libraries Initiative*. First, as approved by the Board during the July 2020 Budget Workshop, the Library has increased on-site security by shifting to a private security firm which allows for one full-time guard at the Main Library and one guard that will float between Branch Libraries as needed. Through the Library's capital improvement plan, additional best practices from the multicity/state tours will be implemented to reduce the number of "blind spots" throughout facilities. These improvements will include the installment of security cameras as well as the purchase of eye-level shelving to ensure staff and security personnel have a clear line of sight across a facility.

<u>Café Space</u> - Following the lead of private bookstores, many public libraries have established café spaces where local vendors can sell food or coffee. The goal of adding café spaces is most commonly to help establish the library as a "third place," a space where people choose to spend their time when they are not at home or work. This strategy is supported by the community survey which found that 43% of respondents would want to spend time at the Library if there was a coffee shop. Other benefits to café spaces include libraries that have partnered with nonprofit organizations to use the café spaces as a way to support job training programs for those with barriers to employment. Creating new café spaces will be explored as part of the Library's capital improvement plan.

Technology Efficiencies and Savings

During the July 2020 Budget Workshop, the Board approved the implementation of technology enhancements and changes to the collection management process that will result in major efficiencies and improvements to customer service. The proposed technology enhancements include self-checkout and radio frequency identification technology (RFID) which replaces the current barcode system with microchip tags and scanners that can read multiple tags at once from a distance. Also approved at this time was contracting for Collection Management Services which includes the selection and processing of materials. These enhancements were implemented using \$160,000 in FY 2020 funds from vacant Library positions. The remaining vacancies were eliminated as result of these enhancements creating a combined annual budget savings of \$350,000.

The transition to RFID, expanded self-checkout, and contracting for Collection Management Services has facilitated several improvements in the Library's customer service, programming capacity, as well as operational efficiencies. For example, the launch of RFID and self-checkout kiosks at facilities has significantly reduced or eliminated the need to individually scan items in and out of the Library. As a result, items make it back to the shelves faster, so they are available for patrons to browse, and patrons spend less time waiting for high-demand items that they have placed on hold. Another benefit to utilizing this self-service technology is that it has allowed all County libraries to transition to "mobile staffing," meaning that staff that were previously stationed behind service desks can now assist patrons wherever they are in the facility.

Like RFID and self-checkout, contracting for Collection Management Services also benefits patrons while creating internal efficiencies for the Library. For example, the Library will have increased buying power as service providers purchase materials for multiple public libraries and are able to secure items at significantly reduced costs. Selection of materials will also become more data-driven and be based upon not only internal circulation data, but also national, regional, and local trends in book purchases. The result is a Library collection that better reflects the interests of the community and a decrease in the purchase of items that are infrequently or never checked out.

Organizational Structure of the Library

Historically, the Library System's organizational structure and staffing have supported traditional library services, which are heavily focused on acquiring, cataloging, shelving and loaning physical materials, and provision of some on-site services. Through improved technologies like RFID, and outsourcing of staff-intensive processes including acquisition, cataloging and physical processing of books and other materials, positions have been restructured or reassigned to build and support new programs and services. The following is a summary of how Library staff have been reorganized to support the *Essential Libraries Initiative*.

All functions related to library collections, branch libraries, outreach to senior residential communities, and volunteer coordination have been combined into a new Public Services division. Likewise, all direct information services and program coordination have consolidated under the Learning and Workforce Services division. To complement these new divisions, the Innovation Officer is responsible for promoting the steady growth of innovation skills and principles across the organization, as well as recommending and implementing new services that meet community needs. The Innovation Officer position was approved by the Board at the January 2020 Retreat and filled once the hiring freeze had been lifted. If approved by the Board, the Library will also reclassify a vacant position and hire a social worker to serve as the Library's first Community Resources Specialist.

Together, the reorganization of the Library's staffing and work groups, combined with efficiencies created through technology and outsourcing, have provided a solid base to support the programs and services of the *Essential Libraries Initiative*.

Customer Service & the Library Code of Conduct

In order to improve public perceptions and ensure all patrons feel welcome, many of the libraries visited during the tours updated both its customer service practices and patron code of conduct.

Their modernized customer service principles center around inclusivity, transparency, compassion, as well continuous improvements and innovation to ensure patrons' needs are met. Another prevalent practice is having a plain-language code of conduct that can be easily communicated to patrons and fairly enforced by staff. The responses to the community survey demonstrate the need to update these documents as well as staff training.

While the vast majority of survey respondents rated the County Library's customer service favorably, experiences with customer service varied by race and age group. White and Hispanic survey respondents were significantly more likely to rate the friendliness, professionalism, availability, knowledgeability and helpfulness of Library staff as "outstanding" when compared to black respondents and those of another race. Respondents in the 35-64 age group were also less likely to rate customer service as "outstanding" and most often selected a rating of "satisfactory." In light of this data and recognizing the evolution of the Library's roles and services, several improvements to customer service protocols have been identified. These improvements include the development of an internal Library newsletter to share talking points and tips regarding programs and services as well as various training opportunities. The Library is also coordinating with HR to identify ongoing customer service training for front-line staff. However, the most significant improvement is the development of a new "Library Code of Conduct" Policy for the Board's consideration.

As noted previously, one of the many lessons learned on the Knight Foundation grant-funded library tours was the need for an updated, easy to understand policy on appropriate use of library facilities, materials and services. For example, Orange County Library System successfully revised its policy to help reduce violations by refocusing on de-escalation and educating patrons. Currently, the County Policy allows for broad interpretation of the rules by staff, meaning that patrons can encounter varying degrees of enforcement and consequences among the seven library locations. However, by using Orange County as a model, the proposed "Library Code of Conduct" Policy (Attachment #5) was developed to link behaviors and consequences in plain language and establish a formalized multistep process for addressing patron behaviors.

As a first step, staff will provide an "informative moment" with patrons exhibiting unacceptable behaviors. The informative moment interaction is the staff's means of informing the patron of the behavior to be corrected as well as opening a dialogue about possible needs or concerns of the patron and viable alternatives. In the case of repeated adverse behavior, a verbal warning is given, again to allow for modification of behavior with an explanation of consequences for failure to do so. The last resort is to withdraw library privileges, ranging from leaving the building for the rest of the business day to a trespass warning.

For the safety and comfort of all, several reasonable expectations are detailed in the "Library Code of Conduct. The overwhelming majority of Library users abide by these expectations regularly. Trespass warnings are not routine occurrences and are issued as a last resort. In the case of unlawful, dangerous or threatening acts, patrons will immediately be reported to law enforcement and library privileges will be withdrawn via a permanent trespass warning. Individuals may appeal a trespass warning within 30 days of issuance. A written appeal will be reviewed by the Library Director in consultation with the County Attorney or designee to make a recommendation to the

County Administrator for final determination. All appeals decisions are reported to the requesting individual in writing.

If approved by the Board, the new policy will be introduced through personal contact with regular Library patrons; provided to all new patrons when obtaining a library card; displayed in each library as well as on the library website; and communicated through the Library's electronic newsletter and social media posts. Current staff will receive ongoing training regarding the Policy which will also be an integral part of new employee training for all Library staff.

Community Engagement & Volunteers

All of the libraries visited during the tours made community engagement and volunteer recruitment a top priority. As noted by the Aspen Institute, the library should play a key role as a connector in forming relationships across its service area. By engaging the community through systemic partnerships, libraries can not only convey its value to a broader audience, but also leverage resources for greater impact and benefit in addressing a variety of community issues. Likewise, recruiting volunteers to work in the library helps to increase capacity and offer new services, while also promoting a sense of community and civic engagement. To implement these strategies locally, the *Essential Libraries Initiative* includes the following proposed changes to the Library Advisory Board structure as well as improvements to the volunteer program.

<u>Library Advisory Board</u> - The Library Advisory Board (LAB) is a citizen committee and serves as a forum for community input concerning the County Library's programs and activities. LAB membership includes seven citizen members appointed by the Board of County Commissioners with each Commissioner making one appointment. In addition, there are two ex officio members of the committee: (1) one member of the Collins family, selected by the family; and (2) the President of the Friends of the LeRoy Collins-Leon County Public Library. To support the *Essential Libraries Initiative*, it is recommended that LAB membership be expanded to include three additional members: (1) the Director of Florida State University's Florida Center for Reading Research or a designee; (2) the Dean of FAMU's College of Education or a designee; and (3) the Developer of Instruction Technology (Lead Media Specialist) for Leon County Public School or a designee. These positions will help to strengthen partnerships with both organizations and further the Library's efforts to connect with youth and improve social and academic outcomes.

To implement these changes to the LAB's structure, a new Enabling Resolution (Attachment #6) has been drafted for the Board's consideration. The LAB was established in 1955 prior to the adoption of Board Policy No. 03-15, "Board-Appointed Committees" which requires an Enabling Resolution for each committee to provide guidelines for its operation and function, establish member eligibility, designate length of term, and term limits. Therefore, no Enabling Resolution currently exists for the LAB. However, the proposed Enabling Resolution codifies the current structure and purpose of the LAB while incorporating the two additional seats being proposed.

<u>Volunteer Improvements</u> - Due to the pandemic, the County temporarily suspended in-person volunteering at the Library and in all other departments. Prior to the pandemic, the Leon County Public Library System had utilized the most volunteers of any department; however, the numbers of volunteers and hours contributed had been declining. From 2015 to 2019, the total number of Library volunteers declined by 7% with a 43% drop in the number of hours contributed. Further

analysis showed that, while the Library gained more volunteers between the ages of 11 to 17, there were significant drops in volunteering by adults, particularly those of college age (ages 18 to 24) and middle age (ages 45 to 64).

A staff workgroup was formed to assess the Library's volunteer program and determined that several factors contributed to these declines. One factor was the implementation of certain volunteer requirements. Due to the large amount of volunteer applications received each year, the Library limited the number of hours volunteers could work per week and implemented requirements that all volunteers make a service commitment of at least three months and work one shift per week. Due to the unintended, negative impact on volunteering, the Library revised these requirements in October 2019. Another contributing factor was the discontinuation of the Library's college internship program. Library staff are currently working to reestablish partnerships with local universities to recruit student interns from its Master of Library Science (MLS) program.

Additionally, the workgroup identified several best practices to increase volunteerism from the host libraries visited during the County's multi-city/state tours. Overwhelmingly, these libraries utilized a two-pronged approach: (1) expand the use of volunteers for routine tasks and (2) create new opportunities for high impact volunteers who bring unique skills and expertise to enhance the library's mission. Implementing the first prong involves developing new volunteer positions such as "Greeter" or "Shelver," that will be filled now that the County has entered Phase 3 of its reopening plan. To implement the second prong, the Library will recruit volunteers whose talents and expertise help to increase program offerings. For example, the Library has begun recruiting education majors from local universities to serve as tutors for the Homework Hub program.

Next Steps Summary

As outlined in this item, the proposed plan for implementing the *Essential Libraries Initiative* includes several new programs and services, a phased plan for identifying and budgeting for capital improvement projects, existing position reclassifications, as well as policy revisions to support the initiative. Should the Board adopt the proposed plan and the additional recommendations to support the *Essential Libraries Initiative*, staff will immediately move forward with implementation of the programs discussed in this item. In addition, the architect will be engaged through the use of existing resources to develop the initial space plan for the main library, including recommendations for updated fixtures and furnishings. The Friends of the Library and Library Advisory Board will be engaged through-out this process. Capital funding recommended for FY 2022 will be used to begin implementation of these initial recommendations. The CIP also includes out-year funding to implement additional improvements at the main library, as well as commence architectural work and improvements at the branch libraries. Updated funding requests will be considered as part of out-year budget processes. Additionally, following the adoption by the Board, CMR will produce a print and digital publication summarizing the *Essential Libraries Initiative* and the planned improvements to the Library that the community helped identify.

As an approved Strategic Initiative, updates on the implementation of the *Essential Libraries Initiative* will be provided to the Board during the annual budget process and at the annual Retreat. The programming plan developed as part of the *Essential Libraries Initiative* will also be incorporated into the Library's Annual Plan for Library Service which is submitted to the Florida Department of State each year as a requirement for State Aid. Additionally, the Board will also receive updates as grants are identified to support proposed programs and services.

Options:

- 1. Adopt the proposed plan to implement the *Essential Libraries Initiative*.
- 2. Approve the creation of a Community Resources Specialist position within the Department of Library Services through the realignment of an existing position thereby having no fiscal impact.
- 3. Accept the \$15,000 donation from the Friends of the Library to establish a Library of Things and approve the Resolution and associated Budget Amendment Request (Attachment #4).
- 4. Adopt the proposed revised Policy "Library Code of Conduct" (Attachment #5), thereby repealing the current Policy No. 98-15 "Library Patron Rights & Responsibilities."
- 5. Adopt the proposed Enabling Resolution to reauthorize the Library Advisory Board (Attachment #6) and approve the revised membership.
- 6. Board direction.

Recommendation:

Options #1 through #5

Attachments:

- 1. Sachs Media Group Leon County Libraries Survey Analysis
- 2. Survey & Listening Session Comments
- 3. Statistical Review of the Community
- 4. Resolution and Budget Amendment Request for \$15,000 Donation
- 5. Proposed Revised Policy "Library Code of Conduct"
- 6. Enabling Resolution for Reauthorization of the Library Advisory Board

Leon County Libraries Survey Analysis

May 5, 2020

Executive Summary

FOREWORD

To aid Leon County Libraries in their part of the Essential Libraries Initiative, Sachs Media Group conducted a public opinion survey regarding the use and perception of library services. Throughout March 2020, a total of 4,708 responses were collected, with an average of 2,908 respondents answering each question.

Tables for the ZIP codes in or intersecting Leon County are included. ZIP codes that collected small samples (fewer than 100 respondents) are marked in red.

Results pertaining to respondent qualities – such as owning a business, having a child under age 10, being an advocate for their local library, or considering themselves leaders in their community – were generally not significant, and were only included where these results were statistically significant.

In addition to these key takeaways, more detail is discussed in the pages following this executive summary.

LIBRARY MEMBERSHIP

About 4% of respondents attended a Library 2020 listening session.

The majority of respondents (57%) had visited a library in the last month (prior to the COVID-19 pandemic).

Respondents were more likely to have visited a library within the past month when they were: not employed and not looking for a job (70%), unemployed and looking for a job (69%), or retired (66%), compared with respondents who were employed (54%) or students (49%). Additionally, there was a positive correlation between how recently respondents visited a library and the degree to which they consider themselves an advocate for their local library.

More than three-quarters of respondents (77%) have a library card; an additional 12% say they have a card but don't know if it is still active. Women (80%) were more likely than men (71%) to have a library card. White (81%) and Hispanic (80%) respondents were more likely to have a library card than black respondents (67%) or those identifying as "Other" (69%). The likelihood of having a library card increases with the age of respondents.

The vast majority of respondents rate library customer service and staff as "outstanding."

An overwhelming majority of respondents (87%) considered themselves at least somewhat to be advocates for their local library. However, respondents from ZIP code 32304 were significantly less likely (77%) to answer "somewhat" or "absolutely."

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Over the past three years, respondents have most often used the library for: "Books, CDs, DVDs, etc." (77%), "voting" (43%), and "reference assistance from a librarian" (41%).

The most-cited need was "skills-development opportunities" in respondents" communities (54%). In fact, this was the only need that respondents selected a majority of the time. The next most commonly cited need was "community events" (48%). This was generally the case across demographics.

We asked respondents to rate how their communities fared in four broad areas of programs and services: 1) Literacy and Lifelong Learning; 2) Business and Workforce Development Programs; 3) Civic and Community Engagement Programs; and 4) Arts and Humanities Programs. Each of these broad categories had four subcategories. In general, all four broad areas are rated highly, with each exceeding 51%. Arts and humanities was the highest rated overall, while business and workforce development was the lowest rated. Respondents rating these services as "very important" tended to be female, non-white, and younger.

- 64% of respondents considered literacy and lifelong learning programs in their communities as being "very strong" or ""pretty good."
 - Respondents considered all four services under the literacy and lifelong learning category at least somewhat important. "Offer 3rd grade reading skills..." had the most support, while "Provide technology training..." had the least.
- 56% of respondents rated the business and workforce development programs in their communities as being "very strong" or "pretty good."
 - Respondents considered all four services under the business and workforce development category at least somewhat important.
 "Provide life-skill training resources for teens and young adults" had the most support, while "Create shared workspaces..." had the least.
- 61% of respondents rated the civic and community engagement programs in their communities as being "very strong" or "pretty good."
 - Respondents considered all four services under the civic and community engagement category as very important. "Work with local colleges and universities to develop internship opportunities, research partnerships, or host guest lectures" had the most support, while "Participate with food banks..." had the least.
- 69% of respondents rated the arts and humanities programs in their communities as being "very strong" or "pretty good."
 - Respondents considered all four services under the arts and humanities category at least somewhat important. "Allow members to check out tools for use in learning activities" had the most support, while "Provide studio space for local artists. crafters, and makers" had the least.

When respondents were asked why they would linger at the library, the leading reason was "comfy chairs" (64%), followed by "designated study areas or study rooms" (47%).

ZIP CODE FINDINGS

ZIP codes 32304, 32305, and 32310 tended to show up as hotspots for \ldots

- Lacking transportation options.
- Lacking a library card.
- More likely to use public computers or printers.
- More likely to use job search or resume assistance.
- More likely to rate as "very important" library services and programs from all four groups (literacy and lifelong learning, business and workforce development, civic and community engagement, and arts and humanities).

<u>Results</u>

					9							
	ALL	GEN	DER		RA	CE		AGE				
	ALL	F	М	W	В	Н	0	18-34	35-54	55+		
Base	3,475	2,396	967	2,450	476	132	236	590	1,036	1,650		
Yes	4%	4%	4%	2%	8%	6%	7%	5%	5%	3%		
No	96%	96%	96%	98%	92%	94%	93%	95%	95%	97%		

Have you attended a Library 2020 Community Listening session?

About 4% of respondents attended a Library 2020 listening session.

Minority respondents were significantly more likely to attend than were white people.

- White 2%
- Black 8%
- Hispanic 6%
- Other 7%

	ALL								Z	IP COD	E							
	ALL	32301	32302 32303 32304 32305 32306 32307 32308 32309 32310 32311 32312 32313 32314 32315 32317 32												32362			
Base	3,475	350	7	571	211	130	17	5	395	470	109	250	478	14	2	1	249	4
Yes	4%	4%	25%	4%	10%	7%	12%	13%	4%	3%	8%	3%	2%	0%	0%	0%	2%	65%
No	96%	96%	75%	96%	90%	93%	88%	87%	96%	97%	92%	97%	98%	100%	100%	100%	98%	35%

Some ZIP codes had a significantly higher attendance ratio as well. Highest attendance was in 32304 (10%), 32305 (7%), and 32310 (8%), while lower ratios were seen in 32309 (3%), 32312 (2%), 32317 (2%).

	ALL	GEN	DER		RA	CE			AGE		ZIP CODE				
	ALL	F	М	W	В	Н	0	18-34	35-54	55+	Leon County (NET)	Outside of Leon County	Outside of Florida		
Base	3,558	2,439	1,000	2,491	498	135	244	597	1,071	1,683	3,280	101	36		
Within the last month	57%	57%	57%	59%	54%	54%	50%	48%	54%	63%	57%	65%	49%		
Within the last six months	15%	15%	16%	14%	17%	17%	16%	18%	17%	13%	15%	11%	21%		
Within the last year	11%	11%	11%	10%	13%	16%	16%	14%	13%	9%	11%	13%	10%		
More than a year ago but less than 5 years ago	12%	13%	11%	13%	12%	9%	14%	14%	13%	12%	12%	6%	15%		
More than five years ago	4%	4%	5%	4%	5%	5%	4%	6%	4%	4%	4%	5%	5%		

When was your most recent visit to a library?

The majority of respondents (57%) had visited a library in the last month (prior to the COVID-19 pandemic).

White respondents were more likely to have visited a library in the past month, though not significantly so.

- White 59%
- Black 54%
- Hispanic 54%
- Other 50%

The respondent's age showed a relationship to the likelihood of that person visiting a library within the past month. A visit to the library within the past month was reported by 63% of respondents ages 55 and older; 54% of respondents ages 35-54; and 48% of respondents ages 18-34.

	ALL								Z	IP COD	Ε							
	ALL	32301	32302	32303	32304	32305	32306	32307	32308	32309	32310	32311	32312	32313	32314	32315	32317	32362
Base	3,558	364	7	580	224	132	16	5	393	488	112	251	486	14	4	1	254	4
Within the last month	57%	56%	90%	52%	52%	66%	28%	43%	61%	63%	52%	51%	57%	32%	86%	100%	61%	43%
Within the last six months	15%	15%	0%	16%	20%	8%	32%	31%	12%	14%	27%	14%	15%	28%	0%	0%	12%	40%
Within the last year	11%	9%	0%	15%	12%	12%	9%	26%	10%	9%	9%	8%	13%	13%	0%	0%	12%	17%
More than a year ago but less than 5 years ago	12%	16%	10%	13%	12%	8%	31%	0%	12%	11%	7%	19%	10%	18%	14%	0%	11%	0%
More than five years ago	4%	4%	0%	4%	4%	6%	0%	0%	5%	3%	4%	8%	4%	10%	0%	0%	3%	0%

Respondents from two ZIP codes showed a significantly higher percentage of having visited a library within the past month: 32305 (66%) and 32309 (63%).

When was your most recent visit to a library?

		EMPL	OYMENT ST	ATUS		How much does the phrase "I am an advocate for my local library" apply to you?								
	Employed	Unemployed but looking for a job	Not employed nor retired, and NOT looking for a job	A student	Retired	Absolutely or Somewhat (NET)	Absolutely	Somewhat	Not so much	Not at all				
Base	1,807	140	139	116	1,177	2,995	2,019	976	327	86				
Within the last month	54%	69%	70%	49%	66%	63%	70%	47%	35%	38%				
Within the last six months	16%	12%	12%	21%	13%	15%	13%	19%	13%	10%				
Within the last year	12%	10%	8%	19%	8%	10%	8%	13%	21%	11%				
More than a year ago but less than 5 years ago	14%	6%	6%	9%	10%	10%	7%	16%	25%	21%				
More than five years ago	4%	4%	4%	2%	3%	2%	2%	4%	6%	20%				

Respondents were more likely to have visited a library within the past month if they were:

- Unemployed and looking for a job (69%)
- Not employed and not looking for a job (70%)
- Retired (66%)

This compares to respondents who were employed (54%) or a student (49%).

Additionally, there was a positive correlation between how recently respondents visited a library and the degree to which they consider themselves an advocate for their local library.

	ALL	GEN	DER		RA	CE			AGE		ZIP CODE		
	ALL	F	М	W	В	Н	0	18-34	35-54	55+	Leon County (NET)	Outside of Leon County	Outside of Florida
Base	1,127	778	319	755	180	50	96	251	384	448	1,048	28	15
The library doesn't offer the things that I want	16%	14%	19%	14%	17%	23%	19%	24%	15%	11%	16%	16%	31%
I don't have transportation	8%	7%	9%	5%	12%	11%	11%	15%	6%	6%	8%	18%	34%
I have lost a book that I have checked out, and/or I am worried about late fees	6%	6%	4%	4%	11%	4%	4%	10%	8%	2%	6%	23%	0%
I feel unsafe or vulnerable at the library	5%	6%	4%	5%	6%	7%	8%	10%	6%	3%	5%	16%	21%
The facility is uncomfortable or untidy	5%	5%	5%	4%	5%	12%	8%	10%	5%	2%	5%	12%	16%
It is difficult to find a staff member	2%	2%	3%	2%	3%	4%	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%	3%	0%
Other	72%	75%	67%	79%	64%	59%	65%	55%	71%	83%	73%	55%	46%

Which of the following, if any, cause you to avoid visiting a library? Select all that apply.

The leading specific reason identified for not visiting the library is "the library doesn't offer the things that I want," cited by 16% of respondents. This was especially the case among 18-34-year-olds, who chose this response 24% of the time (1.5 times the average rate).

The second most common reason was "I don't have transportation" at 8%. Those ages 18-34 were again more likely to choose this response (15%). black (12%), Hispanic (11%), and "Other" (11%) respondents were more likely than white (5%) respondents to choose this reason.

	ALL								Z	IP COD	E							
	ALL	32301	32302	32303	32304	32305	32306	32307	32308	32309	32310	32311	32312	32313	32314	32315	32317	32362
Base	1,127	127	1	211	92	35	12	2	114	123	38	89	159	8	1	0	64	3
The library doesn't offer the things that I want	16%	14%	100%	17%	17%	13%	16%	0%	16%	12%	16%	20%	12%	37%	100%		16%	0%
I don't have transportation	8%	8%	0%	6%	20%	15%	52%	0%	7%	2%	17%	1%	3%	33%	0%		3%	0%
I have lost a book that I have checked out, and/or I am worried about late fees	6%	10%	0%	7%	3%	9%	0%	0%	6%	1%	10%	3%	4%	0%	0%		1%	31%
I feel unsafe or vulnerable at the library	5%	11%	0%	4%	7%	5%	6%	0%	5%	2%	14%	4%	2%	19%	0%		4%	0%
The facility is uncomfortable or untidy	5%	7%	0%	4%	13%	7%	13%	0%	6%	5%	2%	4%	2%	19%	0%		3%	0%
It is difficult to find a staff member	2%	1%	0%	1%	6%	9%	0%	0%	0%	1%	2%	0%	3%	0%	0%		1%	0%
Other	72%	70%	0%	72%	56%	65%	19%	100%	72%	82%	79%	75%	81%	29%	0%		80%	69%

Lack of transportation was cited far more, and was the most cited reason, among residents of ZIP codes 32304 (20%), 32305 (15%), and 32310 (17%). More detailed study of these regions may be merited to examine how to address this issue.

Do you have a library card?

	ALL	GEN	DER		RA	CE			AGE			ZIP CODE	
	ALL	F	М	W	В	Н	0	18-34	35-54	55+	Leon County (NET)	Outside of Leon County	Outside of Florida
Base	3,583	2,452	1,011	2,509	503	134	247	596	1,076	1,699	3,299	102	36
Yes	77%	80%	71%	81%	67%	80%	69%	64%	76%	83%	78%	64%	49%
Yes, but I don't know if it's still active	12%	12%	12%	11%	14%	7%	17%	14%	15%	10%	12%	8%	24%
No	10%	8%	16%	7%	17%	10%	13%	20%	9%	7%	9%	29%	28%
Don't know	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%	3%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%

More than three-quarters of respondents (77%) have a library card; an additional 12% say they have a card, but don't know if it is still active.

- Women (80%) were more likely than men (71%) to have a library card.
- White (81%) and Hispanic (80%) respondents were more likely to have a library card than black respondents (67%) or those identifying as "Other" (69%).
- The likelihood of having a library card increases with the age of respondents.

	ALL								Z	IP COD	E							
	ALL	32301	32302	32303	32304	32305	32306	32307	32308	32309	32310	32311	32312	32313	32314	32315	32317	32362
Base	3,583	366	7	581	221	134	16	5	396	492	114	256	490	14	4	1	252	5
Yes	77%	74%	55%	76%	66%	79%	14%	56%	80%	88%	65%	76%	82%	44%	71%	100%	87%	56%
Yes, but I don't know if it's still active	12%	14%	35%	14%	13%	13%	33%	0%	9%	8%	11%	14%	11%	10%	15%	0%	9%	15%
No	10%	11%	10%	9%	20%	7%	44%	44%	9%	3%	23%	9%	5%	41%	14%	0%	5%	30%
Don't know	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	9%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	5%	0%	0%	0%	0%

Two ZIP codes that appeared to have the highest ratio of respondents *lacking* a library card were 32310 (23%) and 32304 (20%).

Please tell us why you don't have a library card:

	ALL	GEN	DER		RA	CE			AGE			ZIP CODE	-
	ALL	F	М	W	В	Н	0	18-34	35-54	55+	Leon County (NET)	Outside of Leon County	Outside of Florida
Base	310	161	136	171	91	15	33	108	83	103	263	22	10
Everything I would need at a library I can get from somewhere else	25%	22%	30%	35%	17%	40%	18%	31%	23%	22%	29%	6%	7%
Library hours are too restrictive, or they don't match my schedule	13%	14%	13%	11%	16%	7%	12%	18%	13%	6%	13%	22%	15%
Getting a library card is too inconvenient	11%	11%	12%	11%	11%	13%	18%	13%	11%	9%	11%	10%	22%
I don't feel welcome at the library	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	12%	2%	0%	2%	1%	0%	8%
Other	58%	61%	52%	53%	62%	47%	49%	52%	59%	64%	54%	68%	70%

The leading specific reason respondents did not have a library card was that "everything I would need at a library I can get from somewhere else," chosen by 25% of respondents.

- White respondents (35%) were significantly more likely than black respondents (17%) to choose this option. While Hispanic respondents appear to have an even greater likelihood of selecting this option (40%), the low response rate among Hispanic respondents (15 responses) means that this rate is not statistically different from the population.
- The next most common reason, "library hours are too restrictive, or they don't match my schedule," was mostly driven by respondents ages 18-34, with 18%.

	ALL								Z	IP CODI	E							
	ALL	32301	32302	32303	32304	32305	32306	32307	32308	32309	32310	32311	32312	32313	32314	32315	32317	32362
Base	310	33	1	49	44	8	6	2	34	19	22	20	26	5	1	0	9	1
Everything I would need at a library I can get from somewhere else	25%	32%	100%	25%	32%	35%	48%	71%	28%	24%	19%	48%	17%	67%	100%		20%	0%
Library hours are too restrictive, or they don't match my schedule	13%	19%	0%	9%	6%	0%	11%	0%	7%	12%	30%	28%	10%	11%	0%		10%	0%
Getting a library card is too inconvenient	11%	15%	0%	12%	8%	0%	31%	71%	14%	8%	21%	4%	6%	0%	0%		21%	0%
I don't feel welcome at the library	1%	2%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%		0%	100%
Other	58%	52%	0%	58%	62%	65%	21%	29%	53%	64%	42%	28%	67%	61%	0%		59%	0%

There were no statistically significant differences among ZIP codes on this question.

	ALL	GEN	DER		RA	CE			AGE			ZIP CODE	-
	ALL	F	М	W	В	Н	ο	18-34	35-54	55+	Leon County (NET)	Outside of Leon County	Outside of Florida
Base	3,165	2,167	890	2,182	475	123	223	549	991	1,452	2,922	94	29
Skills-development opportunities	54%	56%	50%	51%	59%	57%	60%	60%	58%	49%	54%	57%	66%
Community events	48%	51%	41%	45%	53%	53%	48%	53%	52%	42%	48%	46%	44%
Access to the internet	46%	47%	43%	45%	48%	42%	47%	46%	46%	47%	46%	54%	58%
Safe meeting spaces	46%	49%	37%	49%	42%	37%	48%	44%	47%	46%	46%	43%	37%
After-school programs	46%	49%	39%	44%	49%	54%	43%	47%	55%	39%	46%	44%	50%
Access to public services	41%	42%	38%	42%	41%	32%	41%	46%	43%	39%	41%	45%	41%
Job search help	41%	42%	38%	38%	47%	40%	40%	48%	43%	37%	41%	50%	51%
Volunteer opportunities	35%	38%	29%	34%	39%	34%	40%	37%	39%	32%	36%	42%	40%
Other	12%	11%	13%	12%	11%	9%	15%	12%	8%	15%	12%	18%	33%

Thinking about your home community: Which of the following does your community, or folks within your community, need more of? Select all that apply:

The leading response to this question was "skills-development opportunities," with 54%. In fact, this was the only need selected by respondents a majority of the time. The next leading need was "community events" (48%). This was generally the case across demographics.

- Female respondents, black respondents, and younger respondents each were significantly more likely to choose most of these options.
- Almost 3 in 5 respondents (58%) with a child under the age of 10 were one-third more likely to express a need for after-school programs compared with those without a young child (43%).

	ALL								Z	IP COD	E							
	ALL	32301	32302	32303	32304	32305	32306	32307	32308	32309	32310	32311	32312	32313	32314	32315	32317	32362
Base	3,165	341	7	522	203	124	16	4	346	423	105	222	420	13	4	1	217	5
Skills-development opportunities	54%	54%	90%	56%	61%	57%	58%	86%	62%	45%	57%	61%	50%	65%	0%	100%	44%	56%
Community events	48%	47%	60%	49%	50%	60%	31%	50%	42%	49%	37%	49%	47%	67%	0%	0%	56%	56%
Access to the internet	46%	49%	80%	51%	46%	54%	19%	85%	46%	42%	53%	49%	40%	12%	15%	0%	37%	0%
Safe meeting spaces	46%	52%	55%	43%	38%	45%	28%	50%	44%	48%	31%	51%	55%	41%	50%	100%	48%	0%
After-school programs	46%	51%	55%	45%	40%	61%	49%	50%	48%	41%	46%	45%	46%	72%	15%	0%	44%	0%
Access to public services	41%	47%	60%	43%	47%	49%	35%	50%	39%	38%	38%	42%	38%	49%	0%	0%	35%	70%
Job search help	41%	44%	90%	44%	58%	52%	51%	36%	44%	31%	42%	44%	33%	41%	50%	0%	28%	33%
Volunteer opportunities	35%	38%	35%	33%	43%	35%	42%	36%	33%	37%	26%	39%	35%	35%	36%	0%	36%	15%
Other	12%	12%	10%	13%	14%	12%	0%	0%	10%	11%	17%	12%	10%	5%	14%	0%	9%	0%

One ZIP code, 32305, diverged from the rest of the community in response to this question, most often citing the need for "after-school programs" (61%), and "community events" (60%).

	ALL		EMI	PLOYMENT STAT	US	
	ALL	Employed	Unemployed but looking for a job	Not employed nor retired, and NOT looking for a job	A student	Retired
Base	3,165	1,679	137	125	113	997
Skills-development opportunities	54%	59%	59%	44%	59%	44%
Community events	48%	50%	45%	50%	49%	42%
Access to the internet	46%	46%	53%	35%	46%	47%
Safe meeting spaces	46%	48%	40%	42%	47%	45%
After-school programs	46%	50%	38%	38%	46%	39%
Access to public services	41%	42%	47%	44%	38%	38%
Job search help	41%	42%	65%	32%	48%	33%
Volunteer opportunities	35%	36%	43%	39%	38%	33%
Other	12%	10%	13%	18%	13%	16%

Individuals who are employed are more likely to identify after-school programs (50%) and community events (50%) as community needs, while those who are unemployed but looking for a job most often identified a need for job search help (65%).

Perhaps not surprisingly, demand for skills-development opportunities is high among those who are unemployed but looking for a job and among students (59% each). Those looking for work also say there is greater need for access to the internet (53%)

How do programs and services in your community fare in the following areas?

Literacy and Lifelong Learning: Developing the skills needed to be successful socially, mentally, financially, and technologically at any age including promoting traditional and non-traditional forms of literacy.

	ALL	GEN	DER		RA	CE			AGE			ZIP CODE	
											Leon	Outside	Outside
	ALL	F	М	W	В	Н	0	18-34	35-54	55+	County	of Leon	of
											(NET)	County	Florida
Base	2,943	2,022	832	2,041	444	112	198	501	924	1,370	2,738	81	27
POSITIVE (NET)	64%	64%	67%	68%	60%	64%	55%	60%	60%	70%	64%	72%	73%
Very strong	17%	17%	19%	17%	19%	20%	15%	18%	14%	20%	17%	23%	15%
Pretty good	47%	47%	48%	52%	41%	44%	39%	42%	46%	50%	47%	49%	58%
Somewhat lacking	29%	29%	26%	27%	30%	31%	32%	32%	31%	25%	29%	21%	19%
Totally inadequate	7%	7%	7%	5%	11%	5%	13%	8%	9%	5%	7%	7%	8%

Generally, almost two thirds of respondents (64%) considered literacy and lifelong learning programs in their communities as being "very strong" or "pretty good."

- White respondents (68%) were somewhat more likely than black respondents (60%) to rate their community's literacy and lifelong learning programs positively.
- Respondents aged 55 and up were significantly more likely (70%) to rate their community"s literacy and lifelong learning programs positively than were younger respondents (60% for both ages 18-34 and 35-54).

	ALL								Z	IP COD	E							
	ALL	32301	32302	32303	32304	32305	32306	32307	32308	32309	32310	32311	32312	32313	32314	32315	32317	32362
Base	2,943	307	4	470	184	113	14	5	333	412	96	211	412	12	4	1	210	2
POSITIVE (NET)	64%	60%	18%	59%	62%	57%	72%	69%	65%	71%	66%	58%	70%	36%	100%	0%	68%	33%
Very strong	17%	15%	18%	14%	26%	12%	36%	13%	13%	16%	28%	11%	20%	30%	50%	0%	20%	0%
Pretty good	47%	45%	0%	44%	36%	45%	36%	56%	52%	54%	38%	48%	49%	6%	50%	0%	48%	33%
Somewhat lacking	29%	30%	82%	34%	27%	28%	15%	0%	31%	24%	21%	37%	26%	34%	0%	100%	24%	67%
Totally inadequate	7%	10%	0%	7%	11%	15%	13%	31%	4%	6%	13%	5%	4%	30%	0%	0%	8%	0%

There were no statistically significant differences among ZIP codes on this question.

How do programs and services in your community fare in the following areas?

Business and Workforce Development: Supporting a strong local economy by acting as a resource for businesses and individuals seeking professional development.

	ALL	GEN	DER		RA	CE			AGE			ZIP CODE	-
	ALL	F	М	W	В	Н	0	18-34	35-54	55+	Leon County (NET)	Outside of Leon County	Outside of Florida
Base	2,778	1,898	794	1,897	439	109	193	485	898	1,264	2,583	75	26
POSITIVE (NET)	56%	57%	56%	58%	57%	57%	45%	57%	52%	59%	56%	53%	63%
Very strong	12%	12%	13%	9%	19%	12%	11%	14%	11%	13%	12%	26%	16%
Pretty good	44%	46%	43%	49%	39%	44%	33%	43%	41%	47%	44%	27%	47%
Somewhat lacking	35%	35%	33%	35%	32%	34%	40%	35%	37%	33%	35%	37%	28%
Totally inadequate	9%	8%	11%	7%	11%	9%	16%	8%	11%	7%	9%	11%	9%

More than half of respondents (56%) rated the business and workforce development programs in their communities as being "very strong" or "pretty good."

• While this was generally the case across demographics, black respondents were more likely to take a stronger stance on the subject, both positive and negative, than white respondents. "Very strong" was selected 19% of the time by black respondents but just 11% of the time by white respondents, and "totally inadequate" was selected 11% of the time by black respondents but only 7% of the time by white respondents.

	ALL								Z	IP COD	E							
	ALL	32301	32302	32303	32304	32305	32306	32307	32308	32309	32310	32311	32312	32313	32314	32315	32317	32362
Base	2,943	294	5	450	181	106	14	4	310	377	93	202	382	12	4	1	196	2
POSITIVE (NET)	64%	56%	56%	56%	62%	45%	64%	65%	55%	58%	59%	52%	58%	79%	86%	0%	54%	0%
Very strong	17%	11%	0%	11%	22%	16%	10%	50%	7%	11%	25%	8%	8%	24%	50%	0%	11%	0%
Pretty good	47%	44%	56%	45%	40%	29%	54%	15%	48%	47%	34%	44%	49%	55%	36%	0%	43%	0%
Somewhat lacking	29%	34%	31%	36%	29%	35%	36%	0%	37%	37%	26%	40%	35%	21%	14%	100%	35%	100%
Totally inadequate	7%	10%	13%	8%	9%	20%	0%	35%	8%	5%	16%	8%	7%	0%	0%	0%	11%	0%

ZIP code 32305 had a statistically significant small portion of respondents indicating that business and workforce development programs in their community were 'very strong' or 'pretty good' (45%), showing a need for improvement in this area.

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How do programs and services in your community fare in the following areas?

Civic and Community Engagement: Serving as a vibrant, active hub of civic discourse and participative democracy, building relationships and bridging gaps in all segments of the community.

	ALL	GEN	DER		RA	CE			AGE			ZIP CODE	-
	ALL	F	М	W	В	Н	0	18-34	35-54	55+	Leon County (NET)	Outside of Leon County	Outside of Florida
Base	2,953	2,027	839	2,061	441	108	197	502	935	1,372	2,746	79	26
POSITIVE (NET)	61%	62%	63%	65%	58%	65%	48%	60%	57%	66%	62%	62%	66%
Very strong	14%	14%	15%	13%	18%	16%	13%	18%	12%	15%	14%	24%	23%
Pretty good	47%	48%	47%	52%	40%	49%	35%	43%	44%	52%	48%	38%	43%
Somewhat lacking	30%	31%	29%	29%	30%	29%	40%	32%	33%	27%	30%	27%	29%
Totally inadequate	8%	7%	9%	6%	12%	6%	12%	8%	10%	7%	8%	11%	6%

More than 3 in 5 respondents (61%) rated the civic and community engagement programs in their communities as being "very strong" or "pretty good."

- Respondents aged 55 and up (66%) were more likely to select "very strong" or "pretty good" than were those aged 18-34 (60%) or respondents aged 35-54 (57%).
- Respondents identifying racially as "Other" were least likely (48%) to give a positive rating to civic and community engagement programs.

	ALL								Z	IP COD	E							-
	ALL	32301	32302	32303	32304	32305	32306	32307	32308	32309	32310	32311	32312	32313	32314	32315	32317	32362
Base	2,953	310	4	483	184	109	14	4	336	408	94	209	410	12	4	1	212	2
POSITIVE (NET)	61%	61%	36%	62%	62%	48%	82%	65%	60%	65%	58%	58%	66%	41%	100%	0%	64%	33%
Very strong	14%	14%	18%	12%	24%	13%	10%	50%	11%	13%	23%	11%	13%	12%	50%	0%	15%	0%
Pretty good	47%	47%	19%	50%	38%	35%	71%	15%	50%	51%	35%	47%	53%	30%	50%	0%	49%	33%
Somewhat lacking	30%	29%	64%	32%	27%	35%	18%	35%	33%	30%	20%	36%	28%	59%	0%	100%	27%	67%
Totally inadequate	8%	10%	0%	6%	11%	17%	0%	0%	6%	6%	21%	6%	6%	0%	0%	0%	9%	0%

ZIP code 32305 had a statistically significant small portion of respondents indicating that civic and community engagement programs in their community were 'very strong' or 'pretty good' (48%), showing a need for improvement in this area.

How do programs and services	in your	community fare	in the following areas?		
Arts and Humanities: Support	ing crea	tive, intellectual	, and recreational pursuits and f	ostering cultural enrichn	nent.
		GENDER	RACE	AGE	ZIP (

	ALL	GEN	DER		RA	CE			AGE			ZIP CODE	-
	ALL	F	М	W	В	Н	0	18-34	35-54	55+	Leon County (NET)	Outside of Leon County	Outside of Florida
Base	3,023	2,076	854	2,113	446	112	201	506	949	1,420	2,813	80	27
POSITIVE (NET)	69%	70%	68%	75%	61%	71%	59%	65%	63%	76%	69%	67%	70%
Very strong	20%	20%	19%	21%	19%	22%	18%	22%	16%	23%	20%	32%	25%
Pretty good	49%	50%	49%	54%	42%	49%	41%	43%	47%	53%	49%	36%	45%
Somewhat lacking	24%	23%	24%	21%	28%	23%	30%	27%	28%	19%	24%	19%	19%
Totally inadequate	7%	7%	7%	5%	10%	5%	10%	7%	9%	5%	7%	14%	11%

Almost 7 in 10 respondents (69%) rated arts and humanities programs in their community as being "very strong" or "pretty good."

- Respondents aged 55 and older (76%) were significantly more likely to select "very strong" or "pretty good" than were those ages 18-34 (65%) or 35-54 (53%).
- White respondents (75%) were much more likely to positively rate the arts and humanities programs in the community than were black respondents (61%) or those identifying as "Other" (59%).

	ALL								Z	IP COD	E							
	ALL	32301	32302	32303	32304	32305	32306	32307	32308	32309	32310	32311	32312	32313	32314	32315	32317	32362
Base	3,023	316	5	494	184	109	14	5	345	418	96	219	424	11	4	1	217	2
POSITIVE (NET)	69%	66%	43%	67%	66%	62%	72%	38%	73%	70%	61%	68%	75%	45%	100%	100%	67%	0%
Very strong	20%	21%	0%	17%	24%	18%	31%	13%	17%	21%	24%	14%	23%	26%	50%	0%	18%	0%
Pretty good	49%	45%	43%	50%	42%	44%	41%	25%	56%	49%	37%	54%	53%	19%	50%	100%	49%	0%
Somewhat lacking	24%	26%	13%	26%	26%	25%	28%	31%	22%	26%	21%	25%	20%	55%	0%	0%	27%	100%
Totally inadequate	7%	8%	44%	7%	9%	13%	0%	31%	4%	4%	18%	7%	4%	0%	0%	0%	6%	0%

Respondents from ZIP code 32312 (75%) were significantly more likely than average to positively rate the arts and humanities programs in their communities.

