



**Recovery Plan  
State and Local Fiscal Recovery  
Funds  
2023 Report**

**City of Cincinnati  
2023 Recovery Plan**

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## **GENERAL OVERVIEW**

### **Executive Summary**

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (“ARPA”) was signed by President Joe Biden on March 11, 2021. Section 9901 of the ARPA establishes a new program to be administered by the United States Department of the Treasury (“Treasury”) known as the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (“LFRF” or “recovery funds”). This program will provide significant stimulus and recovery funding to local governments throughout the United States.

The purpose of the recovery funds is to mitigate the fiscal effects stemming from the COVID-19 public health emergency. Broadly, recovery funds can be utilized for costs incurred by the City to respond to COVID-19, including negative economic impacts; to provide premium pay to eligible workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency; to pay for government services to the extent of revenue reductions due to COVID-19; and to make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

The recovery funds present an extraordinary opportunity to catalyze economic recovery and growth in sectors that have been devastated by the impacts of COVID-19. The funding priorities set forth below are targeted to provide both immediate impact and long-term public benefits, to ensure that this dramatic public investment continues to provide returns far beyond the actual expenditures. These expenditures are subject to Council approval and appropriation.

#### **Fiscal Stability**

The Administration’s top priority is to stabilize the City’s fiscal position. This includes covering operating budget deficits from Fiscal Year (“FY”) 2021, projected deficits for FY 2022, FY 2023 and through December 31, 2024, of FY 2025. Further, this includes restoring lost revenue to various restricted funds to account for revenue reductions caused by the pandemic and reserving sufficient funding to address operational needs of the Cincinnati Public Health Department for continued pandemic response work, including efforts to achieve equity in vaccine distribution and continued contact tracing and testing.

#### **Job Creation, Economic Growth, and Housing Stability**

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused substantial unemployment or underemployment and reduced earnings for many citizens, disproportionately impacting lower income households. The City Administration recommends funding support programs that address the economic impacts of COVID-19 by creating job opportunities and encouraging economic growth. This includes public investments to stabilize existing job-creating enterprises and support for enterprises that grow new businesses and job opportunities. Finally, the economic impacts of COVID-19 have led to greater housing instability for many moderate- and lower-income City residents; therefore, the Administration recommends investments to increase affordable housing options and economic stability for these impacted City residents.

#### **Critical Financial Support for Cultural Institutions, Small Businesses, and Community Partners**

Our cultural institutions and small businesses are the engines for the City’s vitality and energy, and mission-driven community partner organizations provide a sense of community and hope. These organizations have faced tremendous financial difficulties in the past year and have taken

on debt, cut staff and expenses, or reduced operations. To retain the character that is uniquely Cincinnati, energize our local economy, and restore the public benefits they provide to our region the Administration recommends a meaningful investment to stabilize these organizations.

#### Safe Activation of Civic Spaces and Community Building in Neighborhoods

Once safe, a critical element of restoring the vibrancy of our City will be to bring life back to our civic spaces throughout the City and to conduct community building activities in our neighborhoods. The goal of these recommended public investments is to repair the community fabric and relationships that have been dormant due to COVID-19 restrictions and encourage our City's residents to safely engage with their neighbors and friends.

#### Capital Investment to Improve City Services and Quality of Life

The Administration recommends investment in capital projects that will improve City services and improve the quality of life of City residents. These investments will initially create construction jobs and economic activity to directly address the negative impacts of COVID-19 and will provide long-term public benefits for generations of City residents.

#### Hazard Pay (Premium Pay)

Included in the Administration's recommended plan for use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds is the designation of funds for hazard pay for City employees. It is the intent of the City of Cincinnati to provide additional compensation to those City employees who have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Whereas providing funds for additional compensation to City employees improves the economic and general well-being of the employees of the City, which is necessary due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The City of Cincinnati is currently in the beginning phases of development of these new programs and contractual agreements with outside agencies that will assist with implementation of these programs, ensuring that they are in line with the guidelines and eligible uses provided by the Treasury. As of July 31, 2022, we have obligated our total grant in the amount of \$279,590,123.00 in either signed contractual agreements or approved city projects. The goal of the City is to distribute these economic relief funds throughout the community as soon as possible to aid the most vulnerable and economically challenged as well as assisting struggling businesses within the city limits.

### **Uses of Funds**

#### Public Health (EC 1)

The City of Cincinnati provided grant funding to Cincinnati Children's Hospital to assist with the plan and architectural design of its new College Hill facility. Cincinnati Children's Hospital plans to expand and improve its mental health care capabilities for children and adolescents. ARPA funding was provided to UC Health to build an EMS Canopy to better address ongoing COVID-19 cases through decontamination capabilities, installation of negative airflow rooms, and build out of critical care for mass casualties. Additional grants were provided to address the youth mental health crisis in our Cincinnati Public Schools, prevention, and intervention programs to reduce gun violence in the city's most vulnerable communities, and financial assistance to assist families of victims of gun violence connect with prosecutors and detectives that work on their cases.

### Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2)

The City of Cincinnati has several projects in place to mitigate negative economic impacts and support businesses negatively impacted by the COVID-19 virus.

- Performing Arts Support Grants are for the purpose of providing grant programs to support various performing arts groups, including theaters and musical organizations. These grants will also provide funding for public performances around the City. Support for the local performing arts organizations will contribute to the region's cultural, community and economic vitality.
- The United Way will administer and manage the City's Non-Profit Hardship Fund for the benefit of eligible human services organizations. United Way shall provide eligible organizations who apply to the Fund with one-time operating grants in the amount equal to that which eligible organizations previously refunded, waived, or returned to the City from contracts executed with the City for fiscal year 2020 in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- ARPA funding will provide the second phase for supporting local restaurants and drinking establishments which have experienced substantial losses in revenue and suffered substantial economic hardship. These grants will provide an economic stimulus plan for affected businesses.
- To further support local restaurants and drinking establishments the City has created a project to improve outdoor dining and pedestrian safety. This project will provide resources for the design and construction of right-of-way improvements including, but not limited to, sidewalks, streets, and parklets, that facilitate outdoor dining and enhance pedestrian safety in the urban core.
- Food Insecurities programs were given grants to address the region's sharp rise in food insecurity caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, connect area food donors to non-profits and to support low-income residents receiving SNAP/EBT and P-EBT benefits with matching dollars that can be used to purchase fruits and vegetables.
- The Minority Business Accelerator/Ascend project was created for the purpose of providing funds to Ascend Cincy, a partnership among the City, the Urban League, The Greater Cincinnati African American Chamber of Commerce, and the Minority Business Accelerator, to provide staffing, accounting, human resources, financial coaching, and other assistance to Black-owned Businesses.
- Women Business Program will develop programming to provide operational grants and training to new and established women-owned businesses.
- The ArtsWave Public Museum grant provided funding to design and carry out an economic support program for eligible non-profit museums and non-profit, non-commercial galleries. This involves distribution of operational relief that help rebuild Cincinnati's visual arts institutions in the wake of tens of millions in lost visitation, membership, rental, and other revenue because of the pandemic.
- The ArtWorks Youth Employment initiative project shall provide employment training services to unemployed workers to increase self-sufficiency and support program participants in preparing for attaining employment. This program is specifically designed to train youth in graphic design, environmental design, and mural execution.
- 4C Child Care Startup Funding was provided to support the recruitment, coaching, and program coordination of local childcare providers to respond to the loss of quality childcare in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- The Flywheel Business Equity Initiative received funding for programs that focus on racial and gender equality, and on entrepreneurial ventures that advance systemic change. These funds will equip diverse startup founders and engage angel investors to increase employment opportunities in Cincinnati, and the organization will leverage ARPA funds to draw outside financial resources to the program.
- Additional grants were awarded to various organizations that provide services to the community such as the Boys and Girls Club for volunteer and homework help programs, the Cincinnati Youth Collaborative to deliver in-school courses that equip students with career exploration, personal development, and the foundational employability skills necessary for gaining and retaining employment, and other summer and afterschool care programs.

