

County of Mercer

Recovery Plan

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

2023 Report

Note: 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 program outcomes are achieved in an effective, efficient, and equitable manner. While this template includes the minimum requirements for the Recovery Plan, each recipient is encouraged to add information to the plan that they feel is appropriate to provide information to their constituents on efforts they are taking to respond to the pandemic and promote an equitable economic recovery.

Each jurisdiction may determine the general form and content of the Recovery Plan, as long as it meets the reporting requirements, and recipients are encouraged to tailor this template to best meet their needs. Use of infographics, tables, charts, pictures, case studies, and other explanatory elements are encouraged.

2023 Recovery Plan

Table of Contents

General Overview	2
1. Executive Summary.....	2
2. Uses of Funds	3
3. Promoting Equitable Outcomes	5
4. Community Engagement.....	8
5. Labor Practices.....	8
6. Use of Evidence	9
7. Performance Report.....	9
8. Project Inventory.....	10
9. Summary	16

GENERAL OVERVIEW

1. Executive Summary

County of Mercer (“County”) is publishing this Recovery Plan and Performance Report consistent with requirements outlined by the United States Department of the Treasury (“US Treasury”) in connection with the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (“SLFRF”) under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (“ARPA”).

Updated guidance and reporting requirements for the SLFRF program were released on June 6, 2023. These guidelines established the need for various reporting requirements, including the quarterly Project and Expenditure Reports, and annual Recovery Plan Performance Reports. This Recovery Plan Performance Report will provide the public and Treasury information on the projects the county is undertaking with program funds and how the county is planning to ensure program outcomes are achieved in an effective, efficient, and equitable manner, while complying with key performance and mandatory indicators identified by Treasury. This report, as required by Treasury covers the period from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. Subsequent annual reports will describe the county’s efforts to implement projects with these funds and while complying with federal guidelines.

The U.S. Department of Treasury has processed a payment in the amount of \$71,368,970.00 in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. These funds have been presented to the Board of Commissioners, the Governing Body for the county. County Executive Brian M. Hughes has developed a strategy to determine priorities and funding strategies to utilize the SLFRF dollars over the course of the next several years. These funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024 and must be spent by December 31, 2026.

The hereby follows the Objectives of the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds and will use funds to support urgent COVID-19 response efforts to continue to decrease spread of the virus and bring the Pandemic under control, 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 unequal impact of the Pandemic. The County Administration has developed a plan to address the needs of the community, as impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. These strategies will follow the overarching guidelines of the American Rescue Plan and requirements of SLFR Funds.

After assembling an outstanding Community Advisory Board made up of faith, labor, nonprofit, community, and elected leaders, the County of Mercer has developed a full project list with estimated budget to expend available ARPA funds.

This report outlines the use of funds from the date of fund distribution from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. It also describes the on-going efforts to obligate and expend funds in compliance with all ARPA Terms & Conditions.

2. Uses of Funds

The following section describes the usage and budgeting of funds during the annual Reporting period, from July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023. The use of funds will be described within each of the funding categories, as established by federal reporting guidelines in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance. This section will also be used to describe other county efforts to help mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

a. Public Health (EC 1)

While this expenditure category was not specifically used, a portion of Revenue Replacement funds were allocated in the 2022 and 2023 adopted budget for use by the Mercer County Division of Health and Human Services. This included funds to support existing contracts for Mental Health Services, Peer Grouping, Child Care, Homeless Services, Addiction Services and support services for the Youth Detention Center.

b. Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2)

In the past year, Mercer County implemented the \$3.5 million Small Business Grant Program. In addition to the Grant Program, Mercer County is in the process of obligating additional funds for a Small Business Bond Pilot Program, a Zero-Interest Loan program, Expungement Services program and has used ARPA/SLFRF funds to expand the existing Route 130 bus service. Finally, additional funds have been budgeted and are in the process of being formally obligated to some of Mercer County’s municipalities to provide additional aid in the form of expanded park accessibility features:

- Robbinsville – Walking trails, natural playground, sensory/butterfly garden, benches, etc.
- West Windsor – New or repaired items at their Senior Center, including furniture, gazebo, kitchen and technology upgrades for virtual activities.
- Hamilton – Grant program for non-profits providing athletic programming to disabled participants.
- Ewing – Equipment and services upgrades to Senior and Community centers to increase access to internet and additional community locally broadcasted programming.