Respondents from ZIP code 32305 (13%) were significantly more likely to rate the arts and humanities programs in their communities as "totally inadequate."

	POSITIVE (NET)	Very strong	"pretty good"	Somewhat lacking	Totally inadequate
Literacy and Lifelong Learning: Developing the skills needed to be successful socially, mentally, financially, and technologically at any age including promoting traditional and non-traditional forms of literacy.	65%	17%	48%	28%	7%
Business and Workforce Development: Supporting a strong local economy by acting as a resource for businesses and individuals seeking professional development.	56%	11%	45%	35%	9%
Civic and Community Engagement: Serving as a vibrant, active hub of civic discourse and participative democracy, building relationships and bridging gaps in all segments of the community.	62%	14%	49%	30%	8%
Arts and Humanities: Supporting creative, intellectual, and recreational pursuits and fostering cultural enrichment.	70%	20%	50%	23%	7%

How do programs and services in your community fare in the following areas?

In general, all four areas are rated highly – each exceeding 55%. Arts and humanities is the highest rated overall, while business and workforce development is the lowest rated.

	ALL	GEN	DER		RA	CE			AGE			ZIP CODE	-
	ALL	F	М	W	В	Н	ο	18-34	35-54	55+	Leon County (NET)	Outside of Leon County	Outside of Florida
Base	3,284	2,271	900	2,294	459	122	220	514	984	1,588	3,027	92	32
Books, CDs, DVDs, etc.	77%	78%	74%	85%	59%	77%	73%	71%	75%	80%	78%	59%	62%
Voting	43%	43%	42%	46%	37%	36%	39%	39%	41%	46%	44%	27%	19%
Reference assistance from a librarian	41%	42%	36%	42%	37%	42%	36%	30%	39%	45%	41%	35%	40%
Public computers or printers	39%	38%	39%	30%	56%	37%	40%	46%	41%	34%	38%	50%	70%
Digital materials and databases	37%	37%	37%	42%	26%	37%	41%	40%	42%	34%	38%	35%	33%
Community events or lecture series	25%	26%	20%	26%	23%	21%	27%	23%	26%	25%	25%	26%	23%
Meeting and tutor rooms	23%	25%	18%	21%	25%	20%	27%	20%	26%	22%	23%	24%	21%
Children"s programs - story times, summer reading, etc.	19%	22%	14%	17%	21%	29%	22%	26%	27%	12%	20%	22%	16%
Job search or resume assistance	9%	8%	12%	3%	21%	6%	10%	12%	11%	7%	9%	21%	25%
Post-Hurricane Comfort Station	9%	9%	8%	7%	12%	6%	11%	9%	12%	7%	9%	6%	2%
Literacy or homework tutoring	5%	4%	5%	3%	9%	6%	6%	8%	5%	4%	5%	3%	6%
Other	9%	9%	9%	8%	12%	7%	9%	8%	8%	10%	9%	8%	16%

Have you used any of the following library services (in the past 3 years)? Select all that apply:

The three leading services used by respondents in the past three years are "Books, CDs, DVDs, etc." cited by 77%; "voting" by 43%; and "reference assistance from a librarian" by 41%.

- Female respondents are more likely to use most of these services, though men are more likely to use job search or resume assistance.
- Black respondents were much more likely than respondents of any other ethnicity to use public computers or printers (56%) and job search or resume assistance (21%).
- Almost two-thirds (62%) of respondents with children younger than 10 used children's programs, while respondents without such young children selected this response just 12% of the time.

	ALL								Z	IP COD	E							
	ALL	32301	32302	32303	32304	32305	32306	32307	32308	32309	32310	32311	32312	32313	32314	32315	32317	32362
Base	3,284	330	7	523	195	124	13	4	367	464	103	225	459	12	4	1	240	3
Books, CDs, DVDs, etc.	77%	75%	100%	77%	61%	81%	11%	14%	79%	86%	60%	79%	83%	58%	0%	100%	85%	52%
Voting	43%	25%	30%	38%	26%	53%	36%	50%	39%	59%	44%	34%	57%	39%	0%	100%	66%	79%
Reference assistance from a librarian	41%	43%	90%	38%	38%	41%	37%	50%	41%	48%	33%	41%	43%	46%	50%	0%	38%	79%
Public computers or printers	39%	43%	80%	39%	59%	56%	21%	85%	33%	34%	56%	34%	25%	34%	50%	100%	31%	26%
Digital materials and databases	37%	42%	45%	39%	29%	32%	5%	14%	44%	38%	22%	42%	38%	12%	0%	100%	38%	0%
Community events or lecture series	25%	27%	55%	25%	20%	28%	11%	50%	29%	21%	14%	31%	22%	19%	36%	0%	28%	52%
Meeting and tutor rooms	23%	27%	60%	22%	23%	24%	11%	71%	21%	22%	23%	28%	19%	13%	36%	0%	26%	48%
Children"s programs - story times, summer reading, etc.	19%	15%	10%	20%	15%	20%	11%	0%	20%	25%	19%	16%	20%	0%	0%	0%	24%	0%
Job search or resume assistance	9%	10%	35%	6%	28%	24%	21%	15%	4%	4%	20%	6%	2%	0%	36%	0%	3%	0%
Post-Hurricane Comfort Station	9%	15%	45%	12%	13%	14%	0%	0%	10%	3%	14%	7%	5%	8%	0%	0%	3%	0%
Literacy or homework tutoring	5%	3%	10%	4%	12%	8%	5%	15%	4%	4%	11%	5%	1%	0%	14%	0%	5%	0%
Other	9%	11%	0%	9%	12%	11%	0%	0%	10%	6%	22%	8%	5%	15%	36%	0%	9%	0%

Have you used any of the following library services (in the past 3 years)? Select all that apply: (continued from above)

When compared with the general population:

- Respondents from ZIP codes 32309 (86%) and 32317 (85%) were much more likely to use books, CDs, DVDs, etc.
- Respondents from ZIP codes 32304 (59%), 32305 (56%), and 32310 (56%) were much more likely to use public computers or printers.
- Respondents from these same ZIP codes 32304 (28%), 32305 (24%), and 32310 (20%) were also much more likely to use job search or resume assistance.
- Respondents from ZIP codes 32305 (53%), 32309 (59%), 32312 (57%), and 32317 (66%) were much more likely to go to their library to vote.

	ALL	GEN	DER		RA	CE			AGE			ZIP CODE	-
	ALL	F	М	W	В	Н	0	18-34	35-54	55+	Leon County (NET)	Outside of Leon County	Outside of Florida
Base	2,956	2,068	791	2,057	428	118	201	530	918	1,359	2,724	88	34
Comfy chairs	64%	66%	61%	72%	50%	68%	66%	73%	64%	62%	65%	61%	54%
Designated study areas or study rooms	47%	47%	46%	42%	55%	57%	54%	53%	49%	42%	47%	48%	48%
Public art displays	45%	47%	41%	51%	37%	41%	43%	45%	44%	47%	46%	44%	31%
Designated workspaces	44%	45%	42%	40%	51%	48%	48%	48%	46%	40%	44%	51%	53%
Coffee Shop	43%	45%	38%	48%	33%	48%	48%	60%	48%	34%	43%	44%	44%
Cozy lighting	39%	39%	38%	40%	34%	50%	41%	51%	42%	32%	39%	46%	49%
The gift store or bookstore	32%	32%	29%	36%	26%	28%	27%	28%	31%	34%	32%	37%	31%
A common area in which to socialize	27%	27%	27%	25%	29%	25%	37%	33%	29%	23%	27%	28%	23%

Which of the following, if any, make you want to linger at the library? Select all that apply:

The leading reason to linger at the library was "comfy chairs," selected by 64% of respondents. This was followed by "designated study areas or study rooms," chosen by 47%.

- Female respondents were more likely to select "comfy chairs", "coffee shop," and "public art displays."
- White and Hispanic respondents were more likely to select "comfy chairs", "cozy lighting," and "coffee shop" than were black respondents.
- Non-white respondents (B 51%, H 48%, O 48%) were more likely to select "designated study areas or study rooms" than were white respondents (40%).
- White respondents (51%) were more likely than non-white respondents (B 37%, H 41%, O 43%) to select "public art displays."
- Respondents aged 55 and up were **less** likely to select nearly all the listed options, except for the "gift store or bookstore" and public art displays.

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	ALL								Z	IP COD	Ε							
	ALL	32301	32302	32303	32304	32305	32306	32307	32308	32309	32310	32311	32312	32313	32314	32315	32317	32362
Base	2,956	317	7	474	188	106	14	5	333	390	102	203	404	9	3	1	212	4
Comfy chairs	64%	64%	80%	61%	66%	56%	95%	44%	68%	68%	52%	69%	69%	100%	0%	0%	73%	22%
Designated study areas or study	47%	42%	80%	45%	61%	55%	64%	74%	47%	46%	54%	41%	42%	59%	42%	100%	46%	22%
rooms	47 /0	42 /0	00 /0	4370	0170	5570	04 /0	7470	4770	40 /0	J4 /0	4170	42 /0	3970	42 /0	100 /0	40 /0	2270
Public art displays	45%	51%	35%	47%	45%	52%	23%	12%	48%	49%	29%	44%	43%	33%	84%	0%	44%	43%
Designated workspaces	44%	48%	80%	44%	50%	48%	34%	26%	44%	43%	44%	46%	38%	67%	42%	0%	42%	17%
Coffee Shop	43%	43%	45%	43%	48%	35%	74%	31%	46%	39%	36%	54%	43%	93%	16%	0%	46%	0%
Cozy lighting	39%	42%	80%	41%	45%	33%	64%	0%	37%	38%	38%	40%	34%	74%	0%	0%	40%	0%
The gift store or bookstore	32%	36%	30%	30%	30%	38%	28%	62%	33%	28%	21%	33%	30%	52%	0%	0%	36%	22%
A common area in which to socialize	27%	24%	90%	22%	30%	31%	29%	62%	27%	30%	34%	22%	26%	33%	0%	100%	28%	18%

Which of the following, if any, make you want to linger at the library? Select all that apply: (continued from above)

Interestingly, selection of "designated study areas or study rooms" was highest in ZIP code 32304 (61%), which encompasses much of the residential areas associated with Florida State University. "Coffee shop" was especially significant in ZIP code 32311 (54%). That said, "comfy chairs" was still the leading response across all ZIP codes where significance could be established.

Please rate your experiences with library customer service or library staff: Friendly

	ALL	GEN	DER		RA	CE			AGE		What zi	code do in?	you live
	ALL	F	М	W	В	Н	0	18-34	35-54	55+	Leon County (NET)	Outside of Leon County	Outside of Florida
Base	3,265	2,255	900	2,279	464	120	212	499	981	1,590	3,004	95	31
Outstanding	69%	69%	70%	72%	64%	75%	60%	69%	63%	73%	68%	76%	65%
Satisfactory	29%	29%	28%	26%	33%	23%	37%	29%	33%	26%	29%	21%	26%
Very poor	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	3%	2%	2%	4%	2%	2%	4%	8%

White (72%) and Hispanic (75%) respondents were significantly more likely to rate the friendliness of library staff as "outstanding" compared with black (64%) respondents or those of another race (60%).

Respondents aged 35-54 (63%) were significantly less likely to rate the friendliness of library staff as "outstanding" compared with the rest of the population (69%).

	ALL								Z	IP COD	E							
	ALL	32301	32302	32303	32304	32305	32306	32307	32308	32309	32310	32311	32312	32313	32314	32315	32317	32362
Base	3,265	323	7	513	197	123	13	5	361	461	101	228	461	11	4	1	240	4
Outstanding	69%	70%	90%	71%	60%	71%	22%	100%	68%	71%	66%	67%	65%	76%	86%	100%	71%	60%
Satisfactory	29%	27%	10%	27%	35%	27%	78%	0%	30%	27%	30%	32%	32%	24%	14%	0%	26%	22%
Very poor	2%	3%	0%	2%	5%	2%	0%	0%	2%	1%	4%	1%	3%	0%	0%	0%	3%	18%

Respondents in ZIP code 32304 (60%) were significantly less likely to rate the friendliness of library staff as "outstanding" than were the rest of the population (69%).

Please rate your experiences with library customer service or library staff: Professional

	ALL	GEN	DER		RA	CE			AGE		What zi	p code do in?	you live
	ALL	F	М	W	В	Н	0	18-34	35-54	55+	Leon County (NET)	Outside of Leon County	Outside of Florida
Base	3,236	2,244	885	2,259	461	117	209	500	975	1,570	2,984	94	31
Outstanding	69%	69%	70%	74%	63%	73%	64%	71%	63%	73%	69%	82%	68%
Satisfactory	29%	29%	28%	25%	35%	25%	35%	28%	35%	25%	29%	17%	26%
Very poor	2%	2%	1%	1%	2%	3%	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%	2%	6%

White respondents (74%) were significantly more likely to rate the professionalism of library staff as "outstanding" than were the rest of the population (69%).

Respondents aged 35-54 (63%) were significantly less likely to rate the professionalism of library staff as "outstanding" compared with the rest of the population (69%).

	ALL								Z	IP COD	Ε							
	ALL	32301	32302	32303	32304	32305	32306	32307	32308	32309	32310	32311	32312	32313	32314	32315	32317	32362
Base	3,236	323	7	510	194	122	13	5	359	458	101	226	460	11	4	1	236	3
Outstanding	69%	72%	90%	70%	64%	72%	49%	69%	72%	69%	65%	67%	66%	54%	86%	100%	75%	53%
Satisfactory	29%	26%	10%	28%	32%	26%	51%	31%	26%	30%	35%	33%	33%	46%	14%	0%	23%	47%
Very poor	2%	2%	0%	2%	4%	2%	0%	0%	2%	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%

There were no statistically significant differences among ZIP codes on this question.

Please rate your experiences with library customer service or library staff: Available

	ALL	GEN	DER		RA	CE			AGE		What zi	p code do in?	you live
	ALL	F	М	W	В	Н	0	18-34	35-54	55+	Leon County (NET)	Outside of Leon County	Outside of Florida
Base	3,240	2,238	894	2,259	462	119	212	501	972	1,575	2,985	95	32
Outstanding	64%	64%	63%	67%	60%	62%	58%	64%	59%	67%	64%	75%	57%
Satisfactory	34%	34%	35%	31%	38%	36%	39%	34%	39%	31%	35%	24%	37%
Very poor	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%	3%	1%	2%	1%	6%

White respondents (67%) were significantly more likely to rate the availability of library staff as "outstanding" than were the rest of the population (64%).

Respondents aged 35-54 (59%) were significantly less likely to rate the availability of library staff as "outstanding" compared with the rest of the population (64%).

	ALL								Z	IP COD	E							
	ALL	32301	32302	32303	32304	32305	32306	32307	32308	32309	32310	32311	32312	32313	32314	32315	32317	32362
Base	3,240	322	6	512	195	121	13	5	357	459	101	229	460	11	4	1	235	3
Outstanding	64%	63%	89%	64%	58%	71%	38%	69%	64%	67%	59%	61%	59%	31%	86%	100%	69%	53%
Satisfactory	34%	34%	11%	34%	38%	27%	62%	31%	36%	31%	36%	39%	40%	69%	14%	0%	29%	47%
Very poor	2%	3%	0%	2%	4%	2%	0%	0%	0%	2%	6%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%

Respondents in ZIP codes 32304 (58%) and 32312 (59%) were significantly less likely to rate the availability of library staff as "outstanding" compared with the rest of the population (64%).

Please rate your experiences with library customer service or library staff: Knowledgeable

	ALL	GEN	DER		RA	CE			AGE		What zi	code do in?	you live
	ALL	F	Μ	W	В	Н	0	18-34	35-54	55+	Leon County (NET)	Outside of Leon County	Outside of Florida
Base	3,216	2,219	889	2,242	459	117	211	492	968	1,566	2,963	92	30
Outstanding	69%	69%	69%	73%	63%	74%	63%	67%	63%	73%	69%	79%	65%
Satisfactory	30%	30%	30%	26%	36%	26%	36%	32%	35%	26%	30%	19%	29%
Very poor	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	6%

White (73%) and Hispanic (74%) respondents were significantly more likely to rate the knowledgeability of library staff as "outstanding" compared with black respondents or respondents of another race (63%).

Respondents aged 55 and up (73%) were significantly more likely to rate the knowledgeability of library staff as "outstanding" compared with the rest of the population (69%).

	ALL								Z	IP COD	Ε							
	ALL	32301	32302	32303	32304	32305	32306	32307	32308	32309	32310	32311	32312	32313	32314	32315	32317	32362
Base	3,216	319	6	507	193	122	13	5	355	456	101	225	456	11	4	1	235	3
Outstanding	69%	71%	89%	68%	62%	74%	38%	100%	70%	70%	66%	68%	66%	54%	86%	100%	73%	53%
Satisfactory	30%	28%	11%	29%	35%	25%	62%	0%	29%	30%	34%	31%	33%	46%	14%	0%	26%	47%
Very poor	1%	1%	0%	2%	3%	2%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%

Respondents in ZIP code 32304 (62%) were significantly less likely to rate the availability of library staff as "outstanding" compared with the rest of the population (69%).

Please rate your experiences with library customer service or library staff: Helpful

	ALL	GEN	DER		RA	CE			AGE		What zi	p code do in?	you live
	ALL	F	М	W	В	Н	0	18-34	35-54	55+	Leon County (NET)	Outside of Leon County	Outside of Florida
Base	3,253	2,249	897	2,269	463	118	213	500	978	1,585	2,996	94	31
Outstanding	70%	70%	71%	74%	64%	73%	63%	70%	64%	74%	70%	80%	63%
Satisfactory	28%	28%	27%	24%	34%	26%	34%	29%	34%	24%	28%	18%	31%
Very poor	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	1%	2%	2%	6%

White respondents (74%) were significantly more likely to rate the helpfulness of library staff as "outstanding" compared with black respondents (64%) or respondents of another race (63%).

Respondents aged 35-54 (64%) were significantly less likely to rate the availability of library staff as "outstanding" compared with the rest of the population (70%).

	ALL								Z	IP COD	E							
	ALL	32301	32302	32303	32304	32305	32306	32307	32308	32309	32310	32311	32312	32313	32314	32315	32317	32362
Base	3,253	328	7	512	194	120	13	5	362	461	99	228	460	11	4	1	237	3
Outstanding	70%	72%	90%	72%	62%	72%	49%	69%	71%	73%	66%	67%	68%	54%	86%	100%	73%	79%
Satisfactory	28%	26%	10%	27%	34%	26%	51%	31%	27%	26%	34%	31%	31%	46%	14%	0%	26%	21%
Very poor	2%	2%	0%	2%	5%	2%	0%	0%	3%	1%	0%	1%	2%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%

Respondents in ZIP code 32304 (62%) were significantly less likely to rate the helpfulness of library staff as "outstanding" compared with the rest of the population (69%).

	Very poor	Satisfactory	Outstanding
Friendly	2%	29%	69%
Professional	2%	28%	70%
Available	2%	34%	64%
Knowledgeable	1%	29%	69%
Helpful	2%	28%	71%

Please rate your experiences with library customer service or library staff:

The vast majority of respondents rate library customer service and staff as "outstanding."

• In general, white and Hispanic respondents were significantly more likely to rate library customer service and staff favorably than were black respondents or those of other races or ethnicities.

• Respondents who were aged 35 to 54 had some tendency to rate library customer service or library staff less highly than those aged 18-34 or aged 55 and up.

How important to you are the following library services pertaining to Literacy and Lifelong Learning? Provide technology training on graphic design, web design, video editing, or cyber security.

	0	-		-		0		-					
	ALL	GEN	DER		RA	CE			AGE			ZIP CODE	
	ALL	F	М	W	В	Н	0	18-34	35-54	55+	Leon County (NET)	Outside of Leon County	Outside of Florida
Base	2,979	2,064	817	2,055	434	109	204	485	958	1,377	2,762	78	32
Very important	54%	56%	50%	43%	76%	59%	56%	55%	56%	52%	53%	71%	73%
Somewhat important	34%	33%	35%	41%	20%	35%	33%	36%	34%	33%	34%	22%	22%
Not important	12%	11%	15%	16%	5%	7%	11%	9%	10%	15%	12%	6%	5%

54% of respondents rated "provide technology training..." as very important.

• This was especially important among black respondents, with 76% rating it as very important.

	ALL								Z	IP COD	E							
	ALL	32301	32302	32303	32304	32305	32306	32307	32308	32309	32310	32311	32312	32313	32314	32315	32317	32362
Base	2,979	316	6	484	187	109	13	4	332	399	97	215	412	12	4	1	219	3
Very important	54%	54%	66%	52%	63%	71%	38%	100%	51%	51%	73%	56%	45%	82%	86%	100%	41%	79%
Somewhat important	34%	36%	22%	37%	31%	20%	51%	0%	34%	34%	17%	32%	41%	12%	0%	0%	43%	21%
Not important	12%	10%	11%	12%	6%	9%	11%	0%	15%	16%	10%	12%	14%	6%	14%	0%	16%	0%

ZIP codes 32305 (71%) and 32310 (73%) were significantly more likely to consider "provide technology training..." as very important.

How important to you are the following library services pertaining to Literacy and Lifelong Learning? Offer 3rd grade reading skills camps and resources for parents of struggling readers.

						0 0							
	ALL	GEN	DER		RA	CE			AGE			ZIP CODE	
	ALL	F	М	W	В	Н	0	18-34	35-54	55+	Leon County (NET)	Outside of Leon County	Outside of Florida
Base	2,884	2,010	781	1,988	418	109	199	473	935	1,320	2,672	78	30
Very important	68%	73%	57%	62%	81%	74%	68%	71%	72%	64%	68%	76%	81%
Somewhat important	20%	18%	24%	23%	13%	18%	22%	21%	17%	21%	20%	16%	7%
Not important	12%	9%	18%	15%	7%	7%	10%	7%	10%	15%	12%	7%	12%

68% of respondents rated "offer 3rd grade reading skills..." as very important. This was especially true among:

- Female respondents (73%) compared with male respondents (57%).
- Black (81%) and Hispanic (74%) respondents compared with white respondents (62%).
- Younger respondents aged 18-34 (71%) and 35-54 (72%) compared with respondents aged 55 and up (64%).

	ALL								Z	IP COD	E							
	ALL	32301	32302	32303	32304	32305	32306	32307	32308	32309	32310	32311	32312	32313	32314	32315	32317	32362
Base	2,884	296	6	474	179	110	12	4	324	388	91	210	397	12	4	1	210	3
Very important	68%	67%	78%	66%	72%	78%	64%	65%	66%	63%	81%	72%	66%	82%	86%	100%	64%	79%
Somewhat important	20%	23%	11%	19%	20%	13%	30%	35%	24%	23%	11%	18%	20%	12%	0%	0%	23%	21%
Not important	12%	10%	11%	15%	8%	9%	6%	0%	10%	14%	9%	10%	14%	6%	14%	0%	13%	0%

ZIP codes 32305 (78%) and 32310 (81%) were significantly more likely to consider "offer 3rd grade reading skills..." as very important.

How important to you are the following library services pertaining to Literacy and Lifelong Learning? Offer after-school tutoring and homework help resources.

	ALL	GEN	DER		RA	CE			AGE			ZIP CODE	-
	ALL	F	М	W	В	Н	ο	18-34	35-54	55+	Leon County (NET)	Outside of Leon County	Outside of Florida
Base	2,913	2,030	791	2,005	427	111	201	477	943	1,339	2,700	78	30
Very important	68%	72%	58%	61%	82%	77%	66%	76%	72%	63%	68%	76%	79%
Somewhat important	21%	19%	25%	25%	12%	17%	26%	18%	21%	21%	21%	16%	14%
Not important	11%	9%	17%	14%	6%	6%	8%	6%	8%	16%	11%	8%	7%

68% of respondents rated "offer after-school tutoring..." as very important. This was especially true among:

- Female respondents (72%) compared with male respondents (58%).
- Black (82%) and Hispanic (77%) respondents compared with white respondents (61%).
- Younger respondents aged 18-34 (76%) and 35-54 (72%) compared with respondents aged 55 and up (63%).

	ALL								Z	IP COD	E							
	ALL	32301	32302	32303	32304	32305	32306	32307	32308	32309	32310	32311	32312	32313	32314	32315	32317	32362
Base	2,913	302	6	477	179	115	13	4	326	391	92	214	401	12	4	0	212	3
Very important	68%	68%	78%	68%	77%	79%	72%	100%	67%	61%	80%	69%	63%	82%	100%		62%	79%
Somewhat important	21%	24%	11%	19%	18%	13%	28%	0%	24%	24%	10%	21%	24%	12%	0%		22%	21%
Not important	11%	7%	11%	13%	6%	9%	0%	0%	9%	14%	10%	10%	13%	6%	0%		16%	0%

ZIP codes 32304 (77%), 32305 (79%) and 32310 (80%) were significantly more likely to consider "offer after-school tutoring..." as very important.

How important to you are the following library services pertaining to Literacy and Lifelong Learning? Host programs that educate seniors on topics such as preparing for retirement, estate planning, and dementia.

							,	F	<u>,</u> ,				
	ALL	GEN	DER		RA	CE			AGE			ZIP CODE	
	ALL	F	М	W	В	Н	о	18-34	35-54	55+	Leon County (NET)	Outside of Leon County	Outside of Florida
Base	3,043	2,110	838	2,124	425	113	204	476	948	1,460	2,824	77	33
Very important	64%	68%	55%	56%	79%	76%	68%	63%	67%	63%	64%	79%	80%
Somewhat important	29%	26%	35%	36%	17%	20%	24%	30%	26%	30%	29%	17%	13%
Not important	7%	6%	10%	8%	3%	4%	8%	7%	7%	7%	7%	4%	7%

64% of respondents rated "host programs that educate seniors..." as very important. This was especially true among:

- Female respondents (68%) compared with male respondents (55%).
- Non-white respondents (B 82%, H 77%, O 66%) compared with white respondents (56%).

	ALL								Z	IP COD	Ε							
	ALL	32301	32302	32303	32304	32305	32306	32307	32308	32309	32310	32311	32312	32313	32314	32315	32317	32362
Base	3,043	314	6	496	183	115	12	4	350	414	96	216	427	12	4	1	222	4
Very important	64%	65%	77%	63%	68%	77%	64%	65%	64%	59%	75%	68%	57%	88%	86%	100%	59%	43%
Somewhat important	29%	29%	23%	30%	28%	19%	36%	35%	29%	33%	19%	26%	35%	6%	14%	0%	33%	57%
Not important	7%	7%	0%	8%	5%	4%	0%	0%	7%	8%	6%	6%	8%	6%	0%	0%	8%	0%

ZIP codes 32305 (77%), and 32310 (75%) were significantly more likely to consider "host programs that educate seniors..." as very important.

How important to you are the following library services pertaining to Literacy and Lifelong Learning?

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important
Provide technology training on graphic design, web design, video editing, or cyber security.	49%	37%	14%
Offer 3rd grade reading skills camps and resources for parents of struggling readers.	65%	22%	13%
Offer after-school tutoring and homework help resources.	64%	23%	13%
Host programs that educate seniors on topics such as preparing for retirement, estate planning, and dementia.	60%	32%	8%

Overall, respondents considered all four services under the Literacy and Lifelong Learning category at least somewhat important. "Offer 3rd grade reading skills..." had the most support, while "Provide technology training..." had the least.

ZIP codes 32305 and 32310 often showed significantly more support for these Literacy and Lifelong Learning services.

Respondents rating these services as very important tended to be female, non-white, and younger.

How important to you are the following library services pertaining to Business and Workforce Development? Provide life-skill training resources for teens and young adults.

	ALL	GEN	DER		RA	CE			AGE		-	ZIP CODE	
	ALL	F	М	W	В	Н	0	18-34	35-54	55+	Leon County (NET)	Outside of Leon County	Outside of Florida
Base	2,928	2,018	821	2,024	439	114	194	484	956	1,344	2,723	78	29
Very important	71%	75%	63%	64%	86%	78%	72%	78%	74%	66%	71%	76%	80%
Somewhat important	23%	21%	27%	28%	13%	21%	22%	19%	22%	25%	23%	20%	15%
Not important	6%	4%	9%	8%	1%	1%	6%	2%	4%	9%	6%	4%	5%

More than 7 in 10 respondents (71%) rated "provide life-skill training..." as very important. This was especially true among:

- Female respondents (75%) compared with male respondents (69%).
- Non-white respondents (B 86%, H 78%, O 72%) compared with white respondents (64%).
- Younger respondents aged 18-34 (78%) and 35-54 (74%) compared with respondents aged 55 and up (66%).

	ALL								Z	IP COD	E							
	ALL	32301	32302	32303	32304	32305	32306	32307	32308	32309	32310	32311	32312	32313	32314	32315	32317	32362
Base	2,928	310	5	481	182	113	13	4	328	390	90	215	406	12	4	1	217	3
Very important	71%	71%	87%	68%	78%	86%	66%	100%	69%	69%	88%	73%	63%	82%	86%	100%	68%	79%
Somewhat important	23%	24%	0%	27%	20%	13%	34%	0%	24%	23%	6%	22%	28%	12%	14%	0%	24%	21%
Not important	6%	5%	13%	5%	2%	2%	0%	0%	6%	8%	6%	5%	8%	6%	0%	0%	7%	0%

ZIP codes 32304 (78%), 32305 (86%), and 32310 (88%) were significantly more likely to consider "provide life-skill training..." as very important.

How important to you are the following library services pertaining to Business and Workforce Development? Host coding and robotics programs to introduce youth to STEM careers.

	ALL	GEN	DER		RA	CE			AGE			ZIP CODE	
	ALL	F	М	W	В	Н	0	18-34	35-54	55+	Leon County (NET)	Outside of Leon County	Outside of Florida
Base	2,860	1,958	814	1,969	428	112	195	486	950	1,283	2,656	76	29
Very important	58%	60%	53%	49%	75%	65%	56%	67%	63%	50%	58%	67%	65%
Somewhat important	31%	30%	33%	37%	20%	30%	33%	26%	30%	35%	31%	24%	28%
Not important	11%	9%	14%	14%	5%	5%	10%	7%	8%	15%	11%	9%	7%

Almost 3 in 5 respondents (58%) rated "host coding and robotics programs..." as very important. This was especially true among:

- Female respondents (60%) compared with male respondents (53%).
- Black respondents (75%) compared with respondents of any other racial demographic (W 49%, H 65%, O 56%)
- Younger respondents aged 18-34 (67%) and 35-54 (63%) compared with respondents aged 55 and up (50%).

	ALL								Z	IP COD	E							
	ALL	32301	32302	32303	32304	32305	32306	32307	32308	32309	32310	32311	32312	32313	32314	32315	32317	32362
Base	2,860	300	5	466	182	107	13	4	322	390	88	211	391	11	4	0	211	2
Very important	58%	57%	74%	55%	68%	72%	60%	50%	55%	55%	74%	62%	54%	71%	36%		48%	67%
Somewhat important	31%	32%	13%	31%	24%	21%	40%	50%	35%	36%	15%	29%	33%	22%	29%		42%	33%
Not important	11%	11%	13%	13%	8%	7%	0%	0%	10%	9%	11%	8%	13%	6%	36%		10%	0%

ZIP codes 32304 (68%), 32305 (72%), and 32310 (74%) were significantly more likely to consider "host coding and robotics programs..." as very important.

How important to you are the following library services pertaining to Business and Workforce Development? Create shared workspaces for businesses, nonprofits, entrepreneurs, or telecommuters that need a place to work.

	ALL	GEN	DER		RA	CE			AGE			ZIP CODE	-
	ALL	F	М	W	В	Н	ο	18-34	35-54	55+	Leon County (NET)	Outside of Leon County	Outside of Florida
Base	2,902	1,986	822	1,998	435	113	197	489	957	1,313	2,695	77	32
Very important	50%	53%	44%	39%	72%	52%	56%	59%	54%	43%	49%	62%	71%
Somewhat important	36%	34%	39%	43%	23%	38%	31%	33%	34%	38%	36%	26%	23%
Not important	14%	13%	17%	18%	5%	10%	13%	8%	11%	19%	14%	12%	7%

Half of respondents (50%) rated "create shared workspaces..." as very important. This was especially true among:

- Female respondents (53%) compared with male respondents (44%).
- Non-white respondents (B 72%, H 52%, O 56%) respondents compared with white respondents (39%).
- Younger respondents aged 18-34 (59%) and 35-54 (54%) compared with respondents aged 55 and up (43%).
- Business owners (60%) compared with respondents who were not business owners (48%)

	ALL								Z	IP COD	Ε							
	ALL	32301	32302	32303	32304	32305	32306	32307	32308	32309	32310	32311	32312	32313	32314	32315	32317	32362
Base	2,902	306	6	480	183	111	13	4	322	380	91	214	404	12	4	1	212	4
Very important	50%	51%	89%	50%	68%	66%	49%	50%	48%	41%	64%	46%	42%	82%	86%	100%	39%	43%
Somewhat important	36%	38%	11%	37%	26%	27%	51%	50%	36%	38%	25%	41%	40%	12%	14%	0%	40%	17%
Not important	14%	11%	0%	13%	6%	7%	0%	0%	16%	21%	11%	13%	18%	6%	0%	0%	21%	40%

ZIP codes 32304 (68%), 32305 (66%), and 32310 (64%) were significantly more likely to consider "create shared workspaces..." as very important.

Oller resources to support job	Seevers	such as	SIOLA II	nes at ju		or comp	uter are	as iui pa	arents w	iiii youi	ig crillur	en.	
	ALL	GEN	DER		RA	CE			AGE			ZIP CODE	
	ALL	F	М	W	В	н	ο	18-34	35-54	55+	Leon County (NET)	Outside of Leon County	Outside of Florida
Base	2,889	1,988	808	1,981	437	114	193	483	947	1,314	2,685	74	29
Very important	63%	67%	57%	55%	81%	70%	62%	73%	67%	57%	63%	76%	78%
Somewhat important	28%	26%	32%	34%	16%	25%	29%	24%	26%	31%	28%	16%	19%
Not important	9%	7%	11%	11%	3%	5%	9%	4%	7%	12%	9%	8%	2%

How important to you are the following library services pertaining to Business and Workforce Development? Offer resources to support job seekers such as story times at job fairs or computer areas for parents with young children.

Almost two-thirds of respondents (63%) rated "offer resources to support job seekers..." as very important. This was especially true among:

- Female respondents (67%) compared with male respondents (57%).
- Non-white respondents (B 81%, H 70%, O 62%) respondents compared with white respondents (55%).
- Younger respondents aged 18-34 (73%) and 35-54 (67%) compared with respondents aged 55 and up (57%).

	ALL								Z	IP COD	Ε							
	ALL	32301	32302	32303	32304	32305	32306	32307	32308	32309	32310	32311	32312	32313	32314	32315	32317	32362
Base	2,889	308	5	473	179	112	13	3	325	382	90	214	403	10	4	1	209	3
Very important	63%	65%	87%	61%	74%	81%	55%	100%	63%	58%	77%	65%	52%	87%	86%	100%	55%	79%
Somewhat important	28%	28%	13%	29%	22%	16%	40%	0%	29%	32%	13%	27%	34%	7%	14%	0%	36%	21%
Not important	9%	7%	0%	9%	4%	4%	6%	0%	8%	9%	10%	8%	13%	7%	0%	0%	9%	0%

ZIP codes 32304 (74%), 32305 (81%), and 32310 (77%) were significantly more likely to consider "offer resources to support job seekers..." as very important.

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important
Provide life-skill training resources for teens and young adults.	68%	25%	7%
Host coding and robotics programs to introduce youth to STEM careers.	54%	34%	12%
Create shared workspaces for businesses, nonprofits, entrepreneurs, or telecommuters that need a place to work.	45%	38%	16%
Offer resources to support job seekers such as story times at job fairs or computer areas for parents with young children.	59%	31%	10%

How important to you are the following library services pertaining to Business and Workforce Development?

Overall, respondents considered all four services under the Business and Workforce Development category at least somewhat important. "Provide life-skill training resources for teens and young adults" had the most support, while "Create shared workspaces..." had the least.

ZIP codes 32304, 32305, and 32310 often showed significantly more support for these Business and Workforce Development services.

Respondents rating these services as very important tended to be female, non-white, and younger.

How important to you are the following library services pertaining to Civic and Community Engagement? Participate with food banks, community gardens, or farmers markets

	ALL	GEN	DER		RA	CE			AGE			ZIP CODE	
	ALL	F	М	W	В	Н	0	18-34	35-54	55+	Leon County (NET)	Outside of Leon County	Outside of Florida
Base	2,979	2,069	814	2,063	437	111	204	492	951	1,388	2,771	78	30
Very important	56%	59%	48%	47%	73%	62%	61%	73%	58%	49%	56%	70%	81%
Somewhat important	32%	31%	34%	38%	22%	28%	28%	23%	32%	35%	32%	21%	14%
Not important	12%	9%	18%	15%	5%	10%	11%	4%	10%	16%	12%	9%	5%

More than half of respondents (56%) rated "participate with food banks..." as very important. This was especially true among:

- Female respondents (59%) compared with male respondents (48%).
- Non-white respondents (B 73%, H 62%, O 61%) respondents compared with white respondents (47%).
- Younger respondents aged 18-34 (73%) and 35-54 (58%) compared with respondents aged 55 and up (49%).

	ALL								Z	IP COD	E							
	ALL	32301	32302	32303	32304	32305	32306	32307	32308	32309	32310	32311	32312	32313	32314	32315	32317	32362
Base	2,979	317	6	488	180	111	13	4	327	406	96	225	412	12	4	1	217	2
Very important	56%	59%	72%	58%	73%	72%	77%	50%	57%	49%	67%	48%	42%	69%	71%	0%	46%	67%
Somewhat important	32%	33%	28%	32%	21%	19%	23%	50%	30%	35%	29%	37%	40%	31%	14%	100%	40%	33%
Not important	12%	8%	0%	10%	6%	9%	0%	0%	13%	16%	5%	15%	18%	0%	15%	0%	14%	0%

ZIP codes 32304 (73%), 32305 (72%), and 32310 (67%) were significantly more likely to consider "participate with food banks..." as very important.

How important to you are the following library services pertaining to Civic and Community Engagement? Partner with local nonprofits to connect library patrons to health and human services.

		71											
	ALL	GEN	DER		RA	CE			AGE			ZIP CODE	
	ALL	F	М	W	В	н	0	18-34	35-54	55+	Leon County (NET)	Outside of Leon County	Outside of Florida
Base	2,979	2,066	818	2,073	432	111	204	489	947	1,394	2,773	79	28
Very important	62%	65%	54%	53%	80%	65%	67%	72%	63%	58%	62%	69%	80%
Somewhat important	31%	29%	33%	37%	17%	28%	25%	23%	31%	33%	30%	22%	15%
Not important	8%	6%	12%	10%	2%	7%	8%	4%	7%	9%	8%	8%	5%

More than 3 in 5 respondents (62%) rated "...connect library patrons to health and human services" as very important. This was especially true among:

- Female respondents (65%) compared with male respondents (54%).
- Non-white respondents (B 80%, H 65%, O 67%) respondents compared with white respondents (53%).
- Younger respondents aged 18-34 (72%) and 35-54 (63%) compared with respondents aged 55 and up (58%).
- Respondents who consider themselves leaders in their community (70%) compared with those who do not (59%).

	ALL								Z	IP COD	E							
	ALL	32301	32302	32303	32304	32305	32306	32307	32308	32309	32310	32311	32312	32313	32314	32315	32317	32362
Base	2,979	314	6	489	182	112	13	3	329	410	92	220	416	12	4	1	216	3
Very important	62%	66%	100%	65%	75%	81%	49%	59%	61%	51%	79%	60%	51%	76%	86%	0%	52%	74%
Somewhat important	31%	29%	0%	29%	22%	17%	51%	41%	29%	39%	17%	30%	39%	24%	14%	100%	36%	26%
Not important	8%	5%	0%	6%	3%	2%	0%	0%	9%	10%	4%	10%	11%	0%	0%	0%	12%	0%

ZIP codes 32304 (75%), 32305 (81%), and 32310 (79%) were significantly more likely to consider "...connect library patrons to health and human services" as very important.

How important to you are the following library services pertaining to Civic and Community Engagement? Host community forums and discussions that engage people in civil discourse.

			001										
	ALL	GEN	DER		RA	CE			AGE		-	ZIP CODE	-
	ALL	F	Μ	W	В	Н	0	18-34	35-54	55+	Leon County (NET)	Outside of Leon County	Outside of Florida
Base	2,975	2,054	826	2,070	428	113	205	490	945	1,392	2,770	77	28
Very important	58%	60%	54%	50%	76%	60%	63%	65%	60%	55%	58%	67%	64%
Somewhat important	33%	32%	35%	40%	20%	31%	29%	27%	32%	35%	33%	29%	26%
Not important	9%	7%	11%	10%	4%	9%	8%	7%	8%	9%	9%	3%	10%

Almost 3 in 5 respondents (58%) rated "host community forums..." as very important. This was especially true among:

- Female respondents (60%) compared with male respondents (54%).
- Non-white respondents (B 76%, H 60%, O 63%) compared with white respondents (50%)
- Younger respondents aged 18-34 (65%) compared with respondents aged 55 and up (55%).

	ALL								Z	IP COD	E							
	ALL	32301	32302	32303	32304	32305	32306	32307	32308	32309	32310	32311	32312	32313	32314	32315	32317	32362
Base	2,975	319	6	485	182	108	13	4	330	417	88	219	416	12	4	1	213	3
Very important	58%	59%	72%	57%	73%	78%	66%	50%	58%	54%	64%	61%	47%	75%	50%	0%	52%	100%
Somewhat important	33%	34%	28%	35%	21%	19%	34%	14%	34%	35%	21%	29%	41%	25%	50%	0%	39%	0%
Not important	9%	6%	0%	8%	6%	4%	0%	36%	8%	11%	14%	10%	12%	0%	0%	100%	9%	0%

ZIP codes 32304 (76%) and 32305 (78%) were significantly more likely to consider "host community forums..." as very important.

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	ALL	GEN	DER		RA	CE			AGE		-	ZIP CODE	
	ALL	F	М	W	В	Н	0	18-34	35-54	55+	Leon County (NET)	Outside of Leon County	Outside of Florida
Base	3,000	2,076	832	2,082	438	116	204	497	959	1,393	2,793	77	28
Very important	64%	67%	58%	55%	81%	78%	67%	74%	68%	58%	64%	76%	80%
Somewhat important	30%	28%	33%	37%	16%	21%	28%	23%	28%	33%	30%	18%	17%
Not important	6%	5%	9%	8%	3%	1%	4%	3%	5%	9%	6%	6%	3%

How important to you are the following library services pertaining to Civic and Community Engagement? Work with local colleges and universities to develop internship opportunities, research partnerships, or host guest lectures

Almost two-thirds of respondents (64%) rated "work with local colleges and universities..." as very important. This was especially true among:

- Female respondents (67%) compared with male respondents (58%).
- Non-white respondents (B 81%, H 78%, O 67%) respondents compared with white respondents (55%)
- Younger respondents aged 18-34 (74%) and 35-54 (68%) compared with respondents aged 55 and up (58%).

	ALL								Z	IP COD	Ε							
	ALL	32301	32302	32303	32304	32305	32306	32307	32308	32309	32310	32311	32312	32313	32314	32315	32317	32362
Base	3,000	319	6	485	188	111	13	4	334	412	91	223	420	12	4	1	219	2
Very important	64%	66%	72%	66%	76%	76%	72%	86%	61%	59%	79%	59%	53%	81%	86%	0%	62%	67%
Somewhat important	30%	28%	28%	28%	21%	19%	28%	14%	32%	34%	16%	35%	39%	19%	14%	100%	31%	33%
Not important	6%	6%	0%	6%	3%	5%	0%	0%	7%	8%	4%	6%	8%	0%	0%	0%	7%	0%

ZIP codes 32304 (76%), 32305 (76%), and 32310 (79%) were significantly more likely to consider "work with local colleges and universities..." as very important.

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important
Participate with food banks, community gardens, or farmers" markets	52%	35%	13%
Partner with local nonprofits to connect library patrons to health and human services.	58%	33%	9%
Host community forums and discussions that engage people in civil discourse.	55%	36%	10%
Work with local colleges and universities to develop internship opportunities, research partnerships, or host guest lectures	60%	33%	7%

How important to you are the following library services pertaining to Civic and Community Engagement?

Overall, respondents considered all four services under the Civic and Community Engagement category as very important. "Work with local colleges and universities to develop internship opportunities, research partnerships, or host guest lectures" had the most support, while "Participate with food banks..." had the least.

ZIP codes 32304, 32305, and 32310 often showed significantly more support for these Civic and Community Engagement services.

Respondents rating these services as very important tended to be female, non-white, and younger.

How important to you are the following library services pertaining to Arts and Humanities?