#### Premium Pay (EC 4)

The American Rescue Plan (ARPA) allows for Premium Pay for essential workers needed to maintain continuity of operations of essential, critical government infrastructure sectors. These sectors include healthcare, public health and safety, childcare, education, sanitation, transportation, and food production services, among others.

City departments were asked to review the qualifications as outlined below and provide a list of employees in their department that met the qualifications. The qualifications included:

All employees active as of pay period #25 (beginning 11/14/2021) who:

- Regularly work in-person\* and have interactions with others, OR
- Regularly physically handle items that were also handled by others.

\*Do **NOT** include employees who currently work remotely, or who regularly worked remotely prior to the implementation of the City's Return to Work policy effective July 1, 2021.

The departmental submissions were then reviewed by both the Department of Human Resources and the Law Department. The federal government prioritized low-wage employees for eligibility, and unless there was an exception based on department operations, the Administration restricted eligibility to employees who make under 150% of the local average wage (approximately \$80,000).

Ultimately, employees qualified for either a lump sum payment of \$1,000 or \$500 based on the following criteria:

- Employees who did not exceed 150% of the local average wage:
  - Employees who qualified under the above terms and worked 75% (3/4 time) to 100% (full-time) received \$1,000.
  - Employees who qualified under the above terms and worked less than 75% (3/4 time) but more than 20% (1/5 time) received \$500.
- Employees who exceeded 150% of the local average wage:
  - Employees who qualified as an essential worker in one or more of the sectors as outlined by Sections 602 and 603 of the ARPA Act based on department operations.
    - Employees who qualified under the above terms and worked 75% (3/4 time) to 100% (full-time) received \$1,000.

- Employees who qualified under the above terms and worked less than 75% (3/4 time) but more than 20% (1/5 time) received \$500.
- The City originally set aside \$2.8M of ARPA grant dollars to provide additional compensation to employees during the COVID-19 pandemic. Subsequently, an additional \$1,468,625 was set aside for this purpose making a total amount of \$4,268,625 available.

#### Revenue Replacement (EC 6)

The City plans to utilize grant dollars earmarked for revenue replacement to stabilize the City's fiscal position, covering operating budget deficits from Fiscal Year ("FY") 2021 and projected deficits for FY 2022 and FY 2023 through December 31, 2024 of FY 2025. Further, this includes restoring lost revenue to various restricted funds to account for revenue reductions caused by the pandemic and reserving sufficient funding to address operational needs of the Cincinnati Public Health Department for continued pandemic response work, including efforts to achieve equity in vaccine distribution and continued contact tracing and testing.

Revenue replacement funds were used for public safety salaries for first responders such as police, fire and EMT personnel. In addition, revenue replacement grant funds were also approved to enhance the fleet assets of the Cincinnati Fire Department through the acquisition of one pumper truck and two medic units.

Additional projects include the Summer Safety Initiative, providing funding for police overtime to address the increase in violent crime deploying overtime to hot spots and event areas in the City, and an allocation for network upgrades and cybersecurity. In addition, revenue replacement funds addressed additional city initiatives such as affordable housing, homeless shelters, substance abuse treatment, assistance to small grass root non-profits and services provided to economically disadvantaged neighborhoods.

#### *Other American Rescue Plan Programs*

##### Emergency Rental Assistance Program 2 (ERA2)

While the Emergency Rental Assistance Program ("ERA1") was created under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 signed into law on December 27, 2020, the Emergency Rental Assistance Program ("ERA2") was created under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), expanding the ERA1 program creating additional funding to assist eligible households that are unable to pay rent or utilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The City received its first tranche of ERA2 funds in the amount of \$2,871,599 on May 11, 2021. The City was awarded a second tranche on June 9, 2022, in the amount of \$2,153,699.25, bringing the total amount received to date to \$5,025,298.25. The City engaged in the services of The Legal Aid Society of Greater Cincinnati and the Greater Cincinnati Water Works to assist with providing these services related to the ERA2 program.

##### American Rescue Plan – Health Centers Grant ("H8F")

The City was awarded an ARPA grant in the amount of \$9,975,375 for the purpose of supporting health centers funded under the Health Center Program to prevent, mitigate, and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and to enhance health care services and infrastructure. The grant funds will

also be used for providing equitable access to COVID-19 vaccinations, testing, and treatment as well as other current and anticipated COVID-19 and primary health care needs within the most vulnerable communities.

### **Promoting Equitable Outcomes**

While the COVID-19 pandemic has created hardships for residents and businesses in every City neighborhood, and with implications across diverse socioeconomic characteristics, the pandemic has had a disproportionate impact on the City's most vulnerable and marginalized residents. Consistent with Federal policy direction, the City has earmarked ARPA funding to advance racial equity and provide support for underserved and marginalized communities through deployment of its ARPA LFRF programs.

Across all current and intended ARPA-supported programs, access to transformative programming is focused on supporting our most vulnerable populations. This will continue to be accomplished, in part, through the strategic partnerships the City is leveraging with community-based organizations, local Health Department and hospital resources, and social service agencies to aid in outreach, driving beneficiary utilization, and increasing awareness of the resources. In addition, the City continues to align LFRF program distribution and outreach to its Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Areas (NRSAs), as defined for utilization in HUD entitlement programs, which encompass portions of neighborhoods in the City's most distressed areas. These areas aid in the rapid identification of Qualified Census Tracts, meeting the threshold for low- to moderate- income (LMI) residents, and are also primarily residential.

The City will continue to design and pursue investments that advance the equity goals, and strive to accomplish associated outcomes, as stated below:

- Reversing negative pandemic-related trends and closing gaps in health, economic, and housing outcomes; positioning disproportionately impacted groups and neighborhoods for improved future outcomes.
- Building capacity within local government, creating a shared understanding of and commitment to equity, and developing tools and practices to support equity-centered solutions.
- Measuring racial and ethnic disparities in health, economic, social, and environmental outcomes so that pandemic recovery plays a role in the long-term remediation of systemic harms to populations of color.
- Monitoring investment across the entire program to ensure the overall portfolio is reaching populations and neighborhoods most impacted by the pandemic.