c. Public Sector Capacity (EC 3)

Mercer County has awarded funds to each of 12 municipalities within its jurisdiction. The Subrecipient Municipalities are implementing initiatives that will improve services to vulnerable senior, veteran and disabled communities. The municipalities are taking this opportunity to upgrade programming (whether virtual or in-person) provided at community centers, accessibility upgrades, install new emergency generators that will allow the community centers to serve as an emergency shelters and vaccine storage locations, repair senior center kitchens that work as food distribution areas, expand senior bus services and hire new case worker staff for seniors.

d. Premium Pay (EC 4)

Throughout the coronavirus public health emergency, Mercer County continued to provide necessary programs and services to constituents thanks to the hard work of the employees. The ARPA/SLFRF funds may be used to provide premium pay to eligible workers who performed in-person work during the COVID-19 emergency. Based on eligibility parameters set by the Federal Government, Mercer County provided one-time premium pay to qualifying and deserving Mercer County public servants who have been relied on to maintain continuity of operations.

e. Water, sewer and broadband infrastructure (EC 5)

No expenditures were incurred and no projects in this Expenditure Category are planned. Other sources of funding are available and Mercer County continues to improve existing internet services and improve quality of water delivery and stormwater and sewer management services.

f. Revenue Replacement (EC 6)

Revenue Replacement funds were allocated in the 2022 and 2023 Mercer County budget to offset typical administrative, human service and maintenance expenses. In addition to these budget allocations, Mercer County specifically set aside funds for long-awaited updates to Trenton-Mercer Airport (TTN). ARPA EC 6.1 funds will be used to pay for an Owner's Representative/Construction Supervision company over the next two years and for the construction of a new Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Station.

g. Administrative Expenses (EC 7)

Mercer County has hired a consultant to assist with the compliance and management of ARPA/SLFRF funded projects. Also, a small set-aside for office expenditures related to the implementation of the various ARPA/SLFRF projects budgeted.

h. Other County Initiatives

In addition to these efforts, County of Mercer is providing emergency rental assistance through the use of other federal funding resources. The County of Mercer Emergency Rental Assistance Program helps eligible low-income households with their past due rent and utilities. The program covers up to 12 months of past due rent and utilities and may pay up to three months of forward rent at a time, not to exceed a total of 18 months of assistance. Past due rent must be paid before future rent coverage is eligible. Utility costs include electricity, gas, home energy services, and bulk fuels.

Eligible landlords who participate in the Emergency Rental Assistance program can receive reimbursement for 100 percent of an eligible tenant's unpaid rent from April 1, 2020, to present for a total of 12 months.

Eligible tenants can apply for 100 percent of the past due rent from April 1, 2020, to present for a total of 12 months, which will be paid directly to their landlord. Eligible tenants can receive prospective (future) rental assistance equal to 100 percent of their monthly rent for up to three months at a time. Eligible tenants may also receive assistance for unpaid utility bills accumulated from April 1, 2020, to present. Unpaid utility bills will be paid directly to the utility company.

County of Mercer is also providing public health information, information about various federal and state resources for households and businesses, as well as testing and Pandemic tracking. These efforts are being used to combat the spread of COVID-19 throughout the community.

3. Promoting equitable outcomes

The County of Mercer has established a suite of projects specifically designed to assist small businesses and individuals who were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Following is a description of the County of Mercer's efforts to ensure equitable outcomes.

a. Small Business Grant Program

The Small Business Grant Program provided direct aid to small businesses in our community that were likely to have experienced hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In an effort to aid to those most in need and provide for an easier application process, the County prioritized the review of applications from businesses located within Qualified Census Tracts (QCT)¹ or Opportunity Zones² within Mercer County. Also, from the start, a portion of the grant funds was set-aside for businesses located in those areas. Mercer County includes two QCT/Opportunity Zone areas – one across downtown Trenton and another in a specific area of Hamilton Township. Small businesses located in a QCT were not required to document economic losses (only eligibility documentation) and received a flat grant of \$10,000. Those eligible small businesses not located in a QCT submitted documentation demonstrating economic losses and were awarded funds based on several years of tax returns – up to a \$10,000 maximum. This program was extremely well-received and has resulted in providing much-needed aid to 362 small businesses.

