

County of Santa Clara, California



Recovery Plan

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

August 31, 2021 Report

County of Santa Clara

August 2021 Recovery Plan

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara, California has not yet approved a plan for the intended and actual uses of the funding. Therefore, the following points are subject to change, but are important to note here because they reflect the County of Santa Clara's (County) strategic response throughout the pandemic.

- **Addressing equity and systemic public health and economic challenges:** Part of the County's strategy is identifying the gaps in the existing COVID-19 funding so that the American Rescue Plan funds can be focused on the hardest hit communities and families. There are individuals and groups who could benefit from assistance that existing COVID-19 funding does not cover. Elements of the County's strategy are also focused on addressing disproportional public health and economic challenges on vulnerable populations, especially low-income workers and communities and people of color in disproportionately impacted areas.
- **Providing safety net services for the community:** The pandemic has placed a significant demand on County safety net services in the health and human services areas. As the safety net for the region, we have expended \$728 million during the pandemic response. The County also expects to spend even more to respond to future surges and variants of the virus. Present and future expenses will not be fully reimbursed by COVID-19 revenues and utilizing SLFRF funds will allow County to maintain its existing service levels. Some of these safety net services provided throughout the pandemic include monitoring the needs of vulnerable populations with a continuous assessment of trends and gaps, providing support for unhoused individuals and families, streamlining access to cash, utilities, and food assistance, and addressing the impacts to vulnerable and other populations disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, especially youth and the elderly.
- **Supporting the County's continued pandemic response:** Another component of the strategy is to plan for the inevitable future pandemic challenges. The pandemic and its effects will be with our community for many years to come, and most especially over the next two years, with current and future surges and variants. COVID-19 variants comprise an increasingly large share of positive COVID-19 cases and continue to grow in number. As such, there is a continued need for County services for vaccine outreach and education, monitoring for variants, emergency housing, isolation and quarantine, childcare, testing, contact tracing, and preparing for future impacts on the County's Health and Hospital System.

Uses of Funds

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara has not yet approved a plan for the intended and actual uses of the funding.

Promoting equitable outcomes

Equity has been central to the County's pandemic response. While the Board of Supervisors has not yet approved a plan for the funding, it is important to note that the County has been working all along to ensure an equitable pandemic response. The County has been focused on bringing services, testing, and vaccines directly to the communities most impacted by and most at risk from COVID-19 and delivering culturally and linguistically competent education and COVID-19-related services to the most impacted residents through grassroots outreach, trusted community-based organizations, and a diversified media strategy.

As is true nationally, COVID-19 has had a disproportionate impact within Santa Clara County. Residents in East San Jose and Gilroy faced substantial health and economic inequalities prior to the pandemic. These inequities have only been exacerbated during the pandemic. Residents in the 8 zip codes that make up East San Jose account for 22% of the county population, but 36% of the COVID cases. Similarly, Gilroy residents make up 3% of the population, but twice that share of the cases. Significant COVID disparities also persist by race and ethnicity. For example, the Latinx residents account for roughly one quarter of the Santa Clara County population, but nearly half of the COVID-19 cases and 31% of the deaths. African/African Ancestry residents are also overrepresented in COVID fatalities.

These disparities can be tracked on the County's demographic dashboard: <https://covid19.sccgov.org/dashboard-demographics-of-cases-and-deaths>. Based on these and other equity considerations, the County Health System has located many of its services in East San Jose and Gilroy and continues to focus outreach and communications activities on these hardest hit communities.

Community Engagement

The Finance and Government Operations Committee of the Board of Supervisors conducted a special meeting on June 9, 2021, to receive community input relating to the budgeting and expenditure specific to SLFRF funds. The virtual meeting was scheduled in the evening session to ensure the broadest access to the meeting by all interested parties. Participants were able to provide input both verbally and in written form.

Throughout the pandemic, the County's outreach and engagement efforts have included a comprehensive stakeholder engagement process; deep grassroots outreach; and a broad, multilingual communications strategy. The County and our partners continue to have well over 70 linguistically competent community health workers in the field full time, many of whom are providing door to door outreach in our hardest hit neighborhoods.

In terms of messaging, the County's Public Information Office (PIO) continues to provide messaging and communications in our 5 threshold languages. Social media, press conferences, fliers, websites, and other collateral materials are provided in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, and Tagalog. The PIO operation also includes a robust multilingual paid media strategy for outreach with paid ads through Spanish language TV stations; Vietnamese,

Spanish, and Chinese radio; out-of-home advertising in multiple languages; and small dollar ad buys with diverse print media outlets.

Labor Practices

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara has not yet approved a plan for the intended and actual uses of the funding, and therefore there are no workforce practices on SLFRF infrastructure projects included in this report.

Use of Evidence

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara has not yet approved a plan for the intended and actual uses of the funding, and as such there are no evidence-based interventions nor project evaluations reportable.

Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara has not yet approved a plan for the intended and actual uses of the funding, and as such there are **no** reportable expenses included in this report.

Project Inventory

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Clara has not yet approved a plan for the intended and actual uses of the funding, and as such there are no reportable projects included in this report.

Performance Report

- *There are **no** reportable projects, and therefore no key performance indicators included in this report.*