	ALL	GEN	DER		RA	CE			AGE			ZIP CODE	
	ALL	F	М	W	В	Н	0	18-34	35-54	55+	Leon County (NET)	Outside of Leon County	Outside of Florida
Base	2,994	2,074	827	2,076	434	112	203	494	960	1,389	2,783	78	28
Very important	62%	65%	56%	54%	76%	73%	62%	73%	66%	54%	61%	71%	80%
Somewhat important	32%	31%	35%	38%	21%	24%	33%	24%	30%	37%	32%	20%	10%
Not important	6%	5%	9%	8%	3%	3%	5%	3%	4%	9%	6%	8%	10%

Allow members to check out tools for use in learning activities.

More than 3 in 5 respondents (62%) rated "allow members to check out tools..." as very important. This was especially true among:

- Female respondents (65%) compared with male respondents (56%).
- Non-white respondents (B 76%, H 73%, O 62%) respondents compared with white respondents (54%)
- Younger respondents aged 18-34 (73%) and 35-54 (66%) compared with respondents aged 55 and up (54%).

	ALL	ZIP CODE																
	ALL	32301	32302	32303	32304	32305	32306	32307	32308	32309	32310	32311	32312	32313	32314	32315	32317	32362
Base	2,994	312	6	490	188	108	13	3	332	410	93	217	421	11	4	1	220	3
Very important	62%	66%	78%	62%	77%	74%	60%	59%	58%	57%	76%	59%	51%	67%	86%	0%	52%	53%
Somewhat important	32%	29%	22%	30%	21%	24%	34%	41%	36%	35%	22%	37%	39%	33%	14%	100%	39%	47%
Not important	6%	5%	0%	7%	2%	1%	6%	0%	6%	8%	3%	4%	10%	0%	0%	0%	10%	0%

ZIP codes 32304 (77%), 32305 (74%), and 32310 (76%) were significantly more likely to consider "allow members to check out tools..." as very important.

How important to you are the following library services pertaining to Arts and Humanities?

	ALL	GEN	DER		RA	CE			AGE		ZIP CODE		
	ALL	F	М	W	В	Н	0	18-34	35-54	55+	Leon County (NET)	Outside of Leon County	Outside of Florida
Base	3,004	2,079	831	2,087	432	113	202	493	946	1,422	2,802	79	28
Very important	60%	64%	51%	50%	80%	67%	64%	71%	66%	53%	60%	72%	67%
Somewhat important	31%	30%	33%	38%	18%	30%	26%	26%	27%	36%	31%	24%	22%
Not important	9%	6%	15%	12%	2%	4%	10%	3%	8%	11%	9%	4%	10%

Host cultural events and classes that showcase the community"s diversity.

Three in 5 respondents (60%) rated "host cultural events and classes..." as very important. This was especially true among:

- Female respondents (64%) compared with male respondents (51%).
- Non-white respondents (B 80%, H 67%, O 64%) respondents compared with white respondents (50%)
- Younger respondents aged 18-34 (71%) and 35-54 (66%) compared with respondents aged 55 and up (53%).

	ALL	ZIP CODE																
	ALL	32301	32302	32303	32304	32305	32306	32307	32308	32309	32310	32311	32312	32313	32314	32315	32317	32362
Base	3,004	319	6	491	183	107	13	4	334	413	94	217	430	12	4	1	219	4
Very important	60%	69%	72%	59%	76%	76%	60%	86%	58%	52%	69%	64%	50%	81%	71%	0%	50%	43%
Somewhat important	31%	23%	28%	33%	22%	20%	40%	14%	34%	37%	23%	30%	35%	19%	29%	100%	36%	40%
Not important	9%	8%	0%	8%	2%	5%	0%	0%	8%	11%	9%	6%	14%	0%	0%	0%	14%	17%

ZIP codes 32301 (69%), 32304 (76%), 32305 (76%), and 32310 (69%) were significantly more likely to consider "host cultural events and classes..." as very important.

How important to you are the following library services pertaining to Arts and Humanities?

	ALL	GEN	DER		RA	CE			AGE			ZIP CODE	-
	ALL	F	М	W	В	Н	0	18-34	35-54	55+	Leon County (NET)	Outside of Leon County	Outside of Florida
Base	3,019	2,097	830	2,097	436	114	202	498	959	1,410	2,806	82	27
Very important	54%	57%	49%	44%	74%	62%	66%	65%	60%	46%	54%	70%	76%
Somewhat important	36%	35%	37%	43%	22%	32%	29%	31%	32%	40%	36%	22%	21%
Not important	10%	8%	13%	13%	4%	6%	5%	4%	8%	13%	10%	8%	3%

Offer tutorials, workshops, or clubs to teach crafting and maker skills.

More than half of respondents (54%) rated "offer tutorials, workshops, or clubs to teach crafting and maker skills" as very important. This was especially true among:

- Female respondents (57%) compared with male respondents (49%).
- Non-white respondents (B 74%, H 62%, O 66%) respondents compared with white respondents (44%)
- Younger respondents aged 18-34 (65%) and 35-54 (60%) compared with respondents aged 55 and up (46%).

	ALL								Z	IP COD	Ε							
	ALL	32301	32302	32303	32304	32305	32306	32307	32308	32309	32310	32311	32312	32313	32314	32315	32317	32362
Base	3,019	320	6	492	187	110	13	3	333	415	95	217	423	11	4	1	222	3
Very important	54%	58%	61%	58%	69%	70%	60%	59%	50%	47%	73%	51%	42%	61%	86%	0%	47%	79%
Somewhat important	36%	33%	39%	32%	27%	25%	40%	0%	41%	43%	24%	38%	43%	39%	14%	100%	41%	21%
Not important	10%	10%	0%	10%	5%	5%	0%	41%	10%	10%	3%	11%	15%	0%	0%	0%	12%	0%

ZIP codes 32304 (69%), 32305 (70%), and 32310 (73%) were significantly more likely to consider "offer tutorials, workshops, or clubs to teach crafting and maker skills" as very important.

How important to you are the following library services pertaining to Arts and Humanities?

	ALL	GEN	DER		RA	CE			AGE			ZIP CODE	
	ALL	F	М	W	В	Н	0	18-34	35-54	55+	Leon County (NET)	Outside of Leon County	Outside of Florida
Base	2,950	2,033	830	2,053	430	109	197	487	946	1,373	2,749	76	28
Very important	40%	41%	35%	29%	60%	47%	47%	54%	44%	31%	39%	56%	55%
Somewhat important	38%	38%	39%	43%	32%	34%	35%	33%	36%	42%	39%	28%	20%
Not important	22%	20%	26%	28%	9%	19%	18%	13%	20%	27%	22%	16%	25%

Provide studio space for local artists. crafters, and makers.

Only 2 in 5 respondents (40%) rated "provide studio space..." as very important. This category was tended to be rated higher by the following demographics:

- Female respondents (41%) compared with male respondents (35%).
- Non-white respondents (B 60%, H 47%, O 47%) respondents compared with white respondents (29%)
- Younger respondents aged 18-34 (54%) and 35-54 (44%) compared with respondents aged 55 and up (31%).

	ALL								Z	IP COD	Ε							
	ALL	32301	32302	32303	32304	32305	32306	32307	32308	32309	32310	32311	32312	32313	32314	32315	32317	32362
Base	2,950	312	6	486	187	104	12	4	330	407	91	213	410	10	4	1	218	3
Very important	40%	43%	39%	42%	63%	49%	52%	50%	37%	32%	56%	38%	26%	62%	86%	0%	26%	53%
Somewhat important	38%	38%	34%	38%	30%	35%	48%	14%	43%	42%	27%	38%	41%	31%	14%	0%	44%	26%
Not important	22%	18%	28%	20%	7%	16%	0%	36%	20%	26%	16%	24%	33%	7%	0%	100%	30%	21%

ZIP codes 32304 (63%), 32305 (49%), and 32310 (56%) were significantly more likely to consider "provide studio space..." as very important.

How important to you are the following library services pertaining to Arts and Humanities?

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not important
Allow members to check out tools for use in learning activities.	58%	35%	7%
Host cultural events and classes that showcase the community"s diversity.	56%	34%	10%
Offer tutorials, workshops, or clubs to teach crafting and maker skills.	50%	39%	11%
Provide studio space for local artists. crafters, and makers.	35%	40%	25%

Overall, respondents considered all four services under the Arts and Humanities category at least somewhat important. "Allow members to check out tools for use in learning activities" had the most support, while "Provide studio space for local artists. crafters, and makers." had the least.

ZIP codes 32304, 32305 and 32310 often showed significantly more support for these Arts and Humanities services.

Respondents rating these services as very important tended to be female, non-white, and younger.

	ALL GENDER					CE			AGE			ZIP CODE	
	ALL	F	М	W	В	Н	0	18-34	35-54	55+	Leon County (NET)	Outside of Leon County	Outside of Florida
Base	3,388	2,330	943	2,374	470	121	224	526	1,023	1,635	3,121	98	33
Absolutely or Somewhat (NET)	87%	89%	84%	90%	84%	89%	80%	83%	84%	91%	87%	86%	83%
"Absolutely	58%	60%	53%	61%	54%	57%	49%	46%	52%	66%	58%	56%	53%
"Somewhat	29%	28%	31%	28%	30%	32%	31%	38%	32%	24%	29%	31%	30%
Not so much	10%	9%	12%	8%	12%	9%	15%	14%	12%	8%	10%	13%	10%
Not at all	3%	2%	4%	2%	4%	2%	5%	3%	4%	2%	3%	1%	7%

How much does the phrase: "I am an advocate for my local library" apply to you?

Almost 9 in 10 respondents (87%) considered themselves at least somewhat an advocate for their local library.

- Female respondents (60%) were significantly more likely to select "absolutely" than male respondents (53%).
- White respondents (90%) were significantly more likely to answer "somewhat" or "absolutely" than black respondents (84%).
- Respondents aged 55 and up (91%) were significantly more likely than those aged 18-34 (83%) and those aged (84%) to answer "somewhat" or "absolutely."

	ALL								Z	IP COD	E							
	ALL	32301	32302	32303	32304	32305	32306	32307	32308	32309	32310	32311	32312	32313	32314	32315	32317	32362
Base	3,388	341	7	540	207	126	13	4	381	472	107	239	474	12	4	1	245	3
Absolutely or Somewhat (NET)	87%	90%	100%	84%	77%	93%	83%	29%	88%	92%	89%	88%	86%	85%	86%	100%	87%	100%
"Absolutely	58%	63%	70%	58%	42%	69%	40%	29%	61%	61%	55%	50%	60%	39%	86%	100%	60%	100%
"Somewhat	29%	27%	30%	26%	35%	25%	43%	0%	27%	30%	35%	38%	26%	46%	0%	0%	27%	0%
Not so much	10%	9%	0%	13%	18%	7%	11%	71%	9%	6%	8%	10%	11%	15%	14%	0%	10%	0%
Not at all	3%	1%	0%	3%	5%	0%	6%	0%	3%	3%	2%	2%	3%	0%	0%	0%	3%	0%

Respondents from ZIP code 32304 (77%) were significantly **less** likely to answer "somewhat" or "absolutely" compared to the rest of the population (87%).

Are you a business owner?

	ALL	GEN	DER		RA	CE			AGE		-	ZIP CODE	
	ALL	F	М	W	В	Н	0	18-34	35-54	55+	Leon County (NET)	Outside of Leon County	Outside of Florida
Base	3,412	2,344	954	2,392	477	122	223	532	1,027	1,649	3,138	102	34
Yes	12%	11%	15%	11%	13%	11%	22%	12%	16%	10%	12%	14%	13%
No	88%	89%	85%	89%	87%	89%	78%	88%	84%	90%	88%	86%	87%

Only 1 in 8 respondents (12%) identified themselves as business owners.

- Male respondents (15%) were more likely than female respondents (11%) to be business owners.
- Respondents identifying as Other (22%) a race or ethnicity that is neither white (11%), black (13%), nor Hispanic (11%) were significantly more likely to be business owners.
- Respondents aged 35-54 (16%) were significantly more likely to be business owners than those aged 18-34 (12%) or those aged 55 and up (10%).

	ALL					ZIP CODE												
	ALL	32301	32302	32303	32304	32305	32306	32307	32308	32309	32310	32311	32312	32313	32314	32315	32317	32362
Base	3,412	343	7	547	208	126	13	4	380	474	108	239	477	12	4	1	246	4
Yes	12%	13%	0%	15%	6%	12%	0%	36%	13%	10%	13%	15%	12%	6%	0%	0%	13%	17%
No	88%	87%	100%	85%	94%	88%	100%	64%	87%	90%	87%	85%	88%	94%	100%	100%	87%	83%

No ZIP codes showed large and significant differences in respondents identifying as business owners.

#	Source	Comment
1	Listening Session	Concerned about weeding of non-circulating materials.
2	Listening Session	More books for non-computer people.
3	Listening Session	More books
4	Listening Session	Need more \$ for books
5	Listening Session	Continue to expand the Library's digital collection.
6	Listening Session	Continue to establish partnerships with local partnerships to work toward common goals.
7	Listening Session	Create more coworking spaces as well as spaces for community meetings and gatherings.
8	Listening Session	Considering placing coffee shops at libraries.
9	Listening Session	Ensure Library spaces and building are accessible to all.
10	Listening Session	Consider partnerships with other organizations to promote library card registration (Clerk of Courts, Leon County Schools, etc.)
11	Listening Session	Partner with Leon County to promote resources avialable for parents and students.
12	Listening Session	Consider reviewing the Library's code of conduct to ensure that none of the policies create barries for homeless patrons to access services.
13	Listening Session	Provide teens and children with their own spaces so they do not disturb other patrons.
14	Listening Session	Create teen spaces that can be used for a variety of purposes including a video games, playing/recording music, and group study.
15	Listening Session	Additional outlets needed at libraries for charging mobile devices.
16	Listening Session	Teens frequently feel that adult patrons and staff aren't always friendly or polite to them.
17	Listening Session	Consider dropping the age requirement for checking out laptops to age 15.
18	Listening Session	Consider adding additional art displays in the library.
19	Listening Session	Considering placing coffee shops at libraries.
20	Listening Session	Invest in new furniture and seating at the libraries.
21	Listening Session	Work with local nonprofits to connect homeless patrons to services.
22	Listening Session	Explore purchasing recording equpment for patrons to record podcasts or music.
23	Listening Session	Create a separate Instagram account for the Library's teen programs.
24	Listening Session	Allow patron to checkout video games and gaming consoles from the library.
25	Listening Session	Offer programs at a variety of times to accommodate patrons working schedules.
26	Listening Session	Work with IFAS and other community organizations to support the community garden in Ft. Braden.

#	Source	Comment
27	Listening Session	Create program to teach seniors how to use technoloy.
28	Listening Session	Invest in new furniture and seating at the libraries.
29	Listening Session	Create a program room at the Ft. Braden library.
30	Listening Session	Allow patrons to sign up to receive news about only those programs being held at their preferred library branch.
31	Listening Session	Considering eliminating fines or offering an amnesty day.
32	Listening Session	Consider expanding library hours
33	Listening Session	Consider adding additional art displays in the library.
34	Listening Session	Concerned that self checkout machines will replace library staff.
35	Listening Session	Apprciate interlibrary loan program.
36	Listening Session	Consider offering programs that promote civil discourse and community problem solving.
37	Listening Session	Concerned about the of homeless patrons being disruptive or using restrooms inappropriately.
38	Listening Session	Host speakers on career and personal development.
39	Listening Session	Entrepreneur series for those who want to start a small business.
40	Listening Session	As part of the assisting teens idea, have workshops about diferent career fields (like museums) that also show volounteer opportunities.
41	Listening Session	Expand the current workforce "101 workshops" to middle school and some elementary age students.
42	Listening Session	Adult programs to teach basic computer skills.
43	Listening Session	Assist teens with completing scholarship applications for college.
44	Listening Session	Support a mentoring program for youth people to be mentored by businesses or shadow business people.
45	Listening Session	Tie in the library w/ DMV to make it automatic.
46	Listening Session	Clothing bank/library closit for trans youth/adults.
47	Listening Session	Host monthly book club meeting with museum's membership.
		If possible, voter registration drives and information on voting in Leon County.
48	Listening Session	Encourage people to visit different branches and see different parts of the community through some sort of event.
49	Listening Session	Picnics! The libraries have the most beautiful green space in town. Spring is here!
50	Listening Session	Outreach to people experiencing homeless ness. Make sure they feel comfortable using the library and have the resources they need. Partnership with Kearney Center?
51	Listening Session	Program to provide all K-12 students with a library card.

#	Source	Comment
52	Listening Session	Provide additional GED tutoring programs.
53	Listening Session	Supportsing ESL.
		It would be neat to implement a program that connects children with seniors to support school readiness
54	Listening Session	and literacy.
55	Listening Session	Early literacy opportunity with the proposed children's services council.
		Expand current program that helps young people fill out job applications and prepare for entry to the
56	Listening Session	workforce. This is a critical juncture that can be very intimidating without support.
57	Listening Session	Partnership with local mental health nonprofits to advertise free or low cost trainings.
EO	Listoping Sossion	CED halp and halp for CED test at no cost
58	Listening Session	GED help and help for GED test at no cost.
59	Listening Session	Mobile units during the summer months.
		Program to provide family litearcy education (parents/guardians working with their children to foster the
60	Listening Session	love of reading) i.e. "Mother Read"
		The libraries shol have exhibits of local art, history, and other culturally relevant topics. With the upcoming
61	Listening Session	2024 Bicentennial theres is a great opportunity to showcase the story of our community. Our libraries should be where history and art come alive!
62	Listening Session	Active puclic spaces with chamber music concerts.
63	Listening Session	Increase partnerships on programs with local cultural organizations.
64	Listening Session	Permanent art collections and document archives should be a cornerstone of the libraries. The libraries should foster research and learning.
0-1		
65	Listening Session	Events to showcase local writesrs and book artists.
66	Listening Session	Partnership with COCA to promote services
67	Listening Session	Classes for people who want to work in food service to be certified.
68	Listening Session	Have retired and current business owners/managers as presenters and mentors.
69	Listening Session	Ft. Braden - Space for local groups to meet within our library. Not in common space.
70	Listening Session	Develop program for seniors to learn computer skills
71	Listening Session	Offer more programs at the branch library (Ft. Braden)
70		
72	Listening Session	Create programs that tie in with FSU's Opening Nights.
73	Listening Session	Participate in Word of South and other communty events.
-		
74	Listening Session	Music in the library
75	Listoning Coordin	Have workshops sessions to develop problem or challenge-based learning/solution seeking. Work in teams
75	Listening Session	to buld collaboratization skills. Provide opportunities for senioars at times/places that can be easily accessed. Classes, entertainment,
76	Listening Session	exposture to new idea and opportunities for lifelong learning.
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#	Source	Comment
77	Listening Session	Add Excel to the programs you teach.
78	Listening Session	Continuing ESL classes and support.
79	Listening Session	Cooking classes in the library.
80	Listening Session	Teen Entrepreneurs Programs
81	Listening Session	Sessions helping promote or push vocational and technical education.
82	Listening Session	Language and learning programs
83	Listening Session	Having a space for teens specifically to foster musical/artistic talent.
84	Listening Session	A place for donation of art supplis or music supplies.
85	Survey	I really appreciate that our libraries in Leon county do not have computers for the kids to use in the main kid areas (where the books are). This helps my kids engage with books without the distraction of technology. I do find, however, that too many quality books have been removed from library circulation. I homeschool, and pay for my library card (since I live in Gadsden county) and many times I have to request quality books through ILL because the library does not have them (for instance, Landmark history books for children). Some book series are missing random books. We treasure the old, quality booksplease do not get rid of them! Library staff is outstanding. Thank you.
86	Survey	I just wanted to say how much I utilize checking out books (espeically new books). I regularly check out 9 or so books a month and I could hardly do that without the library (I couldn't afford to buy that many books). I work in front of screens all day so I refuse to go digital. Please consider keeping a budget for new books (digital is fine but kids and young adults won't know who to search for. Having physical books with characters representing their religion, ethnicity, and physical state really makes an impact on them. Also: please limit your restrictions on weeding books. As a former volunteer I know there are some great books which just need a little love but shouldn't be thrown away. Please repair your books don't just throw them away. If there is a need for volunteers in the mending department just ask. And please assess your qualifications for removing a book from the collection (if something isn't being checked out maybe it just means it needs to be put in a different place in the library like they do in stores).
87	Survey	A well-funded library is essential to our communities. I visit our local branch once a week on average. While it is nice to have special non-literacy-based programs via the library, I feel the library should be focused on providing access to reading and listening materials, fiction and non-fiction, to those who would not otherwise be able to afford the wonderful gift that is reading, or listening to, a book. I am deeply distressed at the decision to no longer provide (through new purchases) physical audio books. The trend to all digital is misguided at best and ridiculous at worst. There are still many folks out there who do not have access to digital media and/or just prefer to listen to an audio book on a CD or using a Playaway MP3 device. While I personally do access the digital media via my laptop and/or kindle, I so enjoyed the Playaway devices. Although a former IT professional, I do not own a smart phone nor a tablet, and thus the Playaways gave me the freedom to listen to an audiobook away from my laptop. I also feel that the library should be for books, magazines, and newspapers. Lastly, I think closing the library at this time because of COVID-19 is ridiculous. By all means, cancel all the special events and programs, but allow patrons access to check out the materials as usual. Sure, we still have access to digital media online, but only one of the items on my lib PageIf05Rdd15t4i3 available digitally. I am not a ha RipsyedMageI7 . 2021

#	Source	Comment
		I am disabled not retired or unemployed. I read library books on my phone from library every day. There
		are not enough copies and limited selections. Physical locations need MORE books not less and better
88	Survey	selection not just popular pulp books.
		1. I walk with difficulty (painfully), so I choose books from the catalog and place a HOLD on them. Then, in
		the past, I had only to walk from the car to the Circulation counter to get them. However that has changed
		and now I have to walk further to pick them up before going to Circulation. I'm not happy about this. 2. I cannot read online for very long because it hurts my eyes. So digital books are pretty much out for me. And
		I can't seem to stay focused on audio books. Unless I go blind, printed books are my format of choice.
		Please don't cut back on print purchases too much!! And if you do, and I have to depend on Interlibrary
		Loan even more, that brings me to 3. I have a few subject areas of great interest in which you don't
		collect, so I depend on Interlibrary Loan and would hope you will honor *100%* of requests in the future. I
		am the long-distance Librarian for the research library at the Appalachian Trail Museum (I travel there a
		few months each year) and have been requesting books on library methods, along with memoirs of
		backpackers (so that I could determine if they were worth obtaining for the museum library). I was once
		turned down on a request for the memoir "Hikertrash: life on the Pacific Crest Trail" and this was very
		disturbing. 100% please!! Summing up, my personal concerns are: Close-to-door access for HOLD books,
		lots of print books, 100% fulfillment of ILL requests. Linda Patton, Librarian Research Library
		Appalachian Trail Museum 1120 Pine Grove Rd. Gardners, PA 17324 Email: lpatton@fsu.edu Phone: 850-
89	Survey	570-0011 https://www.atmuseum.org/research-library.html
		My family and I go to the library to read books. I've been discouraged seeing all the books that are being
		removed from the shelves. I love the library and all the librarians. They have help me so much. I use the
90	Survey	main library as well as many of the branches. They are all assets to the community as well as all the employees. Thank you for supporting the library.
90	Survey	
		As a fervent reader and retired librarian, I visit the library weekly for books and DVD's. I was and am
		distressed over the weeding that was done with the books. I understand the reasoning behind the
		decision, but feel that the staff was over zealous with the materials that were pulled. I would love to see
91	Survey	eating and cell phone usage eliminated from inside the library .
92	Survey	Do not do away with books!
93	Survey	Don't cut back on books because a lot of us don't want audiobooks. Please!
94	Survey	Don't neglect the collection. Books should remain the primary focus.
		Gutting the physical collection and gutting circulation and reference services employees has severely
		reduced my pleasure in coming to the library. I used to be able to find things (and get help finding things) that I didn't know I wanted - now, the library is turning into Redbox - it just has the brand new stuff and a
		few old classics, but nothing I don't already expect to find. I used to talk to librarians who could offer me
		suggestions for what else to get, and would talk about what we thought about things I had borrowed. the
		experience is now MUCH less personalized, and I feel much more like a customer instead of a patron. The
		staff that is there can barely keep up with the demands, and I feel that I am no longer able to talk to them
		because they are too busy. (Nobody has said this, but that's how it feels now, especially at Main.) I made
		friends at the library in the past - that doesn't feel like it is still possible for an adult who does not attend a
95	Survey	lot of the programs.
		I am appalled at the empty shelves and spaces at the main library. What happened to all the books? Are
		books no longer important? Many of us still prefer to hold a book, magazine or newspaper in our hands
96	Survey	while we read.
		I am concerned that the library will go the way of the dinosaur facing modern technology. For my four
~-		grand daughters that must not be allowed to happen. They are all avid readers. There is nothing like a visit
97	Survey	to the library to get "real books".

#	Source	Comment
		I have heard that book collections as well as digital media collections are being cut/reduced/not replaced. Please don't phase out these sorts of materials as some people are unable to access them any other way than through their local library. A library without books and digital media would not have the heart of a library, and to be honest, I think that a lot of patrons would simply stop going to the library at all if they
98	Survey	can't access books and digital media. I have noticed a great decrease in the books at the main library - this is very concerning. Just because we
99	Survey	live in a digital, modern age, there is too much that will be lost if cater only to those who want the newest, latest books, and digitize everything.
100	Survey	I understand there is a push to get ride if significant numbers of actual books and replace them with so- called digital versions. If this is true that us completely unacceptable and will be seen akin to book burning and censorship, and I would strongly suggest you abandon such a small minded, short sighted strategy.
101	Survey	I used to brag about all the wonderful older books that I would stumble across on the shelves, mixed in with the modern ones. I was dismay to find in the last couple of years that older books with a limited circulation history were being culled in favor of more "popular" books. In the past I have limited my personal library in the belief that I could always find certain materials at the library. That belief is being strained. Not sure how long even Interlibrary Loan will be able to make up the gap. This is probably my biggest pet peeve with a library that my children and I have otherwise loved and bragged about for decades. I can understand older technology having to make way for newer, but when the electricity goes out, books are still available resources.
102	Survey	I used to think the Leon library is the best I have used. It's unfortunate that the books are being removed. Perhaps LeRoy Collins name should be removed, since he's probably rolling in his grave. I would suggest the new name We don't need no stinkin' books library". I wish I had been given the opportunity to own some of the books sent to garbage.
103	Survey	I was disappointed in the lack of everything; books, CDs, videos at the main library. I want my grandson to grow up loving to read, experiencing the pleasure of holding a real book. Digital is not for everyone and there are many who don't want everything digital. The empty library felt cold and unwelcoming. How can you reach people if they are not welcomed?
104	Survey	I was disappointed to hear about the library getting rid of so many books regardless of their literary value
105	Survey	I was, repeat was, very proud of our Public Library. Now that terrible, more terrible and most terrible changes have been put into effect, I go into the library with blinders on. I do not want to see the rows of empty shelves. (My daily trips to the main library are not to enjoy a sense of space. Removal of empty shelves and library furniture does allow one to appreciate the high ceiling.) For decades the New Yorker magazine has been considered 'literary'. I wanted to read Sarah Vowel's essay on Lafayette which ran 2004 in the New Yorker. I approached a library, "Where have you moved the bound copies of the New Yorker?" "We moved them to the land fill." My head still reels. Courtesy of staff terminations, no one is there to monitor behavior in the Quiet Computer Lab. Computer user next to me made noise as he placed his hand into the vending machine size bag of potato chips. He crunched his way through that bag of chips. I found it most distracting. Five minutes after the snacking patron through the empty bag into the trash, another patron made a phone call. Sad that adults can forget that he/she is in a public space. Many seem to think that he/she at home, in front of the computer he/she owns. Pride in the Main Library is a thing of the past for me. I have volunteered twice with the ESL program - gave my two students a great deal of time. I now spend time wondering about morale amongst the librarians and (dwindling) staff who have served me so professionally since my arrival in Tallahassee 15 years ago.
106	Survey	being a "makers space" or a place for entrepreneurs. The library is a place for knowledge, not business. Stop throwing out all the books?! age 658 of 743 Posted May 17, 2021

#	Source	Comment
		I'm concerned that there seems to have been a huge culling of books, at least in the main branch; there
		was already room for expansion, and now the shelves look almost half-full. That, and the fact that the
		elevator at the main branch hasn't been fixed in months, makes me worry about the economic well-being
		of the Leon County Public Library, Let me be clear: I am NOT complaining about the staff and their service
107	Survey	IN ANY WAY. Just hope you guys are doing all right.
		It is very disheartening to see the library discard book that will be incinerated when there are people in the
		community who could benefit by having access to those books such as retirement centers, veterans,
		schools, the homeless in the park across from the library, teen centers, hospitals, churches and other
		places. You can't depend on people having access to the library through the internet to check out an e-
100	C	book. Pretty soon the people who work there are going to be thinking that they may be as dispensable as
108	Survey	the books.
		Last time I was there it felt big and empty. There was an event I was going to, I had to be taken to the
109	Survey	area due to it being hidden away. This caused the library to feel even more empty.
		Library staff is full of angels. Helpful and kind every time I come in. I am a little sad about making more
		community space as it means reducing shelf space for books, but understand that the need is there. The
		inner library loan system has been invaluable to me personally. The seed bank is great! I think emailing out
		when community resources are available (such as workshops and lectures) is a great way to inform people
110	Survey	who might not know about these events otherwise. Keep up the good work!
111	Survey	Noticed you are getting rid of lots of books and magazine subscriptions. Unfortunate.
112	Survey	Please bring back the daily New York Times subscription to the NE Branch. It was recently suspended.
		The library is providing books to the community. The removal of "older†books and reference
		material is a mistake. Technology is great but the absence of printed materials is providing a disservice to
		many who did not have the means to afford personal computers. Trying to change the library to a
113	Survey	"community†center, arts and crafts center is not what the library is for.
		The Northeast branch seems to be too particular with books and removes them from circulation for
114	Survey	"damage" that that doesn't affect the structure or text of the books (i.e. stains on the outside of pages).
		There are empty spaces in the Library! Where have all the books gone? What is the Library going to do with
115	Survey	the space? Where are all the librarians? I do not like how few people that are working for the library. The
115 116	Survey Survey	staff looks tired and stressed. Please fix this!!!! Very disappointed in recent disposal of materials of all kinds
	-	Very unhappy that the paperback book section has almost disappeared from the Main Library.
117	Survey	We use the library for homeschooling purposes and are seeing more and more books disappearing. This
		concerns us because this is how we create our children's curriculum, and with the books being thinned out
118	Survey	we may no longer be able to use the library for our needs.
		Yes. I'm devastated by your removing books from the library and your reference to not wanting the library
		to be a warehouse of books! By all means, provide digital books for those who want them, but don't take
		hard copies away from the rest of us! I have been going to the Tallahassee libraries since the 1980's. I
		refuse to use self-checkout. I recognize it for what it is: job elimination. I look forward to interacting with
		HUMANS when I'm at the library. Making innovative changes to the library is fine, but not when you're
		taking away what so many people love about a library. If you continue the path you are taking you will
		alienate an entire sector of the population, including me. Shame on you! I'm sorry to say this, but if I
		continue to see you eliminating jobs, eliminating human face to face interactions, and eliminating hard

#	Source	Comment
100		Yes. I am deeply saddened by the loss of thousands of physical copies of precious books. Not one of the options in this survey asked me how important BOOKS are to me as a library patron, but that is what I look for in a library. The lack of classic books, complete series, the feeling of thumbing through a new
120	Survey	storythat feels like the death of the library to me.
121	Survey	As you can see from my answers I use my library only for books & films. It is an absolutely excellent library. The collection is always up to date; the app is excellent; the digital offerings are great. I use the physical library weekly and the app/website almost daily. Thank you, Leon County!
		I'm a Tallahassee native, and I've utilized the library system here for many years. How I use the library has changed as my needs have changed. Currently, I like using digital resources, such as Overdrive/Libby and RBdigital, to check out ebooks and magazines (convenient!). However, the biggest library draw for me will always be physical books. I enjoy checking many types of books, such as adult fiction, young adult fiction, and adult nonfiction. My favorite thing about nonfiction is that there are so many things to learn and explore. I may be stressed about something, but I can check out a book and occupy my mind by learning a new skill or exploring a topic. I'd love to see more programming along these lines too life skills, or learning how to create(/do) something new. I feel like more resources and programming for seniors would also be helpful for members of the community. (Especially when navigating confusing topics such as health insurance!) I know the library is going through a lot of changes, and I hope it can maintain a good balance of what people are looking for in libraries. For example, being welcoming to families with children or groups who need to collaborate, but also offering a quiet space or cozy nook where people can read or study. Or having appealing digital materials, but also having a healthy print collection. I realize you can't make everyone happy, but I think it is important to have a library that is welcoming and useful for the whole community
122	Survey	many more years.

#	Source	Comment
		different locations based on the day and where I happen to be near. I love the switch to automatic
		renewels. The children's programming and staff are AMAZING. I think it's so fantastic that the library is
		letting out of county students get a library card if they attend school in the county. There are a few
		suggestions/pieces of feedback I do have: Efforts to request digital materials (audiobook, ebook) from
		diverse populations has not been successful. I'm not part of the LGBT+ community, but I love reading books
		by diverse authors. I've made several attempts, as have friends of mine who are part of the LGTB+
		community, to request digital materials (one of which has now won several awards), only for them to never
		be chosen for purchase. Despite there being a massive wait list on the minimal print collection. I
		understand there's been huge changes in digital materials over the last year, but it does feel like the library
		is missing key demographics on digital collections that appeal to diverse communities and the millennial
		age group. Which is unfortunate when so much research has come out over the last couple years about
		how millennials are some of the biggest library users across the country because of digital access. I know
		several people who chose not to renew their library card because they could never get access to the types
		of materials they wanted to read, and at a certain point, it starts to look discriminatory (not saying it isbut
		sometimes appearance can be more damaging than what's actually happening). Drop-off locations/lockers
		in desert areas. Our community is quite geographically large, and because of that, there are areas of our
		community that have a significant drive to get to a library location. While opening new locations isn't on
		the foray, it would be great if there were remote return bins or lockers in those sparse areas. I have to drive
		20-25 minutes either way just to get a library location, and sometimes, I have to return items late simply
		because I couldn't find the time to drive out of the way to get to a spot. I imagine it's even more of a barrier
		for people who don't have reliable transportation and live outside public transit. It'd be great if there were
		some drop off locations to return books. Fine free. If nothing else, fine free for kids would be a great step
		in the right direction. Library systems all over the country are jumping on this train because it increases
		users by removing barriers. Libraries of all budgets and sizes have made fine free work. Some of our
		neighboring counties have started developing their library of things and I'm jealous. Wakulla County
		residents can check out a pressure washer from their library. I'd love to see Leon County jump on that and
123	Survey	start checking out tools or other things to people.
124	Survey	Improve the book and media collection. 40 on the list for Where the Crawfish Sing
		It needs much more availability of current popular fiction - hard cover & e books. The waiting time for
125	Survey	popular books is absurd.
		L have found our local library involveble in finding heals my shildren ENLOV reading. When I talk to other
		I have found our local library invaluable in finding books my children ENJOY reading. When I talk to other
		parents from other counties I am always impressed at how large the Leon County library's books and
		audiobooks collection is, and how easily available through online recorded books or the actual physical
126	Survey	book or audio cd. I consider myself lucky to be in a county that values children and their literacy enough to
120	Survey	keep such a large selection available to them.
		I love the library. I read hundreds of books and the library allows me access to books, CD's and eBooks
127	Survey	without having to buy them, which is very valuable to me as a retired person living on a fixed income.
		continuing to expand services such as branch libraries and servicesContinuing to expand new
128	Survey	technology services while at the same time promoting and expanding book services.
		I have a home full of books, and much of what I read is esoteric and not available in a county public library.
		But when I hear of a book in a podcast or online that sounds interesting, I will often check for the
		availability at our library. That way, I can keep up with current thought a little better without investing in
129	Survey	extra texts.
		I use the overdrive app more than I visit the library (multiple times a week vs. Couple times per month). I
130	Survey	usually go to the physical library for children's books and activities or for meetings.
131	Survey	I value the book clubs, as well as the access to books, ebooks, magazines, reference texts.
		In the quest to provide more community services, please don't forget the primary mission of a library,
132	Survey	which is providing access to information, both digital *and* physical.

#	Source	Comment
		Longer hours each day of the week, new books dedicated to the smaller branches. More hard copy books,
		more ebooks, faster, safer internet, provide line of sight seating for laptop users to have good signal. Better
133	Survey	seating for laptop users. You are neglecting the smaller branches in less affluent areas.
		Love the library! Love looking through the stacks! Miss the card catalogue, but have adopted to the online
		version. Love the smel and tactile of the books. Can't experience that with online books. Keep the library a
134	Survey	libraryembrace the library!!
		Our libraries are great; however, I see changes that are making them less "friendly", with a lot of emphasis
		moving away from basic services and trying to be a social service agency. It is good to have the resources to
		refer people to or provide meeting spaces for organizations, but ultimately the best use of a library is to
		promote learning and exposure to ideas. Community discussions, etc. Providing artist space and spending
		money on crafting tools is not an essential service and I would rather see dollars spent on more trained
		staff, books, ebooks, etc. than work space for crafts and entrepeneuors. Those are fine if in ADDITION to
135	Survey	the funds allocated now, but adding all the extras does no good if you take funds from a library's mission.
	·	
136	Survey	Spend money on books (paper & digital) more than services because they can be used over and over.
		The on line book selection is very limited and too much urban fiction. Alachua County lets any Fl resident
		have a library card and their on line library is outstanding both in quantity and genre of books. Leon county
137	Survey	library could lean a lesson from Alachua County.
		The thing I like best about my library is the wide variety of books, both non-fiction, science, technology,
		things that teach, etc. and fiction, adventure, science-fiction, etc. There is something magical about seeing
		the display cases where you've highlighted certain books, staff pics, new books. I do think you could use
		more more audio books. We have a handicapped person who listens to them, and can't hold a regular
420	C	book. You should also advertise your online digital offerings more. I had no idea I could find so many
138	Survey	magazines that way, like Popular Mechanics.
		We love the library and go there frequently. My son is in 4th grade and LOVES to read, so he goes through
		books very quickly. Most of the books he reads are borrowed from the LC library or his school library. With
		schools and libraries closing we found ourselves searching for things for him to read. I was aware of the
		online books and materials but hadn't checked them out. We looked into these resources for something for
		him to read but found the options for elementary and middle school children to be extremely lacking. We
		love the selection in the libraries and have always found something for him to read. It would be great to
139	Survey	see additional offerings in the digital materials for the young readers.
		I check out books after placing holds for an actual book or on-line. It is very frustrating to always be the
		40+ (As high as 91) waiting list for a book. We need more books to make waiting times shorter. Sometimes
140	Survey	I give up & buy the book. Very frustrating.
		I'd love to see more new books at my branch as well as a feature to suggest which books the library should
141	Survey	acquire.
142	Survey	If a book has 10 or 20 holds perhaps you could purchase another copy asap??
		I've been a library user my whole life, in several different cities and always loved the experience. In the
		last few years I've been greatly disappointed with the lack of available books and the number of titles
1 1 7	Suprov	ordered. Hold lists are so long and the restriction on amount of time to have these books isn't reasonable
143	Survey	for working people.
144	Survey	Library could be a little more prompt getting new books in.
145	Survey	Not enough numbers of copies or titles requested, or have to return quickly if there's hold on them.
146	Survey	I use the large print collection. Need to be mid-range height to reach and read titles easily.
	· · ·	The Wall Street Journal news paper has been discontinued at the NE Library. It was more popular than the
147	Survey	NY Times. Please bring back the daily Wall Street Journal.
148	Survey	yes. Magazines should be availed be availed be availed by 17, 2021

#	Source	Comment
		I live in the main library, I visit 2 or times/week. One check-out staff recommended a book knowing what
		my reading tastes are. Been a member since 1981, when I moved here wed to a native. LOVE the children's,
		young adukt, large print, fiction sections & self check-out kiosks. THANK YOU FOR WISELY USING OUR FEW
149	Survey	TAX DOLLARS.
		I love my library. I visit weekly and haven't bought a book in many years. I get all my reading materials
150	Survey	here. I am old school and prefer paper over electronic materials.
		I love the library! I am there often checking out books and audio tapes, I am in a group that meets at the
		main library once a month and appreciate the space, thank you your great service to the community! I
		would like to see the main library not have paid parking, I think it might drive some people from not
151	Survey	accessing the library
152	Survey	I love the library. Please continue to make it grow it's offerings.
452	Comment	Our family laws the library My developed as here been been added to be added library states to be about the she
153	Survey	Our family loves the library. My daughter does her homework there, and we like to check out books.
4 - 4	C	Books and literacy are so important! I am so glad when a library allows me to have access to many different
154	Survey	books. Movies, not so much, but books are where I learn so much!
		I believe the library has a very important role in helping those individuals that are economically at risk for
		poor outcomes. So helping create community, access to the internet (help address the digital divide), paper
155	Survey	books for those without e-readers, job preparation classes etc.
156	Survey	Libraries with print books are an essential resource for the community.
		The library is essential to my life. I check out DVD movies, music CDs and books every week. I like the
157	Survey	Current Books display!
		The libraries should acquire more published books dealing with human health and related research, and
158	Survey	make available an online database of archived "Consumer Report" magazines.
159	Survey	A library is first about books. I wish there would be more.
160	Survey	always need books
		As important as community meeting spaces and access to technology are, a quiet space full of books is still
161	Survey	the main reason i use and enjoy the library!
162	Survey	Books, books, books!
		Books. Free. Lots of books. Quiet spaces; calming. Magazines, newspapers. Welcoming. Intergenerational.
		Helpful and knowledgeable staff. I have used two branches in addition to my closest branch and the main
		library. Consistent quality. I use Interlibrary Loan frequently. Appreciate the Author Alerts. I am in the
163	Survey	library at least twice a month, year-round.
164	Survey	Bring back the books! Self check-out is great, but librarians are better!
165	Survey	Buy new books
166	Survey	Cannot live without books
467	C	continue offering a good variety of books. Also if the book is part of a series, have the complete series.
167	Survey	Hate reading a series and it is not complete
168 169	Survey	Continue to provide magazines for checkout. Also, keep up the good services Enjoy the way the Library purchases timely hard copy and paper copy books.
170	Survey	For me personally, I wish there were more copies of new books offered.
170	Survey	Get more current books.
171	Survey Survey	Get more physical books.
1/2	Jurvey	I applied and got my job using library resources, vote at libraries, and read books at least once a month
		from different libraries across town. Thank you so much for providing this resource. I know I can always go
173	Survey	there no matter how much is in my bank account.
1,2		I believe that the library should continue to buy and provide books. This is the MOST important function of
174	Survey	the library.
±, 7		I believe the mission of the library should address education and enlightenment through use of the printed
		word and related media. Job fairs, craft facilities and the like should fall to the government and quasi-
175	Survey	government entities.
-	- /	

#	Source	Comment
		I borrow an average of 14 books per month. I greatly appreciate Kate having the library to borrow from as I
		could never afford to buy that many books. I appreciate the toddler time activities for my grandchildren at
176	Survey	NE branch. Great staff- always knowledgeable and helpful.
		I check out about 6 books every 3 weeks. I can't imagine my life without a public library. I go to the main
177	Survey	library. The staff are outstanding.
		I enjoy checking out real print books and would like you to build up your collection of inspirational novels.
178	Survey	Thanks!
179	Survey	I go to the library about once a week to check out books and DVDs that I put on reserve online.
		I grew up using the library when I lived at zip code 32309 and I always loved it. I love having physical books
		to read and it's important to have a resource for those who are struggling. Keeping libraries alive is super
180	Survey	important and I appreciate all they do to help.
		I hope the library stays true to its mission of providing BOOKS and other reference and learning materials
181	Survey	and doesn't try to become a social service agency.
		I like the library to be a place for research or check out movies and music. I do not think it should be a place
182	Survey	for internet service. Rooms should be available for organizations
		I like to think that libraries are concentrated on providing tools (books etc.) of research in every field to
		engage the mind, i.e., Plato, Socrates, etc. Science, Medicine, Law, Religions, the World Wars, science
		(current) such as Mikio Kaku, consequential figures such as as Charlemlagne. All good current books.
183	Survey	Social activities are for social arenas through the Parks and Recreation Department.
184	Survey	I LOVE BOOKS!!! And I also love books on CD :-)
185	Survey	I love checking out books from the library. I am not an E-reader.
		I love my library (the main library downtown) and go often to check out books, and especially books on CD.
		I also love to wander around and find books of interest that I will look through while I'm at the library. I go
		to the library and every 3-4 weeks and love to see all the activities going on. The staff is wonderful and
186	Survey	always helpful!
187	Survey	I love our library system and the fact that you always order books that I recommend for purchase.
		I love the children's programs! My kids enjoy their time at the library very much. We appreciate the library
188	Survey	as well as the number of available children's books in Spanish.
		I mostly use the library for books and movies. I like the idea of literacy programs and computer literacy
	_	programs. I hope the library focuses on a few core programs to be effective and not try to jump on too
189	Survey	many trends at once and not really do any of them well or get spread thin.
		I often wish the library carried more older books. Many times, books that I have wanted to get cannot be
		found at our library - particularly children and youth books. We need fewer popular/trendy books (fare akin
		to Dork Diaries) and more well-written classic books. With more higher-quality reading materials available,
		our community's children have more options to read books that challenge/build both their characters and
190	Survey	their thinking.
191	Survey	I primarily check out books and donate books.
		I really enjoy taking books etc out of the library. The people who help us checkout are always very helpful. I
192	Survey	enjoy talking to them.
193	Survey	I still love paper books, not everything needs to be electronic
40.5	C	I think of it as just for checking out books and I really prefer to buy books, even used ones, and keep them. I
194	Survey	like real books and don't use a reader because I get enough screen time otherwise.