Significant effort was made to make sure these target areas received additional marketing and outreach efforts. Outreach included early-launch training to the economic development directors of each of Mercer's 12 municipalities and area non-profits and chambers of commerce. Attendees at the first training included representatives from Hamilton Township's economic development director, the African American Chamber of Commerce, New Jersey Small Business Development Centers, Non-Profit Development Corporations and other Small Business organizations. Program Flyers were hand-delivered and circulated to target areas in Trenton, Hamilton and other specific business areas in other towns. Outreach events, where small business applicants could meet in-

¹ Qualified Census Tract - https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sadda/sadda_qct.html

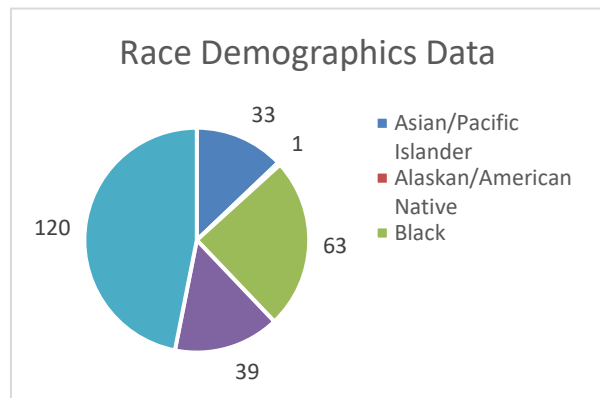
² Mercer County Opportunity Zones - <https://www.mercercounty.org/work/economic-development/small-business-development/mercer-county-opportunity-zones>

person with Program Managers for direct application assistance, were held at the Mercer County Community College in Trenton, at the Mercer County Connection in Hamilton and via a late-night recorded virtual training. In order to have insight into the populations served – the Mercer Board of Commissioners requested information on QCT applications and various demographic data. Applicants to the program had the option to complete demographic data. At the close of the program, 362 grants were distributed with the following data points:

Program Group	Applicants
Group 1 (In a QCT or Opportunity Zone)	130
Group 2 (Not in a QCT or Opportunity Zone)	232
Grand Total	362

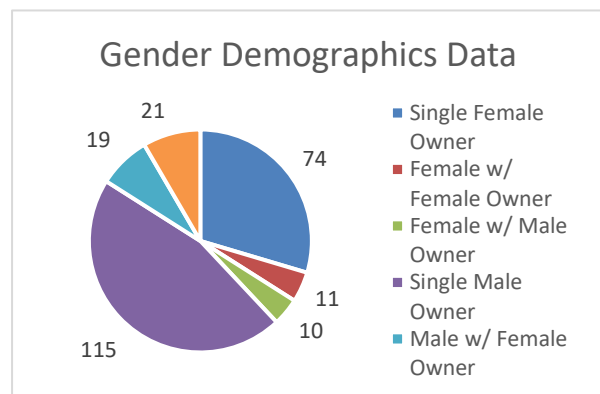
There are a total of 256 approved applicants who completed the optional race demographics questionnaire.

Race Demographics	Applicants
Asian/Pacific Islander	33
Alaskan/American Native	1
Black	63
Hispanic	39
White	120
Grand Total	256



There are a total of 250 approved applicants who completed their optional gender demographics questionnaire.

Gender Demographics	Applicants
Single Female Owner	74
<i>Female w/ Female Owner</i>	11
<i>Female w/ Male Owner</i>	10
Single Male Owner	115
<i>Male w/ Female Owner</i>	19
<i>Male w/ Male Owner</i>	21
Grand Total	250



b. Route 130 Expansion Project

The intent of this initiative is specifically to serve the needs of lower-income individuals who work at warehouse business facilities in surrounding areas. Anecdotally, the Mercer Division of Economic Development and the Greater Mercer Transit Authority have heard that warehouse employers were advertising employment at known homelessness, food pantries and community service centers in Trenton and has noticed that there were no public transportation options to certain areas in Hightstown. Noting these needs, Mercer

County had been contemplating service expansion funding options over the last couple years – and the provision of ARPA/SLFRF funds provided a unique opportunity to ‘pilot’ the service expansion; track ridership data; and document needs to secure additional funding long-term.