The City is prioritizing economic and racial equity throughout LFRF deployment in multiple ways, including program design, partner engagement and selection, and strategically deploying resources approximate to locally designated NRSAs. In future reporting periods, the City will provide information regarding the amounts of funding dedicated to those purposes. In the Project and Expenditure quarterly reports, the City will report which services or programs are offered in the following Expenditure Categories:

- Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2): assistance to households, small businesses, and non-profits to address impacts of the pandemic, which have been most severe among low-income populations. This includes assistance with food, housing, and other needs;

employment programs for people with barriers to employment who faced negative economic impacts from the pandemic (such as residents of low-income neighborhoods, minorities, disconnected youth, the unemployed, formerly incarcerated people, veterans, and people with disabilities); and other strategies that provide disadvantaged groups with access to education, jobs, and opportunity.

- Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities (EC 2): services to address health disparities and the social determinants of health, build stronger neighborhoods and communities (e.g., affordable housing), address educational disparities (e.g., evidence-based tutoring, community schools, and academic, social-emotional, and mental health supports for high poverty schools), and promote healthy childhood environments (e.g., home visiting, childcare).

To date, the City has taken on the following projects that promote equitable outcomes within its most vulnerable communities:

- Investments in network/cybersecurity.
- Support to small businesses prioritizes funding for minority, women, individuals with disability, and veteran-owned businesses.
- Investing in and addressing the public health crisis, paramount for under-resourced communities that have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.
- Expanding and modernizing data systems to improve our ability to capture, analyze, and act on existing and future public health risks and health disparities.
- Investing in health systems, programs, and private providers that administer much needed health and social services to our most vulnerable.
- Removing financial barriers and enhancing support pathways in education making these opportunities more accessible to disadvantaged students.
- Education programming focused on those most impacted by the pandemic including students with disabilities, English learners, students experiencing homelessness, disengaged youth, or those with barriers to remote learning.
- Early childhood support aimed at alleviating the strains COVID-19 has placed on our most vulnerable and disadvantaged parents enabling them to engage in the workforce and, by way, provide for their families.
- Focusing on promoting safety with the aim of reducing crime in our city neighborhoods.

## Community Engagement

The City of Cincinnati's plan for the use of the ARPA funds was vetted publicly at several public hearings, Budget and Finance Committee Meetings and City Council Meetings. Residents were given the opportunity to provide written comments to council at any time and oral comments either in person or via Zoom during the public hearings and the public comment session at the council and committee meetings held on the dates below:

3/29/2021	Public Hearing and Budget and Finance Committee Meeting
4/5/2021	Budget and Finance Committee Meeting
4/7/2021	City Council Meeting
4/12/2021	City Manager recommended Public Hearing American Rescue Plan
4/14/2021	City Council Meeting

4/19/2021	City Manager recommended Public Hearing American Rescue Plan
4/21/2021	City Council Meeting
4/26/2021	Public Hearing and Budget and Finance Committee Meeting
4/28/2021	City Council Meeting
5/3/2021	Budget and Finance Committee Meeting
5/5/2021	Budget and Finance Committee Meeting

The City Manager sent the attached FYI Memo to the Mayor and City Council on March 24, 2021. The memo provided a summary of the funding priorities and a breakdown of the recommended uses of the ARPA dollars. The priorities included:

- Stabilizing the City’s fiscal position,
- Job creation for lower income households and to stimulate economic growth,
- Housing stability for moderate- and lower-income residents,
- Financial support of cultural institutions, small business, and community partners,
- Safe activation of civic spaces and community building in neighborhoods; and
- Capital investment to improve City services and quality of life.

On March 29, 2021, the Administration made a public presentation to City Council about the guidelines for the use of the ARPA dollars and the Administration’s priorities for the use of the dollars. The City received the second tranche in June 2022.

At the City Council meeting on April 14, 2021, City Council established Fund 469 “Local Fiscal Recovery” for the receipt of the funds from the American Rescue Plan Act. All funding has been approved and obligated by City Council as of June 30, 2022.

**Labor Practices**

The City will ensure that all applicable construction and infrastructure contracts comply with the requirements of the State of Ohio’s Prevailing Wage Law, set forth in Ohio Revised Code 4115.16.

**Use of Evidence**

Currently, the City does not have any projects being used for evidence-based interventions and therefore the Use of Evidence section of this report is not applicable to the City.

**Performance Report**

The City has partnered with many social services agencies within the City of Cincinnati to assist with administering the ARPA grant funds aligned with the eligible usages provided in the guidance. All contract recipients are required to provide quarterly performance reports and a final report upon completion of the project. The project manager will review these reports quarterly to ensure that spending is in line with the Scope of Services information to be included with each contract.

## PROJECT INVENTORY

### **Project ARP001: Outdoor Dining & Pedestrian Safety**

Funding amount: \$2,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.36 Aid to Other Impacted Industries

#### Project Overview

The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly impacted small businesses throughout the City and has acutely impacted the drinking and dining establishments that comprise an important part of our region's hospitality industry. These impacts have led to loss of revenue, reduction in employment, and business closures. These establishments and industry have been especially impacted by COVID-19 due to government restrictions on operations and public health concerns arising from persons congregating indoors, which is central to their operations. Through their operations, these small businesses support accessible employment for City residents and increase safety and development in our neighborhoods by adding vitality and encouraging additional investment. Additionally, restaurants and drinking establishments support the hospitality and tourism industry, which drives additional economic and employment benefits in the region. In collaboration with OTR Holdings LLC, the completion of Public Infrastructure Improvements is intended to support small businesses and enhance public safety during and after the COVID-19 pandemic by providing additional outdoor capacity to facilitate social distancing and safe, outdoor patronage. Additionally, the improvements are intended to increase pedestrian safety and promote use of the additional outdoor spaces to promote an active urban core that will support businesses, tourism, and other economic activity.

- <https://www.3cdc.org/project/imagination-alley/>
- <https://www.3cdc.org/project/streateries/>



Photo courtesy of 3CDC (OTR Holdings, LLC)

## **Project ARP002: Restaurant Grants Phase II**

Funding amount: \$4,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.35 Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality

### Project Overview

Per the Cincinnati Business Courier COVID-19 forced permanent closure of many restaurants and has significantly reduced revenues for those that remained open, with many establishments experiencing reported decreased revenues of 20% - 70% in 2020. To respond to these negative economic impacts, the intention of this program is to support eligible establishments by providing operating grants to provide financial assistance in safe reopening and maintaining of business operations and recovery of employment opportunities in this industry. The City of Cincinnati has entered into a contractual agreement with the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber Foundation (Service Provider) to provide the grant administration services. Applications for the program were due by June 30, 2021. The Service Provider provided services ending upon August 31, 2021.

There are four qualifying categories that applicants can choose from:

- i. Grants for full-service restaurant that offer dinner service.
- ii. Grants for limited-service restaurants that serve only breakfast or lunch.
- iii. Grants for bars with limited or pre-packaged food service.
- iv. Grants for restaurants/food vendors that are (1) walk-up windows or to-go windows (2) located at Findlay Market (3) food trucks.

In addition to receiving grant funds, participants were required to participate in the Taste of Cincinnati promotional program.

### Performance Report

From the Service Provider: In total 326 restaurants, food trucks and food service businesses have been assisted. Modifications to the application process enabled us to reach more minority and women owned businesses, thus achieving the intended outcome of serving historically marginalized and underserved communities. Another intended outcome was a geographic distribution throughout the City of Cincinnati, and we were successful in partnering with restaurants, bars, and food trucks in nearly all neighborhoods.