#	Source	Comment
		I think the library is very well run and provides many useful services. It's great. Seems like everything we're
		involved in thinks it is the only thing we do and tries to get us to be over involved with them. I can't do
		everything justice by throwing my all into every activity. I'm glad the library has many programs for a wide
		variety of people who need them. I just read books and watch DVDs and don't need to be attending all
		kinds of seminars and watching or listening to extra things. I'm trying very hard to keep life simple. So I
		didn't attend your listening session. Every doctor appt, every purchase, everyone wants a survey and I'm
195	Survey	going to cut back on these things. To much "how did we do?"
100	c	I use books, audiobooks, and DVDs. Years ago I used the computers. I strongly urge maintaining a very
196	Survey	robust book collection of all genres and especially classic literature!!
		I use the library for two purposes equally: for my family's use (getting books for kids and myself) and as a
		space to tutor a young Congolese refugee in English and get her Internet access. We always get a computer
		fairly quickly but I'm stunned how many people use the computers. If I had a request and I realize it's a
		sensitive issue it would be to train and support librarians at the main library who must respond more to
		populations that can be challenging (outbursts, for example). They really do a good job and I haven't seen
		anything get out of hand, but it can feel dicey and dangerous to be on the computers with young teen girls
197	Survey	in that environment.
198	Survey	I wish there were newer nonfiction books and classes to learn spanish.
199	Survey	I would enjoy a larger selection of classic novels.
200	Survey	I would like a greater variety of books by foreign authors.
		I would like to see the library concentrate on upgrading its book and other collections. That should remain
201	Survey	the main focus of the library. Other services are fine but not necessarily part of a library's function. The
201	Survey	social worker/ politicization of library systems is well meaning but misplaced.
202	Survey	I've noticed ordering new books has lessened and my requests for inter library loans was refused. Not
203	Survey	happy with the branch manager at Northeast.
203	Survey	Just need the library for books on disc and hard back books.
205	Survey	keep buying books
206	Survey	Keep paperbacks; genre sections.
207	Survey	Keep the library safe, quiet, comfortable and a welcoming place to locate books and read!
		Keep up the great work. The library is an amazing, valuable community asset. I appreciate all the new books
208	Survey	and DVDs available, as well as the clean and high quality facilities. I love the library!
		Lean County Libraries Deckl. The selection of backs is outstanding. "The shility to renew/order backs
		Leon County Libraries Rock! The selection of books is outstanding. The ability to renew/order books on-line is so convenient. The main branch is extremely close to me. The reminders of renewal or
209	Survey	return time is time-saving. ~The meeting rooms are a good size, well-lit and the chairs are very comfy.
205	Survey	Love the convenience being in my community, Buck Lake Road area, and the supply of my favorite topics
210	Survey	books (murder mystery, mystery, and history.)
	Survey	Love the Lake Jackson Branch, the library staff are always helpful and friendly to all its patrons. Love their
		selection of children books, I just wish they had a larger graphic novel selection (very limited selection),
211	Survey	one of perks is that it's right next to a community center.
		Main duty as a taxpayer funded enterprise is to provide books, magazines, movies, etc. for loan. It is not
		your job to advocate values not shared by the vast number of taxpayers paying the bill. Tell those
		attempting to latch on the library as a source of support to raise their own funds and not expect a public
212	Survey	crutch.
213	Survey	Maintain the supply of books (in print)
214	Survey	Many books at Northeast branch are very outdated. Please work on gradually replacing them.
		More African-American authors and titles are needed. Quite often there is a long waiting list for these
215	Survey	titles because of the limited quantity ordered/available.
216	Survey	More authors please.Page 665 of 743Posted May 17, 2021

#	Source	Comment
		More books for educated readers. Inter-library loan is great, but many titles I have borrowed thusly should
217	Survey	have been on our shelves.
218	Survey	More compact discs; more audio books on CDs for the elderly; keep books.
219	Survey	More non-fiction books and more natural lighting are needed in the libraries.
		My daughter says that she likes that her library has so many books. I like the early voting setup. I do not
220	Survey	like the new self-checkout machines. It was easier to take our books to a librarian to check out.
221	Survey	My primary vision of the library is as a source of books, possibly as a place to read in quiet and comfort.
	Survey	
		NE branch of library needs a better selection and more staff to help patrons. Downtown library needs
222	Survey	cleaning and face lift! They must also do something about their homeless person problem.
223	Survey	Need more graphic novels
224	Survey	Need more large print books
225	Survey	Need the Wall Street Journal!!!
		Our library system should focus on reading materials being kept available to the public. I would like to see
		the satellite library locations open 7 days a week. Literacy programs are great for youth and adult as it
		pertains to reading. The library system should not be participating in educational programs on other topics
		(economic or healthcare, etc.) as we already have state and community funded programs in place that are
226	Survey	paid for by tax dollars.
		People in my age group are needing larger print books, Most of the books I check out are those. I am
		finding that I have read most of them at least twice (Amish is my favorite) the library can never have too
227	Survey	many large print books for our aging population who are big users of library services.
228	Survey	Please do not give up on ordering actual physical books. Not everybody wants to read electronic books.
229	Survey	Please keep adding books and movies.
	Survey	Please, keep actual books. I love actually holding one, and often carry them a distance offshore on my
		sailboat weekends. And, they don't need a battery recharge in order to view them. Just a glass of wine to
230	Survey	recharge the reader, when at anchor behind Dog Island.
231	Survey	Quality of literature stocked in library has been on the decline over the past 10 years
		Reference materials for purusal not check out seems to be very important to patrons. Physical books are
232	Survey	also vital
	1	Some of the items I selected that would encourage me to linger in the library are not offered at the Jane
233	Survey	Sauls branch
234	Survey	Such a blessing to have access to books and movies for me and the grandchildren.
		The biggest draw for me of the library is traditional books. I love to read. Libraries are more than just
		books, but they are what is most important to me. The Leon County library has a great selection of
		books, but it is occasionally frustrating when it will have most of the books in a series but be missing one or
		two in the middle. My experiences with staff at the Leroy Collins and Eastside branches have been
		fantastic. They have always been upbeat, helpful, and friendly whenever I've needed help finding
235	Survey	something.
		The book collection is poor and when I asked about inter library loans the employee involved didn't know
236	Survey	anything about that.
237	Survey	The book collection is woefully outdated and inadequate.
		The branch location closest to me does not seem to have many books in the genres that I am interested in.
238	Survey	I would likely go to the library more if it did.
239	Survey	The diversion of funds to purchase digital items in lieu of physical books is becoming a great frustration.

#	Source	Comment
		The first and primary function for a public library is still to provide thoughtfully selected reading materials for its patrons. These materials should reflect various points of view and not have a bias in one direction or another. There are not any other sources in this county (unless you have access to the universities) for free
240	Survey	reading materials. Please expand your collections and do not critically dilute your book purchasing financial resources by trying to be all things to the community.
240	Survey	The library has great resources and wonderful staff but there needs to be cameras at all branch to help
		with security efforts. Also print magazine are essential to the browsing and leisure activity of using the
241	Survey	library.
242	Survey	The library is very important to me because it is where I get the books I want to read and I prefer books in hand rather than ebooks.
		The library should focus primarily on the written word. The library should not be available for commercial
		business activities. Commercial activity that supports the arts is appropriate (for sale art shows, arts classes,
243	Survey	etc.). The library should carry a robust collection of diverse journalism- save the news business!
244	Survey	The main library almost always has the books I want to read.
245	Survey	The most important mission for the library is to provide books for the community.
246	Survey	They get newly published books in quickly.
		Things that draw me to the library that were not included in this list are: the smell of books, the quiet
247	Survey	nature of the stacks and the wide variety of stories to be found in the library
		Very adequate, particularly considering I don't pay any money directly for the service. The library I attend is
		not large, NE branch, but the service is very good and helpful.My only gripe is the number of books is not
248	Survey	great due to the size of the building.
		Yes Eastside Branch need more books for AR readers to make their goals in school. Also, need some new
249	Survey	books and more on animals, life skills.
		add more to the digital library of your app along with adding the ability to communication between other
250	Survey	users within my library area to coordinate reading groups and other things
251	Survey	Bigger selection of audio & e books available through the app.
		Libraries are a dying breed. If you can somehow go more electronic that would be best. I've tried Kanopy
252	Survey	and some of the other electronic services but they were mediocre at best
		I absolutely LOVE the Libby app. I listen to audio books almost daily because of the selection and ease of
253	Survey	use. In fact, the only thing I find hard about it is choosing!
254	Survey	I love being able to check out audio books via app. I just wish there were more available and more copies of the popular books.
		I love the Eastside branch. I visit almost every week. I also really appreciate being able to search books
255	Survey	online and place them on hold to pick up at Eastside. And I love Kanopy and Libby.
		I love the Libby App and the new RB App with the option to learn languages and read magazines. The seed
256	Survey	library and your children's selection is also wonderful. You have great services!
		I've found the Leon county library app, the Libby app, and other digital services to be incredibly helpful.
		The staff and facility at my local branch (lake jackson) are wonderful and have everything we need. We've
		enjoyed several children's events there (Andy's room, candy land, game days, voting) and are grateful it's
		all close to home. We enjoy the option of going to the downtown branch on Sunday afternoons when
		others are closed. The LJ branch staff are friendly and knowledgeable and have helped maximize my
		benefit of the available digital options for access to library materials and resources. We also love the ability
		to place items on hold and pick them up. I really love Leon county libraries and am so grateful for the many
257	Survey	many resources hey provide!
		Outstanding Library and library branches. The E-Reader digital book/audiovisual checkout and reading
		program and it's app "Libby" are wonderful for all agesincreases convenience, access and use of library
_		resources, but for many of us seniors, enables us to happily continue as lifelong learnersso especially,
258	Survey	thanks for this program. Page 667 of 743 Posted May 17, 2021

#	Source	Comment
259	Survey	Thank you for providing audiobooks through the Libby and RBDigital apps
260	Survey	We need more digital books. I love Libby!
261	Survey	I wish the wait time for digital books and audiobooks was not as long. So many of us are utilizing our local library via an app like Overdrive or Libby and so many of the titles I'm interested in have a 6 month+ waiting list. I don't mind waiting a few weeks to receive a book but 6 months and longer is too long.
262	Survey	I would like to see more non-traditional items in the library's collection, and a greater diversity of titles in ebooks. Also, I live more than 3 miles from any library branch, which makes it difficult to retrieve holds or get books back in time. Please consider adding library lockers or at least book drops to community centers.
263	Survey	If the library offers the services that were included in this survey, I was unaware. Some of them sound very helpful, but I had no idea they were offered. I think residents tend to forget about the library as a resource, so it might be helpful to promote the services that are offered. Some outlets for promoting that directed to parents could include Fun4TallyKids and the TallyMomsStayConnected Facebook group. One thing that I didn't see in the survey was about the actual literary resources and their adequacy. We haven't utilized the book checkout services recently, but I was recently disappointed with the wait times for digital audiobooks through the Libby app. We love the availability of the children's story times, and attend those often (except when voting displaces them). Thank you for providing valuable resources to our community.
264	Survey	In this day and age, with so much of the world being digital, I am appalled at the lack of digital material offered by the Leon County library system. I moved here 4 years ago from Collier County where they have a plethora of digital material available. It was also easy to request that they purchase digital materials when they didn't have something that I had an interest in reading. If Leon County doesn't have the funds to expand their digital library, then they should consider some type of inter-library loaning system for digital material. I don't know if that exists, but it should. Leon County residents should have access to the same materials as all the libraries in the state.
265	Survey	Shorter waits for best sellers. An easier web site for getting audible books. Someone with expertise particular to Kindle. Return books without going through a librarian.
266	Survey	Your digital selection is shameful. It is rare to find an ebook that i am looking for. Whether it be a classic, best seller, self help, anything! This is the capitol of the state of Florida. It is shameful. I use my old address to another states library selection because you guys have no ebooks. Love the online book options. This could be expanded as I would prefer not to take the time to visit the
267	Survey	library to take out a book. Love the DVD options. Do not find kanopy very "watchable". Hoopla would be better.
268	Survey	Please, increase the amount of Christian digital books available! I use RB Digital and Overdrive alot and I have a very difficult time finding new books.
269	Survey	I LOVE my library and particularly like all the on line resources!
270	Survey	I love my library and the services offered. More ebooks are needed.
271	Survey	I love our libraries! The seed bank is wonderful and I enjoy the digital resources which I recommend to my students.
272	Survey	I, and my wife, are very frequent library users and we love it. From books to dvds to digital elements to the seed library, it is one of the best things about living in Tallahassee
273	Survey	Love the library. Have always liked libraries. Expand books and audiobook materials available online.
274	Survey	I enjoy the library, but do not use it so much due to electronic books, but want services to be available to those who need it

#	Source	Comment
		Yes. I moved here from a Chicagoland community and the library there has vibrant community programs,
		art displays, meeting spaces, educational and informational presentations, book clubs, and on and on. They
		had a social worker for the homeless people who used the library. Please build up your ebook collection - it
		is pitiful. Please allow Interlibrary loans - they seem to be nonexistent. A library is the heart of a
275	Survey	community.
276	Survey	A diverse selection of e-books would be appreciated
277	Survey	Absolutely love ebooks and audiobook!!! Keep expanding, please. Also, enjoy the DVDs often.
		Access to ValueLine and Morningstar online is very important. I'm sorry that they have cut back on
278	Survey	newspapers in the NE branch library.
		Already stated but the staff are helpful, knowledgable and responsive. The electronic/digital resources are
279	Survey	excellent.
		As we move more towards digital media, more ebook and audio downloads are crucial. Less physical media
280	Survey	and more a safe place with comfortable, quiet areas.
		Audio books are great for people who can't get to the libraryjust download the app and listen
281	Survey	foreverneed a better variety of audio books
282	Survey	Availability of e-books for checkout is very important to me.
		Being a "senior citizen" and working full time, I love the availability of online audiobooks. I use this service
		extensively. I would ask that "urban" themed audiobooks/Kindle books aimed at teens be continued as
202	C	long as there is a positive usage response from teens, etc. for these topics. Please also continue offering
283	Survey	selections for adults. These audiobooks can be great company for the older folks.
284	Survey	Better digital and audiobook availability
205	C	Digital choices are poor CloudLibrary is an option on home page but Leon County Library isn't an option
285	Survey	We can't use it
		Digital media needs to move forward. Availability to a wide range of ebooks through Overdrive needs to
		be improved. The small offering of new ebooks added to the library is not enough for a thriving college
		community. The inability to provide suggestions to the library on ebooks that those in the community
		would like to read is years behind services provided by other libraries with similar Overdrive systems. Many
		people own devices to read ebooks but I would venture that the lack of advertising by the library and the
		lack of hands on connection with the community keeps the readership of ebooks lower than potentially
296	<u>Curryov</u>	possible. Believe in the future and provide the service at a high and professional level.
286	Survey	
207	Currier	Don't get around too well at this time so really enjoy checking out kindle reading books!! Thanks for your help in this area when I can't figure it out!!
287	Survey	
288	Survey	Especially enjoy downloading library materials
289 290	Survey	expand digital offering Great digital resources
290	Survey	
291	Survey	Great facility (Eastside); great staff! Collection could utilize more e-books and financial information.
		I am 86 and love reading. I now get all my books on kindle from our library. I have used the library since
292	Survey	we arrived here in the 60's. What a wonderful gift!
		I am a teacher at a local private school. I use the Woodville library most every week. They assist me with
		books for my classroom, with professional and personal books for me personally, with entertainment
		options for my son (he loves digital books and the movie selections offered at the library, and we often
		check out assigned reading he needs for his high school classes.) I have also attended community and civic
		meetings that pertain to my area at the Woodville library. Their art classes, Harry Potter events, their
293	Survey	kindness and professionalism-I love my local library and librarians!

#	Source	Comment
		I am disabled and have mobility issues so I rely on the library's reserve system for accessing books. I am not
		able to go to the library and browse the shelves. My main concern is that the library maintains an up to
		date catalogue of books and digital media. I am not sure how the library can play a role in some of the
		areas that your survey asks because all I care about is having a library with an extensive, broad catalogue of
		books and digital materials. It may be that my needs are more traditional. If the library starts providing
		other services as suggested by your survey questions will it have the budget to meet these new services as
		well as maintain its catalogue? Right now I am very happy with the Leon County library system and think
204	Comment	it's one of the best things about living in Tallahassee. I hope it will continue to provide the books that I
294	Survey	want to read.
205	Company	I am glad that I have the opportunity to download a book from their shelf. It has been very convenient
295	Survey	when I travel or when I was restricted to the house.
200	Comment	I am impressed with the library's Kanopy digital service and the ability to stream the Great Courses
296	Survey	Unlimited, which I use for both myself and my children.
297	Survey	I am really appreciate free access to RB Digital.
		I am retired and mostly check out books and audio books online at this stage of my life. I appreciate the
298	Survey	online library very much. You do a wonderful job! Thank you to all the volunteers!
		I appreciate the increased availability of digital books; my vision is limited and I can increase the size of the
299	Survey	font so I can read books that are otherwise unavailable to me.
		I believe mean nearly would use the Main library of a community resource if it was more presented. Use ins
		I believe more people would use the Main library as a community resource if it was more accessible. Having
		to pay for parking is a detriment, as is the limited number of parking spots. I realize there is an overflow lot,
		but that one does not even offer 90 minutes of free parking, so that is not a real option for many people.
		Furthermore, the current parking gates in the main parking lot are borderline unusable. The lack of a
		functioning elevator is something that makes the library largely inaccessible to people who struggle with
		mobility issues and needs to be fixed as soon as possible. I love the focus on adding more digital items. I would like to see more programming oriented towards people in my age bracket: 20s to 30s. I'm definitely
		interested in attending more programming, but most of it isn't interesting to me. I love the library, but the
		decor is outdated and it could definitely use some renovations to make it a more appealing place to hang
		out in. It's cleanliness leaves something to be desired. Ultimately I really enjoy the resources that the library
300	Survey	provides and I hope it can continue to be a resource in the future.
300	Jurvey	
301	Survey	I enjoy the Overdrive account, Big read and other online book discussions, and the art and cultural displays.
		I enjoy using the library to find books and DVDs. The variety offered is outstanding. The more books, DVDs
302	Survey	you can push to streaming (Kindle, Hoopla, etc.) would be wonderful.
		I hardly visit the library, except to get my library card. When I access the library, it is via online to read
303	Survey	articles and get fund reports on Morningstar. Access to that site is key for me.
304	Survey	I have a disability and find the online services of great assistance.
		I have been happy to see a growing number of digital books added to the library. Would like to see more. It
305	Survey	is convenient and easily accessible to everyone in this age of the internet.
306	Survey	I like access to Kanopy and inter-library loan.
		i love having a branch library right in my neighborhood! and i love the availability of digital ebooks and
		audiobooks. i have been a lifelong reader and my parents made a point to take us to the library regularly
		from a very early age. i don't think a lot of people know what great resources the library has. i gush about
307	Survey	the library every chance i get!
		I love the downtown main library, which is the one I use. The library staff are always very welcoming. I also
		appreciate the seeds program. Right now, I am away from home, and so appreciate electronic book check-
308	Survey	out.

; I wish there were more of these books. I would / Luck Club or Rebecca. I've read the classics. I
/ Luck Club or Rebecca. I've read the classics. I
and 00'. I live in Quincy and "buy" a library card.
also have to use AXIS which is a pain. I LOVE
diobooks. THANK YOU for giving Gadsden County a
that the are adaptive and responsive to changes in
electronic media
d love it if the library had more of them. I often
the books I want when Leon County doesn't offer
use many people don't have transportation but
ad for fun. I love the library system in Leon
ontinued expansion of ebook availability. Thanks
ce as well as books in the Library.
also use the various digital media (mostly
hen I moved here ten years ago. I use audiobooks
ction of ebooks, especially newer releases.
books available for checkout.
ital books - both audio and ebook type format.
ke to have more audiobooks available and have
s phones, computers and tablets. I think the
n they are finished reading personally owned
reading, literacy and the spread of knowledge but
ervices center. I like the library's website and think
ervices center. Tike the library's website and think
n the library in a digital format (kindle)
ems to be a wait for most I would be interested in.
·
esources. Ideally, I'd like to access the FSU library
d business peer reviewed journals. Thanks
e) especially during the closure due to Covid-19.
overdrive, in addition to visiting the library and

#	Source	Comment
		It would be great to have statewide access to some of the business oriented on-line databases, accessable
		from home with a current library card. For example Jstor, Investext, professional journal articles in
333	Survey	business/engineering/technology/science/medicine, etc.
334	Survey	It would be nice if more books were available as e-books.
335	Survey	Like to see more books on line and audio books online
336	Survey	Love Kanopy and being able to download ebooks
337	Survey	Love the ability to get books online, esp in light of what is happening with Covid 19
338	Survey	Make library assets available on line in digital form.
339	Survey	Maybe a digital library
340	Survey	More access to e-books throughout the system
		More digital books, movies, and music needed. I'm not going to make it physically to the library any more. I
341	Survey	want more available online and so do my college students.
342	Survey	More digital ebooks and audiobooks available to rent/checkout, please.
		More digital resources like online books and online classes. I would love to see a more inviting coffee shop
343	Survey	atmosphere at the library and places to get work done.
344	Survey	More ebooks would be nice
345	Survey	More kindle books
346	Survey	More Kindle options please.
347	Survey	More online fantasy and science fiction books would be great.
348	Survey	More videos and audio books
349	Survey	Need more digital books
350	Survey	Need wider ebook selection
351	Survey	on-line access to ebooks is an important option
352	Survey	Online services (catalog search, book hold, wish list) are outstanding.
		Our library (the main one for sure) needs to be more present in the community. It is a wonderful resource
		in all respects: Books, audio options, e-options, training in use of Ipads, etc. etc. The community needs to
		know MORE about our library and what we offer that helps sustain our community and, indeed, our
353	Survey	democratic society.
		Parking, safety, and availability of digital media (audiobooks, online access to books, reference material
		available online, etc.) are the most important consideration to me, personally. I also believe that the library
		should be a place where individuals with limited means in the community can go to access the internet for
		job searches, etc. It would be wonderful if the library were able to offer classes on how to create a resume,
		how to prepare for job interviews, how to dress professionally, and other more specific job skills. I think
		that many members of the community would benefit from classes like this, as many of my tenants have
354	Survey	trouble finding employment and staying employed.
355	Survey	Please buy more audiobooks
		Please increase your catalog of audiobooks for the Libby and RBDigital apps. I love these services. Thank
356	Survey	you!
357	Survey	Please make audiobooks more available
		Please thank the library staff or their professional dedication. Aslo, please let the county commissioners
		know that digital access and wider choices are a life-line to many citizens who would be lost and/or isolated
358	Survey	if taken away or curtailed in any manner.
		Regarding media access, please (re-)expand the amount of DVDs and Blu-Rays. I notice the library has been
		cutting down on these. While Kanopy is nice to have, its visual media selections are *very* limited.
		Additionally, the library may want to look into additional media such as video games/VR games and create
359	Survey	a checkout system for them.
		Study areas. More ebook and online content. Cozy atmosphere. Coffee shop. Partner with local artists. Host
360	Survey	farmers market.
		The ebook selection could use some expanding. In particular, I find that the selection seems (to me) to be
361	Survey	heavily geared towards women. I have a hard time finding books I think I will enjoy.

#	Source	Comment
		The ebooks and audio books, although expanded, are still limited. Please consider expanding the collection.
362	Survey	I use the Alachua library instead.
		The first question asked when was the last time I visited the library. It's been a long time but I use the
363	Survey	digital borrowing regularly! My first few answers didn't allow this to be reflected.
		The Lake Jackson Branch Library is great! I also enjoy being able to check out books, ebooks, and audio
364	Survey	books online.
		The library has always been a place I love to visit. There are so many opportunities and tools available for
		people through the library; however, it's not being conveyed (marketed) enough. Technology is propelling
		libraries into an age where hard copies and materials are a thing of the past. Now it's time to catch up with
365	Survey	the times and develop a project that supports technology, branding and community involvement.
		The library is a terrific asset and opens up a new form of reading for my wife and I who patronize your
366	Survey	audio books.
367	Survey	The NE branch does a great job and the OverDrive system works well.
		The staff at the Eastside library is fantastic! I would love to have more people aware of the availability of
		online content through the library, such as e-books, audiobooks, movies, magazines, etc. I don't think it is a
368	Survey	very well-known resource.
		Use the digital library services several times a week, so don't often go in to a branch. I more frequently use
		the Alachua County library system because they are offered for all Florida residents and have a much more
369	Survey	extensive collection of digital materials.
370	Survey	want to look into audiobooks through library
		We have amazing libraries. My daughters love to spend time there, and now your digital options are
371	Survey	fantastic. Our Girl Scout troop relies on your meeting spaces. Keep up the good work.
372	Survey	We need a library on the Southeast side again. Also need a larger nonfiction ebook selection on Libby.
373	Survey	We need more digital copies of audio books. Some books have several months on their waiting lists.
373	Survey	We think the library system in Leon county is marvelous, particularly the NE library and the on-line services.
374	Survey	We visit the library at least twice a week.
574	Survey	While I don' physically visit the library, I access the library's books via the internet and read many books
375	Survey	digitally.
376	Survey	would like more audiobooks available through the library apps
377	Survey	Would like more digital media availability.
		Would like more ebooks available for checkout - like new Jayne Krentz, Anthony Williams, Bright Lines
378	Survey	Eating, Debbie Macomber
379	Survey	would like more ebooks, specifically kindle
380	Survey	would like more online accessibility to digital and audio books and dvds
381	Survey	Would like to see an increase in the number of audiobooks available.
382	Survey	Would like to see increased availability of e-books.
		Would love to see a bigger collection of audible books on Libby. Like most my friends, we listen to many
383	Survey	each week.
384	Survey	would love to see more books on digital.
385	Survey	Would love to see more ebooks available.
386	Survey	Yes, more ebooks PLEASE and of a higher literary nature.
		Allowing longer checkout time (monthly) for books, allowing more holds & books to be checked out at a
		time, making the search function online & in the app better, offering classes for homeschool community
387	Survey	(art, STEM), offering health & fitness classes for community, quality programs for pre-teens & teens
		The app is good but confusing about reservation because terms are inconsistent. Hold, waiting, placed all
388	Survey	need to be aligned with the website. Thanks.

#	Source	Comment
		I am utilize the overdrive/Libby ebooks access all of the time, but I wish there was an easier way to request
		books be added to the subscription easily. I have started multiple series, but haven't been able to finish
389	Survey	them because the library doesn't have access to the next books through overdrive.
		More library locations are needed in Tallahassee. The DVD's selection is great. Kanopy should be
		deprecated. A suggestion box at all local branches to improve all libraries. More game nights like chess
390	Survey	and board games. More social groups at libraries.
		Please get Hoopla for the online digital media service. The currently 'Libby' service is highly lacking and very
204		limited in content. We had Hoopla when we lived in Michigan and it was an incredible resource for our
391	Survey	entire family.
392	Survey	I love the mobile AP. I love our Leon country library!
		Vec Here using Likhy I think more conject. Would use it if they had some training sessions. Hive outside
202	Survey	Yes, I love using Libby. I think more seniors. Would use it if they had some training sessions. I live outside
393	Survey	of Leon co. Now, so I purchase a library card each year. Libraries are essential to all communities. A service isn't a service to anyone that doesn't know about it. The County must invest in advertising library
		services. People need to know that it is more than just books. Also, thanks for being a participating library
394	Sunov	
394	Survey	system with the Libby app. I enjoy electronic audio books using the Libby app. I don't go to the library often but every time I have been
395	Survey	there has been a pleasant experience.
395	Survey	I frequently check out books on Overdrive and Libby
390	Survey	I have started using the online Libby application to listen to and read many books! It is so easy for me to
397	Survey	download a book in order to enjoy, especially with my busy schedule.
398	Survey	I like the new app. I like the interlibrary loan opportunities.
550	Survey	The the new app. The the internotary loan opportunities.
399	Survey	I love my branch library. Also, your interlibrary loan program is excellent. And I love the e-books app.
400	Survey	I love the downloadable apps the library offers
401	Survey	LIBBY is wonderful. I use it when traveling. Thanks!!!
402	Survey	Love listening thru Libby and Overdrive.
403	Survey	Love the library app and audible books on Libby.
		The reason I don't visit the library very often is because it's difficult to get to with a car. Parking downtown
		is a nightmare and our public transportation system is awful. However, I use your digital and audio book
404	Survey	app, Libby, all the time and I love it!
		This place is great for people of all ages it has resources out of this world including this like Libby so you can
		read at home this is also good for the charging station for the new model cars you also have a usb port and
		a work station to design your own art but best of all its is available for resources of many Lands books soon
405	Survey	to be published from this Land of a Native of this land originally Polly Austin
		We use the Libby app which is a convenient way to access the library. I have found a lot of people are not
406	Survey	familiar with that app.
		I believe strongly that libraries should be a SAFE place for patrons to browse books and other materials,
		read, work, etc. I am concerned that opening the space to certain proposed uses such as food pantries will
		bring in members of the community who might scare or make people feel uncomfortable. Oftentimes
		these people have other issues beyond food security (drug and mental health problems). There's a place
		for food pantries for sure, such as mobile food pantries or Second Harvest's warehouse, but I don't think
		the library is that place. I do enjoy browsing the for-sale books, but wish the libraries would post an online
407	Survey	database of what's available. It would help to know that a book I'm looking for is available for purchase and
407	Survey	also give me a chance to research the available books before coming to the library to purchase them.

#	Source	Comment
		At my previous location (Orange Co.) I was able to order books via email and the book would be mailed to me in a returnable pkg. That is a wonderful service for housebound folks like me. I would love it if Leon Co
		would offer this service. If the library can't afford the service, perhaps a \$1. chg per order could cover postage and returnable pkg. I was disappointed to learn that all genealogy materials were located in the
		State Library which is nearly impossible for disabled folk to get to. (Parking garage too far away to walk to
408	Survey	state library.) I love books, I love the library and everybody who makes these materials available. But mail service would really increase my enjoyment!!
409	Survey	Connect online book access to all the libraries in FL
		Definitely. I would like for our local library off Thomasville Rd to start a genealogy resource center for
		those of us who are researching our heritage. More resource materials needs to be available in the library.
		The library needs to be linked to other resource libraries throughout the country. That would be fantastic.
410	Survey	Thank you for considering this request.
		I appreciate the library system we have here. I have been avoiding returning since I have accrued hefty fees
		after losing an item during a move last year, which I know is silly, but still the reality of the situation. I wish
		there could be a fee-alternative, such as donate 10 good-quality items to the library to negate the fee.
		Further, I enjoy collecting seeds from the seed library, I appreciate the storytime for my children, and I like
		the inter-library reservation & collection system (no wonder our library system is award-winning- talk about
		convenience!). I do think that incorporating a coffee shop would *tremendously* appeal to people of all
411	Survey	ages, and allow people to bring books into the shop area.
		I believe that this survey is a great start to begin the discussions around improving our libraries. All
		Libraries are needed and are fundamental to our community. Another option to consider is a mail order
412	Survey	book rental. Where you check out the book and it is shipped to you and you return it once you finish it.
		I believe we have a strong library system in Leon County. Have always been happy with it. One note is that
		anytime I typically want to try to reserve a book, it's almost never available or has a long waiting list. This is
410	Cum iou	not true of my wife and kids, however. It's probably just the types of things that I might check out (most
413	Survey	recently, keto cookbooksso, very popular/trendy). I enjoy books on tape, that I download from the library, but when I'm getting ready for a long trip, there are
		not many available for download. I also don't like it when the library automatically download the items on
414	Survey	hold. I may not need them at that particular time.
	· ·	I find the Thomasville Road library to be excellentstaff and services are outstanding. The wait time for
415	Survey	requested books seems to have increased a good bit in recent years.
		I go to the library of least and a weak to shack out backs and DV/Ds. Evenyone at the Northeast Branch is
		I go to the library at least once a week to check out books and DVDs. Everyone at the Northeast Branch is great! I do not like your recent changesretreiving your pick-ups from shelves, trying to push self-
		checkout, etc. Because of the ABC order, my pick up books are always on the bottom shelf. This is hard for
416	Survey	Seniors. Even having to walk to a different section is difficult for some of us!
		I love baby time, special events, friends library store, and inter library loans. I have found many of the
		books I wanted to read either in the county library or through interlibrary loan. However I wish the books I
417	Survey	wasn't able to get from interlibrary lons were available some other way either electronically or something.
		I love checking out books from the library. I would really appreciate if the time to check out books was
418	Survey	raised from 3 weeks to 4 weeks just so that I have time to enjoy the book without rushing
		I would like my library account to include a feature that allows me to "save" items that I am interested in,
419	Survey	rather than have to place an immediate hold on them.
		It would be extremely beneficial to either partner with the post office or provide designated drop off boxes
120	Survey	around the community to better serve citizens who don't have transportation to return books. Also, access should be provided for people togher to for the serve citizens who don't have transportation to return books. Also, access should be provided for people togher to for the serve citizens who don't have transportation to return books. Also, access should be provided for people togher to for the serve citizens who don't have transportation to return books. Also, access should be provided for people togher to for the serve citizens who don't have transportation to return books. Also, access should be provided for people togher togh
420	Survey	ירטונע שב איטענע וטו אבטאוב נמאאפעא שערשאנומו וומנצוומו וומנצוומו ווטווו וטוווצ. רטונע וואמא ווי, 2021

#	Source	Comment
		It would be great to have some library drop off box locations which are located not at a branch location but
		places in between libraries. It is sometimes a challenge to get to a branch to drop off loaned materials.
		Please consider some drop off only locations around the county. This would help transportation
421	Survey	disadvantaged and save on fuel consumption. Thank you.
		The NEB staff is great. Being a tech person I get the self serve check out and now picking up holds myself,
		but is so impersonal and cold. When checking out in person, I could have a quick chat with the person
		checking me out about popular books I might want to add to my to read list. Now that is gone. Please don't
		remove all the opportunities to interact with the staff. And please move the self check out stations
		opposite the staff desks. Again, it currently looks very uninviting and creates a barrier to the staff,
422	Survey	something I don't think you intended.
423	Survey	US Postal Service library book return service. (?)
		Very disappointed that the library stopped providing CDs for audiobooks. I have adjusted to the digital and
		enjoy it however the amount of holds that can be requested are only 10 which is way too small for my
424	Survey	desires and also the wait time is so much longer than it was with the CDs.
425	Survey	We need a book drop box near Apalachee Pkwy and Cap Circle where the Library used to be.
426	Survey	Would like more curbside services for disabled and retired. Would like a drop off location to donate books.
		Would like more open hours at the Lake Jackson branch. Would like an outside book drop at the Lake
427	Survey	Jackson branch.
428	Survey	Would like to see drop off boxes for books, cds, etc. around the community
120	Survey	good library. like the Friendship store selling used books and audio books. Great community we're new
429	Survey	but like it a lot.
430	Survey	I really enjoy volunteering for the main branch and I appreciate the people I work for.
		As a public relations/communications professional organization, Sachs should have had a back button on
		this survey. Without it, it is impossible for me to go through the survey and then go back to look at my
		responses. Additionally, you did not provide an option for people without access to email to respond. This
		shuts out a large segment of library patrons and potential patrons. Did you consider providing reasonable
		accommodations pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act??? Please provide a way for Leon County
		residents to respond if they do not have access to a computer, and for patrons and library supporters such
		as myself to respond after having looked through the entire survey without logging my responses. I'm very
431	Survey	unimpressed with Sachs at this point.
432	Survey	Ask about favorite authors so more of their books can be ordered
		Check out Weston A Price Foundation, become a member and carry his bookNutrition and Degenerative
433	Survey	disease
		Comfort Stations during disasters or extended power outages: it would be possible to provide a space for
		kennels so that companion animals can be kenneled in a cool environment (as they do at human shelters).
		Just takes some willingness to explore the possibilities with with an animal welfare organization that has
434	Survey	such expertise.
435	Survey	Do you use retired teachers for 3rd grade summer tutoring in reading?
		Every individual library should pick its main topic of interest what's in World issues. Like nuclear waste. Are
		plastics in the ocean. Development or whatever can help human Society and the human race that can do
436	Survey	the most for educating the children of tomorrow
		For ticketed events, please honor pre-registrations by reserving seating and/or reserving any
		complimentary items until at least the event ends. Allow those who followed the advertised instructions to
		register because "space is limited" to enjoy the benefits of registration. If you are unable to honor
437	Survey	registrations in this way, then do not require registration or tickets for events.
438	Survey	Gun safety needs to be at the top of everyone's list.
1		Have the new rentals/DVD's displayed, so they are more available, the Thomasville library puts them in a
439	Survey	box on the table, then I know where for the form of the form of the form of the book of th
		the state of the s

	ne by me and help implement some of these programs
I believe that the city and county	should work together to move the Senior Center from its current building
on Monroe Street, to a more acc	essible venue, such as unused space at the Tallahassee Mall or Northwood
Mall, when renovated, and then a	add in multi-generational programs. Parking and accessibility are limited
at the current location, prohibitin	ng the kinds of intergenerational programs that have been proven to be
441 Survey effective.	
	y because my wife does, and we just use hers.
	a printed temporary log-in. There are far too many pop-ups reminding me
	c. I get deep into writing and these pop-ups keep interrupting. Very
	reminded so often. Let me know only if I will be logged off in 10 minutes
	ers. That gives me time to wrap it up. Otherwise, only irritating
443 Survey interruptions. Thanks for reading	
	lement and wonder who I could talk to about it.
	n County VolunteerLEON for nearly 10 years now & I help manage the
445 Survey Volunteer Library program.	
	n missing the teacher library card. My former county offered teachers and
	ry card with which they were able to borrow more books and for a longer
446 Survey time period. That was very helpfu	
	n though it was kinda hard to it and the people there
	visit multiple times a month. If you're looking for good ideas, the main
	ole!! Highly rec checking out that library for ideas. Their children's section
448 Survey was phenomenal and many other	
449 Survey I miss the lobby displays at BL Per	
450 Survey I really need to get more involved	
	ong buttons on library personnel. I meant to check excellent instead of
451 Survey poor. Please correct if you can.	
452 Survey I should go more :-)	
I think you should alose every lib	rary in the county, sell the buildings, and return the funds to the taxpayers.
	every person in this country has access to the same information the
	r smart device. From Encyclopedia Brittanica to the complete works of
	of a coral reef ecosystem. Name one thing you can do at a library that you
453 Survey can't do on your phone or tablet.	
I thoroughly enjoy the senior exe	rcise classes at The N.E. library and through them use the library much
	a lot of the programs outlined are extremely important in the
	fluent and have less education and learning opportunities like tutored
	ol programs and story telling. Makes me want to volunteer!
	with my local library. I haven't tried recently, but in the past I was
455 Survey disappointed with our interlibrary	
	vay more if my mother did not insist on buying books.
	to get more involved with the library as a community advocate. Friends
	having an open active group would mean more involvement means more
457 Survey buy-in to having a strong vibrant	
	ould love to teach yoga/meditation classes at the library. I'm also a
	any updated photos. www.imagesbyvron.com
	love to volunteer with the Leon Co. Library, if there was some way my
459 Survey efforts would be welcomed.	
	books and movies online and they mail them to you and you can mail
460 Survey them back (Orlando). That would	be so great if we had that service.
461 Survey It would be nice to offer more wa	ays to pay for printing.
I've heard of libraries across the o	country getting rid of late fees. I strongly feel you should consider doing
462 Survey the same. Pa	age 677 of 743 Posted May 17, 2021

#	Source	Comment
		I've really enjoyed Washington Memorial Library, and just have not made it a priority to renew my card
463	Survey	since moving back into the area a few years ago.
464	Survey	Just make sure you guys uphold the Constitution of the United States and the Bill of Rights.
		Let's be honest, I don't even know where my local library is and didn't even know there was one until I got
465	Survey	this survey. I will be seeking it out now however.
		Libraries are antiquated and waste community resources that could be steered toward more important
		community needs. If we could close libraries and put that same funding into this new child resource
		committee on the ballot, then I would think about voting for it. Otherwise, I will not vote for additional
466	Survey	taxes on our community for any projects.
		Library books, videos, etc should be allocated based on patron base who use the facility. It seems that
467	Survey	usage has shifted as the population has moved.
468	Survey	Love the books for sale
469	Survey	Lower price on copy and be able to print in color. Feel that is to expensive.
470	Survey	Mail books during coronavirus lockdown.
		Make the computers more private by laying them down into the counter so other people cannot see what
471	Survey	the user is doing. Also a better selection of tasteful, fun, and humorous movies!
		My library in Kalispell is fine. I usually request books-it may take a while, but it works. I wish the selection of
472	Survey	authors was better, but I understand this is a rural area.
	1	
473	Survey	Need to be able to reserve meeting rooms for 10 months. We have to pay for rental spaces or go to a hotel
474	Survey	Only that shortening these surveys would probably get more participation. It was pretty long.
		Organization of Graphic Novels is a bit weird. I don't understand the two floor separation; the maturity
475	Survey	level is blended.
476	Survey	Please do not classify material as foreign or foreign language. There is not such language and it is offensive. Classify by the actual language(s) used; Or the actual prevailing culture(s) embodied, if there is such a classification for the media type. It is perfectly reasonable to separate material based on such classification, or to group classifications under "other:"(not "foreign") for smaller classified collections of a media type. Thank you!
477	Survey	Professional Librarians should be leading changes in the Library System, not county bureaucrats. Library staff should be treated with dignity, consideration and support of employees should be a number 1 priority during extreme changes, as a tax payer I am very disappointed and saddened to see lack of respect given to library staff by county bureaucrats, which I believe in part to too much pressure being put on staff members and to a very tragic loss in the professional library community commissions and county administrator should support staff through crisis counseling when events like this happen, work environments should be free of bullying behavior from county bureaucrats and Librarians should be change leaders.
478	Survey	Sheesh. I did this survey when I sat down at the computer. I don't want to wade through it again.
479 480	Survey Survey	Some of the books I see on the "for sale" shelves would be good to have in the library inventory. Are they evaluated for inclusion in the inventory or do they automatically go into the sales stream? Example: I got a massive garden book by the American Horticultural Society for \$1 or \$2 which was a lot more comprehensive and current than what I found at the library several years ago.
481 482	Survey	Survey questions could be much better. The Friends organization is a strong advocate for Leon County Library.
482	Survey	The Friends of ganization is a strong advocate for Leon County Library.
483	Survey	The library and it's helpful, friendly and competent librarians are one of the best things about Tallahassee. I am specially grateful for them. I want to get involved in volunteering in the literacy program at the library and in helping underprivileged children with homework because I know it will be very rewarding.
484	Survey	This survey was really hard to unable 57/2010 743 Posted May 17, 2021

#	Source	Comment
		Waive late fees for children under 18. Many of my students don't control their access to the library and are subject to their parents' schedules. Asking them to check out a book during a school year and charging them when they're unable to return it on time (which is precisely the reason they're checking out the book
485	Survey	from the library to begin with) is absurd. You can do without their lunch money for the week.
486	Survey	WE NEED TO GO FINE FREE! So many of the civic issues you want to discuss revolve around access to capital. The library can directly support the community by going fine free! GO FINE FREE!
487	Survey	Why is not Ft. Braden Library on the list of meetings? Please respond. tallyfrench@comcast.net
488	Survey	Your survey didn't let me write in my "other" answers. How can you determine what people feel if you won't let them answer their "other"?
489	Survey	I recently moved to the area and was disappointed by the library in the north area. The children section in separate, but it looks like it hasn't been updated in years. Books are so old, that I haven't gone back. The library looks old, not motivating, doesn't spark any creativity, has no color, has no interactive activities for young children. Look forward to the changes!
490	Survey	I would like to see a museum pass program like the Miami-Dade County library system has, where passes for free entry for up to four people are available to check out from each branch of the library. We have several attractions, including the Tallahassee Museum and museums at FSU that require paid admission and could participate in a museum pass program through the Leon County library system. Please see the Miami-Dade County library's Museum Pass program as an excellent model - it is EXCELLENT!
491	Survey	I'd love to see a better children's play space in the Northeast branch near our home. I moved from the Midwest where local libraries LOVED to host children's playgroups, and encouraged parents to bring their kids to the library for playtime. They'd have LEGO tables, train tables, blocks, light tables, etc in or near the children's section so parents could browse the shelves while kids played. Children weren't told to keep their voices to a whisper, but just to use inside voices. It was such a refreshing area to meet other parents, to let our kids play, and to encourage lifelong reading as they saw us getting books for them and ourselves. Also, I LOVE the new way to do holds abs self checkout. I will say that my experience is that the self checkouts that had the handled scanners (like it a grocery store) tended to work better that the libraries that had the units like you currently have. Maybe worth looking into?
492	Survey	The Freeman Branch is my "home" branch. It certainly beef up SF/F, Large Print, and Non-Fiction sections. It can certainly use more developes and directed computer classes i.e. multiple classes in a series at all levels. The 3D printing equipment is sufficient but classes in use and techniques would be useful. It also needs more desk space in quiet and public spaces. As a former Leon resident, we enjoyed the libraries there very much. Now retired elsewhere, I volunteer at
493	Survey	my community library. Since I worked in libraries for many years, I do not need training, but I do think a senior mentoring group or a library training force might be workable in Leon and other counties with potential volunteers who are well educated.
494	Survey	I frequent the library weekly and various days i must say i am not a fan of having to wait to use the computer while Children and Adults are playing games and become loud as they are competing with each other . I truly believe if they come to just PLAY games there should be a time limit. I have been present when the school bus drops the children off and they run to the computers and first thing start playing games and become rather loud. I do understand they are glad to be done with their day but i do not believe this is the intent of our tax dollars
		I love my library. It meets my needs and other age groups. I am not looking for a job, but the library filling
495	Survey	that need helps everyone. For me, a library is a treasure that we hand from one person to the next.
496	Survey	"My" library is great!
497	Survey	Always liked the library since I Wagea 67 % ind.743 Posted May 17, 2021