The existing Route 130 Connection is funded mainly via the Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) program; which was established to address the unique transportation challenges faced by welfare recipients and low-income persons seeking to obtain and maintain employment. Many new entry-level jobs are located in suburban areas, and low-income individuals have difficulty accessing these jobs from their inner city, urban, or rural neighborhoods. In addition, many entry level-jobs require working late at night or on weekends when conventional transit services are either reduced or non-existent. The expansion of services to be funded with ARPA/SLFRF funds adds additional runs to serve late-night/early-morning shift work at nearby Amazon, Wayfair, UPS and other industrial park facilities. Also, this expanded service is adding new stops to a town not previously served and new businesses that have more recently opened or businesses/job sites not previously served. The previous and expanded Route 130 service line is free to Work First New Jersey customers, eligible low-income individuals, seniors and available at a low \$1 fee to the general public. Pre-existing service was funded with a combination of NJ Transit, Federal, Mercer County funds and contributions from businesses served. The ARPA/SLFRF funds are being used for the additional service runs and will be gradually reduced over the next few years while other funding sources and business contributions are identified and secured. Expanded services started June 12, 2023.

c. Small Business Investment Initiative: Bond Pilot Program & Zero-Interest Loan Program

The County of Mercer issued a Small Business Investment Program competitive solicitation to provide aid to small businesses that are likely to have experienced difficulties in obtaining capital via currently available options. The barriers identified include:

- Physical Collateral. Examples: does not own store property, does not have a lot of equipment, and business model dependent on personnel labor.
- Down Payment / Deposit. Explanation: to get money you will need to both provide some amount of funds up-front or personal guarantee and pay for financial reviews necessary to approve loans.
- Lack of Credit / Low Credit. Scenario: some business owners have needed (or choose) to operate on a cash basis, are still growing the business and are starting at a lower socio-economic level or have had financial troubles in the past.
- Recordkeeping Issues. Explanation: without organized recordkeeping or if there are missing documents, small businesses would not be considered for traditional loans or investments.

Two program proposals were selected that would provide unique loan products to qualifying businesses. ARPA/SLFRF funds are being used to buy down interest rates, pay underwriting expenses, and support marketing and reserve funds that allow the

selected entities to provide no-cost financial products. Marketing and outreach efforts are being drafted to include targeted areas as well as all of Mercer County. Plans include leveraging the over 900 initially interested applicants to the Small Business Grant Program for outreach emails; the creation of in-person events with local business organizations and regional and local chambers of commerce including the Princeton Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce, the African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey, the Capitol Region Minority Chamber of Commerce, the Latino Merchants Association and others; and local print, billboard and community flyer distribution methods.

Small Business Investment Initiative	Estimated Number Served	ARPA/SLFRF Investment	Estimated Loan Funds Disbursed
Bond Pilot Program	30	\$500,000	\$5,000,000
Zero-Interest Loan Program	50	\$350,000	\$750,000

d. Mercer Path Forward: Expungement Services

The County of Mercer is committed to supporting the economic health and employment opportunities of all our residents, including those previously incarcerated and/or with criminal records. While the State of New Jersey offers people the opportunity to ‘wipe the slate clean’ via the Expungement process – it can be time consuming and confusing for eligible individuals to navigate the various steps of the process. If there should be a side matter that needs to be addressed or an additional court hearing needed to manage an extra step – this can effectively halt an individual’s expungement efforts. In addition to the time and occasional extra steps for non-straightforward situations, there are various fees that may affect a person’s ability to move forward.

The Mercer Path Forward: Expungement Services was conceptualized to address these various reasons for incomplete expungement efforts and to provide complete services that will take an applicant through the entire process to whatever the final, legal status is determined. At this time, procurement for a service provider is still underway.