<b>Number of Grantees, per grant award size:</b>		
Full Service	179	\$ 16,000.00
Bars/Prepackaged Food Service	61	8,000.00
Limited Service	31	8,000.00
Walk-up windows	24	4,000.00
Findlay Market	12	4,000.00
Food Trucks	19	4,000.00

## **Project ARP004: Performing Arts Support Grants**

Funding Amount: \$7,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.35 Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality

### Project Overview

The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly impacted non-profit art organizations throughout the City, which constitute an important part of our region's cultural attractions. These impacts have led to venue closures, loss of revenue, and reduction in employment. These organizations have been especially impacted by COVID-19 due to government restrictions on operations and public health

concerns arising from persons congregating indoors, which is central to their operations. Through their operations, these art organizations improve quality of life of City residents, provide employment, and contribute to development in our neighborhoods by adding vitality and encouraging additional investment. Additionally, art organizations support the tourism industry, driving additional economic and employment benefits in the region. To respond to the devastating impacts of COVID-19, ArtsWave will design and carry out 2 distinct support grant programs: Operating Relief Grants to Arts Organizations and Public Performance/Events Grants. Grant funds were distributed by December 31st, 2021, with final reports due from the recipients by December 31st, 2022.

- [Apply For Funding \(artswave.org\)](https://artswave.org)

#### Performance Report

34 grantees were assisted by the Operating Relief Grants and 28 events have been assisted by the Public Performance/Events grants.

#### **Project ARP010: ArtsWorks Youth Employment Initiative**

Funding amount: \$500,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.10 Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers  
Project Overview

The arts community and youth employment programs have been particularly impacted, with limited access to capital, employees being displaced, and other major disruptions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic creating additional burdens and challenges for the arts and youth employment. ARPA Funds will enable ArtsWorks to implement a high-quality year-round employment program that is transformative to youth and the City. Year one ArtsWorks will launch one creative enterprise studio and one civic studio to employ 20 youth. In year two an additional creative enterprise studio will be created to employ a total of 50 young people.

#### Performance Report

Assistance to Unemployed or Under Employed Workers:

- Number of workers enrolled in sectoral job training programs: 30
- Number of workers completing sectoral job training programs: 0

#### **Project ARP012: Clifton Cultural Arts Center (CCAC) Operational Costs**

Funding amount: \$650,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.24 Addressing Educational Disparities: Aid to High-Poverty Districts  
Project Overview

Clifton and its surrounding neighborhoods have been particularly impacted by COVID-19, with an estimated 61% of households in the area considered as “low income,” and approximately 83% of the children in the area schools served by Clifton Cultural Arts Center (CCAC) are economically disadvantaged, including the Rockdale Academy which has the highest rate of children experiencing homelessness in the Cincinnati Public School district. The LFRF funds enable CCAC to provide classes, events, performances, and community gatherings to a historically disadvantaged population of households as well as education recovery efforts to children in Cincinnati Public Schools who experienced more than a year and a half of remote-only instruction. Arts and culture education and community-building opportunities build cohesion, improve

educational and social/emotional outcomes, and improve the economic vitality of our community. This assistance is designed to assist CCAC through September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

- [Clifton Cultural Arts Center \(cliftonculturalarts.org\)](http://cliftonculturalarts.org)

**Project ARP013: Public Museum Support**

Funding amount: \$1,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.35 Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality

**Project Overview**

The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly impacted museums and art galleries throughout the City, which constitute an important part of our region’s cultural attractions. These impacts have led to loss of revenue, reduction in employment, and business closures. These establishments and industry have been especially impacted by COVID-19 due to government restrictions on operations and public health concerns arising from persons congregating indoors, which is central to their operations. Through their operations, these museums and art galleries improve quality of life of City residents, provide employment, and contribute to development in our neighborhoods by adding vitality and encouraging additional investment. Additionally, museums and art galleries support the tourism industry, driving additional economic and employment benefits in the region. Cincinnati museums and historical sites experienced a 19% drop in employment over pre-pandemic level. Therefore, ArtsWave shall design and carry out an economic support program for eligible non-profit museums and non-profit, non-commercial galleries. ArtsWave shall administer the distribution of operational relief to help rebuild Cincinnati’s visual arts institutions in the wake of the loss of tens of millions of dollars due to lost visitation, membership, rental, and other revenue because of the pandemic.

- [Apply For Funding \(artswave.org\)](http://artswave.org)

**Performance Report**

Relief Grants ranging from \$25,000 to \$186,000 were made available to Cincinnati non-profit Museums and Galleries through this program. Award amounts were determined based on FY19 (pre-pandemic) expenditures and the total number of eligible applicants (10), scaled to fit within the allocable funding pool of \$970,000.

<b>Grantees per award size:</b>	
Cincinnati Museum Center	\$ 186,000.00
Cincinnati Art Museum	180,000.00
Taft Museum Center	110,000.00
Contemporary Arts Center	115,000.00
National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Inc.	110,000.00
Art Opportunities, Inc. DBA ArtWorks	110,000.00
Nancy and David Wolf Holocaust & Humanity Center	50,000.00
American Sign Museum	50,000.00
Manifest Gallery	34,000.00
Wave Pool Gallery	25,000.00

### **Project ARP014: Minority Business Partnerships**

Funding amount: \$1,500,000

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

The City has partnered with the Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio to provide loans and grants to minority owned businesses impacted by COVID-19. In addition to loans or grants the Urban League will provide technical assistance, counseling, and other services to assist with business planning needs. To achieve this goal the Urban League has created two distinct programs: Rapid Tenancy Program and Commercial Rental Assistance Program.

- <https://www.ulqso.org/>

Performance Report

20 applications are under review.

### **Project ARP016: CEAI**

Funding amount: \$500,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.23 Strong Healthy Communities: Demolition and Rehabilitation of Properties

Project Overview

A small business shut down during the pandemic leaving the property vacant. Community Economic Advancement Initiative, Inc. (CEAI) is using the funds to acquire this property and position it for redevelopment which will replace some of the jobs lost at this specific location and activate a currently vacant property. CEAI will then redeploy capital from the sale of this property to reduce the debt on the redevelopment of another vacant blighted property where it will house a grocery store (in a food desert), a commercial kitchen, two retail commercial spaces and an internet café. The reduction of debt on this project will allow CEAI to charge below market rent to potential commercial tenants and to allow more small businesses access to brick-and-mortar space. The project is anticipated to be completed in the third quarter of 2023, and the desired outcomes are intended to add food, coffee and affordable brick and mortar space in a low to moderate income community providing the opportunity for improvement in quality of life to community residents.

- <https://www.wlwt.com/article/food-desert-of-bond-hill-to-get-a-new-market/39777534>

### **Project ARP017: Neighborhood Activation Fund**

Funding amount: \$1,125,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Non-profit Organizations

Project Overview

The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted low to moderate income residents of the City and the non-profit entities that serve such residents. Such non-profits are vital in improving local communities and implementing projects that strengthen the neighborhoods served.