#	Source	Comment
498	Survey	Amazing, wonderful and thought!
499	Survey	Appreciative of library services which continue to broaden. Thank you.
		As an out-of-county user of the Leon County Public Library, I want to say THANK YOU! I use and appreciate
500	Survey	your services.
501	Survey	awesome
502	Survey	Beautifully designed and kept facilities in a vibrant town
		Because I grew up in a country with no access to young people's books, I appreciate our community's
503	Survey	library system. It is awesome and I enjoy visiting our Collins' Library.
504	Survey	Better than average library system. Thank you for your continued effort to improve.
		Compared to our previous location (a much larger, metropolitan area), Leon County does a fabulous job!
505	Survey	Keep up the great work!
506	Survey	Does a very good job, overall.
507	Survey	Doing a great job.
508	Survey	Excellent resource, especially for parents with young children.
509	Survey	Fantastic job
510	Survey	Feel fortunate to have the library system we do. Only want it to continue to improve.
511	Survey	Great community service! I read 50 or more books a year. Most come from the Co. library.
512	Survey	great job
513	Survey	Great library in my area.
514	Survey	Great place to go.
515	Survey	Great place to read, study and write. Wi-Fi is wonderful.
516	Survey	Great place to spend quality time!
517	Survey	Great resource - more people should use it.
518	Survey	I absolutely love the LeRoy Collins Library! Thank you so much for all that you do!
		I am a low level user of "standard" library services and feel the library and staff do an excellent job of
519	Survey	meeting my needs.
520	Survey	I am a regular library patron and think you do a great job. Thanks for being there.
		I am an active user of the library and appreciate the efficiency of putting books on local reserve, using
521	Survey	interlibrary loans, and checking out traveling book clubs.
		I am well pleased with all the Libraries that I visit. They are all doing an exceptional job. THANK YOU FOR
522	Survey	ALL THAT YOU DO!!!
523	Survey	I appreciate the library.
524	Survey	I enjoy bringing two of my young granddaughters to the library every few weeks.
525	Survey	I enjoy the Eastside branch.
526	Survey	I greatly appreciate my library. I visit weekly.
527	Survey	I have loved the library in Tallahassee & Leon County since 1956!!!
528	Survey	I have visited libraries around the world and we have one of the best.
		I love and miss libraries and hadn't thought about what the internet has probably done to library traffic. I've
		found the Leon County Public Libraries to provide everything I need or expect from a library and didn't
529	Survey	realize how much I took it for granted until taking this survey! Thanks for what you do!
530	Survey	I love coming here!
531	Survey	I love having a library close to my neighborhood. I can take my 8 year old grandson to get books.
532	Survey	l love it
533	Survey	l love it!
534	Survey	I LOVE ITI READ A BOOK A WEEK.
535	Survey	I love Leon County libraries!
536	Survey	I love libraries!
		I love libraries! i have spent my life since childhood using the public library. I don't go to the Collins as often
537	Survey	as i would like on account of time constraints and I always stay too long when i go!
538	Survey	I love my libraries and librarian stage 680 of 743 Posted May 17, 2021

Survey Listening Session Comments

#	Source	Comment
539	Survey	I love my library
540	Survey	I love my library
541	Survey	I love my Library 📚
542	Survey	I love my library!
543	Survey	I love my library! Even if I don't visit it as often as I should
	,	I love my library! I don't go often, but check out books from time to time. Also love walking around the
544	Survey	lake as recreational activity.
545	Survey	I love my library!!!!
546	Survey	I love my local library <3
547	Survey	I love my local library and am an advocate for all they offer our community.
	,	
548	Survey	I love our libraries and love the fact that you are re-imagining them to better suit our community's needs.
549	Survey	I love our libraries and our shared books!
550	Survey	I love our library
551	Survey	l love our library
552	Survey	I love our Library and all the Libraries in the system.
	,	I love our library system. The online catalog and account management system is very helpful, and the seed
		library is a great idea. My family has used the library in many different ways over the last 16 years as my
553	Survey	children have grown.
554	Survey	I love our library!
555	Survey	I love our library!
556	Survey	I love our library!
		I love our library! I just never have enough time to hang out there. Usually running in getting my book and
557	Survey	running out.
558	Survey	l love our library.
559	Survey	I love our local libraries. The main library is my favorite.
560	Survey	I LOVE the bookstore!
561	Survey	I love the Leon County libraries
562	Survey	I love the Leon county library and thank all who make it what it is today.
563	Survey	I love the libraries and their services
564	Survey	I love the library
565	Survey	I love the library
566	Survey	I love the library :)
567	Survey	I love the library and am always making sure people know about it.
	,	I love the library and its services, although I primarily utilize mostly book borrowing. I am separately
568	Survey	involved in many community activities.
569	Survey	I love the library and its services.
570	Survey	I love the library and use it often!
571	Survey	I love the library and would love to see it made more useful for all.
572	Survey	I love the library!
573	Survey	I love the library! So glad we have a great system in Leon County.
_	1 '	I love the library, and love the places this survey are going in potentially expanding its reach in the
574	Survey	community.
575	Survey	l love the library.
576	Survey	I love the library.
_	1 '	I LOVE THE LIBRARY. It is always clean and quiet. One of the services that I use most often is requesting a
577	Survey	hold on a book and then just walk in and pick it up!!! Delightful!
578	Survey	I love the library. They do a fantastic job! Thanks so much for all you do!
579	Survey	I love to just go to my library and sit its so quiet and relaxing
580	Survey	I love, donating to help. The areas in Tallahassee Florida. Library is one of my favorites. See you next time.
	1	i think the Leon County Public Libraries are outstanding, especially the main library (The Leroy Collins
581	Survey	Branch)!!! Page 681 of 743 Posted May 17, 2021

#	Source	Comment
		I think the library does a FABULOUS job right now and any improvements will greatly benefit our
582	Survey	community in addition to the great work that our public libraries are already achieving.
583	Survey	I use it every week and am happy with the public service it provides.
584	Survey	I use my library a lot, both in person and online. I used it even more when my children were students.
585	Survey	I use my library often. Very useful when retired so I don't have to buy my books.
586	Survey	I use the library frequently and am very pleased with it.
500	Survey	I use the library weekly to check out resources. I am a big fan, but wish it was more of a community
587	Survey	space/hub.
588	Survey	I wish I had more time to spend there. I's a great library!
500	Survey	
589	Survey	I'm amazed by our community librariesextraordinary resources. I go to the library almost weekly.
590	Survey	I'm retired and travel so I use public libraries in the communities I visit.
550	Survey	I'm so glad the library is nearby! What a resource! And I take my grandson there to the reading room for
591	Survey	occasional interactions with books, educational toys and kids!
591		I'm so glad to have a nice accessible library! Thanks!
592	Survey	it a place that I love to visit, would recommend anyone to go to the nearest library get involve in the
502	Survey	
593	Survey	community
594	Survey	It has been a great resource.
гог	Company	It has been a source of great enjoyment for me for 70 years and now we bring our grandchildren every
595	Survey	week.
596	Survey	It is a wonderful resource!!
		It is wonderful. Great location. Hours are reasonable. Would love to have library open on Sunday's and
597	Survey	Monday's if possible.
598	Survey	I've lived a lot of places, and this library is the best I've ever seen!
		I've lived in Tallahassee for 40 + years. I've always been very pleased with our local library and I've been to
599	Survey	3 different branches.
		I've really appreciated being able to use the library while homeschooling. There's been a great number of
600	Survey	books available for me to check out
601	Survey	job well done
602	Survey	Just gratitude for the wide array of materials and services the library offers
		Just keep up the good work I enjoy coming to the library. It's a safe environment and I can go there to get
603	Survey	away from things, read, browse the books/magazines that available and just to have a change of scenery.
604	Survey	Just thank you
605	Survey	Keep up the good work! Love you guys!
606	Survey	keep up the good work!!!
607	Survey	Keep up the good work.
608	Survey	keep up the great work you have been doing.
609	Survey	Keep up the great work!
610	Survey	Keep up with the wonderful work y'all are doing each and everyday
		Leon County has a great library system:m Main Library downtown and the branch libraries in populated
611	Survey	areas.
		Leon County has an excellent library system. I use it regularly and am proud of the commitment the county
612	Survey	has made to support it.
613	Survey	Leon County provides outstanding library facilities, resources and programs.
614	Survey	Leon Cty Libraries do a great job with so few dollars and they are being asked to do more and more
		Libraries and librarians are wonderful. Such a safe place to learn freely. I am so glad they exist and they
615	Survey	really benefit taxpayers from all levels. Reading is the key to success
616	Survey	Libraries rock!
	· · ·	Library administration and services are outstanding. Leon County library system is a true treasure in this
617	Survey	community. Page 682 of 743 Posted May 17, 2021
L	,	

Survey Listening Session Comments

#	Source	Comment
618	Survey	Looking forward to the library opening again! Thanks for the wonderful services you provide.
619	Survey	Love it
620	Survey	Love it
621	Survey	Love it
622	Survey	Love it . One of my favorite places/experiences.
623	Survey	Love it!
624	Survey	Love it!
625	Survey	Love my library and appreciate all those working there.
626	Survey	Love my library for the reading materials most of all.
	,	Love my library. Been a member since they were on Monroe Street about half a block from Call Street.
627	Survey	Keep up the good work.
628	Survey	Love my local library
629	Survey	Love our libraries!
630	Survey	Love the ease of use.
631	Survey	love the lib
632	Survey	Love the libraries and resources!!!
633	Survey	Love the library
		Love the library! I go to the main one downtown, the southside one is not close enough. If I'm going thst
634	Survey	far, I'll just keep going.
		Love the library, and am glad you are taking the initiative to see what the community wants and needs.
635	Survey	Thank you!
636	Survey	Love the library, read lots of books
637	Survey	Love the library.
638	Survey	Love the library.
		Love the library. Glad that there are local area libraries. I typically use the one a Pedrick and the Main one
639	Survey	downtown but have visited the one on Adams and the one in Woodville.
640	Survey	Love the main library and its staff!
641	Survey	My family had love to go to the library more, we just forget about it being an option.
642	Survey	My grandchildren, ages 6 and 3, love coming to the library.
643	Survey	My husband and I use the library weekly.
		My kids grew up using the library and still use it. It just needs to keep up with today's technology while still
644	Survey	offering a place for community activities and support resources
645	Survey	My library and community " Rock"!
646	Survey	Next to my voter ID card, my library card is the most important card in my wallet!
		No, but some of the questions posed here make me very excited about getting back involved with my local
647	Survey	library again. I hope you are able to incorporate some of these ideas into the new role of the library system.
648	Survey	No. I love all the libraries
649	Survey	No. Keep up the good work!
65.0		
650	Survey	No. You are the best library system I have used from here to Panama City, Pensacola and Mobile, AL.
651	Survey	One WordAmazing
652	Survey	Our community library is awesome. I wish more people would take advantage of it.
650		Outstanding engagements /protocols//opportunities for research, research networking and networking
653	Survey	research
654	Survey	Simply the best, surprising me constantly with new services
655	Survey	Since retirement I've used the library more than when I was in school. Very grateful to have it.
655 656	Survey Survey	So very thankful that there is a library nearby.
657	-	Thank you
658	Survey	Thank you Thank you for a great job.
659	Survey Survey	Thank you for a job well done!
660		Thank you for all the services yor ager 6% def. 743 Posted May 17, 2021
000	Survey	Thank you tot all the services yugge usual. (40 Foster May 17, 2021

#	Source	Comment
661	Survey	Thank you for ALL you do for our community!
662	Survey	Thank you for all you do for our community!
663	Survey	Thank you for all you do in support of our community!
664	Survey	Thank you for all you do!
665	Survey	Thank you for all you do.
666	Survey	Thank you for all you provide
667	Survey	Thank you for creating this survey and providing library services for our community
		Thank you for the beautiful people who make our libraries colorful, bright and thriving in all Leon County
668	Survey	communities.
669	Survey	Thank you for the books and services you provide!
		Thank you for the exceptional service that's provided in our community. Its just not a library. The staff works
670	Survey	hard when kids are just dropped off ,,,at there local library. Thank you fur all the hard work that's provided.
671	Survey	Thank you for what you do
672	Survey	Thank you for what you do!
673	Survey	Thank you for your service!
		Thank you to the Leon County Libraries for providing me with the wide array of resources to grow and learn
		throughout my life, and now to be able to share those same resources and more with my child. The library
		continues to feed my curiosity of various topics and helps to fuel my success as an individual and as a
674	Survey	member of the Leon County workforce.
675	Survey	Thank you, I appreciate everything you do!
676	Survey	Thanks for all you provide
677	Survey	Thanks for allowing me to participate in this survey.
678	Survey	Thanks for having lots of books for me to read .
679	Survey	Thanks for making books available.
680	Survey	Thanks for you exist and for your awesome job.
681	Survey	Thanks so very much for being there!!!
682	Survey	thankyou for all everyone does to help our comunity and individuals
683	Survey	The library is a great resource and I think you guys are doing a great job. Keep it up!
		They always have the books that I am looking for and when they don't the turnaround to get them from
684	Survey	another library is quick.
685	Survey	This library is great honestly
686	Survey	Very effective system!
687	Survey	Very satisfied with the services of the library in my area.
		We are fortunate to have such a wonderful staff to work with limited time and equipment to do an
		We are fortunate to have such a wonderful staff to work with limited time and equipment to do an
		outstanding job for us taxpayers. It is important to evolve to newer technologies to open knowledge to
		young and old. The mission for our young is to show the power of the library for their future and help the older clients learn to appreciate the advancements and ease to knowledge from a modern technology
		driven library system. EVOLVE OR DIE, so please keep up the evolution which is occurring. I like the self
600	Survey	
688 689	Survey	check out too! Thanks, and keep moving towards the future. We are proud of our library system!
689	Survey	We have a great library and great librarians.
690	Survey	We have a great library and great librarians. We love our libraries!
	Survey	
692 693	Survey	We love our library! We love our local libraries!
693 694	Survey	We love our local library.
694 695	Survey	We love our local library. We LOVE the libraries and librarians!!!
696	Survey Survey	We love the library !
697		WE LOVE YOU! Thank you.
097	Survey	VVE LOVE TOO: THATK YOU.
		While not all of my responses might reflect this, I really do feel that the Leon County Public Library system
698	Survey	is a wonderful resource to our tragging the field of a malways proud to recommend stretched here a provided to the second to recommend stretched here a provided to the second to recommend stretched here a provided to the second to the secon
050	Juivey	ns a wonderrurresource to our voightivomity and and any ays proud to recommendate covery relighed pie.

#	Source	Comment
699	Survey	Wonderful libraries.
		Wonderful place to not only check out a book, but the programs are outstanding, from book club to seed
700	Survey	programs.
701	Survey	You are wonderful. Thank you for all that you do.
702	Survey	You do a fantastic job thank you!
703	Survey	You're doing great!
		A community library is important, but can't and shouldn't replace every other institution in our city that
		reaches out to help people in need. Hopefully the changes you seek to make will strike a balance and not
		try to be all things to all people, but a resource that all in a community may enjoy. The primary purpose of a
		library is not health services, welfare, and food distribution. I hope the library will remain a place for
704	Survey	knowledge and opportunity for all.
		A community without a library is like a body without a heart. Libraries feed and nurture our minds and
		souls. I'm at my library about every two weeks and that's true for almost all of my 75 years. What a
705	Survey	valuable resource!
		A library is a vital part of the community. Literacy Is one of the greatest skills that a library can develop be it
		written, spoken or visual. The sharing of diverse ideas is still the main pillar of any good library system.
		Many of the questions on the survey point to diluting that mission and appear to want to refocus on job
		skills training, entertainment, and sheltering people. I do not want to see the library lose its focus on
		informing the public on ideas and information by sacrificing materials, or resources so that after school programs or sheltering spaces will receive money that normally would be going to enhancing the collection
706	Survey	for all the patrons of the library.
700	Survey	A library is core to a community. You do a fine job! In addition to my use, just knowing the services are
707	Survey	available means so much. If I'm not using them at the moment, somebody is!
708	Survey	A must have in the local community
		Always a pleasure to visit the library. I live about 15 miles from the closest branch but it is well worth the
		trip. A great asset to the community and worthy of the funding it requires to operate. I would like to see
709	Survey	more open hours at the branches. It's hard to keep up with the varied scheduled hours of operation.
		Because I work at FSU, I have regular access to a different library system, so I don't use Leon County's very
710	Survey	often — but that doesn't mean I don't think it's important.
		Been visiting Leon Cty Lby since 1950-my entire family are avid readers. Our library does an excellent job
		with funding they receive. More money, more employees=more services! You get what you pay for. I
711	Survey	support everything about a public library.
712	Survey	Don't want to contemplate life without public libraries
713	Survey	Every great city has a great library. (Not my original thought, but I believe it)
714	Survey	Great resource for our community!!
		Growing up, the library was essential, and reading paramount to mental development. I have seen the
		computers utilized and participated in many community events at the library. Libraries are essential, even
715	Survey	in a digital age.
		I am a big fan of our libraries but have to admit that I use them much less than I did when my children were
		younger (they are now young adults). Still I think they are essential and I am very happy to have a
716	Survey	convenient branch on my side of town.
-		I am a frequent library patron and strong believer that a good library is of utmost importance to the
717	Survey	community
		I am a point and socio-economic status where the library is not necessarily my point of contact, but
74.0	C	strongly believe in what it provides to the community, particularly to children, the elderly, and those that
718	Survey	need access to resources.
		I answered the questions as if asked how important the services mentioned were to me as a user. I
74.0	Sumer	generally said not important. But, for the benefit of the community, the activities are all very important for
719	Survey	the health of the community.

#	Source	Comment
		I appreciate the library. If I don't come over there much, it's because I am busy. Also, those "little free
		libraries" around town have been an easy way to grab a book to read, so I have not visited as often lately.
720	Survey	A literate, educated community is important, and so are all your free services. Thank you.
721	Survey	I believe libraries are critical to a healthy and vibrant community.
722	Survey	I believe that no matter what we need to keep our libraries
		I believe the library system is vitally important to any city/community. The library probably should modify
		it's purpose and services to better serve society, as technology has created on-line resource material. The
		library, however, helps people more effectively engage and utilize these resources, so remains vitally
723	Survey	important to society.
		I believe we have an excellent library and community resource. I hope it continues to excel at servicing our
724	Survey	community.
		I don't visit the librarybas much as I used to, but I feel it is a very important part of our community for
725	Survey	young and old.
		I enjoy the library, and I love how it helps my community. I become irritated when adults come to socialize
726	Survey	with no thought for others.
727	Survey	I feel that having a public library is the cornerstone IN every community and needs to be suppored.
		I grew up next to a library and it made a huge impact on my life. I was raised when technology was
		booming in the early 2000s and the library provided a space for my sisters and I to use computers, learn
		and improve typing, read books and relax without getting into trouble. Throughout middle and high school,
		we volunteered at the local library and it tough us to be diligent, timely, and learn many soft skills. I credit
728	Survey	the public library for making me the person and professional I am today.
		I have always thought that libraries are the #1 resource that residents of all ages should avail themselves
		of, and I have my entire life. It shocks me how many people I ask that do not use the library. The fact that
		Leon County has a wonderful Senior Center helps with many of the items mentioned in the survey, but
		mostly for seniors who have the time and interest to pursue learning, artistic, humanitarian and social
		endeavors. The Lifetime Learning opportunities and several college resources further the knowledge and
		understanding of communities, people and the world. However, the library is a good way to get the word
		out about so many activities, volunteer opps and education for all ages. It is probably unrealistic to expect
		libraries to have the rooms/space to host a large number of community events, but from what I have
		observed, certain branches are using their space to capacity and could certainly use more. Perhaps being
		open every day of the week or more hours at the branches would be of help. Also, making sure there is
		transportation available. The best thing my grandmother did when I was a child was to NOT having toys at
		her house, but taking me to the library to borrow books and developing in me A love to read and learn that
729	Survey	lasts a lifetime.
730	Survey	I just love it! And it's essential to life like breathing is.
		I LOVE our libraries and fully support them. I visit and use the Main Library at least once a week. I use the
		options to put books on Hold and pick up when available as well as the FAN Favorites. I enjoy spending an
		hour looking at magazines as well. I always go to a "human†to check out as I enjoy our brief
		conversation about the latest books, what they're reading, etc. the new parking system is a challenge and I
		almost always have to enter the code as the paper is to flimsy to position correctly under the scanner from
731	SURVAY	my car window. LCPLs are a real gem and asset in our community.
/51	Survey	I love our local libraries and I feel they are very important to the community. I also love the walking trail
732	Survey	next to the Eastside branch.
732	Survey	I love the library and feel it plays a vital role in our community.
	1	I love the library and have used it in different ways for the last 35 years. Having access for ALL people is
734	Survey	important to me - I like that you are considering expanding services to - great ideas
		I personally don't use the library often, but I am a strong library advocate and really appreciate all of the
735	Survey	services offered. Page 686 of 743 Posted May 17, 2021

#	Source	Comment
		I personally feel libraries are essential for the growth and development of the community. I haven't used
		the library in a while due to the fact that I like to purchase books more than checking it out for a period of
736	Survey	time. Also, I'm not to fond of using my utility bill as a means to renew my library card.
		I really appreciate libraries as a resource. It is something I think communities need as a public service. My
		daughter and I check books out at least once a month, inaccurately clicked every 6 months in the first part
		of the survey and could not correct it. I believe the northeast library is very accommodating with friendly
737	Survey	and helpful staff. 5 stars.
		I think libraries are important, even though I do not often frequent them now, I spent lots of time in
738	Survey	libraries when I was younger and I love reading books.
		I think our community and library has Huge potential to grow culturally and artistically. I think libraries are
		an integral part of the community in that sense and they deserve a lot more funding than they already
		recieve. I hope our libraries have many more years ahead of them and are able to accomplish community
739	Survey	goals that they set for themselves.
		I think the Leon County libraries are the core to bring together and help citizens no matter their age or
740	Survey	economic situation
741	Survey	I THINK THE LIBRARY IS A OUT STANDING PART OF THE EDUCATION IN AMERICA < AND MORE.
742	Survey	I think the library is incredibly important to our community
		I think the library offers a safe place to be and technology resources to many vulnerable people. Please
		keep the libraries well staffed and close to public transportation. More selfishly, please continue to carry
743	Survey	CDs and DVDs.
		I think the service that the public library provides is very important to the community. Despite the
		evolution of the service and media by which they are provided, the library continues to be a relevant part
744	Survey	of the community.
		I treasure the public library. It is an essential part of our democracy. Literacy is a human right, and reading
745	Survey	helps us connect with a larger humanity.
		I use the library twice a month to check out books and research. But I can see all of the amazing communities you serve and all the ways the library is central to the education, support, and
		encouragement to people in all stages of life. The Leon County Library system is full of staff who are
746	Survey	knowledgable, kind, patient and helpful. I have never had a bad customer service experience.
740	Survey	I would not use many of the programs I believe should be offered, but believe they should be available for
747	Survey	those who need and benefit therefrom.
/4/	Survey	
		If I had to pick one think to strengthen libraries it would be things for children and teens that teach them
		how to use tools, language, to make things and serve others and learn things. People who go to the library
		regularly to make and do things, do better all around and that includes the important literacy stuff. But
		doing that will only help the families with the time and transportation to get to the libraries, so maybe you
748	Survey	should also sponsor how to ride the bus safely and maybe have free days for families.
	00.109	
		I'm a community college librarian so I spend all day in a library. That is part of the reason why I don't
		frequent Leon County Libraries often. Hard to find time to go there too since I'm involved in a lot of
		activities already. But my first library job was in my local public library so know they are an essential part of
		the community. And if we don't carry the book or resource I need, I can turn to the public library. I also
749	Survey	encourage our students to go there on the weekends when we are not open.
		I'm close to retirement and WILL have the time to visit and utilize our nearby library! Thank you for
750	Survey	reminding me of this important resource!
		I'm extremely grateful for local libraries and the services they provide to my family and the community.
751	Survey	They are essential to the well being of our nation.
		I'm fortunate enough that I don't need to rely on the local library system, but I firmly believe that they are
752	Survey	vital to the community.
		I'm so glad we have such a great resource in the library. I am a big library user myself and look forward to
753	Survey	bringing my kids there often as Ragy grow value Posted May 17, 2021

#	Source	Comment
754	Survey	It's a great asset and should never be taken for granted.
755	Survey	its a great place for everyone can get what they need done.
		Learning is a lifelong activity. Libraries have been the seat of knowledge preservation and sharing for
756	Survey	several thousand years.
		Libraries are a bastion of peace, a resource for latchkey kids (like I was), and a place where communities go
		to improve themselves on an individual level. I'm very grateful for the work of our local libraries, and hope
		the staff feel appreciated for all that they do. Sometimes as a teen, the library was the only place I had to
757	Survey	go, and I'll always remember feeling safe and at home there.
758	Survey	Libraries are absolutely critical to an informed, vibrant, strong society! We believe in what you do.
759	Survey	Libraries are absolutely essential and unfortunately underfunded in this city.
755	Survey	
760	Survey	Libraries are essential in reinforcing literacy efforts of schools, and help maintain mental vigor of retirees.
		Libraries are essential to low income families. It gave me the resources I needed as a child to become a
761	Survey	productive adult and a safe place to escape to!
762	Survey	Libraries are essential. Keep up the good work
-	/	Libraries are extrememly important to the community, the education of our children and society as a
763	Survey	whole. Long live the public library!
764	Survey	Libraries are so important and reading is fundamental
765	Survey	Libraries are so valuable! Thank you.
766	Survey	Libraries are the best investments for whole communities regardless of location!
767	Survey	Libraries are very important and people should use them more
768	Survey	Libraries are very important in our community.
769	Survey	Libraries are very important. The internet is fine, but I like taking to someone.
705	Survey	Libraries are vital to our community, providing resources to those who cannot afford them or who need to
		learn them. My local branch is Woodville, and has the most beautiful view and a great place to bring a
770	Survey	laptop. You didn't ask about wireless connectivity and whether that is a service I've used - it is. Even from
770 771	Survey	the parking lot after hours
//1	Survey	Libraries' importance to the local community cannot be overstated.
		Libraries should remain an integral part of any community, even with the advancement of online systems
770	c .	that may compete with libraries. There are many citizens within any given community who do not have
772	Survey	access to modern technology and benefit from a library system.
		Library say everything about a community. A strong vibrant library system is absolutely essential to our
773	Survey	democracy and community
		Love my east side library. Love libraries in general. Great questions in survey and excited to see how our
774	Survey	libraries may evolve to better meet the community's needs and changing interests.
//4	Survey	Love the library and its importance in providing access to everyone no matter their income or status.
775	Survey	
775	Survey	Lifelong patrons
		Maintain its beauty, accessibility and being current with area needs (hurricane, environment etc).
		Continue to provide special events , book readings/events etc etc I continue to look to the library as a
776	Survey	main source of important community and national information, issues and breathe of understandings
770	Survey	
		My closest library is the NEbranch with a more urban attendee population. I feel they are very in tune to
		the particular community and supporting programs and opportunities of the larger library system. Being a
		"senior†with no children my wants and needs for literacy, work force, teens and children's programs
		are minimal. But I appreciate the programs being offered both in scope and changing needs. As a retired
		librarian, I wholeheartedly believe The Library is the hub of the community and community vibrancy and
		support. Those sub community needs can differ and supporting the varied needs present challenges in
777	SURVOV	
111	Survey	staffing, volunteers and costs.

#	Source	Comment
		My husband and I absolutely love our library and our librarians. They're an essential resource for our
778	Survey	community, and I wish more people used them!
779	Survey	Next to public education I believe the public library is the greatest equalizer in American society.
780	Survey	Our libraries are a great resource and a very valued part of our local community.
781	Survey	Our libraries are one of the county's richest public services. My NE Branch is an integral part of my life.
782	Survey	Our libraries are very important to our communities
		Our library is wonderful and any extra services are always welcome. Libraries have the resources for
783	Survey	learning and without them so many would be left out.
		Our local public library system is an essential part of our community and is an excellent resource and asset
		to the citizens of Tallahassee and Leon County. It gives back more than it costs and creates enormous
784	Survey	qualitative and quantitative value.
		Our public libraries provide valuable tools, resources and services for the community. They are an essential
785	Survey	component of a healthy city.
786	Survey	Provide beautiful books and resources to grow the hearts and minds of all ages.
		Public libraries are a cornerstone of education and democracy. They deserve more attention and more
		funding. I no longer have small children, but remember fondly my own childhood and that of my children
787	Survey	at the libraries.
788	Survey	Public libraries are a sign of a civil society.
789	Survey	Public libraries are fantastic! Keep the funding flowing
790	Survey	Public libraries are useful and important for everyone at any age!
791	Survey	Remember: public libraries supported since the founding of our country.
792	Survey	Thank you for the great work you do. Libraries and librarians are the souls of a city.
		Thank you for working towards keeping our communities libraries! Many people believe they will be
		obsolete but they are so important and should promote residents of all ages to go to it on a some what
793	Survey	regular basis.
794	Survey	The community needs librarys, but they do need to meet the challenges of today's community.
795	Survey	The libraries in Leon County are an critical component of a positive community
796	Survey	The library being in our community and there for each of us is a vital part of my life.
797	Survey	The library has been a great resource to the community.
798	Survey	THe Library is a hub for learning and we can't do without them!
799	Survey	The library is a valuable resource.
800	Survey	The library is an essential part of our community.
		The Library is an incredible public institution. We need to strengthen it. It should be a place of public
801	Survey	congregation- the center of local communities in conjunction with parks and community gardens.
802	Survey	The library is very important for all ages especially the students and elderly.
		The public library system is a vital resource hub for a vast spectrum of people and it should continue to get
		whatever federal and state support it needs to thrive. It is one free and positive institution in our society
803	Survey	that brings solace to all who use it.

#	Source	Comment
		The survey did not have an "N/A"or "don't know" field on any of the questions, so my responses were not entirely representative of my knowledge or opinion. Also, the programs that were not of interest to me at
		my present stage in life may be of greater interest later, or could have been of greater interest earlier.
		Other than those notes about the survey, my family really enjoys our public library and the folks who work
		there. It's one of the cornerstone public institutions of our community. Through the ILL service, for
		instance, we have access to an almost unlimited number of books! I can understand the desire to let the
		library be "all things to all people", but I would advise caution not to let non-library activities take away
		from core library functions. In my opinion, it's the lending aspect of the library's service that is unique, and
		I think services that take advantage of this capability, such as being able to check out optical equipment,
		arts/crafts tools, and similar services are in closer alignment with the libraries mission that perhaps some
		other types of services the library might provide. But that's just my take on it others may equally value
		the library as a neutral public meeting space or a place to find/deliver information to the public, such as
		health or job services information. I think our library does a great job, and I trust the library administration
		to make wise choices about how to use the library space and resources. Thanks for conducting the survey
804	Survey	and always trying to make things better!
005		The Tallahassee-Leon County Public Library is a vital institution that deserves public support and
805	Survey	investment. There is nothing more important than being able to go to our libraries for books, etc. Having a safe place to
806	Survey	go and study or anything else our library offers.
000	Survey	There is nothing more important to a democracy and functioning society than free access to high quality
807	Survey	information for everyone.
		We moved to Tallahassee 7 years ago, and the library was the first place we searched out. We go at least
		once a week (often more). It is our safe place, a place of discovery, and a destination for our kids. All in the
		family (6) have cards, and often we have up to 40 books on each card. We love the programs offered and
		attend. I use the meeting spaces for a non-profit I chair. To say that our library is an important part of our
000	C	family's community is an understatement. My guess is when they think of places in the community, the
808 809	Survey Survey	library would be 1st to their minds. Without libraries, society will perish.
809	Survey	You are doing a great job of providing Tallahassee with a lot of functions for the under-privileged. Keep up
810	Survey	the good job.
811	Survey	VV
812	Survey	I have really appreciated use of computer.
813	Survey	It would really great if the library would advise the services that are available to the community.
		Libraries should always remain open especially on weekends so students can have access to internet and
814	Survey	other learning tools that they may not have at home.
		Recent policy guidelines for this program that are being implemented are resulting in under serving the
		over 60 population. Let's look at real numbers when evaluating library useage of categories. Discontinuing a service because national future use statistics based on growing use of certain services for
		population aged 49 and under at present day presents some questions not being addressed! How many
815	Survey	citizens hold library cards who are age 50 plus?
		The staff does an excellent job of book selection both; text, audio, and digital. Access through reserves is
816	Survey	excellent.
817	Survey	#ybe
818	Survey	•
_		Should provide space for FSU OLLI to offer courses Should partner with the State Library to have joint
819	Survey	programs.
		1.I want the quiet Reading room to remain at the library 2.The computer access and print service is
020	Supress	awesome. 3. Need public transit from my area to nearest library on Fred George & Monroe. No public
820	Survey	transmit available beyond Fred Rage የያያወ ወሳ ለትፅrth Monroe(Hwy. 27) Posted May 17, 2021

#	Source	Comment
821	Survey	A branch on/near Apalachee Pkwy
822	Survey	A coffee shop would be dope.
		A couple of libraries in the Chicago area have concerts by local "folk" musicians. Small acoustic concerts,
		poetry or book readings/recitals, other small scale performances, and similar activities would serve to bring
823	Survey	people into the library and build community bonds.
		A few friends are unhappy that the library isn't ordering new books on CD. I heard they are phasing them
824	Survey	out. I use the apps for audiobooks, but they us CDs.
825	Survey	A genealogy library in each public library
826	Survey	A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE AND RAISE A FAMILY.
		a library is not a hotel, daycare or coffee shop. It's focus should be on knowledge the way Benjamin
827	Survey	Franklin intended it.
		A library location closer than Ft Braden and Near the capital circle/ west Tennessee St. Area would be
828	Survey	wonderful. Distance can be a factor for many. That's kind of a limbo area.
		A lot of services are turning into do-it-by-yourself. Cuts in staff don't allow staff to help patrons as much as
829	Survey	they should. Reference questions and computer assistance require a considerable wait.
		A separate space for children computer use is needed at all libraries. An adult should not have to endure
830	Survey	loud children while using the computers. The staff does a very poor job keeping the computer areas quiet.
831	Survey	a soda machine would be cool
832	Survey	A tool library would be an excellent addition to the Leon County library system.
		Above, 'my' 10 year old is my grandchild. We have her every afternoon until parent gets off work and days
		of school breaks, including summers. The library is a life-saver. From the weekly summer guest speakers to
		the Lego clubs, and even simply crayons and blank bookmarks on the tables and stickers at check-out, she
		looks forward to our visits. Her favorites have been St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge (Ms. Lori's)
		presentation, Casanova Nurse, live animals, seed check-outs, and the fire truck. Sorry this is so wordy, but
833	Survey	will be out of town on meeting day. Good job, Woodville.
		After reading in the news, I'm excited about the initiatives the library is taking on as a whole. I think a
024	Comment	revitalization of the library will bring in more of the community and to better fit the needs of our
834	Survey	community.
		after school programs with homework help and tutors should be more available to students and
		coordinated with schools to bus kids to these locations for after school help or bring the resource to their school and offer it for free to kids that need extra help whose parents are working or otherwise unable to
835	Survey	help the kids
033	Survey	
		All of the libraries are very loud because of people socializing at the computers or playing games. What
		ever happened to being conscience of your surroundings, especially in a library where you go to focus,
		study or simply "read", what a joke. The Park Avenue library is the worst of all when it comes to respecting
		others and a very close second is the BL Perry library. Don't even go there to have any kind of quiet
		moment to do anything. Its like a daycare for children 4-18. Never can get on the PC's for real work, study,
836	Survey	etc. for all the gamer's (also at Park Avenue). Its ridiculous!!!!
000	Survey	Always feel comfortable in library & always receive help I need. I donate books I have, many unread & in
		excellent condition and many of interest to others. Had enabled my branch library to add to their
837	Survey	collection.
557		Another community I live in part time shows monthly fairly recent movies in their main library with
838	Survey	discussions afterwards. Is this a possibility?
839	Survey	Another option for making me want to linger at the library is a vibrant and safe children's section.
		Any thing that the library can do to bring poople together in this community will be newerful. We are your
		Any thing that the library can do to bring people together in this community will be powerful. We are very siloed (is that a word?) in churches, workplaces and in our homes. I am not sure we are a community at
040	Survey	
840	Survey	all. Maybe in football season. Paber for you has all the services that you provide sted May 17, 2021

#	Source	Comment
841	Survey	appreciate the convenience of early voting at the library
842	Survey	Appreciate the inter library services to order books and hold for 7 days.
		As a child growing up the library was a place to go to conduct research for school assignments. Most
		research material can now be found on the internet. I would think that libraries of the future would
		become more of a tutoring type of facility to help the community learn how to use newer technology to
843	Survey	find what they are looking for on the internet.
844	Survey	As a homeschooling parent, I would love to see a homeschool resource center in our library.
		As a multigenerational native of Tallahassee, and an oral tradition storyteller, I would like to see opponents
845	Survey	for our elders share and record their own memories of this place, and oral histories from generations past
045	Survey	
		AS A PERSON WHO COMES TO THE LIBRARY AT LEAST TWICE A WEEK. THE CHANGES ARE CONFUSING TO
		ME. WHY DON'T WE GET NEW AUDIO BOOKS, THE DOWNLOAD SYSTEM IS CONFUSING FOR THIS PERSON
846	Survey	OVER 62. YOU ARE LOCKING US OUT OF THE NEW LIFRARY. AND WE ARE YOUR CORE USERS.
		As a teacher in Leon County advertising events and services geared towards students to teachers and
847	Survey	families would be helpful.
		As a telecommuter I would like to see more about available workspaces in public areas like the library if
848	Survey	they exist already. Marketing of some sort would help.
		As a working mom, i usually go to take my kiddo there. The downside I've had is accessing the books I'm
		really interested in. I've also not had success with online books/etc. I love the kids areas and would stay
849	Survey	longer if there were more options for kids. A playground outside would be awesome too.
		As an elderly person and one with declining eyesight, audiobooks are increasingly important to me and
850	Survey	many of my retiree friends.
		As long as i can remember the library has been a weekly visit for me. Research for school, job hunting, new
054	C	dvd's discovering what new events are fort coming. Or just reading a good book in a quiet corner. i couldn't
851	Survey	imagine a world without them
		As you explore what role libraries have in our community, keep in mind they are not community or senior centers. We don't need to duplicate services already being provided by professionals in those fields.
		Suggest revamping libraries to look and feel more like relaxed "coffee shop" environments focused on
		access to media, books, and other materials relevant to libraries. Also continue to work with the County
		Senior Outreach program to provide space for additional senior programs, classes, etc. in our current
		library spaces (like NE Library), but don't try to facilitate those programs independent of the Senior
852	Survey	Outreach program.
853	Survey	At a minimum, the branches need to be operated on Mondays
854	Survey	Bathrooms are sometimes not clean at Leroy Collins.
		Be cautious that you do not react to the noisy minority and betray the moral standards of the true
		community. College students make up close to half the population, BUT are gone quickly, and do not truly
855	Survey	represent the community!
		Be OPEN on Sunday at the NE Library branch. Many students have time that day to work on
856	Survey	projects/collaborate, but library is closed there that day.
		Because of a lack of funding, Tallahassee's Libraries are totally inadequate & outdated. Some are closed
857	Survey	Sundays & Mondays. Short hours
		Because of at-home technology, do not visit library as often, but so glad it's there for the youth and
858	Survey	community. Groups I attend hold meetings there (free and safe)-
859	Survey	Bee keeping interest
860	Survey	Best new thing was the comfort station and charging stations after Hurricane MICHAEL.
861	Survey	Better hours
862	Survey	Better parking for disabled patrons
863	Survey	better seats
		Better spaces for studying or working. A designated children's area. I love the Woodville Library but it is
004	Survey	quite small and I'm not sure it can be easily enlarged. I don't really like going to the main branch since the
864	Survey	oak tree was defiled.Page 692 of 743Posted May 17, 2021

#	Source	Comment
865	Survey	bou
		Branch Libraries need to be open on Sundays as that is the only time many families have to visit together.
		Entrance Elevator at main library has been broken for months. County commission continues to spend
866	Survey	Millions subsidizing developers and not providing funds to library.
867	Survey	Branch Libraries open on Sundays and or Mondays!
868	Survey	branches should be open 6 days a week
869	Survey	Branches should be open 6 days a week. Either Monday thru Saturday or Tuesday thru Sunday.
870	Survey	Bring back books on CDs. Not everyone has resources to download and play/stream.
074	C	Bring back the mobile library on wheels through the community for the kids who don't have transportation
871	Survey	to come to the library. That would be GREAT :) The kids would so excited. THANK YOU
		Community branch libraries should partner with community schools and provide areas to display art work.
872	Survey	Highlight young members of community and brings children and families into our libraries.
872	Survey Survey	community football team an baseball softball team fore the youth community
874	Survey	Community needs more food less,homelessness.
874	Survey	Consistent hours. Better accommodation for those using meeting rooms.
875	Survey	continue making new DVD's and CD's available for check out
870	Survey	Continue outstanding computer usage. Provide free and certified computer classes.
0//	Survey	
		Could we get email alerts regarding upcoming programs or features? I have 4 grandkids & would like to get
		them more engaged in library services. I'll retire within next 3 years- would like to know more about
		pursuing interest/hobbies that library could assist me in learning. Would be helpful to learn what all
878	Survey	services are now available at/through library & ways to access. Love library alwaysôŸ'•
879	Survey	Current library is good. Needs more DVDs , computer & Smartphone usage classes and funding increase.
880	Survey	Definitelythe library is quite convenient and the staff "aims to please",,,
881	Survey	Do not charge me to park at the downtown library.
		Don't cut back on buying audio books on CD. Visually impaired people have trouble using some of the
882	Survey	digital platforms used for audio books.
883	Survey	Downtown facility interior is dull and lacks imagination
884	Survey	Downtown library is great. Pedrick road library is a great. Wish the Southside location was larger.
		During my child school years we made weekly and sometimes daily visits to our local library . Sometimes
885	Survey	we made it a family event. They would have weekly Scouts meeting there.
		Each time I visit the library is nearly ampty. This wasn't the case 15 years are when I moved to Tellahassee
		Each time I visit the library is nearly empty. This wasn't the case 15 years ago when I moved to Tallahassee. With the presence of coffee shops, cafes and internet-ready meeting spaces folks just aren't visiting the
		library like they used to. If you had and advertised hip, laptop friendly, wifi enabled spaces where folks
		could gather, eat a snack and sip coffee, work on a paper or browse the web, the library might see an
		upturn in visitors. The paid parking during the day at the main library doesn't help the cause either :-(Cozy
		outdoor spaces could be a draw as well. Just a few thoughts. I worked at a library in Colorado before
		coming to Tallahassee and while the needs of the people have changed over the past 2 decades the library
006	Survey	system doesn't really have to shift too much or go away. Just needs to be more accommodating of the current climate and what the upcoming generations need in a learning/working space.
886	Survey	Earlier hours in the morning (at all libraries) and free/cheaper parking at main library would enable me to
887	Survey	use the library more often.
888	Survey	East Side Branch is superb
000		East Side Library needs to open the lobby doors for Sr Exercise classes on days the library opens at 11:00
889	Survey	(Tuesdays). We are left to wait in cars in rain, cold, heat.
890	Survey	Eastside Branch is wonderful! Page 693 of 743 Posted May 17, 2021
000		