4. Community Engagement

The County Executive, Brian M. Hughes created and led a Community Advisory Board (CAB), which met multiple times to identify strategies and to determine priorities for ARPA/SLFRF projects. The CAB included county staff, city officials, non-profits, chambers of commerce, religious entities, some business owners, County Commissioners, State Assembly-persons, Educational Community representatives, and regional organized labor members to provide opportunities to shape the priorities for these funds. The CAB discussed priorities and provided written commentary across three scheduled meetings in August & September 2023. As stated in CAB guidelines – participants were to:

- Identify program areas that the ARPA/SLFRF funds could support
- Recommend the establishment of services and or programs that county has been unable to support in the past due to past budgetary priorities and available funding
- Identify service areas that would address problems or circumstances that would enable

taxpayers to become more self-sufficient, viable and therefore able to enjoy an enhanced quality of life

- Confer with the twelve municipalities to compare programs/initiatives and avoid duplication of efforts

5. Labor Practices

Revenue Replacement funds are being allocated for much-needed capital improvements to the Trenton-Mercer Airport. The solicitation for construction of the new Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Station is under review at both State and County levels for compliance with State, Local and ARPA-specific regulatory requirements. The draft solicitation includes requirements for New Jersey State Prevailing Wage compliance.

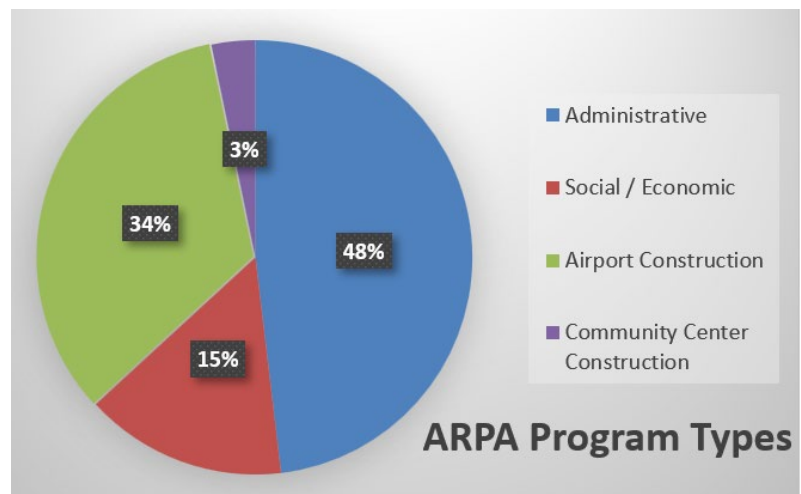
Also, municipalities within Mercer County were also allocated funds to help with repairs and needed upgrades to senior community centers. These subrecipients are also following NJ Prevailing Wage requirements in compliance with ARPA and local regulations. A project-tracking portal has been established with each of the subrecipients – where project and labor-related documentation can be uploaded and compiled. As the projects are implemented, the County of Mercer will provide updates on documentation collected.

6. Use of Evidence

At the date of this document, County of Mercer is still in the process of establishing a system to evaluate projects. Projects will be evaluated based on evidence, as outlined by the SLFRF reporting requirements. County of Mercer has not identified any projects in this initial Reporting period that are within the categories that necessitate evidence-based reporting, including any projects in Public Health, Negative Economic Impacts, and Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities. In the event that County of Mercer does elect to fund these types of interventions with SLFR Funds, the use of evidence-based interventions or rigorous program evaluations will be used and described in this section.

7. Performance Report

The County of Mercer has secured the services of an ARPA Program Management company that is helping to aggregate data on dollars spent, businesses/ households served and summarize project service types. As of the date of this report, budgeted funds are allocated as follows:



8. Project Inventory

Ref #	Project Title	Treasury Expenditure Category	Project Description (Exactly as reported to Treasury)	Estimated Budget	Total Expenditures
	Revenue Loss 2022 Budget	6.1 - Revenue Loss		\$22,470,960.00	\$22,344,080.00
2321	Revenue Replacement - Admin 2022	6.1 - Revenue Loss	The Mercer County expended funds in 2022 for a variety of administrative functions covering: gasoline, insurance and telephone expenditures; payments to the State, Middlesex County and other public entities for continuity of services; and salaries.	\$16,408,217.00	\$16,281,337.00
2323	Revenue Replacement - DHS 2022 Peer Grouping	6.1 - Revenue Loss	The Mercer County Department of Human Services was allocated funds in the 2022 Annual County Budget for Peer Grouping.	\$544,190.00	\$544,190.00
2324	Revenue Replacement - DHS 2022 Mental Health Programs	6.1 - Revenue Loss	The Mercer County Department of Human Services was allocated funds in the 2022 Annual County Budget for Mental Health Programs.	\$450,000.00	\$450,000.00
2331	Revenue Replacement - DHS 2022 Child Care	6.1 - Revenue Loss	The Mercer County Department of Human Services was allocated funds in the 2022 Annual County Budget for Child Care	\$400,000.00	\$400,000.00
2332	Revenue Replacement - DHS 2022 Homeless Services	6.1 - Revenue Loss	The Mercer County Department of Human Services was allocated funds in the 2022 Annual County Budget for Homeless Services	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00
2333	Revenue Replacement - DHS 2022 Youth Detention Center	6.1 - Revenue Loss	The Mercer County Department of Human Services was allocated funds in the 2022 Annual County Budget for Youth Detention Center	\$1,000,000.00	\$1,000,000.00
2334	Revenue Replacement - DHS 2022 Addiction Services	6.1 - Revenue Loss	The Mercer County Department of Human Services was allocated funds in the 2022 Annual County Budget for Addiction Services	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00
2335	Revenue Replacement - Purchases 2022	6.1 - Revenue Loss	The Mercer County Department of Human Services was allocated funds in the 2022 Annual County Budget for Purchases 2022	\$2,668,553.00	\$2,668,553.00