#### **A. Contract 25x009 Invest in Neighborhoods (\$1,040,000)**

Responding to the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic through aid to non-profit neighborhood organizations is the goal of the Neighborhood Activation Fund (NAF). Eligible applicants will consist of community councils, community business associations, community

development corporations, and other neighborhood serving non-profit entities. Funds will be utilized to support neighborhood non-profit organizations and their neighborhood activities and will alleviate the issues created by the COVID-19 public health emergency within the organization and its neighborhood(s) of service. Efforts to promote equitable outcomes include identifying historically underserved neighborhoods and helping to access opportunities. Systemic barriers to receiving and implementing grants are based upon assumed skills and experience to successfully apply for, implement and manage grants. We provide capacity building, through training and technical assistance - specifically planning, grant writing, documentation, and implementation – and support for governance and management of small non-profit organizations. Our commitment has been that every neighborhood organization will apply for and receive funding and implement successful projects.

#### Performance Report

- Number of workers completing sectoral job training programs: 26
- Number of people participating in summer youth employment programs: 58
- Number of Grantees, per grant award size: 80 - \$10,000; 16 - \$6,100; 31 - \$2,822.
- Number of employees per grantee: 9.18 (estimated from hours reported)
- Number of community events through non-profit organizations: 644
- Number of public performances through non-profit organizations: 94
- Number of educational and enrichment programming through non-profit organizations: 79

#### B. Contract 25x010 Homebase (\$85,000)

This contract provides \$2,710,000 for the purpose of supporting the Neighborhood Activation Fund (NAF) and the Neighborhood Business District Support Grants (NBDS). The NAF will support community councils, community business associations, community development corporations and other neighborhood serving not-for-profit entities who apply for assistance through a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP). The NBDS aid may include both direct support to the business as well as support to enhance outdoor spaces for COVID-19 mitigation disproportionately impacted communities will include construction/renovation of affordable housing in qualified census tracts or to households that have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic but reside outside of the qualified census tracts.

- See also project ARP028 Neighborhood Activation Fund

#### Performance Report

Number of non-profits served: 16.

#### **Project ARP018: Minority Business Accelerator/Ascend**

Funding amount: \$3,250,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.30 Technical Assistance, Counseling, or Business Planning

#### Project Overview

The Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio, the Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky African American Chamber of Commerce, and Cincinnati USA Minority Business Accelerator (collectively, “L&G”), will cooperatively lead the Lincoln and Gilbert Initiative (formerly AscendCincy). L&G will provide financial support in the form of grants to various economic development organizations including but not limited to, the Greater Cincinnati Microenterprise Initiative (GCMI), MORTAR, Cincinnati Minority Business Collaborative, and Lightship Foundation (collectively hereinafter referred to as the “Supporting

Organizations”). The Supporting Organizations will provide critical knowledge, business counseling/assistance, and subject matter expertise to substantially increase the likelihood of success, sustainability, and growth to companies impacted by COVID-19. Each Supporting Organization shall develop specific capacity building offerings for eligible impacted businesses. L&G shall oversee the administration of the capacity building services by each Supporting Organization. L&G will also implement a grant program to disburse operational relief grants. The relief grants will help businesses that suffered losses due to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 in certain segments of the Cincinnati business community and/or suffered a loss of job and/or income, etc., which caused an individual to start a business based in the City of Cincinnati. Supporting Organizations will provide capacity building support targeted at growth, back-office support in the areas of accounting, HR, marketing, etc., business coaching and other capacity building assistance as agreed upon with L&G.

- <https://www.lincolndan Gilbert.com/>

Performance Report

Number of small businesses served: 126.

Technical Assistance support: 52.

### **Project ARP021: Port Authority Affordable Housing Projects**

Funding amount: \$2,500,000

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

Project Overview

The City of Cincinnati will use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to help low to moderate income persons and families achieve homeownership that the pandemic, among other factors, has made more difficult. The Port Authority of Greater Cincinnati Development Authority will serve as the City’s implementation partner to help increase the supply of affordable and high-quality living units by creating low income and workforce housing opportunities for families while helping to stabilize and increase homeownership in the City of Cincinnati. The goal is to construct/renovate approximately 40 homes by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

- [Home | The Port – Cincinnati \(cincinnatiport.org\)](https://www.cincinnatiport.org/)

Performance Report

Number of residences under construction: 13

Number of residences completed:

Number of residences sold to qualified households:

### **Project ARP022: CVB**

Funding amount: \$1,700,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.35 Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality

Project Overview

The tourism, travel, and hospitality industry within the City of Cincinnati has been particularly impacted, with approximately 187 convention groups and 183,000 hotel room stays being cancelled since March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which has caused the Greater Cincinnati Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB) to experience a significant loss of revenue and staff. The City now requires a service provider to provide tourism and travel services that drive demand for hotels, attractions, and restaurants in the City of Cincinnati by attracting major meetings, conventions, and sporting events. The lodging tax in Hamilton County fell approximately 60% in 2020. Funded primarily by the lodging tax, the impacts have been devastating to the CVB’s work. The LFRF grant funds will enable the CVB to resume its work to support local

hospitality businesses through marketing and selling Cincinnati as a destination for meetings, events, conventions, and leisure trips. This project provided operational relief to the CVB through April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

- [Cincinnati Conventions and Visitors / Cincinnati Convention and Visitors Bureau / CincyUSA.com](#)

**Project ARP025: Social Services Operational Grants**

Funding amount: \$1,386,817

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Non-profit Organizations

Project Overview

The United Way of Greater Cincinnati will administer and manage the City's Non-profit Hardship Fund for the benefit of eligible human services organizations. The United Way shall provide eligible organizations who apply for one-time operating grants in the amount equal to that which had been previously refunded, waived, or returned to the City from contracts executed in the fiscal year 2020. This project concluded July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

Performance Report

Number of non-profits served: 41.

**Project ARP028: Neighborhood Activation Fund**

Funding amount: \$2,625,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Non-profit Organizations

Project Overview

The city contracted with Homebase to assist with the Neighborhood Business District Support Grant program with Homebase Cincinnati. The program provides support to small businesses and neighborhood serving non-profits. Eligible activities include small business retention, capital investments responding to the pandemic and support for small business strategic planning. In addition, this contract will provide funding for neighborhood business district infrastructure including non-profit investment in built environment for small businesses and capital investment in affordable housing.

**Project ARP036: Grant Us Hope**

Funding amount: \$50,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.14 Other Public Health Services

Project Overview

City of Cincinnati is currently facing a mental health crisis, and suicide levels are at an all-time high, leading as the cause of death for 10–14-year-olds in Ohio with those living at or below the poverty line 37% more likely to try to end their lives than their peers. The objective of this program is to implement peer-to-peer suicide prevention and mental health awareness programs in schools with the ultimate goals of early intervention with youth who maybe be struggling with mental health and getting them the help they need before it is too late. The program includes ongoing curriculum that is embedded in schools.

Performance Report

Grant Us Hope initiated this program in Woodward Career Technical School (Middle & HS), Gamble Montessori (Middle & HS) and Shroder Paideia (Middle & HS). This grant allowed us to prepare for and begin implementation at these schools and gave us the momentum to access continued funding that will allow us to provide Hope Squad to the schools on an ongoing basis.