#	Source	Comment
		Eastside branch meets my needs. I like to place holds and pick them up at that location since it's
891	Survey	convenient to me. I like the new auto renewal feature!
		Encourage more culturally diverse programming (Black, Hispanic, Native, etc), including programming for
		the LGBTQ+ community. For example, i don't see any events in June (Pride Month) specifically for Pride
		Month. Perhaps a rainbow story hour, a coming out story event, a film screening, etc. Provide more
892	Survey	services for those experiencing homelessness.
893	Survey	Enforce the centuries-long QUIET rule in all libraries
		Enjoy Ancestry.com. Can Fold 3 be added to Libary use? Wakulla has Ancestry at home use for library
894	Survey	card holders. Can Leon Co. do this?
895	Survey	Enjoy the book club, yoga and meditation classes and monthly current movies
		ESOL programs are vital and must be funded to reach Tallahassee's international population. I am
896	Survey	surprised there were no questions about this program currently offered at the library.
		Excellent online reservation system for reserving the meeting rooms. I do, however, wish that we could
897	Survey	occasionally reserve a meeting room outside the current 90 day timeline limit
898	Survey	Excellent service from professional personal. Well trained and friendly
899	Survey	Excellent!!-East side
900	Survey	Excited to see some innovations and updates to our local libraries. Hope the powers that be will fund it!
901	Survey	Excited to see the Library become a community hub.
902	Survey	expand the evening hours
903	Survey	Extend free parking hours at Main Library to at least 2 hours.
904	Survey	Extended hours for branches to include Sunday. The main branch is too far.
905	Survey	feptkryiretewgpokiup
906	Survey	Fix the elevator at the down town library. I have sent messages to Bill Proctor and he has not responded.
		For the community's sake I wish the library hours would go back to what they were before the round of
		"budget saving" measures reduced them. I'd even support one 24-hour library branch, myself. In my
		opinion libraries are every bit as important as the parks and recreation department, both should be funded
		well because they both serve all of the community. Two other points - the online presence works pretty
		well for me in a browser (I don't usually use my phone for such things) though it at times could use some
		usability testing - Interlibrary loan rocks and maybe it should be promoted more and/or be integrated into
		catalog search better: maybe a "include interlibrary loan partners in the search" option, ranking local
		libraries first in search results? I see a lot of questions about partnering with other agencies to provide
		services and/or directions to services - I think maybe a small section of branches could have someone from
		a social services background with materials and reference help (and it should be staffed for all the hours
		that the library is open) but I think the library itself needs to avoid becoming the place where people come
		to actually have someone filling out the paperwork with them; I guess I could see from a county budget
		standpoint taking over a meeting room to provide a social service office but then there'd be less meeting
907	Survey	space.
908	Survey	Fort Braden Branch is wonderful.
909	Survey	Fort Braden Library manager and staff are the BEST!
		Free meeting rooms really help our non-profit that struggles to fund itself. Our singing group adds to the
910	Survey	quality of life for many people and the free room is a great benefit to it.
		From when our son was very young, the library has been very special for him. As parents, there is nothing
		better than watching your child become excited about reading and learning because he sees the library as a
		magical place. It is a place where you can meet Clifford the Big Red Dog, do crafts, hear a story and explore
911	Survey	to your hearts content on your own.
912	Survey	
913	Survey	
914	Survey	
915	Survey	
916	Survey	Page 694 of 743 Posted May 17, 2021

#	Source	Comment
917	Survey	
		Getting children and families into and involved in library activities is crucial. There is no better way to
918	Survey	foster the love of learning than to get people in the library!
		getting into my local library sucks. the traffic whizzes by at a stupidly fast pace making getting in and out
919	Survey	very difficult
920	Survey	Give the library more money they do important work
921	Survey	given the makeup of your patrons, now more than ever cleanliness should be a priority
922	Survey	Go 9AM to 8pm Weekly
		Good library which I do not use as much as I should and would like to. I never hear about local community
923	Survey	activities or needs from our library.
924	Survey	Good Library! Well cared for and an excellent staff.
925	Survey	good luck- i know the homeless thing is a big issue, not sure how to solve that.
926	Survey	Grandparent
927	Survey	great convenient location and great staff.
928	Survey	Great place to VOTE
929	Survey	Great Programs and Services.
930	Survey	Great resource and very helpful, accommodating staff!
931	Survey	Great staff but seems like they could use more help
	,	Have a Chess Class and start a Chess Club. Have a drawing art class and painting art class. Don't do things
		on Wednesday nights that interfere with church. That a Bible study class like on mondays and on thursday
932	Survey	have a bible club meeting talk time.
001		Have a designated area for the homeless to nap in. Offer social services to this population. Help them
933	Survey	reach out to their family to let them know they are safe.
934	Survey	Have branch libraries open on Sunday and Monday
935	Survey	Have More Leon County Cooperative Extension Workshops in the Libraries.
936	Survey	Haven't used it in about 2 years. It has always provided what I needed timely, and staff have always been most helpful and courteous. I may look into some of the online services available.
		Having areas that are quiet areas and other floors as more collaboration would be an excellent way to keep
		talkers/ group meetings in one area (where they don't feel like they'll get in trouble). The wood chairs are
		very uncomfortable and a deterrent for me to go. The parking is also expensive - so maybe having it where
		you can get a discount if you're attending an event or additional activity. Also, having a small local coffee
937	Survey	shop with some snacks would be an excellent way to keep people in!
938	Survey	hell no
939	Survey	hope road construction finished quickly to make it easier to access libraries
940	Survey	Host outdoor seminars, auctions, sales for public view and participation.
941	Survey	Hours should include some nights & weekends for people who work M-F.
		How does it help to support the art making in the library if the person whom sets up art shows is going to
942	Survey	refuse to show art made by people that are homeless in the Downtown, Tallahassee Location?
943	Survey	I absolutely love our East side branch at Pedrick Rd in Tallahassee
	,	I absolutely LOVE our library. One of my favorite things is the Friend Shop, where used books are super
		affordable (unlike Goodwill prices!). Please continue your work and keep the Friend Shop! Maybe have
		more advertising for donating and purchasing used books through the library, as I have dedicated several of
		my acquaintances that had no idea the Friend Shop existed at each library location! More sales will come
944	Survey	with better advertising!
945	Survey	I absolutely love the library and hope to see more attention brought to the services they offer
		I am a retired librarian (school, public, Territorial Librarian in Guam, and Library Director University of Guam
946	Survey	Libraries).
5 70		

#	Source	Comment
		I am a volunteer in the ESOL program in the downtown library and have 2 students I work with: a married
		couple from Colombia and a woman from South Korea. I think these programs are very important but
		lately one of the rooms used for this program and for literacy classes has been closed off to us because the
		room is being held open for people who want a whole little room to themselves and don't want to use one
		of the study carrels on the second floor. My student from South Korea finds it hard to pay attention to what
		we are discussing when we are in a cubby in the big room and lots of other people are in the other cubby
		there or the larger room there. ESOL involves talking out loud as a major component, so when all areas are
		occupied and everyone is talking out loud but doing different things, it can be distracting. When we find it
		really distracting we can ask and have the unused, locked-up little room opened for us. I think rather than
		having a room kept unavailable as a default for a potential studier who is uncomfortable using the second
		floor (which I've never noticed to be very noisy) it should be that if someone needs the little room on the
		3rd floor they should have to request it, and if available get it, rather than it being kept for their use. It may
		not be as hard for other ESOL tutors and students, but the day and time that works for my meeting with the lady from South Korea happens to the same time another tutor holds some sort of class in the big shared
		area and she has a voice that carries and because she usually has more than one student, it gets noisy.
		Perhaps our time slot is an anomaly. As I've said, if the student and I go to the Literacy/ESOL staff and say
947	Survey	we are having problems, then they unlock the room for us.
948	Survey	I am an artist
949	Survey	I am an avid reader and supporter of libraries
	,	
		I am blind and use a screen reading program to access the computer. I also teach the technology. I was
		interested in participating in adolt literacy programs, and determining whether librar computers could be
		accessed easily by blind citizens. The computers could not be accessed independently by individuals, nor
		was I able to get help signing in to one using my library card. Staff were not aware of any methods or ways
		blind people could participate in local classes. There are no instructors who know how to teach computer
		services to the blind general public. When I asked for information about literacy programs, I was
		questioned heavily about how I could perform certain tasks. I would have been happy to discuss this with
		the teacher of the class, but the person I spoke with was only a volunteer, and discouraged me from
950	Survey	participating.
		Law concerned shout the office of the new recence system. It is not working your well in the North Feet
051	Survey	I am concerned about the efficacy of the new reserve system. It is not working very well in the North East
951	Survey	Branch. Books that I have reserved are found on the shelf for general checkout before I am notified. I am concerned about the promotion of transsexuality and gender fluidity in library materials and by the
952	Survey	library. This is an issue of life and death for the future of our country.
953	Survey	I am excited to see our library system grow and change.
	Survey	I am grateful for our library providing access to Ancestry.com, Library Edition. Being on a fixed income as a
		retiree, I am unable to afford this on my own. Family genealogy is a deep interest of mine. Also, my library
954	Survey	has an excellent copier at a good price.
	,	I am grateful for the Eastside branch of the library and the whole Leon County Library System. I especially
955	Survey	love the seed libraries and look forward to both the spring and the fall offerings.
		I am in emergency housing. Prior to that I provided for myself. Getting a library card was never a problem. I
956	Survey	have read over 95 books in my lifetime. But I was told I could not now get a library card - several times.
957	Survey	I am not aware of all the great things going on there.
		I am so happy with the reserve system of books, and with the availability of large print. I use the Main
958	Survey	Library and the staff is always helpful.
		I am thrilled that I can check out a whole bag of copies for my book club, and that telescopes are also
959	Survey	available. I'd be delighted to help staff a "library of things" too!
0.50		I am very disappointed in the library's decision not to purchase audiobook CD'S as I rely on them on a daily
960	Survey	basis. Please reconsider this polygetesision7.43 Posted May 17, 2021

#	Source	Comment
		I am very happy to have the Lake Jackson Branch Library. It has been a great addition to the community on
961	Survey	the North West side of Tallahassee.
962	Survey	I am very happy to live in Tallahassee
		I am very impressed with the Tallahassee library system and the quality of its staff. I use the library quite
		frequently to check out books for the most part. I am quite upset that funds were taken away from the
963	Survey	libraries so the number of hours the library is open is diminished,
		I am very proud of our library and the branches! Being retired, I don't use the library as often as I used to,
964	Survey	but I know it's there when I need it.
		I am very satisfied on checking out books from the main library and the staff bringing them for me to my
965	Survey	branch. Excellent services. I was able to get several books from other libraries too.
966	Survey	I am very thankful to have the Lake Jackson Library close to home.
967	Survey	I appreciate the science nights every month and would like more similar activities
		I dislike the obstruction of the self service kiosks in front of the front desk. Their positioning send the wrong
		message. I have brought my grandchildren to the library every week for 5 1/2 years. They have developed
		personal relationships with each staff member who checks them out. The kiosks are a sad replacement for
		personal, interactive service. Also, the hours at the northeast beach could be extended to include Monday
968	Survey	and opening at 9 am. Those of us with small children need the morning hours. Thank you.
969	Survey	I do not feel the main library is a safe place for me to bring my young children.
		I do not like that mentally ill/homeless/panhandlers are encouraged to "hang out" in the library, use the
		bathrooms for bathing, etc. There are other places and resources for caring for people in these situations.
		Their presence is a distraction and a hindrance to those seeking the library's core function of finding
970	Survey	knowledge. Their presence also discourages parents to bring children to the library.
		I do not like the self-checkout kiosks. They don't work well and a worker still has to open the DVDs that
		have the blue bar for security. It seems very costly to spend money on the self-checkouts when you have
971	Survey	to pay employees to be there anyway.
		I don't have young children, but I do have a one-year-old grandchild and he loves the library. I'd love to see
972	Survey	more activities for pre-school children.
		I don't like the fact that if someone doesn't live inside the Leon County district then you can't have a library
		card. I work inside Leon County but live in Gadsden County, so that needs to be evaluated that anyone can
973	Survey	obtain a card, even if you have to start charging for the cards.
974	Survey	I don't live in Tallahassee anymore
975	Survey	I don't want computers to replace librarians!!!
		I drive to the main library downtown because I love the librarians in the children's area. I love that they
		have legos and duplos to play with. I would love to see a LEGO club earlier in the day available to
		homeschool families! I do not go to the NE library by my house because I have found that the environment
		for kids is not as engaging, the librarians are ornery, and the book selection is dismal. Story times overall at
		the libraries are not wonderfultoo many kids crammed into a space. Little movement and creative time.
976	Survey	It's hard to see what the learning objectives are as a parent. My kids did not enjoy the experience.
977	Survey	I engaged in the library more when they mini satelite locations that were closer to my house.
		I enjoy engaging in conversation with people who work in the library and am concerned that self-checkout
978	Survey	and hold pick-up features will phase out employees.
979	Survey	I enjoy getting books on tape for traveling.
		I enjoy getting CDs in the library to listen to in my car. I usually vote at the library and have used it for tax
		resources and meetings. I would appreciate any instruction on how to use new technology such as
980	Survey	accessing books in various electronic formats.
981	Survey	I enjoy going there with my nephew to do activities
		I enjoy visiting the pedrick library. It is quiet peaceful.clean and the staff are very helpful. Grateful to have a
982	Survey	library in my community.
983	Survey	l feel Lake Jackson Library gets Elages 1897 to en everything in the library systemsted May 17, 2021

#	Source	Comment
		I feel there are a lot of opportunities in our community, but it's hard to know what's out there, where to go
984	Survey	for help. I feel there might be a great number of service duplicates.
985	Survey	I find the survey not very good, so I question the validity of some of my responses. Many of the "choices" for library activities were good, but in my opinion done more appropriately by others already. I would hate for social opportunities to divert funds that could be used for increasing knowledge and the skill and desire to acquire knowledge. For example, what about promoting or showing documentaries, and not replicating the ones readily available or recently broadcast on television. A library's main priority should be spreading knowledge and the ability to use it, not trying to replicate in small ways what other organizations are doing in big ways. Luring people to the library by any means should not be a goal that sacrifices the one thing that the library does best: promotion of literacy and learning to make us more valuable as members of society, not to channel everyone into yet another form of "entertainment" to compete with the endless "entertainment" opportunities that already monopolize people's time. Reading, including reading of entertaining matter, helps both adults and the young to learn to concentrate and lengthen their attention span, something that seems to be fast disappearing at all ages. Do not contribute to the appalling dumbing down of our nation.
		I frequent the Main Library very often. I would like to see more programs for children that are scheduled on the weekends. I would like to see more STEM classes (coding, podcasting, youtubing, etc.) for kids such as those held at the Challenger Learning Center. Also, I noticed there aren't many interesting adult programs. Maybe create programs surrounding topics such as starting and running a business, workshops for writing children's books or any other type writing, public speaking workshops, sewing classes, healthy eating workshops, social events similar to senior socials but for people with similar interests, age-groups or professions. A few more ideas are: •Day passess to local museums •Local history presentations •Small business center •Adulting 101 for young adults •Book Themed Paint and Sip (Non-Alcoholic
986	Survey	of course) I frequent the north side and downtown branch. The staff are amazingly kind, helpful, and knowledgeable. I have three children who have grown up using the library and absolutely I've it. I believe that our libraries
987	Survey	are an excellent use of tax dollars. I go to my branch library 2-3 times a week. Proximity to my home is important so keep funding & offering
988	Survey	programs, events, etc. at all LC branch libraries for all ages.
989	Survey	I grew up using my local libraryI have spent many hours of my life in librariesI love the sounds, the atmosphere, and the peopleI read constantlyMost of all, I value the people who are employed at our libraries"Do it yourself" is not part of my life there and most of all, I would like to advocate and make sure the jobs involved are not in jeopardy with the new changes
990	Survey	I have a Master's in library science and worked for many years as a school media center librarian. What I saw the families needing was easier access to books and other resources closer to their homes, help from librarians when they came to use the library, more programs for children/teens. Many of our school families told us they were grateful for the school libraries because the public libraries were aimed more at adults and did not provide many services that students needed, at hours when they could easily access the library services.
991	Survey	I have always been impressed with the NE branch. I like their new system of storing books on " holdâ€.
991	Survey	I have always found the staff at the library to be extremely helpful.
993	Survey	I have become unable to walk very well, so it would be nice to have access to the drive in window to pick up materials. Reading is so important to me that I hate to lose that wonderful gift of the library. I have been disappointed in the lack of trust of children in the library. They should be able to wander without having an adult directly behind them unless they are causing a problem. This is the sole factor
994	Survey	contributing to our spending less time in the library.
		Contributing to our spending test internet menty.

#	Source	Comment
		I have enjoyed the main library, north side library, south Adams St library and now I really like the East
995	Survey	library close to my new house!!! Super nice staff!
		I have never been able to get my Kindle Fire to download an electronic library book. It has been very
996	Survey	frustrating. The minimal help I could find was no help at all.
~~-		I have noticed the library has become a place to leave loud, unruly children when school is out. It is also a
997	Survey	place where homeless tend to gather and be disruptive. These make me not want to linger in the library.
998	Survey	I have used the Interlibrary Loan program and it's wonderful. I would like to have easier access to ebooks.
	,	I have used two different outlying libraries in Leon County, due to relocation. The library staff at both
		locations have been helpful, kind and knowledgeable. They assist me and are accepting of my weakness
999	Survey	and mobility issues. I am truly grateful.
1000	Survey	I highly value our library resources including Inter-library loan
		I honestly don't even know where the nearest library is, or hear about it on social media. Kinda one of
1001	Survey	those things you tend to forget that exists, especially since access to the internet and ebooks came out.
		I hope to use the library more when I have a family. I LIVE how East side branch has a park/pond right next
1002	Survey	to it. I plan on utilizing this library a ton when I start my family.
		I incorrectly marked one page as Not Important when the answer was Very Important. I could not get back
		to the page to correct it. The library is very important to me. I go there weekly. I check out materials, buy
		materials and attend lectures and a Book Club. I am VERY DISTRESSED that the library is no longer
		purchasing books on CD. I travel a lot and use these books when I travel. I am proud of our library and
1003	Survey	hope that the wonderful services do not diminish!!!
		I just wish there were more art-related topics, or sessions at the library other than just researching and
1004	Survey	reading.
1005	Survey	I like being able to browse and reserve books.
1006	Survey	I like having the services of people in the library
		I like participating in the traveling library books program for my neighborhood book club so we can all get a
1007	Survey	set at one time.
1008	Survey	I like the downtown Tallahassee library. Do not make it into something that it is not.
1009	Survey	I like the fact that you offer Ancestry to the community
1010	Survey	L like the idea of coffee chang in the libraries. Or at least he allowed to bring in coffee, bottle water, etc.
1010	Survey	I like the idea of coffee shops in the libraries. Or at least be allowed to bring in coffee, bottle water, etc.
		I like the library, but the closest branch is the main library. I hate having to think about how long I've been
		there, because of the parking fees. I understand why they have to have it there, but an hour limit makes it
1011	Survey	hard to wander the shelves and find something new or really enjoy reading in the library.
1012	Survey	I like to have adequate staff to help with navigating resources
	,	I liked all the programming that the survey asked about. It's all important! I'm just not sure which the
1013	Survey	library should focus on.
	,	I live abroad, hence why I have not had the opportunity to visit the absolutely wonderful and life-changing
1014	Survey	Leon County Public Library
		I live in a neighboring county, Gadsden. I have appreciated their library system, but investing in the Leon
		County system has been very rewarding for decades. Library staff and infrastructure have been beneficial
		on many levels to my family, my senior students, and myself. I appreciate the democratic nature of the
1015	Survey	Library and the wonderful staff of all the branches I have visited. Well done!
		i live in the northeast but primarily use downtown library. of note, i prefer checking out with librarians and
1016	Survey	NOT computer scanners.
1017	Survey	I love being able to put items on hold and then pick them up at the branch near me.
1018	Survey	I love book clubs and the traveling book bags

#	Source	Comment
		I love checking out books and getting books from inter loan. I like that you have rooms for meetings. I love
1019	Survey	the idea of teaching art and computers at the library.
1020	Survey	I love going to my local library and I visit every Saturday. I would LOVE a coffee bar.
		I love it I grew up utilizing the library and have taught my grands These additional resources/services
1021	Survey	would be wonderful
		I love libraries. Leon County's system needs more programs, lectures, job seeker resources, and community
1022	Survey	interaction. Liaise with FSU and/or FAMU for guest lecturers. Author events.
		I love my library, and I am glad that it wants to stay relevant and innovative. Change is important to keep an
		organization going in this rapidly changing world. I am also glad that administration is reaching out to
		discuss with the public and receive input. I only wish this conversation had started earlier. The changes that
		I have seen at the library in the last several months have been seemingly chaotic at times, and library staff
		haven't always had the answers from leadership as to what direction the library is going in. They've seemed
		as surprised and unsure about the changes as the public. As I said above, change is good, but
		communication is important to ensure a smooth transition. I wish there had been more communication in
		this case. Either way, I am hoping for the best for the future of the library and will remain a lifelong
1023	Survey	supporter.
1020	Survey	I love my library. I frequent the Lake Jackson Branch. Unfortunately, I do not participate in many
		community events due to my work hours and transient time. Also, all of the people there have always
		been super helpful and kind to me. They're always helpful when asking for assistance, and I just can't say
1024	Survey	enough positive things about the people there.
		I love my library. My sister was recently widowed and came to live with me. Since practically all jobs
		require online application and she does not know how to use a computer, the job search process was very
		difficult and time-consuming. Help with resumes, applying online for jobs and computer literacy programs
		would help many people who either do not have access to a computer or, even in this day and age, do not
1025	Survey	have any computer skill whatsoever.
	,	I love my library. It's a great resource. I appreciate it being open on weekends especially Sundays and in the
1026	Survey	evenings so working people can access it.
		I love my library. The staff is very helpful and knowledgeable. I recently returned to FSU for a Master's
		degree in Library and Information Studies. Every book I need to read is available at a branch of the library
		and can be sent from one branch to another in reasonable time for me to read and complete the
1027	Survey	assignment. Thank you for your great service and your great collection.
		I love my local library - the Lake Jackson Library, I still call it the NEW library! It could use a couple more
1028	Survey	comfy chairs. The staff is wonderful.
4020	c	I love our Eastside library. They are knowledgeable helpful, always available to answer questions and a
1029	Survey	quiet place to go for escape time. Thanks to the staff for keeping it this way $\hat{a}-\ddot{i},\hat{a}-\ddoti,\hat{a}-\ddoti,\hat{a}-\ddot,\hat{a}-\ddot,\hat{a}-\ddot,\hat{a}-\ddot,\hat{a}-\ddot,\hat{a}-\ddot,\hat{a}-\ddot,\hat{a}-\ddot,\hat{a}-,\tilde,\hat{a}-\ddot,\hat{a}-,\tilde,\hat{a}-,\tilde,\hat{a}-,\tilde,a-,\tilde,a-,\tilde,a-,,\tilde,a-,,\tilde,a-,,\tilde,a-,,\tilde,a-,,\tilde,a-,,a-,$
1020	Company	I love our libraries and the services they provide to our community. The seed library has been a great
1030 1031	Survey	addition. Thanks for all that you do and for striving to do even more! I love our library at Pedrick Pond. I just don't read a lot.
1031	Survey	nove our library at Pedrick Polid. Tjust don't read a lot.
		I love our library system and am happy my kids grew up looking forward to going to the library. I am also
1032	Survey	happy that our library participates in cultural events and also has a seed-sharing program.
1032	Survey	
1033	Survey	I love our library, but I fear it gets low dollars from the county and could use some sprucing up.
1034	Survey	I love our library. I wish the main was open earlier in the morning.
	1	I LOVE Pedrick Library!! (That's my name for it.) Feels like home and beautiful grounds! Appreciate the
		computers while I don't have one. Love that it's a voting station and hosts programs for children and
1035	Survey	others.
1036	Survey	I love that they sell cd's for 25 cents.

#	Source	Comment
		I love the ability to reserve books and have them ready for pick up at the branch of my choice. As a teacher,
		this feature is my favorite resource in addition to sharing quality literature with my students and I do so
1037	Survey	every few weeks.
		I love the bookstore at the main library. Parking seems different every time I go to that one, and that turns
		me off from wanting to go. I don't know what to expect (gate working, not working, need a ticket or don't,
1038	Survey	need to pay or don't).
1039	Survey	I love the children's program. It would be nice to see it further expanded.
		I love the children's programs. Wish you also had R.E.A.D program where children can come read to dogs.
1040	Survey	They have this in Jefferson and Wakullah libraries through TMH.
		I love the East Side library, which is close to my house. But we also use the Leroy Collins library frequently.
1041	Survey	My kids love going to both libraries and ask to go.
1042	Survey	I love the Eastside Branch library - it is ideally located and has a wonderful walking loop
1043	Survey	I love the evolution of offerings at the library and willingness to better serve the community. Thanks!
		I love the family-centered events that the libraries provide. The summer reading programs, Be My Neighbor
1044	Survey	Day, etc. are fantastic.
		I love the friendly helpful staff at my library and use the online reservation of books extensively in addition
		to frequently coming to the children's programs. The ideas of a coffee shop and more cozy spaces to read
1045	Survey	sound amazing!!!
		I love the holds pick up shelf at the northeast library. It's very convenient. I don't feel safe at the main
		library. It feels very isolated when looking through books and I wish more staff was posted closer to the
1046	Survey	individual book sections instead of all at a desk that's a little ways away.
4047		
1047	Survey	I love the libraries. Thank your staff for being so nice and helpful. Thanks for keeping libraries clean.
1048	Survey	i love the library and the ability to learn thru computers
		I love the library. I do not like the parking lot though. when the parking lot is full, people pull up to the
1040	C	entrance and get out and leave their car there so it is hard to get out of the parking lot. all the librarians
1049 1050	Survey	are wonderful!
1050	Survey	I love the library. I really appreciated the comfort station after the hurricanes.
1051	Survey	I love the library. Would like to see job training classes (not just job search help) offered out of libraries.
1051	Survey	I love the NE Branch and staff is outstanding !
1052	Survey	I love the NE branch!!!
1054	Survey	I love the Northeast Branch of the Leon County Library! It is an oasis.
1055	Survey	I love the Northeast Branch of the library and go often to check out books. I also reserve books on-line.
1056	Survey	I LOVE the Pedrick library!
		I love the public library and am a very frequent user. The free meeting space for local non-profits is
1057	Survey	invaluable. I wish the parking lot was always free - sometimes I worry this is a barrier for our volunteers.
		I love the questions you asked in this survey! It seems like you've been thinking out of the Box on how the
		library can become more engaged in the community and that's awesome! I would just like to add that I
		think story times really need to be brought to the next level. I've attended them multiple times and the set
		up with chairs for little kids is not practical. Also they are far away from the book and can't see it. I
		appreciate that you have story time I just think it needs to be realistic with a great story teller. The summer
1058	Survey	story times are amazing!! Thank you
1059	Survey	I love the section where they sell donated magazines and books. I am a big customer!
1060	Survey	I love the used book sales
		I love they now have telescopes to check out and can't wait to try one. Other libraries have other tools to
		check out like sewing machines and woodworking. I'd love to do the craft meetings and other offered
		services more but most are offered while I'm at work. More during the weekends would be great. Also
1061	Survey	looking forward to the lecture series 701 of 743 Posted May 17, 2021

#	Source	Comment
		I mostly just use the audio books but the selection is great, the convenience is great, the friendly staff is
1062	Survey	great and the technology used to check out books keeps improving.
1063	Survey	I no longer live in Leon county
1064	Survey	I primarily use the NE branch on Thomasville Rd. Wish there were larger meeting spaces available
1065	Survey	I read A LOT & staff is always patient, willing to help me, and are great at keeping me in reading materials!
1066	Survey	I really appreciate that you're looking to expand on what the library can do to help the community.
1067	Survey	I really enjoy the Eastside Library on Pedrick - I am a Grad Student part time while working full time and I use the extended hours on Tuesday and Thursday evenings to study. My only library related wish is for more frequent evening hours and/or extended weekend hours.
1007	Survey	
1068 1069	Survey Survey	I really like the Eastside Branch, although I wish it was a little easier to reserve the meeting room. Perhaps if there were more than 2 days with extended hours, the high demand would be addressed. I really like the seed library program.
1070	Survey	I really love the seeds that we can check out each season. thank you for making that happen!
1071	Survey	I really think the library does a disservice when it gets involved in social activism. It makes the library a political agency that caters to a subset of the community rather than being a resource for the entire community. One of the ways that the library has promoted social activism is by promoting homosexuality and transgenderism as normative. By promoting those lifestyles, it unduly confuses young children who don't know the first thing about sexuality and are not able to process the significance of it. It also alienates a large segment of the community that disagrees with that particularly lifestyle. The library is a place to find resources to learn, not promote political, social, or religious agendas.
1072	Survey	I really want to use the library more for my kiddos, but there are no story times for working parentsâ€"the times are all targeted at stay-at-home parents. At least, they are at my branch, which also isn't open as much as the main branch. I love the kid areas though and so do my kids. We love finding books!
1073	Survey	I really wish I could check out â€ [~] maker' items, like arts and crafts or woodworking, instead of wanting to do those things and having to buy them even if I don't wind up really using them. That would make me renew my card
1074	Survey	I REITERATE - THE STAFF IS FRIENDLY, ABSOLUTELY HELPFUL, PATIENT, ETC., ETC. COULDN'T BE BETTER.
1075	Survey	I so much appreciate all that the Woodville branch offers and still like to use resources at the main library.
1076	Survey	I stopped going to the library because there was a very unfriendly employee that gave me a hard time, numerous times. I have always loved the library, since I was a child; this one man changed all of that. I even remember one incident where the employee told me that I was making too many copies and told me to stop. The girl next to me said this: I made many more copies than you why did he speak to you like that? I told her that he did not care for me, for some reason. I felt a tiny bit harassed by him when I went to the library. That was only one incident that I am mentioning. I told my husband that I would not go to the library any more after he made me more uncomfortable. Additionally, the CDs and DVDs were dirty; even the lady that was handling them for me (I was checking out) made a face and looked like she did not want to handle the items (she was barely touching the itemsnot with a full grasp). The books were not too bad. This was years ago. As a child, I had two silly dreams of Jesus talking to me inside a library, and that is why I probably loved libraries. It seemed like a peaceful, beautiful place with many wonderful books. I even liked the quiet of a safe space. I think you wanted to know the truth, hence I wrote the truth.
1077	Survey	communication with patrons about what is going to happen and why, with opportunists for them to voice their thoughts and concerns BEPROMETOR and gets are made. Posted May 17, 2021

#	Source	Comment
		I think it would be a really great idea (and possibly helpful as well!) to have a mom/child day. The short
		version of the idea is a mom bring her children with her to the library where child care would provided
		there at the library; moms would have free time to either 1. read, 2. use the computer, 3. socialize with
		other moms there at the library, ect. You could also bring in resources from our community to share
		information to parents which might be helpful and a great way to "spread the word" about info that some
		might not know much about. I am definitely be willing to help with planning and arranging a day like this
1078	Survey	at the library!
		I think libraries are important to the community. My children were always at the "story times" and enjoyed
1079	Survey	them so much.
		I think library resources are not used more widely because people don't know what's available besides
1080	Survey	books, etc.
1081	Survey	I think parking should always be free. Main branch parking lot is too tight.
		i think staff need to protect patrons privacy leave their emails alone as well as giving out patrons personal
1082	Survey	info to others leads to identity theft other issues mail fraud tampering&etc
		I think that it would be better to limit the street people to entering the library, but I know your dealing with
1083	Survey	this the way can.
		I think that the library staff does an excellent job. My only wish is that I'd like to see them do a better job of
		controlling noise from children and the regular patrons. At times I avoid the library due to the noise volume
		that is going on. I understand it is uncomfortable to confront individuals who do not properly supervise
		their children and/or adults who use the library as a social gathering place and create an environment that
		is unpleasant due only to the noise level. Otherwise, the staff at the two library branches that I visit which
1084	Survey	are the Woodville and South Adams branches do an incredible job.
		I think that we have a wonderful library in Woodville and I am so grateful to the county for seeing the need
1085	Survey	for this here. On the whole I think Leanne company has a wonderful library system
		Labin Laborard disting of continuing education classes (and not only for continuous to one) would be a
1000	C	I think the addition of continuing education classes (and not only for seniors or teens) would be a
1086 1087	Survey	wonderful addition to the library. I love the libraries in Tallahassee and think they are very well run.
1087	Survey	I think the community rooms are wonderful for the community
		I think the library does a great job of providing services. I wish there were more opportunities for dancing
		in the community. What I most appreciate about the library is that the non-profit group I am a member of
1088	Survey	is often able to use a library meeting room for special events.
1088	Survey	I think the library is a wonderful place and I am so thankful its a part of my community. I know I live near
		the lake jackson branch but I love going out to the Fort Braden branch because I feel like you get more one
1089	Survey	on one treatment out there.
1005	Survey	I think the manager at Lake Jackson could work on his people skills.
1050		
		I think the services a library can provide change drastically and often. It seems that the homeless are a
		problem. If social resources could be located closer to the library that might help the staff of the library.
1091	Survey	Also, housing some those resources at a new West side branch near the homeless shelter might be good.
		I think they are doing a great job! Kids love to come to the different events and we are constantly
1092	Survey	borrowing books!
		I travel a lot and use the library less than I used to, not because of any deficit of the library itself. Also I buy
1093	Survey	more books than I used to in order to support authors.
		I use public transportation to the Leon County Library. There is a critical need for signage in these public
		spaces informing riders and patrons on the importance of hygiene when they cough and sneeze. Airborne
		respiratory droplets can compromise the health and safety of library staff, bus drivers, patrons and
	1	

#	Source	Comment
		I use the Hold function monthly to get books delivered to my local branch. Everyone is super friendly that
		works there, and it's a fantastic resource. I do work remotely, and would spend more time in the library if
1095	Survey	there were more meeting rooms to be reserved.
		I use the library thats not near my zip code, I use the branch on Pedrick Road, because the one near my zip
		code (Adams Street) has people talking like they are in their living room and that's not acceptable to me in
		the computer area where your trying to print something ar read something. The computer area has
1096	Survey	proctors who allow waaaaay to much noise
		I use the NE LIbrary exclusively and believe being open some hours on Sundays might be beneficial and
1097	Survey	perhaps open a little later on Saturdays.
1098	Survey	I used this library when I lived in Tallahassee. I moved and now live in Atlanta
1099	Survey	I utilize the Inter-Library services a lot and appreciate this program most of all!
1100	Survey	l very much enjoy and appreciate my branch library on Thomasville Road.
1101	Survey	I was a leader in the community/church but the years have caught up with me a bit
		I was at the library on 02/26/2020 to pick-up an item on hold. Rather than retreving the item I was told
		what aisle the item was on and basically had to find it myself. The library seems to be going the way of
1102	Survey	Walmart when it comes to checkout:and I don't think that's a good thing.
		I was just thinking the b other day I wanted to come visit the library. I haven't had time lately But I did
		want to point out that the English classes/tutoring for new speakers or second language is an amazing
		program at the library and has personally been beneficial to my family. Thank you for providing a space for
1103	Survey	it!
		I went in last week. Diedre and Mary went beyond just being helpful. Courteous, knowlegable and
		extremely helpful to this old blind man. Thank you gals. Your staff is always the best of any library I've ever
1104	Survey	been in.
		I wish I had more time to spend at the library! I always love seeing the art exhibits, whether created by
1105	Survey	elementary students or members of the Senior Center.
		I wish librarians enforced the quietness you expect at the library. I go there to study and people literally
1106	Survey	stand in the aisle holding conversations at full volume.
		I wish our local library spaces and programs were more family friendly. I have kids of varying ages and I find
		that many programs preclude some of my children making it hard to attend. I would love to have the
		environment be more linger friendly, like a coffee shop, where my family could spend the whole day. Ideas:
		Chess Area, Interactive play space for kids that emphasizes Montessori learning strategies, a way for the
4407		parents to read/work while the children engage in their own activities. I like having areas that are noise
1107	Survey	friendly and areas that are quiet. I love events that encourage a cultural blending of the community.
		I wish that our library branches were open on Sundays and/or Mondays. I wrote my county commissioner
1100		about this issue and he shot down this request as being unfeasible due to budget constraints. I'm hoping
1108	Survey	this is a priority for our library system in the future.
1109	Survey	I wish the Eastside branch were open on Mondays. I wish the NE Branch were open on Mondays and would stay open later on Saturday. I love the possibility
1110	Currieu	
1110	Survey	of having space for artists. I wish the programs were better advertised. I would love to attend more events, especially for art
1111	Survey	
1111	Survey	programs.
		I wish there were more cultural events. I'm from Chicago and back at home I was so connected with the
		public libraries because they had events that were engaging, in step with what was happening and allowed
1112	Survey	likeminded people to come together. I wish tallahasee had spaces like that.
1112	Survey	I wish we had a library branch closer to where I live in Southwood. I would be more likely to go if there
1113	SURVOV	were a closer location.
1112	Survey	
1114	Survey	I wish your library hours were more accessible. Branches are usually closed when I plan on visiting
1114	Survey	I work in Leon County. I visit Leon County libraries when I can.
1113	Survey	work in Leon county. Twist Leon county indianes when real.

#	Source	Comment
		I worked from age 14-2nd year in college at a library. We were trained if we were working at the desk to
		say hello to people and make eye contact with them as soon as they walked into the door no matter what
		we were doing. This doesn't seem to be the norm in libraries now. It makes all the difference in the world
1110	C	to feel welcomed and important patrons. Use of library room for business classes (for profit). More job
1116	Survey	opportunities for young adults to work at the library.
4447		I would be lost without my library on many levels. Learning, entertainment, use of the internet. all of the
1117	Survey	staff are friendly, courteous and very,very helpful!
		I would be very sad if funding was cut for our libraries. So much is online these days that some refocusing
1118	Survey	is needed for the libraries .in the future. I'm assuming that is what this survey is for.
		I would desperate plead to anyone who can possibly make a difference to make our local libraries,
		particularly the NE, more inviting and welcoming to children. I have lived all over the country and have
		never seen a library that is less so. Some of the staff there genuinely make you feel guilty for bringing your
		children in there, and when they do come and receive their cold reception, there is so little there for them
		to do, to help them feel engaged or create positive connotations with literacy and to view the library as a
		place of learning that is FOR THEM as well as adults. If this is the way that we treat our young generation,
		we will be doing all that we can to discourage lifelong literacy and learning, and they will grow to become
		adults that only use the libraries for movies and the internet. This period of time, when they are young, is
		our one chance. And I hate to be rude, but we are blowing it. And it makes me really sad and I wish things
1119	Survey	could be different. Our kids deserve better.
1120	Survey	I would go to the downtown main library more often but it's hard with paying to park
-		
		I would like for the library to continue to focus on promoting what is excellent, beautiful, truthful and
1121	Survey	edifying. Do not get caught up in what is popular if it does not meet these standards.
1122	Survey	I would like more art and craft classes offered, for adults and seniors. I would support any offered.
1122	Survey Survey	I would like our library branch to have longer hours and be open more days of the week.
1123	Survey	I would like the branch library to be open Mondays
1124	Survey	I would like the library to be open everyday.
1125	Survey	I would like the library to not waste book donations from the community. My experience is that there is at
1126	Survey	least a 90 percent rejection rate. Not good. Somebody is making bad decisions.
1120	Survey	I would like the Northside branch to open on Monday.
1127	Survey	
1128	Survey	I would like to be emailed about events going on at the library. I do not subscribe to the local paper.
		I would like to have longer open hours and designated places to study so the library can become more of a
		primary quiet study space. Also, more events targeted at parents with younger infants/toddlers would
1129	Survey	draw more people to the library as well.
1130	Survey	I would like to say that the east branch library is by far, one of the coziest libraries i have been to.
1131	Survey	I would like to see chrochetting classes, Silk floral design classes, and craft Classes.
1132	Survey	I would like to see computer classes for adults in the evening after work hours
		I would like to see more activities for babies and toddlers, such as "mommy and me" classes, storytime at
1133	Survey	night and weekend activities
		I would like to see more community unity with the neighborhood with this library and all the branches
1134	Survey	within Leon county.
		I would like to see more immersive environments and interactive play areas for children at the main library
1135	Survey	downtown.
1136	Survey	I would like to see more programs for children for 13 and under

#	Source	Comment
		I would like to see more resources for out of county students especially with obtaining a library card. This is
		a college town and many students come from different counties and having to pay \$10 is ridiculous for a
1137	Survey	library card and prevents many students from using the services.
1138	Survey	I would like to see our library be more a community center
1139	Survey	I would like to see the Leon County Library participate in the R.E.A.D. program
1140	Survey	I would like to understand how to use digital access.
		I would live better communication on events taking place at my local branch. Tend to not know what is
		going on unless I go into the library and look at the calendar on the wall or grab a flyer. A weekly email
1141	Survey	directly from the branch as a reminder would be great.
1142	Survey	I would love access to 3d printing through the library
1143	Survey	I would love for the Lake Jackson Library to be open later on Saturdays and open on Mondays.
1144	Survey	I would love Monday or Sunday hours for the Killearn location
1145	Survey	I would love to see a more inviting children's area and more free recreational programs at the library.
1146	Survey	I would love to see more activities and learning opportunities for the children and teens.
		I would love to see more activities for pre-schoolers on the weekend. Would love to get my kids more
		involved but it is hard when story times are geared towards stay-at-home parents. Would love to see more
		support for job seekers with young children, providing an environment for adults to look for/apply for jobs
		while their children are being cared for. More support for people seeking re-entry to the community after
1147	Survey	time in jail/while on probation.
1148	Survey	I would love to see more outreach to the homeschool community.
		I would love to see the library open 7 days a week in the northwest and Eastside libraries. The downtown
		library is so far away from my community and not very convenient, in time or distance. I would also like to
		see the same libraries open later in to the evenings to give the community an option for further education
1149	Survey	and a safe place for students to study and gather.
		I would love to spend more time at our libraries to work from "home†or with my children but here in
		Tallahassee they are often a hub for homeless people and I don't feel safe. Additionally, the libraries chairs,
		flooring, materials, bathrooms, etc. are worn and dirty which makes spending time there not very pleasant.
1150	Survey	I don't want to touch things.
		I wrote a book in 2018, left it at the main library for review for approval to be put on display. I did a
		followup three times, one in person but I never heard from anyone at the library. Needless to say I was very
		disappointed. Even if it was not approved to be on display in the library, feedback on the book would have
		greatly been appreciated. Book title: "Know Your Worth, Stop Settling for Cheap" by Evangelist Hazel
1151	Survey	leland.
1152	Survey	I'd like to have the ability to get a library card even when I move out of the county.
		I'm a big fan. I love that you will order books on request, and love the online reservation system. The library
		is the only free meeting space that I'm aware of in town, and we use it often for civic meetingsLeague of
1153	Survey	Women Voters. Thank you so much for all that you do in our community.