	Revenue Loss 2023	6.1 - Revenue Loss		\$12,000,000.00	\$7,070,737.91
2320	Revenue Replacement - Admin 2023	6.1 - Revenue Loss	Mercer County allocated Revenue Loss ARPA funds for annual administrative expenses that include Medical Examiner services via an agreement with Middlesex County, Salaries in the Communications department, Gasoline expenses for a specific department and Insurance expenses negotiated via the Insurance Commission.	\$9,455,810.00	\$7,070,737.91
2338	Revenue Replacement - DHS 2023 Peer Grouping	6.1 - Revenue Loss	The Mercer County Department of Human Services was allocated funds in the 2023 Annual County Budget for Peer Grouping.	\$544,190.00	
2339	Revenue Replacement - Purchases 2023	6.1 - Revenue Loss	\$2,000,000 assigned to Buildings & Grounds	\$2,000,000.00	
2322	WSW Contract	6.1 - Revenue Loss	Mercer County went out for procurement of professional services - seeking to procure an entity that would assist in applying for various available state and federal funding sources. WSW and Bruno are assisting in applying for Historic Preservation, Infrastructure, CDBG and FCC funds.	\$180,000.00	\$180,000.00
2322	Bruno Contract	6.1 - Revenue Loss	Mercer County went out for procurement of professional services - seeking to procure an entity that would assist in applying for various available state and federal funding sources. WSW and Bruno are assisting in applying for Historic Preservation, Infrastructure, CDBG and FCC funds.	\$96,000.00	
2336	Airport - Professional Services	6.1 - Revenue Loss	Hiring a professional services company to provide Owner's Representative / Construction Management services for Airport Capital Improvement projects, including: New Tower, new Firehouse, environmental cleanup, sitework, new garage, terminal upgrades and other new control tower. Estimated budget of \$10M; with \$8M of ARPA funds and \$2M of Mercer Capital Funds.	\$8,000,000.00	
2337	Airport - ARFF	6.1 - Revenue Loss	Construction of the new Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Station at Trenton-Mercer Airport (TTN). Estimated budget of \$16M - to be covered with ARPA funds. Any overages to the estimate to be covered with Mercer Capital Funds.	\$16,000,000.00	
2330	Incentive Pay Program	6.1 - Revenue Loss	Mercer County wished to provide incentives to employees that worked through COVID-19 emergency.	\$198,799.61	\$198,799.61