- [Home - Grant Us Hope](#)

### **Project ARP037: 4C Child Care Startup Funding**

Funding amount: \$1,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.11 Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care

Project Overview

A major consequence of COVID-19 for working families has been the sudden lack of childcare as organizations including schools, day cares, after school programs, recreation centers, and camps, among others, shut down or became virtual to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. Children and their parents and guardians continue to find themselves in hardship as a result. New or expanded high-quality childcare to provide safe and supportive care for children is an important part of COVID-19 recovery in the City of Cincinnati. With the use of ARPA funds Comprehensive Community Child Care Inc. (4C) will continue an existing program to support new and expanding, high-quality childcare programs using 3 primary strategies:

- Recruitment/Coaching/Training/Program Coordination/Direct Support
- Essential startup trainings
- Capacity funding

This project is designed to be completed by August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023.

- [Child Care Start Up Funds Allocated | 4C for Children](#)
- [Promotional video: https://youtu.be/l6CDkW3hQ7I](https://youtu.be/l6CDkW3hQ7I)

Performance Report

4C staff identify all candidates from the City of Cincinnati on a periodic report received from the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services with an interest in starting a Family Child Care. We initiate calls to each candidate to assess their status and engage them in the Cincinnati ARPA project.

- 24 providers have completed the licensure process.
- 10 providers have ordered early learning materials. Application submissions will come after.
- 13 providers are beginning the application process.

### **Project ARP038: Children's Hospital Expansion College Hill**

Funding amount: \$1,962,670

Project Expenditure Category: 1.4 Prevention in Congregate Settings

Project Overview

Children's mental health providers have been particularly impacted, with children needing in-patient mental health care not being able to be admitted for a day or longer and having to wait in emergency departments or medical beds, impacting their families' ability to care for them and work. For periods during the pandemic Children's Hospital reports performing over 750 mental health care crisis evaluations per month. Children's Hospital is developing a new facility at its College Hill campus to expand and improve its mental health care capabilities for children and adolescents. Children's Hospital will spend the ARPA resources to plan and design the new facility.

- [Cincinnati Children's Breaks Ground on New Behavioral Health Facility \(cincinnatichildrens.org\)](https://cincinnatichildrens.org)

**Project ARP051: FY 2022 COVID Expenses**

Funding amount: \$67,500,000

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Service

Project Overview

The City used revenue replacement funds for fire and EMT personnel expenditures.

**Project ARP052: FY 2021 Restricted Funds Revenue Replacement**

Funding amount: \$16,631,375

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Service

Project Overview

Revenue replacement funds were used to restore lost revenue to various restricted funds to account for revenue reductions caused by the pandemic.

**Project ARP053: Hazard Pay**

Funding amount: \$4,268,625

Project Expenditure Category: 4.1 Public Sector Employees

Project Overview

The City of Cincinnati provided additional compensation to those City employees who have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Whereas providing funds for additional compensation to City employees improves the economic and general well-being of the employees of the City, which is necessary due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- See page 5 for additional information.

**Project ARP062: Women Business Program-Main Street Ventures**

Funding amount: \$1,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.29 Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship

Project Overview

The COVID-19 pandemic has greatly impacted the City’s regional economy, causing negative economic impacts to many industries, businesses, and individuals. Women-owned small businesses have been particularly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, with an estimated 64% of women business owners stating that their revenue has decreased because of COVID-19, according to research from Babson College’s Diana International Research Institute and an estimated 25% of women-owned businesses having closed completely between February and April 2020, according to the National Bureau of Economic Research. To respond to the devastating impacts of COVID-19, Main Street Ventures will carry out two (2) distinct programs to support the growth and long-term viability of female-founded startups in our community: Grant Programs and Financial Education Programming. These programs will be fully executed by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

- [FUNDING PROGRAMS | Main Street Ventures \(mainstventures.org\)](https://mainstventures.org)

Performance Report

- Grant programs have assisted 39 small businesses.
- Financial programs have assisted 10 small businesses.

**Project ARP063: PIVOT**

Funding amount: \$500,000

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

To support the ongoing PIVOT program. Please click the link for more information regarding PIVOT.

- [PIVOT - Police \(cincinnati-oh.gov\)](https://cincinnati-oh.gov)

**Project ARP064: Network Upgrades/Security**

Funding amount: \$430,000

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

Funds are earmarked for network upgrades and upgrades to cybersecurity necessary to mitigate the increase in fraudulent activities that we are now faced with.

**Project ARP065: CRC Extended Hours**

Funding amount: \$300,000

Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

To cover expenses related to CRC programs that extend beyond normal business hours.

**Project ARP070: Kings & Queens**

Funding amount: \$20,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.11 Community Violence Interventions

Project Overview

The Kings & Queens "Save Our Youth" (SOY) prevention and intervention program has a mission and vision to reduce gun violence in the City's most vulnerable communities, especially among the youth population. Cincinnati saw an increase in violence in 2020, and as such, there is a heightened need for crime awareness and prevention during the COVID-19 pandemic. 2020 was reported to be the deadliest year on record in the City, according to CPD. Youth participate in a 3-month program, with meetings held two times per month, where coordinated speakers will teach youth about black history and cultural competencies. The program engages up to 10-12 youth per session over a 12-week period. SOY will engage a data consultant to track positive outcomes for program participants.

- [End Gun Violence | Save Our Youth Kings & Queens | Cincinnati \(saveouryouthcincinnati.com\)](https://saveouryouthcincinnati.com)

**Project ARP071: SCLC Rites of Passage Summer Camp**

Funding amount: \$28,300

Project Expenditure Category: 2.11 Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care

Project Overview

The latest information from the American Community Survey reported that 40.4% of children living in the City of Cincinnati were living in poverty, more than twice the national average. The SCLC Rites of Passage Summer Day Camp is a community-based, free summer day camp that supports youth in the Evanston neighborhood of Cincinnati, Ohio where 88.4% of the children live at or below poverty level and have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The City now requires a service provider to assist the vulnerable youth in the community who are most

impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic by providing academic, social, and emotional support. The City of Cincinnati has entered into a contractual agreement with The Christ Temple Baptist Church, Inc., to provide these services. The following public services will be offered:

- i. Address the educational disparities by providing educational services and practices that address the academic needs of students, including tutoring, summer, afterschool, and other extended learning and enrichment programs.
- ii. Promote healthy childhood environments by providing new or expanded high-quality childcare to provide safe and supportive care for children.

The Day Camp will serve 30 local youth during a 9-week program starting on June 8, 2021. Most youth attending the Day Camp live in the Evanston neighborhood, and within walking distance of the Day Camp program, 100% of the children attending the Day Camp come from low-income households and the majority are African American. Update: 28 children enrolled. Of these 28 children 65% are economically disadvantaged.

#### Performance Report

Of the 28 children enrolled, 4 were pre-school aged 3-5 years.

#### **Project ARP072: UCanSpeak4Me**

Funding amount: \$40,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.11 Community Violence Interventions

##### Project Overview

UCanSpeakforMeBookmarker Inc.: Supports grieving families with advocacy and emotional support by creating and distributing unsolved homicide flyers in each district to assist the community in coming forward to provide information to support law enforcement. Families are also given individual reward cards to help them bring awareness to their loved one's care.