#	Source	Comment
		I'm a very strong advocate of our library mobile unit. As Activities' Coordinator for our Senior and/or
		Disabled community it's more than imperative that this functioning outreach of our local library continue
		for the benefit of our senior/disabled population. Your professional colleagues bring our folks a wonderful
		outlet that would normally be denied them as they utilize the service to read books or hear audiobooks; gain access to diverse musical tapes or CDs; seek relief with comedy or find adventure with DVDs. It's also a
		welcome service that you forward and receive Braille materials from the Library of Congress or interlibrary
		loan access. I have found your colleagues who bring this service to us highly professional, absolutely
		knowledgeable (given sometimes very little information) when finding obscure novels or authors,
		compassionate and very aware of the needs of individuals in this community. They always go "the extra
		mile" and provide a welcome and necessary service for our people. They can discourse with anyone here
		and are very patient and personable. It is hoped that your Board of Directors will see the necessity of this
		outreach and not only continue this service, but expand it in any way that furthers the opportunity of our
		folks here (and others of the same age and circumstances throughout Tallahassee and surrounding areas)
		to reach out and embrace the cultural diversity and technological innovations available because of your
1154	Survey	commitment to subset areas of Tallahassee, like our community. Thank you for your service to us!
		I'm concerned by the self checkout machines and the help-yourself to books you've put on hold. Are you
		doing this to get rid of human being workers? If so, that's a serious mistake. Libraries are about people, as
1155	Survey	much as they are about books. Libraries employ people. PLEASE don't cut library jobs!
		I'm lost now that CDs of spoken books are no longer being purchased. The librarians tell me "it's easy" to
		get audiobooks via the Internet, but I don't even know what kind of equipment to I need to do so. I'd
		attend a session on how to make this leap, if one were offered (after Covid19 is under control). None are
1156	Survey	mentioned by the librarians.
		I'm not sure how much we need a gun-carrying Sheriff's Deputy at the library. Library security and staff and
		patron safety are important, but police presence doesn't make everyone feel safer. It might also be
		worthwhile to look into demographic research regarding who is being ejected or banned from the library to
		make sure policy is being applied with an even hand. Maybe look into using library resources and/or
		partnering with local organizations like the Boys and Girls' Clubs for childcare options within the library.
		Children shouldn't be allowed to roam the library freely without a guardian for safety reasons, but parents
		who work evenings or multiple jobs may not always be able to accompany their children when they want to
4457	C	visit the library. Partnering with community childcare organizations could be a safe way to make sure kids
1157	Survey	get to use the library when they want to. I'm relatively new to town and have visited only the northeast county library and the one downtown. The
		interiors of both look rather tired and dreary to me not very inviting. That isn't my impression of the
		staff. And, while interior decor isn't the most important library element, it would be lovely if the indoor
1158	Survey	spaces could be brightened-up and updated.
		I'm very dissapointed about this ; I like the colling library a lot but it is very hard to go study there. if I do
		not have any money to pay at the gate, I can't not go there to stay pass 30 minutes. Why people can't have
		free access to the library. Common, this is a library, people should feel free to spend as most as they want
		in the library without worry about money. Please, I hope you take that my concern in consideration.
1159 1160	Survey	Thanks Increase funding for libraries - they are one of the best resources for the community!
1160	Survey Survey	Increase the open hours for sattelite locations. They should be open Mondays
1162	Survey	Increasing days/hours in the library branches.
1163	Survey	Is there anything more you would like to share regarding your library or your community?
		It has became a Homeless Day-care shelter. People drop their kids off and let them run around
1164	Survey	unsupervised. It is loud and sometimes dirty.
		It is a designated space where I go to be productive. I am too comfortable at home, so I lounge around. The
1165	Survey	library gives me a space outside Page WORk of the productive. Posted May 17, 2021

#	Source	Comment
		it is a shame these teen programs start at 3pm when they are in school till 4. learning about a job and
1166	Survey	money is so important
		it is absolutely horrible that the library's exterior elevator has not worked on a regular basis for months .
		Recently saw a senior citizen pushing his walker trying to get up the long incline to get to the libraryu all
		should be ashamed that you have no compunction about violating the ADA . you have moved all of the
		staff from downstairs to upstairs and sometimes the elevator does not work, why should patrons have to
		sign off their computer to go upstairs to get assistance in the main library. More people are going to
		branch libraries because the service at the main library has gotten to be so bad . the gift shop is unfriendly
		with so much stuff you cannot find things easily and the magazines should be boxed by topic like they have
		them in the larger branch library sites . You want to make things better, you do not have to do away with
		what is good to make things better, you add to not destroy. the new library director should keep this in
	_	mind as you move forward and this survey should have been done before of the implementations were
1167	Survey	done
1168	Survey	It is good that any local libraries parking is free.
4460	c	It is in a safe, easily accessed location. The building is well kept and nicely decorated. I love having a park
1169	Survey	adjacent to the building with a walking trail.
1170	Survey	It is underutilized. Great location. Great potential.
		It was a great resource to me when i was in college. And it is great resource to the community. I see school
		children after school utilizing the library, I see little kids getting books with their parents and I see the
1171	Survey	homeless using the computers, and I enjoy the dvd section. So all locations are valuable.
	-	It was my first time going to the library last week. I just joined a book club and love to read. I have 3 kids
		4,3, & 1 and I wanted a library card to check out a book. The First Lady I saw told me I could do the form at
		home which was great but I was already there, with my three kids. I got it filled out and found a guy that
		helped me find my book and had it sent to that library 2 days later. He was so so helpful and it was such a
1172	Survey	blessing. A little help goes a long way!
		It would be awesome if we could check out things like kitchen equipment & sewing machines. Stuff you
1173	Survey	don't need all the time & may not have room to store at home
1174	Survey	It would be beneficial to have a library that was more convenient to access on the southeast side of town.
11/4	Survey	It would be excellent if disinfectant wipes were available AT the computer keyboards and for mouses.
1175	Survey	Especially now with coronavirus looming.
		It would be helpful to have law enforcement at doorways and within the building to deter homeless and
1176	Survey	predators from lingering.
1177	Survey	It would be nice if the libraries would open earlier and have the branches open all days of the week.
1		It would be nice if there was some way to provide more cleanliness services for homeless populations at
		the downtown location. There is a strong smell that discourages users from staying in that library very long.
		It would be great if the community could find a way to help people clean up and keep the library
1178	Survey	welcoming for everyone, including those people who don't have a home.
	,	It would be nice to have a library that is a safe place to read learn and grow. This is no longer the case in
1179	Survey	Leon county.
1180	Survey	It would help to have late hours at least a few days a week.
4404	Gunna	It's difficult to advertise library activities to the greater community. Using social media and getting more
1181	Survey	citizens to link to media outlets for upcoming events, is crucial to creating involvement and participation.
1100	Survey	It's not about price, programs don't always have to be free. It's about opportunities being given to those without support
1182	Survey	without support. It's the best and I feel blessed to have a library close me. And I really like all the people that work at Lake
		Jackson -they are friendly, always helpful and ready with a welcoming smile. Please help us keep our
1183	Survey	libraries and our library staff! Page 708 of 743 Posted May 17, 2021
1100	Jurvey	

#	Source	Comment
1184	Survey	Its to noisy.
		I've use the library regularly for audio books since I must drive long distances for my work. The Leon County
1185	Survey	NE branch is great.
		I've used the Leon County library for over 30 years. I've used inter library loans, overdrive, and reserved
		books. The staff has always been professional and accommodating. I'm grateful for this community
1186	Survey	resource.
1187	Survey	Job search assistance
1188	Survey	Just moved to Leon County. Might include info in welcome packets.
		Just wondering why Woodville library is not open on Sundays. Think that would give working families more
1189	Survey	time to visit library.
1190	Survey	keep it going
1191	Survey	Keep it!
1192	Survey	Keep libraries open 7 days a week.
1193	Survey	Keep library services as they are now. do not change a thing. It is working great as it is now.
1194	Survey	Keep the audiobooks available (cds) please
		Keep the library workers. The checkout computers are not an improvement; librarians make it a library,
1195	Survey	warm and human, like it should be.
1196	Survey	
		Lake Jackson Branch is an excellent facility and needs to be supported to continue providing services to this
		expanding area. Over the years, the NW area seems to have been neglected, as seen in the level of parks
		and other public infrastructure. The new branch library was long overdue and truly needs support from the
		community to continue providing the level of services it does. One area that needs to be addressed at all
		branch libraries is the limited hours of operation. Basically they need to be expanded to meet the
1197	Survey	community demand.
1100		Lake Jackson branch is beyond outstanding in every regard. Well managed and organized with friendly,
1198	Survey	courteous and knowledgeable staff. A paragon of excellence in public service.
1199	Survey	Lake Jackson is an excellent run library
1200 1201	Survey	Lake Jackson Library Staff are superb. Everything is great at this location. Good job! Late hours for the comfort of our homeless community members
1201	Survey	Lauren has been very helpful in procuring and recommending engaging and funny books for me to read to
1202	Survey	my 5 yo daughter. Her assistance is very much appreciated.
1202	Survey	LCLC library and staff are awesome. I always have a library book on my nightstand and visit main and
		branches monthly. I love the hold service and use it frequently for popular books. I enjoy the park and trail
1203	Survey	at the Mahan location too.
		Learning should never stop. Libraries that keep banker's hours are missing the younger generations.
		Libraries should no longer be looked at as just a place for books. Libraries must evolve into a safe place for
		people to go to read, learn, and share ideas with others. Most of the people I know don't go to the library,
1204	Survey	because it's not open when they are looking for a place to go. Especially late at night.
		lending books between libraries has declined. Maybe someone retired and wasn't replaced???. Failing at
1205	Survey	transferring books between libraries suddenly gone???? And I can't get books I need!
		Leon County has a great library system. I willing pay each year for the privilege of using its resources. I
		think libraries are great equalizers in a community. Today, everyone needs to be able to access the
		Internet. The library makes that possible for everyone. It is a great service to the community. I support
1206	Survey	public libraries.
		Leon county has a solid library system, but it could use some improvement and become a good space for
1207	Survey	helping those In need and providing much needed safe public space
		Leon county has great libraries to the rest of Florida. I have moved to Wisconsin this year and the only thing
		I'd recommend having for use in libraries is 3D printing. They're expensive to use and provide a huge
		opportunity for stem and art students. A few Wisconsin libraries have them and I'd love to see more of
1208	Survey	them in my home state libraries.
1209	Survey	Leon County Library needs to offerent hole hordering collocations. May 17, 2021

#	Source	Comment
1210	Survey	less homeless more food regularly
1211	Survey	Libraries are extremely valuable for providing meeting space and use as polling places.
1212	Survey	Libraries are one of the crown jewels of a community.
		Libraries are very important to a community. They are places to go to learn, whether it is art or life skills,
		and where people can vote and gather for civic discussions/ discourse/meetings. They are not coffee shops
1213	Survey	or farmers markets.
		Libraries have the reputation of you have to be quiet b/c back then people would have to go to the library
		to read and study. There should still be rooms for quiet reading, but allow the library front to be an open
		and sharing environment. People who want to read to patrons their poetry or stories. Groups to
		collaborate and plan for their business. Learning sessions for young adults of basic life skills. Re-enactment
		of historical times we used to go to encyclopedias for and now we google or watch videos. Have the role
		playing of these times. These are all just examples, but with the times changing so rapidly our view of a
1214	Survey	public "community" library needs to change as well.
		Libraries need books, quiet spaces, and security. Classes would be fine. My library is small, I cannot imagine
		a food bank, local artist displays, or providing areas for telecomutting workers hanging out, eating, and
		basically getting a free office space. Churches do the food banks, let them stay there, bigger parking lots to accommodate it. More classes on growing vegetables and native plants would be nice. Teaching
		basic computer classes, or offer classes with certifications would be nice too. Ft. Braden Library is my
1215	Survey	branch. The community garden is near there but not being utilized.
1215	Survey	Libraries should perfect library issues not take on the jobs of social services or the educational system
1216	Survey	except as it pertains to reading skills
		Library children's areas are overall very disappointing compared to libraries we have beem to in Cleveland
1217	Survey	and Chicago so we rarely go. You need more kids toys and activities
1218	Survey	Library is beautiful, I wish it were open more but I understand it requires more funding.
1219	Survey	Library is open when I'm working and closed when I'm off.
		Library ladies are quite protective of their space, but often not particularly diplomatic. I've been treated like
1220	Survey	a child a few times when asking questions, directions as an adult woman.
		Library needs to be updated and money needs to be spent making it a place to bring people together while
1221	Survey	providing most of the services people have at home.
1222	Survey	Library staff are awesome!
1223	Survey	Library staff are superb.
		Library staff at the Woodville branch are friendly, helpful, professional. So glad that the library and center
1224	Survey	are located close by
4005		Library staff who are working behind the scenes seem to be able to make the public face of the library a
1225	Survey	very positive force. I appreciate them.
1226	Survey	Like having the meeting rooms available for meetings. like the seed share
1227 1228	Survey	Local libraries are a community center. It's exciting to see them re-imagined to offer more
1220	Survey	Location, lack of parking space or tight parking spaces. Driveway is directly off of 4 lane roadneeds a
1229	Survey	merge off lane to avoid accidents.
1220	Survey	Longer library hours would be most helpful at the branches.
1200	Survey	Looking forward to libraries being able to open one day in light of pandemic. Wish nearest library were
1231	Survey	closer to home.
1232	Survey	Love all the kids events
1233	Survey	love browsing the secondhand bookshops in the libraries
1234	Survey	Love having a library on the east side. Great resource. My family uses it almost every week.
1235	Survey	Love having useful and well kept walking trail around library Location of eastside library is excellent
		Love our libraries & librarians. Adding more community-available resources (lending tools, craft supplies)
1236	Survey	would be wonderful.
1237	Survey	Love story time and baby time!Pager@at0wat/460 promote literacy. Posted May 17, 2021

#	Source	Comment
1238	Survey	Love the book club at Lake Jackson Library! Please request people NOT to use phones to call in the library!
1239	Survey	Love the Eastside library!!
		love the EV charging stations! more info on driving electric available to patrons? love the seed library; love
		the availability of meeting space for organizations; survey didn't address any needs of non-english
1240	Survey	speakers.
1241	Survey	love the libraries and the coffee at Eastside library!
1242	Survey	Love the libraries here but have seen libraries in other cities tat are more welcoming, e.g. coffee shop.
1243	Survey	Love the library staff. Need more locations.
		Love the new get it yourself reserved books section. And the check out machines. Don't like the dvds being
1244	Survey	on the 2nd floor.
1245	Survey	Love the Pedrick Branch
		Love the colection of CDs. DVDs and backs. Really appreciate the coord library. Also anioy buying puzzles
1246	Survoy	Love the selection of CDs, DVDs and books. Really appreciate the seed library. Also enjoy buying puzzles from the bookstore. Would like a crafting /knitting group at the Bodrick Bond Library location
1240	Survey	from the bookstore. Would like a crafting/knitting group at the Pedrick Pond Library location. Love the staff at the NE library. Love the seed and telescope programs. Keep thinking outside the box to
1247	Survey	add to services at the libraries.
1247	Survey	Love this library, but I don't bring my 88 year old mother there as much as I want because she has to use
		the outside elevators and she gets upset when they smell from bums urinating in them. It makes her
1248	Survey	frightened and insecure.
1249	Survey	Love to see more kids programs
1250	Survey	love using the books on CD in the car
		Love visiting the library. It is a great resource in our city. I usually borrow books, but I wish that authors be
1251	Survey	invited to talk, or that art workshops be offered. The staff is friendly and knowledgeable.
		Loved the unique summer programs for kids in 2018 (not sure if they had them in 2019) - Sounds that
		animals make - where they brought in live animals, etc. We need more to do with children &
1252	Survey	Grandchildren on weekends throughout the year.
1253	Survey	Main Library. Checking out of the pay parking lot is a royal pain!
1254	Survey	Make the library more useful other than just reading books
		Many of the items listed in this survey, while important to the community are in no way responsible or
1255	Survey	appropriate for the library.
		Many of the potential programs and services may not be needed in my northeast community but are
1050		definitely needed in other Leon neighborhoods. Some Sunday afternoon hours are needed at those
1256	Survey	locations especially to meet kid educational needs
		Many of the questions here appear to advocate non traditional services being provided by the library.
		Many would be great but hope that they would be strategically prioritized to best serve community needs and interests, and not duplicate services offered by other agencies or nonprofit organizations. Also, best
1257	Survey	use of public financial resources.
1257	Survey	Many of the services described in the questions seem to be the responsibility of entities or agencies other
		than the library. Schools, arts and crafts programs, vocational training programs and others have purposes
1258	Survey	that should not be met by the library.
1200	Survey	
		Many people in the Woodville area can't afford babysitters. It would be great if the Woodville Library had a
		drop in program for kids. They could have centers set up, two children to a center. A timer could be set and
		when it goes off, the kids can rotate centers. Kids will know that if there are already two friends at a center,
		then they need to pick a different one. That way when parents are dropping off or picking up, the kids are
		always engaged in something. Also, there is a park not even one mile down the bike trail that staff could
		walk the kids to! Parents could pack snacks/lunch that they can eat at the park! Also, there needs to be
1259	Survey	help with obtaining Foodstamps!

#	Source	Comment
		many things at the community center are scheduled during the daymany of us including seniors are still
		working full time. It would be nice to have some of these opportunities available late afternoons or early
1260	Survey	evenings.
1261	Survey	Mo
		Mobile library units would be helpful so patrons would not have to contend with Tallahassee's ongoing
1262	Survey	traffic and parking problems. It would be much easier to pick up and return items on time.
1263	Survey	More accessibility- longer hours - evenings& Mondays through Sundays
		More activities for young readers. I take care of two granddaughters and they love the library. Maybe a
1264	Survey	short storytime around 4:00 when the older one gets out of school.
1265	Survey	More advertising about what you can do at the library.
		More advertising of the type of services available. I think most people only think of books and are not
1266	Survey	aware of the many other services the library offers.
1267	Survey	More current audio books
1268	Survey	More days open, just as the main Library
		More for children. The 1area program for toddlers is packed, but they are postponing for elections. Find a
1269	Survey	different spot for elections. The library is working very for this program, east side.
1270	Survey	More frequent police patrol presence
1271	Survey	More libraries are needed throughout the county.
1272	Survey	More of a music selection, and access to Classical music databases.
		More open hours, starting earlier in the am would help those of us who own our business and cannot leave
1273	Survey	mid morning, or during the day to get to the library.
1274	Survey	More parking space
		More persons need to" know" our library. Is it fair to question the hours of library use by the homeless
		person who wanders around? Better enforcement of the no smoking outside on steps. Love the library
1275	Survey	internet to look up availability of books, movies, etc. Love the library.
1276	Survey	More programs for children would be wonderful
1277	Survey	more seeds
		More software availablevideo and photo especiallywould be nice. Comfy seating areas would be nice.
		It's nice to have the little enclosed study spaces at the NE branch, but the lighting is just terribly bright and
		uncomfortable to be in there for any length of time. Also, the chairs are uncomfortable. Otherwise, I really
1278	Survey	like the public libraries here.
1279	Survey	More staff
1280	Survey	more volunteering.
		More weekday activities/programs for adults and seniors during the daytime eg. public bookreading,
		writing, crafst/art. Currently more available for children than adults/ seniors. Provide public transportation
1281	Survey	services from residence to library for elders/ disabled persons.
		My book club sometimes uses the 10-book bag for our group and I appreciate that, We also donate books
1282	Survey	to our branch libraries; We are pleased with our local library services.
		My community library needs to open earlier in the day. Alternating opening hours of 10 am or 11 am is too
1000		late for a library to open. Where I recently moved from, the libraries opening no later than 10 am - some
1283	Survey	days they opened at 9 am. How can patrons use the library, if it opens at lunchtime?
		My family and I would love to utilize the Northeast Library more, but it's not open on Sundays or Mondays,
1284	Survey	which is when we find we need to go. Increasing to include even limited hours on Sundays would be great.
1284	Survey	My family would love to have access to a broader selection of audio books.
1205	Juivey	My favorite library is Leon County Library. Due to time constraints of being a full time single parent and
		being employed full time and taking on odd jobs to assist in getting in a better financial standing, I lack the
1286	Survey	time to go to the library. If I could, I would go 1 to 3 times a week.
1200	Survey	time to go to the horary. In rooma, r would go I to 5 times a week.

#	Source	Comment
		My kids and I go to the library at least once a week. We love the kids section with kids books and blocks.
		We love the story times, board game days, Lego and science club days, and kids events. I would love it if
1287	Survey	they had more resources for struggling young readers.
		My library is Lake Jackson Branch. I'm very disappointed that they are closed on Sundays. They also close
1288	Survey	early on Saturday. The weekends are a great time for families to go to the library.
		My primary use of the library is to occasionally check out books that I would rather not purchase. However,
		I generally support the different activities described in this survey that help the library serve as a 21st
1289	Survey	Century information center for a diverse population.
1290	Survey	libraries are a dying service in a digital/internet dedicated world
		NE Branch has an exceptional staff, always willing happily to help with the ordinary and most importantly
1291	Survey	the unusual request for help.
1292	Survey	NE Branch is a terrific community resource
1293	Survey	NE Branch is excellent in all respects.
1294	Survey	NE Library is doing an outstanding job! Thank you to all who work there and volunteer.
		Need a game room for kids so that they can be in a enclosed room! A lot of kids have no respect for others
1295	Survey	playing games.
1296	Survey	Need better access. None of your branches are conveniently located.
1297	Survey	Need literacy computer centers at library branches in addition to DLPerry branch.
1298	Survey	Need longer operating hours and weekend hours.
1299	Survey	Need more assistance for getting grants for non profits and investment tools
1300	Survey	Need more audio books
1301	Survey	Need more new music
		Need more promotion to use the library. A lot of kids have never set foot in a library. Libraries could do
1302	Survey	more events that attract young kids and foster the love of reading to enhance imagination
1303	Survey	Need to provide computer learning classes for seniors
1304	Survey	Need to sanitize for germs.
1305	Survey	Need to see if my card is still active and start using the library. Wife checks out books there all the time.
1306	Survey	need transportation
1307	Survey	Need tutors for elementary and middle school students after school
		New gate at main library works poorly; old gate worked MUCH better. New checkout process also doesn't
1308	Survey	work consistently - prefer a person.
4000		New system for reserving books at northeast branch is NOT working well. I have found books for which I
1309	Survey	am on a waiting list for check out, on the shelf for general check out.
		No discrimination based on religion Muslim, Buddhist, Christian, Hindu should all have equal access to
1310	Survey	meeting rooms. Home based businesses as well.
1311	Survey	No drag queen reading hour please.
1312	Survey	No, I do love the Eastside branch.
1313	Survey	No, i like the library just as it is.
1314	Survey	No, just keep it going.
1315	Survey	no, to busy to use it !
1316	Survey	No, thanks for the opportunity to express my concerns.
1317	Survey	Northeast library is awesome!
1318	Survey	Not convinced purchasing a library card is a good idea.I think it should be free to everyone.
		Not have with the new cast of automated system at Newtheride for sighting up recorded metavial. Coing to
		Not happy with the new sort of automated system at Northside for picking up reserved material. Going to
1210	Survey	front desk, asking for book seemed to work fine. I, personally, have had to help several elderly persons find their books and then instruct them on how to use the check out device.
1319	Survey	
1320	Survey	Not really
1321	Survey	Not really
1322 1323	Survey Survey	Nothing Nothing I would like to share regage ingoto with the share regage in th
1372	JUIVEY	ריטניט אומר וידע אומר וידע אומר איז אויזע אוידע אוידע אוידע אוידע אוידע אוידע איז

#	Source	Comment
1324	Survey	Np
1325	Survey	Offer more computer skills classes for seniors.
		Offering tutoring for students, job search assistance for adults, and technology assistance for seniors will
1326	Survey	help stimulate growth
		On the Southside, there needs to be better control of noise, cleanliness and help. I prefer to visit the
1327	Survey	library on Pedrick.
		One of my favorite libraries is in Georgetown, Texas. It has a wonderful coffee shop a lovely gift shop. They
		have thematic music concerts in the communal space. The windows are etched with the names of books
		and writers. There are straight backed chairs for working and comfy ones for reading at one's leisure.
		Those leisure spaces have cozy lighting. They have story telling time for children and you seen seniors in
		there all the time being instructed in how to use computers or programs. If the questions you have asked
1220	Comment	are any indication of the direction you would like our local library to go, then it seems quite similar to the
1328	Survey	Georgetown Public Library. How wonderful!
1329	Survey	Open a cafe in every library! Host more public (governance) meetings at libraries.
1330	Survey	Open branch libraries on Mondays.
1331	Survey	OPEN EARLIER
1332	Survey	Open it 7 days a week. Open more, free parking at all locations, more comfortable chairs and lighting if you want people to linger
1333	Survey	and check out more items, more events in the evening for adults
1333	Survey	Open the library to other Florida residents even with a temporary pass.
1334	Survey	Open-Ended Response
1333	Survey	Our community is desperately lacking in indoor play, discovery, learning and reading centers especially for
		young children (6 and younger). There is a rapidly growing homeschool population that could benefit from
1336	Survey	children's learning and gathering opportunities
1337	Survey	Our community needs a public bus system to get from woodville to the bus routes on capital circle
1338	Survey	Our downtown library is clean, organized and staffed well. It is something i am proud of in our community.
		Our family has utilized various branches of the library since moving here five years ago and have been very
		pleased with services provided. Our high school son enjoyed writing workshops. We've gotten seeds there
	_	each year and planted gardens. As a preschool teacher I've borrowed books and videos for my students.
1339	Survey	We greatly appreciate the services provided.
		Our Jane Sauls Ft Braden Library is just barely adequate. When the librarian Chrissy left, the bright welcome
		and smile left with her and now we have a lead librarian who is ODD. The other folks who work there are
1240	Survey	nice but it would be so great to have Chrissy back. She loved the children and other patrons, and knew far
1340	Survey	more than this new Deborah person.
		Our library has smells stuffy and stale. when kids run around disturbing others the librarians seem to not be
		able to say anything and the parents don't stop them. This happened a while ago but I tend to not stay in
1341	Survey	the library for very long anymore because it happened several times.
1341	Survey	Our library is a great resource. More people need to know what it has to offer.
10-12	54.709	Our library is great but I would love to see more access to professional services such as resume assistance
1343	Survey	and technology training for older folks looking to reenter the workforce.
_	1	
1344	Survey	Our library system is great. I like the free seeds but seem to miss the time to get there for them.
		Our main library's fee-based exit gates make me want to stay awayand I am a volunteer there. They are
		unsafe because people always get stuck there and back up others, and require a human anyway, so remove
		them and keep the human. By charging a fee, you've turned that library into a walk-in homeless hangout
		that keeps away visitors with cars who don't carry change. Also, I have been to other towns with libraries
1345	Survey	with so much morecoffee shop ager ∉n∉adf programs, more guest speakers, others seer Wages 17, 2021

#	Source	Comment
		our NE branch library has a large compliment of older people. It provides social opportunities to many of
1346	Survey	the older population to interact with others and not be so isolated.
		Our Northeast Branch Library is an outstanding facility with a staff that is helpful and understanding of its
1347	Survey	community's needs.
		Our son has to check out and return all our books. I request books from your website, which is most
1348	Survey	helpful. The workers in Tech area most helpful with my iPad and reading books on my Amazon Fire.
1349	Survey	Outreach (Bookmobile) is outstanding.
4050		Outside of the original reading/digital offerings, I would like to see the library focus primarily on K-12
1350	Survey	education, literacy/language arts for adults, art exhibitions and computer literacy for all.
1351	Survey	Paid parking at a library makes no sense and is very inconvenient.
1252	Survey	Darking face lack of free parking space at the downtown library prohibit me and others from visiting
1352 1353	Survey	Parking fees/lack of free parking space at the downtown library prohibit me and others from visiting. Parking is always an issue at the main library.
1333	Survey	Parking the machines to scan, etcare terrible bring back a human being - lets value people over
1354	Survey	machinesplease
1355	Survey	Pay Librarians More
		Paying for parking at the main branch of the library seems unfair because you don't have to pay at the
1356	Survey	branch locations. I feel penalized each time I come. As a result, I don't stay as long.
		Perhaps the library could consider have a 12 month speak to my heart series; where there is a different
		speaker each month from our local community and or public figures who will speak for free and basically
		speak on different topics that help to build the morale of the community. Example: community unity,
		legacy within your family, how can I have peace, health 101, recovering from tragedy, weight loss things to
1357	Survey	consider, sustainability within your community, kids talk- how to support children's dreams etc.
		Please add more books to the book club list! More cultural events and community enrichment activities for
1358	Survey	adults, not just children. Thank you for all you do for the community.
		Please add more business hours for the libraries, esp. for the East branch. If you don't have enough staffs,
1250	Comment	you can find many high school students volunteers. The current library hours in the East branch are totally
1359	Survey	unsatisfied for the community, for example, no Sunday or Monday hours.
		Please allow only the public that qualify for a library card to lounge in the library; do not eat, play games on
		the computers for hours, talk loudly, allow the homeless to congregate among children and the patrons,
		provide a safe place for children to participate in all services at the library including seniors, demand the
		staff to be professional to all, limit the amount of time children or adults can stay on a computer to play
1360	Survey	games or linger usually, do not allow vagueness
		Please clean up the main library. It has become a haven for the homeless and a daycare center for children
		whose parents don't provide after school care for them. I used to love to go to the main library. Not any
		moreit's filthy, the books are worn out, people sleep and eat at tables through the stacks, the computers
		are monopolized by people for games and Facebook, the homeless hang out in the bathrooms and the
1361	Survey	stairwells are covered in urine and litter. C'mon, Tallahassee! You can do better.
1362	Survey	Please continue having books on cd.
		Please don't decimate your music collection!!!! It's important for people to have access to music and
		getting rid of your cd's (face it, they are a good, transportable means of allowing patrons to check out
1363	Survey	music) is a significant mistake.
		Please enforce strict policies on the use of the library by transients. I won't use seating in the main branch
		because I know I could pick up lice. This means I get in and out as quickly as possible. Also, please develop
4000	C	clear policies on dealing with disruptive children at the computers. This is an opportunity to communicate
1364	Survey	the value of respect for others.Page 715 of 743 Posted May 17, 2021

#	Source	Comment
1365	Survey	Please get more books on CD. I use them when I travel. I love the library
		Please keep real people available at the check out. I prefer this to the self check out very much. Do want
1366	Survey	to lose the personal touch
1367	Survey	Please keep them.
1368	Survey	Please marshal your resources for the Southside branch.
1369	Survey	Please open earlier on Tues at NE.
		Please open it 7 days a week! You invested all that money to build and maintain it, yet you say you cannot
		pay staff to keep it open? Ridiculous!s! Closing it on Sunday when children are out of school and many are
1370	Survey	off from work? Before you spend money on anything else, OPEN THE LIBRARY 7 days a week!
		Please please keep the library a quiet place . In our hectic world a quiet space is super important. Separate
1371	Survey	coffee shop or hub fine but the reverence of quiet for reading and study should be primary.
1372	Survey	Please share events on local social media like Nextdoor in Tallahassee
1373	Survey	Please stop replacing people with self checkouts
	,	Police the library more. Control the influx of homeless people who have no regard for legitimate library
1374	Survey	patrons.
	,	Provide wider variety of dvd rentals and more recent movies. Most are very outdated. Do not allow horror
1375	Survey	or violent movies (or put them out of reach to minors).
1376	Survey	Providing more seeds in each packet for the seed library would be nice.
1377	Survey	Publicize What you are planning to change in 2020 & 2021
_	/	Really thankful to have the main branch downtown! Would like to see improvements with the homeless
		population outside of the library (and inside.) very excited for the increased community and cultural events
1378	Survey	that have been held lately.
	/	Recommend more focus on a library that offers quality reading materials. None of the survey questions
1379	Survey	were about books.
1380	Survey	Regarding
1381	Survey	reliable computer based internet services
1382	Survey	Re-open the libraries on Monday!
	,	Request. Extend the hours of the branch libraries to include 8 hours on Mondays, and stay open until night
1383	Survey	fall daily.
1384	Survey	Requested a business book that never came in
1385	Survey	Rides to the library would be nice if there is some online exchange or classifieds.
1386	Survey	running for president keeping librarys clean
		Sad that the hours are less than they used to be. It undermines its purpose when people show up to locked
1387	Survey	doors.
	,	See national libraries as a resource for the underserved such as after school programs, job ready resources
		for unemployed adults, meeting spaces for community groups and advisors, public
1388	Survey	computer/internet/telephone access.
	1	Shawna provides excellent customer service to everyone she encounters. She is truly an asset to the Leon
1389	Survey	Library.
1390	Survey	Should be open SUNDAYS.
1391	Survey	So glad my library is only 3 miles away and 95% of the employees are very very nice and helpful!
		So grateful for all that our libraries provide. Wish they were a little cleaner. Would be interested to see
1392	Survey	library orientation tours - meet the librarians, learn what services are available, etc.
1393	Survey	So happy with using the "hold" service-don't want to buy books, but love to read.
1394	Survey	Somehow I don't hear about events until it is too late.
1395	Survey	Spend time with grandkids at the main library
1396	Survey	Staff are incredible, pay them more and give them more time off and hire more staff to learn from ours.
1397	Survey	Stay in business, we need you. Page 716 of 743 Posted May 17, 2021
-		

#	Source	Comment
		Stop adopting old TV series DVDs that are accessible through most basic/expanded cable packages (most of
1398	Survey	it is just trash anyway)! Need more new full-length feature films and new documentaries.
1399	Survey	Stop charging to park in the library parking lot.
		Tallahassee is in dire need of a makeover. But change doesn't start at the library unless you are offering
1400	Survey	drug rehab classes. Good luck.
1401	Survey	test
1402	Survey	Thank you for free meeting rooms!
1403	Survey	Thank you for including arts and culture as one of your initiatives.
1404	Survey	Thank you for providing opportunities for community speakers.
1405	Survey	thank you for the seeds.
1406	Survey	Thank you! Please fund our public libraries!!
1407	Survey	Thanks
	,	Thanks for having toilet paper seat covers. I notice on both sidesof town that apparent indigent people use
		the toilets. Enjoy the convenience of having senior center classes on the n e side of town. The exhaust
		system in the public bathrooms on the NE library could be better. Frequently the hallway / lobby smells bad
1408	Survey	from the bathrooms.
		The ability to use a library closer to my home for a meeting space or work space would make my desire to
1409	Survey	use and be a part of my library much more enticing.
	,	The best public library branch, downtown, is hard to access for people in outlying residential
		neighborhoods. Most satellite branches are also located so that they are hard to access without an
		automobile, even those (most of them) on public transit routes, given the ineefficiency of public transit in
		Tallahassee, especially outside of regular working hours the very time most people are most likely to have
1410	Survey	time to use a library.
		The branch closest to me is Thomasville Rd. NE. I am in Tallahassee only Sat. pm to Tue. am. Branches are
1411	Survey	not open on Sunday orMonday.
	Survey	The branch libraries in Leon county need to open on Mondays since I see many individuals come to the
1412	Survey	Eastside branch to find this library closed on this day.
	Survey	The children's program is phenomenal I teach in Leon County and my students enjoy having Miss Mary
1413	Survey	from the Library read to us every Tuesday.
		The children's areas need to be revamped. Most are quite dirty & deteriorating. The kids programs need to
		have more that cater to ages 3 to 5 or 6 as those are prime sight word learning ages & the love for the
		library can develop further. Also most of the librarians are not friendly. We jumped from one branch to
		another to find one where they are pleasant to speak with or ask questions to. Most are abrupt & rude. We
1414	Survey	feel so out of place in the county coming from alachua county's library system which was amazing.
		The children's librarian at the NE branch is lacking. She is sweet but her voice is so quiet she can't get the
		children's attention. We sit in the front and I can't even hear her when she reads. It's like she whispers. We
		love story time and stay and play but a louder reader would help/ the kids just do their own thing when she
1415	Survey	reads.
		The collaborations with the library and outreach with other informal education providers is an extent way
1416	Survey	to reconnect services to the public.
		The community room is great for art classes, yoga classes. At Lake Jackson library that makes it convenient
1417	Survey	for many in the area. Thank you.
/		The downtown library has an issue with the homeless. i understand that homelessness is a multi faceted
1418	Survey	issue but more security is needed.
1419	Survey	The east side branch is a great asset to our area
		The Eastside Branch Library is a wonderful resource and close to home. It would be great to have it open on
1420	Survey	Mondays.
1421	Survey	The Eastside Library ROCKS!
1422	Survey	The homeless seem to live there.
1423	Survey	The hours could be extended
1725	Carvey	

#	Source	Comment
		The hours of operation for my local library are too limited. It is closed all day Sunday and has limited night
1424	Survey	hours, making it difficult to study there.
1425	Survey	The internet is so widespread and books function as archival or entertainment the core concept of the library is very niche. I believe the public library should shift into a public place for people to get assistance to better themselves. When school fails, work is unfulfilling, or life ruins potential, I think libraries can form a fantastic safety net for people who need the help and inspiration to do something that is unique to them. There is such a breadth of experiences, careers, and hobbies that people can't see unless they have the expansion of vision that libraries can provide.
		The last time I checked the library charged out of county residents an annual fee. It would be great if that were changed, especially for folks who work in Tallahassee. I literally drive by the library every work day
1426	Survey	but don't have a card because I live in Gadsden County.
1427	Survey	The last time I was at the library it was noisy and the kids where running around like they were at playground not at a library. Staff indicated there nothing they could do about the situation. I have difficult time a homeowner seeing my tax dollars support that foolishness. I will never go back!!!
1428	Survey	The Leon County library has been instrumental in my life. Moving to this city and knowing no one, I met some of my lifelong friends by taking my children to babytime. My children and I frequently make use of the public computers and I use the printing station often for printing, the free 10 pages per card is wonderful. When the hurricane hit, we used the library as a comfort station to charge our phones and get into some AC. My children and I have attended many of the library's programs, such as life sized candy land, and other fun activities. They love to color, play with legos, and spend time at the library. All the library staff have always been so helpful and kind. They assist with finding age appropriate books, give great recommendations, and are wonderful, generous people. I cannot speak enough about how much my family and I love our library. We are very blessed to have it in our life!
1429	Survey	The librarian at Northeast can be condescending and non approachable. Why can we only print one copy at a time?
1430	Survey	The librarians are inadequate. The computers have criminal men using them looking at porn. Not screening people out prior to entering the building. there was a gun found in the bathroom, drug dealers, smelled weed, drunks, and librarians kicking me out for nothing. Mentally ill working here. Maybe drug tests on your employees and mental health tests.
1431	Survey	The libraries are out of step with contemporary library services. Change is essential for survival.
1432	Survey	The libraries in Leon county are not well taken care of nor have the amenities needed by learners. With libraries at FSU accessible to many, they are a much more appealing option than the public library.
1433	Survey	The library branches I have been to are not child friendly - children do not feel welcomed, when they ask questions of the librarians, they are not engaging, and the requirements for supervision are SO stringent that I can't be a few feet away from one child, even if they're sitting reading quietly (I have two other children who need help finding books). I don't go often, but I'd like toI don't feel welcome.
1434	Survey	The library everyone need employed resume study time
1435 1436	Survey Survey	The library has a bad smell at times. The library has an outstanding staff and convenient locations! However, I regret the library's recent decision to phase out CD audiobooks while many users like me used these resources.
1437	Survey	The Library has been and is a place for me to get my work done in a quiet place where I can focus and concentrate. I was able to complete three online courses last summer because I could go to the library and do the work, print out what I needed, and just get it done. I very successfully passed all three online reading courses. It might always be possible, but I do wish that active cell phone use in the computer area be not allowed and that each library have one lab that is a QUIET lab like the main branch has.

#	Source	Comment
		The library hours were cut drastically when the economy tanked. The economy is stronger than ever. All
		branches need to be open from like 9 to 9, or maybe later for the Main Branch. All those other programs
		are cute and make everyone feel good but there are not enough branches for it to matter. The few
1438	Survey	branches that there are need to be open alot more. Period
		The library is a perfect place to collect donated musical instruments and for children and adults to learn
1439	Survey	how to play these instruments either with volunteer teachers or with online lessons
		The library is there to nurture the love of reading and learning beyond the school and home. My nieces
1 4 4 0	C	and grandchildren loved story time when they where young and now know where to go when they want
1440	Survey	the explore the world of books for learning or just adventure.
		The library need to do a better job with security, as I have often felt unsafe in my own local library. Adding
		security guards or some type of security other than library staff would be helpful. I also think the library
		needs to expand its hours. Many people want to spend time at the library to study, look at books, do
1441	Survey	programs, but your limited hours at the branches are problematic.
1442	Survey	The library needs to be open 7 days a week. It needs more funding
1443	Survey	The library needs to increase its community events and programming. We want more programs!
		The library offerings are excellent. The online catalog is very useful for requesting, renewing and finding
1444	Survey	materials. Wish branch locations were open on Mondays and also had longer hours.
1444	Survey	The Library SHOULD ABSOLUTELY BE OPEN ON SUNDAYS!!!! AND MORE HOURS ON SATURDAY! That is
1445	Survey	when working families can go!
		The library should be a quiet and safe place no matter where you are in the facility. The kids may need an
		area where they can play video games and the like and just kick back with their friends. This could be an
		after school type allowance that could be staffed by those needing community service hours or who want
		to volunteer. Also, the adults are worse at times in the upstairs computer area with talking on their
		telephone while people are trying to work on the computer, eating at the computer (yes, it still happens lol)
		or leaving their area messy, just being belligerent. The library as a key gathering place in the community
		could set up an area where people that are homeless could rest, maybe wash off/take showers, get a
		snack, etc. Punishing people for being poor and on the fringe of society is NOT the answer. The library is
		one of my favorite places in town. It has served me and my family well during our trying times, and good
1446	Survey	times. Thank you!
1447	Survey	The library should be open every day.
		The library should be the information hub for the entire county, including all federal, state, county. city and
		colleges and universities. Each have resources available to the public, but it can be a maze trying to find
1448	Survey	something specific.
		The library should connect and integrate more with the other organizations and nonprofits in the
1449	Survey	community.
1450	Survey	The library should do cooperative programs with Making Awesome
		The library staff and volunteers are doing an excellent job and we, as a community, need to show our
		appreciation to them more often. To be able to show kindness, patience, respect and forgiveness to people
		at all times is no easy task. All library staffs deserve a standing ovation for the work that they do
1451	Survey	consistently on a daily basis.
		The library system in Leon County is great. I attend the main library for specisl programs and I frequent the
1452	Survey	BL Perry branch, which I find to be very user friendly.
		The Library system might consider that Coronavirus lives on surfaces. Books are handled by thousands of
		people with questionable health practices. You might consider closing down until this virus crisis has
1453	Survey	passed.
		The library, downtown, has too many homeless folks hanging around. That gives me the creeps when you
		consider that the majority have untreated mental health issues. I do not feel safe parking on the street or
1454	Survey	even in the parking lot. Page 719 of 743 Posted May 17, 2021

#	Source	Comment
		The location downtown makes it feel unsafe with the amount of people that approach me asking for
1455	Survey	money.
		The main downtown library has extreme problems with the 1st and 2nd floor computer areas. Most of my
		friends will not step foot upstairs because the chaos, voices and disrespectful behavior is uncontrollable. It
		is a potty-mouth party for teens and young adults who should be out working jobs. The main floor
		computer area has a "no talking" sign but because there is not supervision, a handful of rudeness could
		easily last 2 hours. Also earphones should be available to the computers on the first floor, since it is
		impossible to concentrate most days in the second floor computer area. The noise is much greater than
		the blocking that small earphones are able to accomplish. Upstairs the library employees disengage from
1456	Survey	the bad behavior 20' away from them. They are worthless in maintaining a professional environment.
1457	Survey	The main library could use a brew pub.
		The main library is your difficult to get a parking space. Very hard to push myself through my car window to
1450	Survey	The main library is very difficult to get a parking space. Very hard to push myself through my car window to
1458	Survey	get a ticket and then to try and not hurt myself paying for parking. So I don't go there at all!
		The main library is very echo-y. I feel like I'm disturbing people when I walk around. I visit on my lunch
		break in my heels. The computers are very useful for looking up books. I enjoy that. I worry about
1459	Survey	cleanliness at the library. It always looks pretty nice though. I would like to be able to enter from the first floor off Park Avenue.
1459	Survey	The main library is wonderful. The apology for saying when they found a book I had returned, was so heart
1460	Survey	felt and refreshing.
1400	Survey	The main library needs to have the handicapped elevator repaired or replaced. It's present state is
		unsatisfactory. It is difficult for some handicapped people to walk long the long distances required to use
		the ramps. The ramps also are a safety hazard and hold water when it rains. They should be repaired to
1461	Survey	drain properly so as not prevent possible slips and falls.
1462	Survey	the military needed to be less harrassing along with the citizens that are in tune with the military
		The most important in visiting a library is that the staff at check out, be friendly to all and sad to say in 50%
1463	Survey	of the time I visit,very very rude & engaged in looking at their phone.
		The NE library is sorely lacking in quiet areas to sit and browse through books. It is very, very crowded every
		day. I wish it was open on Sundays when I could take my grandchildren there. People have leisure time on
		weekends, for the library to be closed is terrible. I never go downtown, so it is a hassle to drive to the main
		branch. I love the Traveling Trunks - use two or three every year for my book club. I wish there were more
1464	Survey	meeting spaces for civic clubs to meet - only ONE meeting room - terribly restrictive.
1404	Survey	the new gate system at Leroy Collins will be a constant pain; the display is too complicated for many of the
1465	Survey	patrons
1466	Survey	The new librarian is impressive, so far
	,	The new parking machines at downtown library are difficult to use. Wind and rain cause the receipts to
1467	Survey	blow around and scan not to work.
		The new self-service check out lacks the personal touch. I am not a fan. It feels like I'm in Wal-Mart. Hope
1468	Survey	no one is going to lose their job because of these changes.
		The Northeast Branch is a great resource. The staff are all friendly, helpful and knowledgable. I far prefer
1469	Survey	this branch to the main library.
		The Northeast Branch Library is a welcoming place. All staff there friendly and helpful and knowledgeable.
1470	Survey	Pleasant place to read and be. I attend Senior activities and vote early.
1471	Survey	The Northeast Library has always been good.
1472	Survey	The parking machine started off badly but it seems to be improving.
4 4 7 2	C	The Pedrick Library is an amazing hub for knowledge seekers and a great resting place for those actively
1473	Survey	walking the park. My family loves it. Keep up the great work!
1474	Survey	the people who check out books tend to be somewhat nasty towards patrons
1/75	Survey	The professional librarians at the main downtown library are outstanding in the skills and helpfulness. They have helped me on my writing projects infraences. Posted May 17, 2021
1475	Survey	have helped me on my writing prage cts infratensely. Posted May 17, 2021

#	Source	Comment
		The professional librarians who work at the downtown main library are excellent. They have helped me
1476	Survey	many times with my questions.
		The providence neighborhood does not have a place for the kids in the area to play. There isn't a park in
		that area for the kids to walk or exercise, I think the area is in dire need for attention where the kids are
1477	Survey	concerned and not so much on the drinking and drugs.
		The public library is certainly not seen as the strong resource that it is. Perhaps some marketing might be
1478	Survey	in order.
		The seed distribution program has personally been very much appreciated & the enhanced landscaping
		(tree planting, etc.) around the pond at our branch library is also very much appreciated. A visible &
1479	Survey	tangible proof of good use of our local tax dollars for all citizens.
		The seed giveaway is my favorite. I love the architecture of the Eastside branch which I frequent. So
		calming. I recycle there. Also am a big buyer of the Friends of the Library books. would love more
1480	Survey	gardening, cooking and crafting info, edms, workshops.
1481	Survey	The seed program is great!
		The self checkout stalls at the Northeast Branch Library are good, but the location of them are not ideal.
		You should not have out them in front of the librarians counter. It blocks access to the librarians and
		confuses people waiting in line as to whether a librarian is available for assistance. You should move the
1482	Survey	self checkout kiosks to the other side, across from the librarians' main counter
	,	The spaces for community meetings need to be larger and more flexible a larger room that could be
		divided into two or more sections would be ideal. The technology for the community rooms needs
1483	Survey	upgrading.
		The staff at reference are super. Extremely helpful and I appreciate it. The check out staff is also
1484	Survey	attentive.
1485	Survey	The staff at the Eastside branch are great.
1486	Survey	The staff at the Lake Jackson branch are helpful, always polite and friendly.
1487	Survey	The staff at the Northeast Branch is always very helpful.
1488	Survey	The Staff does an excellent job! I am sure the pay scale is far to low and needs to be increased.
		The staff is top notch. The outreach with i.e. seeds (and perhaps how to grow) is excellent. I don't use the
		services as much as I could but always have several books checked out and my wife used the videos and
1489	Survey	tapes more so. Used to do a lot of charity work but not so now.
	/	The telescopes and wifi hotspot rentals are an amazing resource for our community. My Girl Scout troop
1490	Survey	have used both to complete badge and service projects in Tallahassee.
		The Woodville Branch is fantastic and we are so glad we have this asset in our community. It would be nice
		if the bulletin board was in the lobby rather than in the computer room. More folks would see community
1491	Survey	notices if it were in the lobby. Keep up the great work Woodville!
		The Woodville branch of the Leon County public library is the greatest. The most helpful people work there
		and always take time to assist or ask if they can assist. I check out books for my grandchildren that they
		need for school (early elementary) and they request and put them on hold if not available. I love the
1492	Survey	Woodville library.
1152	Survey	The Woodville Public Library has an excellent staff that always are willing to assist us with courteous,
1493	Survey	respectful service.
1400		There are no community centers for the teenagers on the NE side. Give kids something to do and they'll get
1494	Survey	in less trouble.
TADA		there is a need for a separation of the children and the adults use of the computers. Also a need for people
1495	Survey	who are studying to be separate from others using computers.
1473	Juivey	There is a need for LGBTQ+ resources, a need for those to feel more welcomed and included in library
		services. There need to be more resources available to LGBTQ+ teens and youth. More mental health
1496	Survey	advocacy and resources.
1490	Survey	auvocacy and resources.