2306	Premium Pay	4.1 - Public Sector Employees	Throughout the coronavirus public health emergency, Mercer County continued to provide necessary programs and services to constituents thanks to the hard work of the employees. Mercer County provided "premium pay" support to qualifying and deserving Mercer County public servants who have been relied on to maintain continuity of operations.	\$1,392,200.39	\$1,392,200.39
	Mercer County Community Investment Initiative (MCCII)	Various	Mercer County allocated funds to all 12 municipalities in the jurisdiction.	\$3,000,000.00	\$0.00
2307	MCCII - Ewing Township	2.4 Household Assistance: Internet Access Programs	Equipment Purchase: Upgrade and expansion of publicly accessible network/Wi-Fi in the Community Center, including enhancements for the public Hollow Brook Computer Learning Center. Equipment Purchase: Creation of AV/Presentation system in their multipurpose room (laser-based projectors, HDMI ports, HDMI desktop monitor). Record/Broadcast Senior and Community programming to the citizens (Televic conferencing system).	\$164,000.00	
2308	MCCII - Hamilton Township	3.4 Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery	Emergency Generator - Hamilton will buy and install a generator at the Senior Center for \$353,000. Over the last 22 months, Hamilton has had numerous COVID-19 vaccine clinics at the Senior Center but is unable to store the vaccine at the Senior Center because it does not have a backup generator. A generator would eliminate said issue and cut down on issues related to the transportation of the vaccine. Additionally, the generator would permit the Senior Center to be used as an emergency relief shelter.	\$353,000.00	
2328	MCCII - Hamilton Township	2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations	Non-Profit Grant Program – Hamilton is looking to provide grant funding to non-profits in Hamilton Township who provide athletic programming to disabled (mental or physical) participants. Eligibility reviews will include determination of negative economic impact from/during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic to now.	\$92,000.00	
2309	MCCII - Hopewell Township	3.4 Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery	Hopewell Township is partnering with the Borough of Hopewell and the Borough of Pennington to rebuild a new (previous center damaged) Senior/Community Center in Hopewell Township. The \$60,000 grant shall be used for design of the Center only. Design Services are to cover engineering and architectural design.	\$60,000.00	

2310	MCCII - Lawrence Township	3.4 Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery	This project will construct accessibility improvements to the Lawrence Township Nature Center at 481 Drexel Avenue to expand services for senior and disabled citizens to visit and enjoy the Nature Center. The accessibility improvements will include a paved parking area with high visibility striping, lighting for safety and security, a pathway to the rear deck, and deck handrails. Other miscellaneous site improvements may be determined during the development of construction plans.	\$88,000.00	
2311	MCCII - Trenton - Senior Program Services	3.4 Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery	The City of Trenton serves its senior population out of 4 different facilities. Due to financial constraints, the programming and enrichment activities are very limited. Additional funding would allow the City to provide unique experiences to our older population, such as age-appropriate workouts, crafts, yoga classes, painting, day trips, excursions, etc. Trenton has a very active Senior population – where over 100 seniors visit centers daily for activities and over 200 will attend special events and trips/excursions.	\$260,000.00	
2325	MCCII - Trenton - Reading Senior Center	3.3 Public Sector Workforce: Other	Funding is being allocated to provide needed repairs to the Reading Senior Center. Procurement of Professional Services (\$60,000.00), Purchase and Installation of new HVAC system (\$320,000.00), 1st Floor flooring replacement and Kitchen renovation with new appliances (\$151,520.00) and contingency set-aside. Estimated cost: \$647,717.00.	\$647,717.00	
2326	MCCII - Trenton - North Clinton Senior Center	3.3 Public Sector Workforce: Other	Funding is being allocated to provide needed repairs to the North Clinton Senior Center. Procurement of Professional Services (\$60,000.00), Purchase and Installation of new roof (\$173,000.00) and HVAC (\$250,000.00) and contingency set-aside. Estimated cost: \$587,240.00.	\$587,240.00	
2327	MCCII - Trenton - Sam Naples Senior Center	3.3 Public Sector Workforce: Other	Funding is being allocated to provide needed repairs to the Sam Naples Senior Center. Procurement of Professional Services (\$60,000.00), Purchase and Installation of 1st Floor Flooring replacement (\$200,000.00), Kitchen rehab with appliances (\$68,000) and contingency set-aside. Estimated cost: \$394,043.00	\$394,043.00	