- [UCanSpeakForMe](#)

#### **Project ARP073: Wesley Chapel**

Funding amount: \$50,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.11 Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care

##### Project Overview

The non-profit, Wesley Chapel Mission Center is open to approximately (400), PreK-12th grade children who live between 13th Street and East Clifton Avenue and Elm and Sycamore Streets in Over the Rhine. The median family income is \$13,488. 90% of our students have single parent homes, while 100% receive public assistance to meet their basic needs. The four blocks surrounding WCMC have the highest violent crime rate of any entire Cincinnati neighborhood.

- [Wesley Chapel Mission Center \(wcmcotr.org\)](#)

#### Performance Report

Healthy Childhood Environments: 35 children ages 3-5 were enrolled in afterschool care as of January 2023.

“The Wesley Chapel Mission Center Technology Camp was created to introduce our youth to an educational and learning experience in science and technology. It is our hope that the youth that we serve will become tomorrow's transformational and innovational leaders. While our students may struggle to overcome the stigma and fear of learning something new, it is our hope and belief that this program will increase science, engineering, and technology skills. Our program responded to the COVID-19 pandemic by purchasing PPE to assist in safeguarding our youth,

staff, and visitors from COVID exposure. Electronically Wall Mounted Thermometers are now present near the entry door of all classrooms. COVID-19 safety precautions were introduced at the outset of the pandemic such as a COVID Questionnaire, mandatory mask requirements, hand washing instructions along with testing being scheduled for all staff whenever there was a person identified as either being COVID positive or being exposed to a COVID positive. Our agency adopted a COVID Policy as well. We are truly grateful and humbled by the show of support the City of Cincinnati Officials provided.” From the Executive Director, Kevin Corey.

**Project ARP074: flywheel Business Equity Initiative**

Funding amount: \$300,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.32 Business Incubators and Start-Up or Expansion Assistance  
Project Overview

The start-up and venture capital industry has been impacted with little access to capital, employees being displaced, and other major disruptions brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic creating additional burdens and challenges for start-up companies and entrepreneurs. Flywheel will provide business planning and counseling services to local start-up companies and entrepreneurs with their Venture Programs and Access to Capital Programs. This program is designed to be completed by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

- <https://www.flywheelcincinnati.org/>

Performance Report

- Elevate Equity Accelerator Program: 5 participants.
- Main Street Ventures summer camp mentoring: 40 students exploring entrepreneurship.
- Assistance to non-profits: 5
- 16-hour startup bootcamp: 5 participants

**Project ARP075: UC Medical Center EMS Canopy**

Funding amount: \$1,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.4 Prevention in Congregate Settings  
Project Overview

The health care sector has been impacted as a first line of defense against the COVID-19 pandemic and hospitals have had inadequate facilities to meet the demands and needs associated with the pandemic. The City desires the areas only Level 1 Trauma Center to be better prepared for future pandemic and mass casualty occurrences. In response UC has prioritized additional functionality to include the expansion of its EMS Canopy to include decontamination capabilities, installation of negative airflow rooms to contact airborne pathogens, and the build out of a critical care pavilion for mass casualties.

Performance Report

The new ER canopy is anticipated to be opened by July 11, 2023.

**Project ARP076: Food Insecurities-Last Mile**

Funding amount: \$150,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.1 Household Assistance: Food Programs  
Project Overview

Last Mile Food Rescue’s mission is to use volunteers and cutting-edge technology to rescue the food that is being sent to landfills and deliver straight to the organizations that feed our community.

The program relies upon three components: food donors, food recipients and volunteers to pick up and drop off food.

- [Home - Last Mile Food Rescue](#)

#### Performance Report

Last Mile uses the Feeding America calculation for the cost of a meal as 1.2 pounds of food. In 2022, 2.4 million pounds of food were rescued. As of June 30, 2023, 1.5 million pounds of food have been rescued. This equates to approximately 3 million meals to the City's food insecure.

#### **Project ARP077: Food Insecurities-La Soupe**

Funding amount: \$150,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.1 Household Assistance: Food Programs

#### Project Overview

La Soupe distributes meals through partner organizations. La Soupe employs a full-time staff member to coordinate community partners and assist them through the application process. No administrative barriers exist beyond the application process; La Soupe consistently provides meals to all confirmed partners who distribute to low-income households experiencing food insecurity. Food insecurity rates rose sharply in 2021 due to the public health and economic crises caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. 15.7% of Hamilton County's general population experienced food insecurity that year, with 23.6% of Hamilton County youth disproportionately experiencing food insecurity.

- <https://www.lasoupe.org/>

#### Performance Report

La Soupe rescued 1.134 million pounds of food from 76 locations across the city to share 820,000 servings (1 serving = four-ounce portion of prepared food) and 650,000 pounds of directly donated food.

#### **Project ARP078: Food Insecurities-Produce Perks**

Funding amount: \$275,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.1 Household Assistance: Food Programs

#### Project Overview

Produce Perks supports low-income residents receiving SNAP/EBT and P-EBT benefits with matching dollars that can be used to purchase fruits and vegetables. Increasing levels of unemployment because of COVID-19 have led to a growing demand for food security programming. ARPA funds will assist Produce Perks to expand their program to meet the increase in demand. Produce Perks prescription programming in partnership with Cincinnati Public Schools has assisted 171 students by providing 472 produce boxes to their households. In addition, these families also received vouchers to redeem at participating farmer's markets and grocery stores. This contract has been extended to assist those with food insecurity through December 31, 2023.

- [Produce Perks Midwest – Spend a little, Save a lot](#)

#### Performance Report

Produce Perks has assisted over 2480 families with fresh fruit and vegetable purchases during the first year of ARPA reporting. The numbers are broken down by the quarterly reporting period in the chart below.

Reporting period	Number of beneficiaries	Amount of purchases
July-December 2021	1,280	\$178,037
January-March 2022	500+	67,019
April-June 2022	700+	28,179
July-September 2022	3,577	91,637
October-December 2022	600	110,489
January-March 2023	4,087	69,212
April-June 2023	2,080	71,919

### **Project ARP079: CYC Youth Work**

#### **Readiness**

Funding amount: \$100,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.37 Economic Impact Assistance: Other

#### Project Overview

The Cincinnati Youth Collaborative (CYC) offers in-school courses that equip students with career exploration, personal development, and foundational employability skills necessary for gaining, and retaining employment. Currently the program includes Jobs for Cincinnati Graduates High School to Career Program & Jobs for Cincinnati Graduates Middle School Program. Funding from the ARPA will enable CYC to broaden the curriculum to include areas such as Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, as well as Financial Literacy and Social Justice.

- [www.cycyouth.org](http://www.cycyouth.org)

#### Performance Report

- 845 students enrolled in the JCG program.
- 1.56 ratio of career specialists to students.

### **Project ARP080: Price Hill & Avondale Boys & Girls Club**

Funding amount: \$250,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.24 Addressing Educational Disparities: Aid to High-Poverty Districts

#### Project Overview

Evidence-based educational services and practices to address the academic needs of students, including tutoring, summer, afterschool, and other extended learning and enrichment programs. ARPA funds enabled the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Cincinnati to hire additional tutors for the summer 2021 through September 2022.