#	Source	Comment
		There needs to be more efforts into crime prevention, including educating the importance of community involvement on the southside. How about some workshops, events, etc. where law enforcement is seen as
1497	Survey	a resource, not a threat and crime will hopefully go down in that area.
1457	Survey	
		There should be a designated area for young children to play computer games on. Others try to do
		research, apply for jobs, etc and can't because of the loud noises of children, whom can't be still cause their
		children and take up space for those that "really" need to use the computer, but can't because children
1498	Survey	aren't doing any productive besides playing computer games.
1499	Survey	These libraries seem a bit removed from their communities, I'm not sure why.
1500	Survey	They do a great job. I wish they had the resources to be open more days and more hours.
4504	<u> </u>	Think seriously about what you want the library to be so you don't extend yourself so much that you can't
1501	Survey	do those services well.
		This is one of the best places in my community with resources that will assist me in school or job related
1502	Survey	areas. the Library here is always clean, quiet, and friendly please keep our Libraries! Thanks
1502	Survey	
1503	Survey	This library has a need to clean these computers and make sure patrons keep hygiene a number 1 priority.
		This questionnaire presumes that the libraries would begin doing a huge amount of social and educational
		work that I do believe they do now, or at least not to the degree implied by the questions. If the library is
		going to be used as a social service entity - it sure as heck has to have a LOT more \$\$ in its budget, more
		hours and probably more space. Not sure I understand why the libraries are being used for such
1504	Survey	social/educational serviceswhat about the schools? Lot more of them and a lot more space. though of
1504	Survey	course they are in use during the day
		This survey appears to be trending in the direction of having libraries perform functions that should be
		better done in other areas of the community. I would accept some literacy functions but libraries have no
		business wasting funds and resources in many of the areas asked about. Libraries are a function of
1505	Survey	government and the last thing we need is the expansion of ANY form of government.
1506	Survey	This survey is good. Keep aware of trends in library use and adapt as needed.
		This survey isn't clear. Are you asking us what we would like to see or what we have? Comfy seating, study areas etc. I'd like to see them but they don't exist now. The wording on that question is a little awkward.
		In my opinion, the libraries should be community centers and encourage people of all ages to hang out,
		meet, host things, generally make the space their own. Currently staff and policy do not encourage this at
		all. Your staff is talented and creative but they do not exhibit this to the public. Empower and train them to
		be more outgoing and engaged. Parking is horrible. Remove the church lot. Remove the paid parking. This
		is a public library. We, as tax payers, are funding it. Why should physical access be so terribly cumbersome?
		Seriously. This needs to be addressed immediately because you can do all you want inside the space to
1507	Survey	improve it but if we can't easily access it then it will be worth nothing.
		This survey was the first time I've heard about possible having a reading time or childcare options during a
4500		job fair. I think that's a great idea. Perhaps also invite the childcare agency's that the potential new
1508	Survey	employees will need, if hired.
1509 1510	Survey Survey	Too many liberal leftist books on display when you enter.
1310		Too many 'services' this questionnaire contemplates! Libraries don't need to do it all. They should be a
		safe, quiet space for reading. Too much noise at the library and unsavory characters at the computers,
		children without supervision. Libraries are not parents! Should not allow kids without parents unless they
1511	Survey	are in an actual reading and learning program!
1512	Survey	Too much noise at the computers (upstairs and downstairs) at the main branch.
1513	Survey	Try to get some help at the reference 22 est/7 for us asap on the 1st fl of the main bited Max 1/2 as 2021

#	Source	Comment						
		Two things make me uncomfortable at the main library, so I rarely spend time there: 1) homeless people						
		who sit for extended periods and stare at patrons ;. 2) teens who seem to regard the library as their after						
1514	Survey	school clubhouse, socializing and hanging out for hours. I do love the NE branch, and go there often.						
1515	Survey	Uniform hours for branches.						
1516	Survey	Use the computers and printers to conduct business and file payroll. Very important						
1517	Survey	Used AARP Tax help recently, thanks for allowing library space for this service.						
		Used it weekly when my kide were young 1.12 years old. Used menthly when kide were 12.14. Use a few						
		Used it weekly when my kids were young 1-12 years old. Used monthly when kids were 12-14. Use a few times of year now. Would use more if they did have computer education, knitting, financial Ed, ect. If they						
1518	Survey	have this then they need to email library card members and let use know.						
1518	Survey	Very Convenient location.						
1515	Survey	Very excellent for early voting.						
1520	Survey	Very friendly and helpfull ee's at the Thomasville facility						
1522	Survey	Very friendly staff. The place is very convenient.						
1523	Survey	Very limited resources. No resources after 6pm.						
1524	Survey	Very pleased with the services offered at the east side branch.						
1525	Survey	video camera check out or assistance with media would be helpful if provided.						
	·							
		Visiting librarians at the senior residences are wonderful. Staff has done an important job in making each						
		branch become a key component of its neighborhood. Staff reponses to requests for book titles,						
		references, answering of reference questions, programming for children & adults is excellent. Many						
		readers would like a pop-up local vendors, especially ones that are near each branch, subsidized on site, to						
		allow all-day or longform times at the library without having to go offsite for tea, coffee, milk or a healthy						
1526	Survey	snack. Thanks for the survey & thanks for our county libraries.						
1527	Survey	Voting area should be QUIET						
		We attended last weekend's Lecture Series with Jeff VanderMeer and arrived before the start time and						
		found two seats together. No one at the entrance doors asked for our tickets. After the lecture, I asked a						
		person in line where the included books could be found and she informed me that before the lecture						
		started, a library representive gave her the reps own copy because they ran out. This was disappointing						
		since the sign up/tickets stated "attendees of this lecture will be able to take home a free personal copy of						
1528	Survey	the book "Borne" ".						
1520	Cumumu.	We do not particularly like the self check out at the downtown library. We like the people who work there						
1529	Survey	and don't want to see more machines replacing people. Machines are not personable.						
1530	Survey	We don't have one. we have a coffee shop in the library?!? if we did i'd certainly linger there! i think a library should be a library						
		and not try to be a "be all" for the community which this survey implies it is trying to be. I HATE SELF						
		CHECKOUT, not just at the library but everywhere it exists. a means to depriving people of jobs in my						
1531	Survey	opinion.						
		We have an excellent library system in Leon County. In the move to increased technology, I hope that						
		people who don't have access to technology or who are not comfortable in using it will not be excluded						
1532	Survey	from library materials and services.						
	1 1							
		We have moved and the library where we are living now is incredible! The activities suit the community						
		and the book sharing program between all of the local areas is AMAZING. We visit the Derby Kansas Library						
		often. When we were living in Tallahassee we couldn't get a card because we were living in a hotel until we						
		could find a house. My super reader was devastated that she had to go the whole summer without reading						
		so we spend hundreds of dollars at the used book store. Leon county has areas to improve for sure and I						
1533	Survey	trust that you'll get there! Good luck!						
		We have recently moved from Tallahassee but I used and supported the libraries in Leon County for years.						
		I would have liked more exposure to new books, events with Fl authors, and support for self published						
1534	Survey	authors. Page 723 of 743 Posted May 17, 2021						

#	Source	Comment				
1535	Survey	We love our libraries! We especially like the children events.				
		We love our library! Having the branches open on Mondays would be beneficial to my family and				
1536	Survey	community. Library has the best employees!!				
		We love our library. We frequent the one in our neighborhood and the main library downtown at least				
		once a week. I wish there were more opportunities for events for children 4-10 at our local library so we				
1537	Survey	didn't always have to go downtown.				
1538	Survey	We love our Northeast Branch! They offer great programs for the kids and we use it quite often!				
		We love the educational opportunities for children, such as animal encounters, story time, steam activities,				
1539	Survey	Lego clubs, etc.				
		We love the librarians in the children section at the Main library and all the help and guidance they provide				
1540	Survey	in helping choosing and recommending books for children.				
		We love the library and go there at least once or twice a week. In the summer, I bring my 7 year old son				
		multiple times per week and it is always a fun activity when it's hot or raining, especially with all the fun				
1541	Survey	summer programming!				
1542	Survey	We need more civic meetings on local issues at the llibrary				
1543	Survey	We need more educational programs				
1544	Survey	We need more open hours at all libraries.				
1545	Survey	We need more places for children to go after school that are safe.				
		We need programs, that are scheduled months in advance or continuously. Like craft Tuesday's, or Health				
		Wednesdays etc. so that they can grow and are well attended. They need to be advertised more				
1546	Survey	prominently.				
		We need to increase the number of library employees. Also, the main library needs more security				
1547	Survey	prescence. I see security gaurds often al the other libraries, but hardly ever at the main library.				
1548	Survey	Weekly movies now would be nice. In the Clearwater area all the libraries have weekly movies.				
		What is of the upment importance to me, is that the library continues to prioritize conving people				
		What is of the upmost importance to me, is that the library continues to prioritize serving people experiencing homelessness. They are a part of this community as much as anyone else and their needs				
		should be addressed and met to the best of the library's ability. I understand that some people do not like				
		to visit the main library due to the frequent presence of people experiencing homelessness, but folks				
		comfort should not be valued higher than someone utilizing resources and having a safe place to be. And while a coffee shop is a good idea because it would allow for there to be a space where eating (even snacks				
		brought from home) could happen, what I love most about libraries is that it is a free space. I don't have to				
		spend any money when I go there and I don't want people to feel any kind of pressure with the presence of				
1540	Survey	a coffee (though that might not happen and could be overreacting). And keep up the incredible community				
1549	Survey	events, those are the way to get new people in.				

Survey Listening Session Comments

#	Source	Comment
		read. Now, kids are running all over, unsupervised. The teenagers are rude, verbally abusive and loud and
		the conference rooms are being used for parties. I had one reserved and I ended not being able to use it
		because a group decided to use it for a birthday room. It was A MESS and I wasn't going to clean up
		their mess. I was scheduled to do work and this negatively impacted my work and my time when I had the
		room scheduled. I had to ask the manager to address the situation because they weren't leaving so even
		tho I was scheduled, they were still there during the time I had the room. I just decided to leave. Yes, I've
		let my friends know and they are APPALLED. People who come to use the library for what's it for are
		being driven out. I know over a dozen families that won't use the library anymore because it's not safe, it's
		not quiet and it's dirty. I had one kid tell me to fuck off when I asked him to keep the noise down - this
		was in a quiet zone. He continued to be verbally abusive and tried to physically intimidate me so I had to
		get the manager. She was ZERO help. She told him - and me, a white 50 year old woman - to
		'just get along'. I don't believe she is with the library anymore and rightly so. Patrons are already being
		driven out because the library isn't handling issues the way they should be. This is a library, not a
		community center. If you decide to make it a community center, it will be a huge mistake that regular
		patrons and library staff will have to suffer for. Stricter guidelines to create an atmosphere where people
		want to be at the library are needed. No food in the library - I see kids and adults eating ALL kinds of food,
		making messes for regular patrons and making the floor, chairs and tables dirty - and the patrons end up
		cleaning them, not the staff. I've found chicken on the floor that had not been cleaned up - it was there for
		several days. Enforce a quiet policy so that people can read, work or be on the internet. People -
		have their music running on speaker on their phones, they have movies running on their tablets on
		speaker, they are loud and obnoxious because there aren't any signs that state to be quiet. They don't wear
		earbuds, they just blast everything so those who are here to work or read can't do so. Enforce a policy that
		those who are verbally abusive or loud are asked to leave so as not to disturb those who are here to study
		or work. Those who are verbally abusive should be escorted off the premises and not given the opportunity
		to harm someone. Keep the libraries safe and enforce a policy of good behavior. Post signs that enforce
		the earbud policy, good behavior policy and this is a library, not a community center/no parties and no food
1550	Survey	policy. Things are bad enough as it is, don't make it worse by adding services that are only going to
		When members of the staff wait on you with dirty gloves, it makes you wonder how the library considers
1551	Survey	this a healthy practice for all patrons.
		When my kids were little, the library story time, art exhibits, frequent trips to check out/browse/return
1552	Survey	books was a mainstay! 8-)
		When the eastside branch moved, the community lost an accessible resource in that the majority of
4550	6	citizens who used the branch do not have reliable transportation to the new location. Is it possible to have
1553	Survey	satellite branches to help children with homework and adults with job search services, etc?
1554	Survey	Where is God in your library? I find that lacking.
1555	Survey	Why do I pay to park at the main library. Doing research takes lots of time.\$\$\$\$
1556	Survey	Wish it was open at least 6 days a week and more evening hours. Wish the parking at downtown library was not so expensive. Appreciate the generous borrowing period
1557	Survey	and ease of renewal.
1337	Survey	
		WISH THERE WAS A LIBRARY CLOSER TO MY RESIDENCE(A RETIREMENT HOME) 4425 MEANDERING WAY
1558	Survey	32308. OR THERE WAS A BOOKMOBILE THAT WOULD COME TO WSHERE I LIVE.
1550	Jurvey	S2500. OK THERE WAS A BOOKWOBLE THAT WOOLD COME TO WSHERE TEVE.
1559	Survey	Wish we had a library located in the southeast area of Tallahassee. Maybe on Hwy 27 near the county park.
1560	Survey	wish we had a library on the SE side of town
		Wish we had better hours for servicesfeel like that's not a high priority for government funding and
1561	Survey	support
1562	Survey	Wish you had a craft group for knitters, crocheters
	//	with the virtual self-automation at the library, limiting the need for staff, the library should open earlier
1563	Survey	during the weekextended hours would be a great service to the community!
		working times are not good, and varied fir different days of the week so I can't use the library it's always
1564	Survey	closed whenever I'm free. Page 725 of 743 Posted May 17, 2021

#	Source	Comment
1565	Survey	Workshop needed for digital book access
1566	Survey	Would appreciate courses related to use and maintenance of computers
		Would like information and opportunities for high school students. Access to internships, scholarships,
1567	Survey	community service hours. Thanks.
1568	Survey	Would like quiet spaces in all if the libraries
1569	Survey	Would like the branches to be open 7 days. Sunday afternoon and certainly Monday
		Would like the Library to offer more bookmobile services. Since our Library moved to Pedrick, I have older
1570	Survey	friends who can no longer get to the Library. A once every 2 week mobile service would be great!
		would like to see increased community service events. senior services such as exercise expanded.
		interested in seeing the library expand literacy, second language and workforce skills services expanded
1571	Survey	perhaps by partnering with LCS Adult Education classes.
1572	Survey	Would like to see libraries stay open later, say 9 or 10 pm.
		Would like to see the Branches open on Mondays. Love the Author Alert program, but it no longer
1573	Survey	ecognizes me and I have to sign in. My wife and I enjoy the East Side Library very much.
1574	Survey	would like to see the library open longer hours during the week and/or weekend
		Would like to see workshops on how to use android phones iphones and other technologies such as Wi-Fi
1575	Survey	connecting printers to Wi-Fi systems etc
		Would like to use space and be able to charge a small fee for workshop I am giving. Even if I have the library
1576	Survey	10% or something like that. We both would win here.
1577	Survey	Would love more toddler activities at NE branch
1578	Survey	Would love to have all libraries open on Monday.
		Would love to see a daily weekday after-school program at library. As far as I know, there are none. Would
		also like one WEEKLY weekend event for each age group. As far as I know, there currently is only the
1579	Survey	MONTHLY game and lego meetups.
		Would love to see things for teens to do! Classes for them, things to get together and make friends with
		neighbors for the adults! Used to love story time when my kids were toddlers, but it's sad that that goes
		away as they get older. Hope to see a bustling library this summer near us instead of having to go far to
1580	Survey	another one.
1581	Survey	Would redefining L.C. L. require the same high degree of security as public schools?
		yes - Since the library now uses an automatic renewal system, it seems the waiting time for a book on hold
		is much longer. People who, under the old system, would return books when due, now don't care when
1582	Survey	the book is due back because it is on an automated system.
1583	Survey	Yes I love to check out audio books. Please do not discontinue
		Yes why are you trying to duplicate other agencies work for instance we have social agencies that help
		people will you refer people to the different agencies and be very vocal about the agencies willing to help
1584	Survey	you ca offers crafts classes and how to invest classes to the public
		Yes!! You MUST figure out a way for people to check out books!! I don't like ebooks!! I'd be willing to bring
		paper bags, wipe off book covers in front of librarians, use the self check out, put up plexiglas in front of
		librarians who will make sure we are wiping off books when turning them in and checking them out, please
		think of something!! I am disabled, retired, on fixed income, with a very spotty internet connection at
		home. I rely on books for my main activity. Since I read 2-3 a week, I can't buy them from Amazon or local
		bookstores if local bookstores are open, can't you figure out a way to be open too? The virus doesn't live
		long on objects, can't you put them in a holding area for a few days before putting them out? Don't let the
1585	Survey	public roam the stacks, make everyone use the hold system Kim Maddox
		Yes, can't go to the main library until you FIX THE ELEVATOR !!! The cost to really fix it is less than a lawsuit
1586	Survey	from an old lady like me falling down the stairs.
		Yes, thank you. Please please let the branch libraries be open on Sunday. At least in the afternoon, please.
1587	Survey	downtown is so hard to get to.
1588	Survey	Page 726 of 743 Posted May 17, 2021
	• •	

Source	Comment
Survey	Yes, you have been told numerous times in writing, that the library staff needs to monitor and throw the violators out of the library for talking, cell phones, eating and drinking and acting like a bunch of wild asses when they are in the library and disrupt other patrons that are quietly working and not disturbing others. The staff acts like they are afraid to say anything to these loud mouth idiots, kids un attended, teen agers, not intending to do any work or learning, just there to raise hell and make all the noise they can. Anything to do with the city or county government, appears you and the governing bodies just waste taxpayer money and make sure you get big salaries and time off, retreats, nothing more than taxpayer paid vacations. You need to be frugal and spend the money wisely. That downtown branch is in the wrong location, due to having to pay to park and the congestion. Somebody important must have owned the property is why the county bought it to begin with. You should have programs that benefit the majority of the paying population instead of catering to the "free stuff" people who pay no taxes to support the roads, libraries, and general services. You never want to hear from the little business owners and whay they have to say, it is always the freeloaders and special interests you cater to.
	yes. I would like to see all libraries open longer hours and all libraries open all week .
Survey	Yes. Will there be a community driven Print-On-Demand service offered here soon?
Survey	Yes. I was appalled at the response or lack thereof, rudeness when I came to this particular library last time. I couldn't find my library card., so I asked the young kid at the counter if I could retrieve my Library card number, after giving him my ID, and he said that he wasn't "allowed \" to do that. I wasn't happy about that, WHY could I NOT get my card information, since I AM the person that had that card (somewhere, I'm preparing to move) but I simply couldn't find it? And, to be CHARGED for a library card? Really? I come from an area that is much better with their library system, everything I mentioned above is FREE So, I was told I could use a "temporary" card, but wasn't told where they were, so I had to go BACK to the front of the library to ask where they were, then when I wanted to make copies, it costs, instead of them being free. I was totally pissed off when I left here. I ended up going to the main library downtown, that's where I do my business now. But, today I was crunched for time, so I came here. Grace Boyd
Survey	Yes. What the library used to be able to offer to the community was a quiet, safe space to access print and electronic materials, and a quiet safe space to read and study. This is no longer true, especially at the Main library. This access to books and a quiet space to use them is a unique feature a library can offer a community, and even the way these questions in this survey are worded and designed makes it very clear that this is no longer part of the library's mission. I understand that it is felt the library needs to be a gathering place but can those of us who need and seek quiet places to work and study not be part of this community, and share the space? it seems that the choices being made say that the answer is a very definite no. I understand that the physical design of the main library presents challenges to this but still libraries in other communities succeed in having effective quiet spaces along with other uses. Yes, I know there are designated quiet spaces but with respect, designated is all they are in practice there are many issues. If you've read this far, thank youplease consider including at least a question or two about this use of the library's resources in future surveys. Perhaps, also, think about those of us in the community who need quiet spaces and print resources, as much as others may need the other services you wish to provide. With respect, our needs are as important, and our taxes contribute as much to support the library, as do resources from community members with different needs. The changing mission of the library strongly suggests that this is not so.
Survey	Yoga class or chair Yoga once a week
Survey	Yoga class would be nice a week
	You could possibly consider being able to provide free bus rides to the library by having a "bus card" to be stamped for patrons-similar to having you parking ticket "stamped", This would help bring more individuals to the libraries because they arease afatived/#acome and need help to afford to geted Mere.17, 2021
	Survey Survey Survey Survey Survey

#	Source	Comment
		You have some great employees and some dead weight. The downtown library has a lot of dead weight
1597	Survey	with lousy staff. Start with them and get rid of those folks first, the rest will either quit or do their jobs.
		You might already be providing some of the services you asked about but they're not well advertised. So, if
		you're already doing these great things that you're asking about please make sure others know that you're
1598	Survey	doing them and how to access them.
		You missed the most important aspects of the Eastside Library!!!! The BEAUTIFUL three story windows that
		look out on the pond and walking trail and let the sun in. That the computers are located near them is
		absolutely the reason I come here to use them. It's safe and beautiful here, unlike the downtown library
		which is off-putting with tons of homeless using the computers. Frankly, they have computers at the
1599	Survey	Kearney Center, and they scare away the regular patrons.
		You need to post events on Facebook on our local Hwy 20 page. Let Deborah or Harmony st the ft. Braden
1600	Survey	library do it. You need marketing.
		You recently had a speaker regarding soil reconstruction and I wish you could have offered more than one
1601	Survey	session.
		Your implementation of paid parking in the evening really reduced our use of the library and scheduling
1602	Survey	meetings.

Statistical Review of the Community

In addition to gathering input from citizens and community organizations, staff conducted a statistical review of the population in Leon County. Utilizing the Office of Economic Vitality (OEV) data center and U.S. Census Bureau reports, staff analyzed the current demographic makeup of Leon County to ensure Library programs are representative of and appealing to our diverse population. Additionally, several community reports and assessments were reviewed in order to identify issues and trends the Library will need to be responsive to now and in the future.

Growth by Age Group

The following table from OEV's data center presents growth in Leon County's population by age group from 2010 to 2019. As shown in the table, several age groups are experiencing substantial growth, which will likely impact the demand for library services.

Age Group	2010 Population	2019 Population Estimate	Growth in Population 2010-2019	Percent Growth 2010-2019	Avg. Ann. Growth 2010- 2019
0 to 4	15,350	15,803	453	2.9%	0.3%
5 to 17	38,623	40,927	2,304	5.8%	0.6%
18 to 24	61,897	62,028	131	0.2%	0.0%
25 to 54	103,907	105,869	1,962	1.9%	0.2%
55 to 64	29,730	31,662	1,932	6.3%	0.7%
65 to 79	18,962	31,525	12,563	50.8%	5.6%
80+	7,018	8,685	1,667	21.3%	2.4%
Total	275,487	284,443	8,956	3.2%	0.4%

Table #1 - Leon County Population Growth by Age Group

Source: University of Florida, Bureau of Economic & Business Research, "Florida Population Studies, Bulletin 187", June 2020

For instance, the 65-79 age group ("Baby Boomers") is the fastest growing age group, increasing nearly 6% per year. Given this growth, Library staff anticipate and are preparing for a likely increase in demand for programs that help connect seniors and their caretakers with relevant resources and services as well as programs that help promote social connections and prevent isolation. Additionally, it is expected that participation will increase in Library's the outreach services program, which prior to the pandemic delivered books to nine senior residential communities twice a month.

Another trend that impacts the Library is the growth in the County's youth population. There are currently over 53,000 children (those under the age of 18) living in Leon County; however, only 35% of the County's children have a library card. Comparatively, 45% of adults in Leon County have a library card. With annual growth in both the 0 to 4 and 5-17 age group, the Library must work to expand programming offerings and increase outreach efforts to ensure the library is a valuable resource to the County's youth.

Education

In the area of education, Leon County, outperforms most other Florida counties. According to the 2020 Florida Kids County Child Well-Being Index, Leon County ranks 10th out of all 67 counties for educational well-being. In the previous year, Leon County ranked 10th. The County's high school graduation and literacy rates, which exceed statewide averages, are factors that contributed to this top ranking. In 2020, the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) reported that Leon County Schools had a graduation rate of 94.4% exceeding the state rate of 90%. Additionally, FDOE reported that 61% of Leon County 3rd graders were reading at or above grade level, which also exceeds statewide rate of 58%.

However, as in most communities, Leon County continues to see disparities in educational success for children from low-income families. For the 2019 school year, FDOE reported the following statistics regarding economically disadvantaged students (students that qualify for free/reduced lunch) in Leon County:

- 60% of economically disadvantaged 3rd 10th graders are not reading at grade level.
- 54% of economically disadvantaged 3rd 8th graders demonstrate a below satisfactory or inadequate level of success in mathematics.
- 67% of economically disadvantaged 5th and 8th grades demonstrate a below satisfactory or inadequate level of success in science.
- 14% of economically disadvantaged students do not graduate in four years.

Likewise, according to Whole Chile Leon's 2019 Report on the Status of Young Children, there are significant disparities in Kindergarten readiness levels based on family income. The report states that nearly two-thirds of Leon County children arriving at a Title 1 schools for Kindergarten are not ready to learn. Additionally, nearly 50% of children living below the poverty line in Leon County are not enrolled in any school readiness programs.

These trends suggest that there is a gap in available services and a need for targeted programs for low-income youth. Additionally, this data highlights an opportunity for the Library to support and partner with local schools to offer academic support for struggling students and their parents.

Computer Access & Digital Literacy

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 5% of Leon County households do not have a computer and 12% do not have a broadband internet subscription. While these resources have become more accessible overtime, there is still a "digital divide" which the Library will continue to address through free access to internet/wi-fi, desktops, laptops, as printers. As technology needs grow and change, the Library will assess the need to new services like the recent launch of the mobile hotspot lending program. While providing access to these resources will continue to be a priority, the Library will also need to support the development of the digital literacy skills that are now essential for full participation in a modern society.

Business & Workforce

The Aspen Institute argues that public libraries are well positioned to help communities meet their economic goals. The tours funded by the Knight Foundation provided several examples of libraries supporting their local economy and workforce by teaching the skills needed for the current and future job market in addition to offering services and spaces to support entrepreneurs and creative professionals. The following sections outline several key trends related to business and workforce development in Leon County.

<u>Annual Unemployment Rates</u> - Since 2010 Leon County's annual unemployment rate has trended downward and been consistently lower than unemployment rates at the state and federal level. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused unemployment rates in the area to more than double. Given the uncertainty of how quickly the economy will recover, the Library has restructured an existing position to focus on business and workforce development programming. Other programs to support job seekers and families that have lost their sources of income are presented later in the item.

<u>Disengaged Youth -</u> The 2020 Florida Child Wellbeing Index shows that Leon County is experiencing an increase in disengaged youth, those ages 16 to 24 who are neither working nor in school. While below the statewide rate of 7.3%, the County's five-year rate of disengaged youth has increased from 4.5% during 2009-2013 to 5% during 2014-2018. These vulnerable young people are often cut off from the people, institutions, and experiences that would otherwise help them develop the knowledge and skills needed to lead rewarding lives as adults. In turn, the growth of this population is linked to negative impacts on a community's economy, social sector, and criminal justice system.

Increasingly, public libraries have recognized the positive role they can plan in reducing rates of disengaged youth. According to the Youth Adult Library Services Association, a division of the American Library Association, public libraries can help engage teens and prepare them for a successful transition to adulthood by offering after school and summer programs that promote volunteering and leadership, workforce development, traditional and digital literacy, as well as creativity and self-expression.

<u>Growth in STEM Occupations</u> – In Leon County there is a growing need for professionals trained in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) career fields. Currently, the majority of the County's top fastest growing occupations are STEM-based and include occupations such as nurses, construction trades workers, and software developers. Historically, libraries have always sought to teach the foundational skills needed for a thriving workforce such as traditional and digital literacy. Naturally, youth STEM programs in libraries have gained in popularity as libraries recognize the changes in their community's workforce needs.

<u>Entrepreneurship</u> - Entrepreneurship has consistently risen in Leon County for the 10-year span of 2009 - 2018. According to the most recent U.S. Census Bureau Nonemployer Statistics, over 4,500 nonemployee establishments, including self-employed individuals and solo entrepreneurs, were registered in Leon County during this time. In 2018 alone, these businesses contributed \$908.4 million to Leon County's economy. According to the Aspen Institute, public libraries can support this type of economic growth by offering meeting rooms, coworking spaces, and other free services.

These findings from the Listening Sessions, community survey, and statistical review have been utilized to verify the validity of the Library's focus areas and develop the following plan to align the Library's programs and services in support of the communities needs and goals.

RESOLUTION NO.

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida, approved a budget for fiscal year 2020/2021; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners, pursuant to Chapter 129, Florida Statutes, desires to amend the budget.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida, hereby amends the budget as reflected on the Departmental Budget Amendment Request Form attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

Adopted this 25th day of May, 2021.

LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

By:____

Rick Minor, Chairman Board of County Commissioners

Date:

ATTEST: Gwendolyn Marshall, Clerk of the Court & Comptroller, Leon County, Florida

By:_____

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL SUFFICIENCY: Chasity H. O'Steen, County Attorney Leon County Attorney's Office

By:_____

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Board of County Commissioners Leon County

Policy No. 21 -___

Title:	Library Code of Conduct
Date Adopted:	June 8, 2021
Effective Date:	June 9, 2021
Reference:	N/A
Policy Superseded:	Policy No. 96-18, Library Patron Rights and Responsibilities, adopted November 12, 1996; Policy No. 98-15, Library Patron Rights & Responsibilities, adopted October 13, 1998; amended April 8, 2014; revised September 13, 2016

It shall be the policy of Leon County, Florida, that Policy No. 98-15 entitled Library Patron Rights & Responsibilities, adopted by the Board of County Commissioners on September 13, 2016, is hereby repealed and superseded, and a new policy is hereby adopted in its place, to wit:

The Leon County Public Library (Library) is supported by public funds and serves the community by providing a welcoming space for patrons to pursue lifelong learning. Leon County has adopted the Library Code of Conduct to protect the rights of individuals to use and enjoy library property, materials, and services as they were intended; to conduct library business without improper interference; to preserve library materials and facilities from harm; and seek to ensure the rights and safety of library users, staff, and volunteers.

The Code of Conduct is in force on all Library premises, including buildings, interior and exterior; walkways; entryways; grounds; and parking lots. The policy applies to all individuals in or on the Library premises. The violation of any federal, state, or local criminal statute or ordinance will also be regarded as a violation of the Library's rules.

Leon County imposes the following reasonable restrictions on the manner of Library access and behavior.

- 1. Individuals who violate any of the following rules while on Library premises will be given an informative moment for the first offense, a verbal warning for the second offense or failure to correct the behavior following the informative moment, and upon a third offense will be required to leave the Library premises for the remainder of the business day.
 - a. Producing disruptive noise, including but not limited to, loud talking, yelling or singing; or using devices without headphones or at a volume where sound can be heard despite headphone use.
 - b. Running or engaging in horseplay.

- c. Failing to maintain control of personal items by either leaving items unattended, allowing items to block access to Library materials or equipment, or by allowing items to interfere with a Library staff member's or individual's use of the Library.
- d. Blocking aisles, passageways or exits/entrances (including emergency exits) with their bodies or belongings.
- e. Lying on the floor, table, or seats in the Library, or sitting or reclining on the floor unless part of a Library program or in an area designated for children.
- f. Monopolizing library furniture, electrical outlets, public access computers and/or other resources to the exclusion of others.
- g. Using Library restrooms improperly, including but not limited to, bathing, shaving, laundering, or cutting hair.
- h. Taking Library materials into public restrooms.
- i. Failing to wear shoes, pants, and shirts while on Library premises. Exceptions will be made for children under the age of 3 years old in strollers, carriers, infant seats, or other carrying devices.
- j. Sleeping in or on Library premises.
- k. Campaigning or petitioning in Library buildings and entryways. These activities are allowed outside of Library buildings so long as they do not interfere with patron safety or access to Library buildings.
- 1. Soliciting Library customers, volunteers, or employees for money or donations.
- m. Selling merchandise or services in or on Library premises except in conjunction with a Library-sponsored activity or program.
- n. Bringing animals into a Library building, other than service animals as defined by section 413.08(1)(d), F.S.
- o. Using skateboards, scooters or similar motorized and non-motorized recreational conveyances inside Library buildings or on Library property.
- p. Consuming any food or drink outside of designated areas or around Library computers, printers, electronics or other Library-owned equipment; consuming hot foods, carry-out or delivered snacks and meals, or foods that may be considered by Library staff to present possible harm to Library materials or furnishings; and consuming beverages not in enclosed containers. Exceptions may be made for foods served at Library- or County-sponsored programs held in designated meeting rooms.

After being ejected from the Library twice within one year for the same behavior(s), an individual will be subject to a one-year trespass if behavior(s) is/are repeated. The Library Supervisor on Duty, in consultation with the Library Director, will contact appropriate law enforcement and request a one-year trespass warning be issued by the responding officer(s). Any individual returning to a Library facility during a period of trespass for violating Rules 1.a.-p. will be reported to law enforcement immediately.

- 2. Individuals who violate any of the following rules while on Library premises will be given an informative moment for the first offense, a verbal warning for the second offense and upon a third offense will be ejected from Library premises and prohibited from future use of all Library facilities and services for one year.
 - a. Failing to comply with or ignore a directive of a Library staff member or security officer.
 - b. Harassing any person verbally, physically, or sexually.
 - c. Being under the influence of, consuming, possessing, selling or distributing any alcoholic beverage or illegal substance.
 - d. Smoking, using smokeless tobacco products, electronic cigarettes or similar devices in the Library or near a Library entrance.
 - e. Trespassing on Library premises beyond regularly scheduled hours.
 - f. Using another's Library card or card number without permission.
 - g. Failing to follow computer access procedures or failing to comply with established Library lending procedures.
 - h. Attempting to access any restricted areas designated for staff use only.
 - i. Use of designated youth and teen areas by an adult, unless the adult is a parent/guardian/caregiver accompanying a minor or has permission from staff.

The Library Supervisor on Duty, in consultation with the Library Director, will contact appropriate law enforcement and request a one-year trespass warning be issued by the responding officer(s). Any individual returning to a Library facility during a period of trespass for violating Rules 2.a.-i. will be reported to law enforcement immediately.

- 3. Individuals who violate any of the following rules while on Library premises will be immediately ejected from the Library premises without warning and permanently prohibited from the future use of all Library facilities and services.
 - a. Engaging in sexual misconduct including exposure, offensive touching, or sexual acts.
 - b. Carrying or displaying a weapon unless as expressly permitted by state or federal law.

- c. Causing or threatening to cause physical harm to patrons, staff or volunteers.
- d. Committing theft, or attempting to remove library materials by concealment, removal of barcodes/security devices, or by any means other than authorized checkout procedures.
- e. Intentionally destroying, damaging, or defacing any Library or other individual's property.

Violations of these rules will be immediately reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency. The Library Supervisor on Duty, in consultation with the Library Director, will request a permanent trespass warning be issued by the responding officer(s). Any individual returning to a Library facility during a period of trespass for violating Rules 3.a.-e. will be reported to law enforcement immediately.

- 4. Protection of Minors
 - a. The Library welcomes and encourages visits by children. Library staff cannot act in the place of a parent or guardian in providing constant care and supervision of unattended children. Children under the age of 10 must be accompanied at all times by a responsible caregiver age 16 or older. An exception may be made for children registered for specified Library-sponsored programs.
 - b. If a child under 10 is found unattended, Library staff will attempt to locate the parent/caregiver in the Library and inform him/her/them of the rules. If the parent/caregiver cannot be found, or if the child is found unattended multiple times, law enforcement or child protective authorities will be called for assistance.
 - c. Consistent with school attendance requirements, children who have attached the age of 6 years or who will have attained the age of 6 years by February 1 of any school year or who are older than 6 years of age but who have not attained the age of 16 years, except as provided in section 1003.21, F.S. or other law, are required to attend school regularly during the entire school term. Accordingly, during the school year children who are required to attend school must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian during school hours. Staff will contact the parent/guardian or guardian of any unaccompanied child to pick-up the child from the Library. If a parent or guardian is unavailable to assume responsibility for the child, Library staff will notify law enforcement or child protective authorities.
 - d. Minors enrolled in homeschool or online virtual school are permitted to use the Library during school hours with a completed and duly executed Parental Permission Form carried with them while on Library property (this can be an original or digital copy). Staff reserves the right to contact the parent/guardian or school district to confirm the child's enrollment status.
 - e. Children ages 10 and older in violation of the Library's Code of Conduct Policy may be asked to leave the Library after being given an informative moment for the first offense and a verbal warning for the second offense. In more serious cases, staff will contact the parent/guardian. If the parent/guardian is not available, staff will contact law enforcement or child protective authorities.

- f. Younger children engaging in inappropriate behavior will be reunited with their responsible caregiver after being given an informative moment for the first offense and a verbal warning for the second offense. In more serious cases, staff will contact the parent/guardian if they are not the responsible caregiver on site, to arrange for the child(ren) to be picked up.
- g. Minors are required to have emergency contact information with them at all times and to accurately provide this information to Library staff upon request.
- 5. Leaving vulnerable adults, as defined in section 415.102(28), F.S., unattended is prohibited. Law enforcement will be notified if a vulnerable adult's caretaker cannot be located.
- 6. A patron will be asked to leave if he/she has offensive body odor or personal hygiene that unreasonably interferes with another patrons' ability to use the Library.
- 7. The Library is not responsible for lost, stolen or damaged personal items.
- 8. Library staff reserves the right to take photographs and create video for promotional purposes. Patrons who wish to be excluded from such photographs and video must inform staff.

Procedure for Appeals

Individuals may request a review of a trespass warning issued based upon this Policy. An appeal must be submitted in writing, as visits to any Leon County Public Library location are prohibited and telephone conversations cannot be properly documented. The written appeal must be received at the following address within 30 days of the trespass issue date.

LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library ATTN: Library Director 200 W. Park Avenue Tallahassee, FL 32301

The appeal must include an address at which the Library may correspond with the individual making the appeal. The Library Director, in consultation with the County Attorney or designee, will review timely filed appeals to make a recommendation to the County Administrator for final determination. The Library Director will respond in writing within 30 days of receipt of the appeal.

RESOLUTION NO.

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA, TO REAUTHORIZE THE CREATION OF THE LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD, WHICH IS AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND OPERATES AND FUNCTIONS AS A FOCUS GROUP.

WHEREAS, in 1955, the Board of County Commissioners of Leon County, Florida (the Board) approved the establishment of a seven member Leon County Public Library Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, the bylaws of the Library Advisory Committee were amended in 1988, which dictated the Committee composition and allowed for the Chairman of the Library Advisory Board to serve as the representative at all Friends of the Library meetings; and

WHEREAS, on January 25, 2000, the Board approved the addition of one non-voting ad hoc member, a representative of the Collins Family, to the Library Advisory Board; and

WHEREAS, on November 12, 2002, the Board approved the revised Library Advisory Board bylaws allowing for a revised meeting agenda format, aligning with the County's fiscal year, and adding a membership attendance requirement; and

WHEREAS, this Resolution shall repeal the bylaws of the Library Advisory Board, adopted November 12, 2002; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes and acknowledges the importance of public involvement and input in County government; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to reauthorize the Library Advisory Board as it currently functions and operates and clarify that it shall function as a Focus Group in accordance with Board Policy No. 03-15, "Board-Appointed Advisory Committees."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF LEON COUNTY, that: 1. The Board hereby reauthorizes the Leon County Library Advisory Board, an advisory committee, for the purpose of providing community input and feedback to staff on issues impacting the LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library.

2. The Library Advisory Board shall function and operate as a Focus Group in accordance with Board Policy No. 03-15, "Board-Appointed Advisory Committees."

3. The Library Advisory Board shall be charged with the responsibility of providing collective input for use by staff in developing staff recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners, on the following:

- a. assessing the library needs of the community;
- b. assisting with the annual and long-range library plan;
- c. providing input on library programs and services;
- recommending policy changes and management strategies to better enhance the library services in our community;
- e. assisting with the promotion the community use of the library facilities, programs and services;
- f. reviewing the Patron Request for Review of Library Materials; and
- g. reviewing all submissions for exhibits and displays in accordance with Board Policy.
- 4. The Library Advisory Board shall have twelve (12) members:
 - a. Seats 1-7: seven (7) at-large members, with each Leon County Commissioner appointing one member;
 - b. Seat 8: one (1) representative of the Collins family, appointed by the Collins family;
 - c. Seat 9: one (1) ex officio member, the President of the Friends of the LeRoy

Collins Leon County Public Library;

- d. Seat 10: one (1) ex officio member, the Director of Florida State University's Florida Center for Reading Research or designee appointed by the Director; and
- e. Seat 11: one (1) ex officio member, the Dean of Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University's College of Education or designee appointed by the Dean; and
- f. Seat 12: one (1) ex officio member, the Developer of Instruction Technology for Leon County Public Schools or designee appointed by the Developer.

5. The terms of the at-large members of the Library Advisory Board shall be for two (2) years, with no member serving more than three (3) full consecutive two-year terms. The representative of the Collins family shall retain the seat until such time that the Collins family chooses another representative. The ex-officio members shall serve as long as they hold that position.

6. The current membership of the Library Advisory Board shall remain the same and said members shall not be required to be reappointed. The current membership shall serve their current terms, and may be reappointed, with no at-large member serving more than three full consecutive terms.

7. The members of the Library Advisory Board shall not be subject to full and public disclosure of financial interests.

8. The bylaws of the Library Advisory Board adopted November 12, 2002 are repealed and superseded by this Resolution and new Rules of Procedure shall be drafted, in accordance with Board Policy No. 03-15, "Board-Appointed Advisory Committees."

9. The Library Advisory Board shall be assisted by staff from the Department of Library Services.

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- 10. The Library Advisory Board shall be dissolved only upon direction of the Board.
- 11. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon its adoption.

DONE, ADOPTED, AND PASSED by the Board of County Commissioners of Leon

County, Florida, this _____ day of _____, 2021.

LEON COUNTY, FLORIDA

By:_____

Rick Minor, Chair Board of County Commissioners

Date:_____

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL SUFFICIENCY: Chasity H. O'Steen, County Attorney Leon County Attorney's Office ATTEST: Gwendolyn Marshall, Clerk of the Court & Comptroller, Leon County, Florida

By:_____

By:_____