2312	MCCII - West Windsor	2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety	West Windsor is looking to completed several equipment purchases for their Senior Center; including: furniture, gazebo, kitchen renovation and technology upgrades for Senior residents to participate in Senior Center Activities. Gives residents who are homebound/ uncomfortable to enter the Senior Center the opportunity to participate virtually in in-person fitness, lectures, art at the same time as in-person participants.	\$76,000.00	
2313	MCCII - Hightstown	3.4 Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery	Scope being drafted.	\$14,000.00	
2314	MCCII - Municipality of Princeton	3.4 Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery	Expansion of the existing WeDriveU transportation system in Princeton. Its primary focus is on providing transit services to senior and low-income residential communities with fewer travel options within the municipality. The fixed-route system is limited in that it connects only specific communities with limited locations. Additional destinations are desirable, such as health providers, or additional service times, such as for cultural activities on the weekend or later in the evening. Supplementing the fixed-route system with on-demand options is also desirable. The expansion would increase accessibility for older adults, veterans, and disabled residents.	\$76,000.00	
2329	MCCII - Municipality of Princeton	3.4 Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery	New case worker and mental health clinical support through Princeton Senior Resource Center (PSRC), Corner House Behavioral Health, and Princeton Human Services. As individuals transition into Medicare, they lose health coverage such as substance abuse help and dental care. This funding would allow for the expansion of PSRC s social services team with the hiring of a social worker/case manager position.	\$75,000.00	
2315	MCCII - Robbinsville	2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety	The scope of work includes the installation of the following features at Windsor Park: Walking trails, natural playground, sensory/butterfly garden, benches and related furnishings. Labor not to be paid with ARPA funds.	\$39,000.00	
2316	MCCII - East Windsor	3.3 Public Sector Workforce: Other	Funding is being requested to support the great need for more programs, classes, presentations and events at the Center. The expanded space now makes it possible to offer more activities for the members. The program costs are for equipment, supplies and outside teachers/presenters. Equipment is needed to support the expanded programs, including audio visual equipment, tables and chairs. Funding will be used for programming for Seniors.	\$74,000.00	

2201	GrantWorks Contract	7.1-Administrative Expenses	The County of Mercer GrantWorks to assist in the management, compliance and oversight of ARPA funds.	\$1,900,000.00	\$241,920.00
2319	Administration Cost	7.1-Administrative Expenses	Mercer County has set aside ARPA Admin funds to address printing, advertisement, sign-making, and other incidental costs for the implementation of the various ARPA projects to be handled by Mercer staff.	\$100,000.00	
2203	Small Business Grant	2.29-Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship	Mercer County has implemented a Small Business grant program. The entire \$3.5M allocation will go towards up to \$10K grants to qualifying small businesses in Mercer County. The program includes reduced application requirements for businesses located in QCT or Opportunity Zones. Program launched Feb 1, 2023 and applications closed June 1, 2023.	\$3,500,000.00	\$3,278,831.00
2317	Small Business Investment - SMBx	2.29-Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship	Via a competitive process, SMBX was selected to Pilot a Small Business Bond program for Mercer County small businesses that were not able to raise capital from traditional resources. The idea is that they have the available resources, staff, training and marketing capabilities to assist applicant small businesses with issuing funding bonds that allow individuals in the community to make small investments in their local businesses - with a guaranteed rate of return.	\$500,000.00	
2318	Small Business Investment - UCEDC - COVID Relief funds	2.29-Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship	Via a competitive process, UCEDC was selected to provide a loan product that would work for Mercer County small businesses that were not able to raise capital from traditional resources. UCEDC was selected to provide zero-interest loans at no cost to qualifying small businesses in Mercer County. This financial entity has previous provided various low-interest or zero-interest loans in New Jersey - and these funds will be dedicated to a program in Mercer County.	\$350,000.00	
2204	Route 130 Service Expansion	2.37-Economic Impact Assistance: Other	The County of Mercer is allocating Transportation Enhancement dollars to provide shuttle services to and from the various warehouses to assist economically disadvantaged communities with increased and expanded transportation services over a two-year period. Expanded service started June 12, 2023.	\$1,060,315.78	
2202	Mercer Path Forward: Expungement Services	2.37-Economic Impact Assistance: Other	The Mercer Path Forward: Expungement Services was conceptualized to address various reasons for incomplete expungement efforts and to provide complete services that will take an applicant through the entire process to whatever the final, legal status is determined.	\$500,000.00	

9. Summary

The County of Mercer will use State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds within the American Rescue Plan Act effectively and in a manner that makes the most impactful use of funds for the county. The county's prioritization process included public and community input, collaboration with units of local government. County staff are evaluating community impacts, as well as the level of economic impacts on the community. Throughout this process, County of Mercer is also taking into account other resources of funds that can help meet needs that have been created or exacerbated by the COVID-19 Pandemic. This Recovery Plan Performance Report serves demonstrate the efforts taken by the county to help ensure a strong and equitable recovery for County of Mercer.