- <https://bgcgc.org/>

#### Performance Report

Number of students participating in evidence-based tutoring programs<sup>1</sup>: 611

### **Project ARP111: Safe and Clean Neighborhoods**

Funding amount: \$250,000

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

<sup>1</sup> For more information on evidence-based tutoring programs, refer to the U.S. Department of Education's [2021 ED COVID-19 Handbook \(Volume 2\)](#), which summarizes research on evidence-based tutoring programs (see the bottom of page 20).

### Project Overview

The purpose of the Safe and Clean Neighborhood fund is to support and encourage community-based and community-initiated efforts to improve neighborhood safety, eliminate blight, and increase livability through local-level problem solving approaches and projects.

### **Project ARP202: Pedestrian Safety**

Funding amount: \$1,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

#### Project Overview

The purpose of this project is to enhance pedestrian safety efforts to promote improved health and safety outcomes within disproportionately impacted areas of the City.

### **Project ARP203: Fire Fleet**

Funding amount: \$1,100,000

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

#### Project Overview

Use of grant funds to purchase a new ambulance and two pumper trucks for the City's Fire/EMS fleet.

### **Project ARP204: ADDI**

Funding amount: \$300,000

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

#### Project Overview

American Dream Downpayment Initiative program that assists low-income first-time home buyers by providing eligible applicants with down payment/closing costs in the form of a forgivable loan.

#### Performance Report

To date 10 families have received downpayment assistance.

### **Project ARP205: Westside Recreational Connectivity Improvements**

Funding amount: \$400,000

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

#### Project Overview

Planning for, and preparation of, construction plans for a pedestrian and bicycle facility connecting Lick Run, Rapid Run and Dunham recreational facilities.

### **Project ARP206: PLAP**

Funding amount: \$300,000

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

#### Project Overview

To enhance the Private Lot Abatement Program overseen by Buildings and Inspections.

### **Project ARP207: Summer Safety Initiative**

Funding amount: \$250,000

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

#### Project Overview

Revenue replacement funds were allocated for the City of Cincinnati Police Department, providing funding for Police Visibility Overtime to address the increase in violent crime deploying overtime to hot spots and event areas in the City.

### **Project ARP208: BLINK**

Funding amount: \$1,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

To provide \$1,000,000 of assistance to the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber Foundation to produce BLINK™. In 2019, BLINK™ attracted over 1.2 million attendees resulting in a positive economic impact of \$86.7 million and supported 1,015 jobs.

- <https://www.blinkcincinnati.com/>
- <https://www.blinkcincinnati.com/files/assets/blinkeconomicimpactreport2022spreads.pdf>
- [2022 BLINK had \\$126 million of direct economic impact on region - LINK nky](#)

### **Project ARP300: Fiscal Stability**

Funding amount: \$139,795,062

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

To provide fiscal stability in fiscal years 2023, 2024 & 2025.

### **Project ARP303: YWCA**

Funding amount: \$100,000

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

Project funds will support the Service Provider, YWCA, to operate Domestic Violence Shelter (DVS) in fiscal years 2022 & 2023. YWCA is responsible to perform services within the DVS for low to moderate income persons within specific eligible census tracts within the City's corporate boundary. The work performed by the YWCA serves approximately 220 families per year.

### **Project ARP304: Bethany House**

Funding amount: \$100,000

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

Project funds will be used to support Bethany House's programs and operational expenses to run homeless shelters.

- <https://bethanyhouseservices.org/>

### **Project ARP305: Santa Maria**

Funding amount: \$50,000

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

Santa Maria Community Services is a catalyst and advocate for Cincinnati's Greater Price Hill families to attain their educational, financial, and health goals. Santa Maria Community Services will use American Rescue Plan Funds to provide partial support of personnel costs in four different programs:

- Promoting Our Preschoolers
- Every Child Succeeds
- Wellness

- English for Speakers of Other Languages
- <https://santamaria-cincy.org/>

**Project ARP306: First Step Home**

Funding amount: \$50,000

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

The First Step Home, Inc is developing a new facility at 2215 Fulton Ave. This new facility, called the “Family Unity Center”, will expand, and improve mental health care capabilities for women and their children by providing wrap-around services tailored to each individual’s treatment needs.

- <https://firststephome.org/>

**Project ARP307: Center for Addiction Treatment (CAT)**

Funding amount: \$42,500

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

Center for Addiction Treatment will provide residential treatment for substance use in fiscal year 2023 from September 1, 2022, through August 31, 2023.

- <https://catsober.org/>

**Project ARP308: ArtsWave Black and Brown Artists Fund**

Funding amount: \$50,000

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

Service Provider will develop and execute a grant program to provide financial support to Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) artists for the creation of new works that explore the themes of healing, rebirth, and reconnecting. Successful projects will build upon the current artistic commentary on health and race and connect it with historical events and visions of a more equitable future. Projects will be exhibited or performed/showcased in summer 2023 at the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. The program will also make professional development training opportunities available to the funded artists, provided by our partner Wave Pool.

**Project ARP309: Learning Through Art**

Funding amount: \$23,500

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

Expand the impact and reach of Learning Through Art, Inc. by relocating to a new office space that offers layout and location advantages. Expand production of Books Alive! For Kids® Virtual Adventures educational episodes with new layout and environment for filming. We will begin filming our next Virtual Adventure at the new office space, 2055 Reading Road, in the fall of 2022. Accessibility to and for collaboration with fellow arts organizations such as the Cincinnati Ballet, Cincinnati Art Museum, and Playhouse in the Park to recreate our successful event, Books Alive!

For Kids® Family Adventures in the Park “No Cell Phone Day” in spring of 2023. Create a marketing model including distribution, promotion, and evaluation for Books Alive! For Kids® through subcontractor, Greencraft Media, with the goal of increasing sustainable growth in subscriptions by 35% in the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

**Project ARP310: Black Achievers**

Funding amount: \$25,000

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

Black Achievers will conduct three main classes: Leadership Academy, Business Academy and Business Institute. In performance of teaching the classes, Black Achievers will:

- write the course curriculum.
- recruit students to be in the program.
- review student applications
- interview applicants
- advertise the program.
- generate impact reports.
- provide office hours.
- teach classes both in person and via zoom, provide mentoring hours outside of class time.

**Project ARP312: Boots on the Ground**

Funding amount: \$150,000, \$150,000 City-leveraged funding, \$310,000 other sources

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

Assistance for grassroots non-profits who face significant challenges in covering payroll, mortgages or rent, and other operating costs because of the Covid-19 public health emergency and measures taken to contain the spread of the virus. Such assistance includes:

- 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.

- Technical assistance, counseling, or other services to assist with business planning needs.

Performance report

With leveraged City funding, SLFR grant funding & additional non-governmental resources this project has supported 31 local non-profit entities. The table below outlines the focus areas these entities addressed.

Focus Area	Total
Access to affordable, healthy foods (reduction of food deserts)	\$100,000
Access to health care and public health	50,000
Gun violence and gang prevention	35,000
Homelessness prevention and access to affordable housing	75,000
Mental health, behavioral health, and substance use services	50,000
Workforce development	85,000
Youth development	215,000

**Project ARP401: PVO/Downtown Event Deployment**

Funding amount: \$552,213

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

To cover the overtime charges of Cincinnati police officers to promote safety during special events.