Polk County, IA
Recovery Plan

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
2022 Report
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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

Polk County has utilized ARPA funds to implement several measures to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Plans are underway for additional measures to promote economic recovery and address the needs of disproportionately affected populations. Throughout 2021 the Polk County Board of Supervisors underwent a strategic planning process to ensure that initiatives were created around four key areas, including affordable housing, mental health, water quality and economic stability. The planning assumption were that funded initiatives would provide a long-term impact, promote collaboration, examine system changes, demonstrate scalable interventions, and address social disparities. Polk County plans to expend funding in the following categories:

Near future intended uses

Projects are underway to address the immediate impacts of COVID-19 in our community, meet public health and safety needs, and initiate efforts around water quality, mental health, economic stability and affordable housing issues. These initiatives include:

- Ongoing efforts to maximize vaccination rates among Polk County residents. Upon receiving the first round of ARPA funds on May 20, 2021 Polk County initiated a series of vaccine incentives with the goal of reaching a 75% county vaccination rate by Labor Day Weekend of 2021. During that timeframe vaccination rates rose from 61.2% to 73%. Through June 30, 2022 Polk County’s vaccination rate is hovering at 75% of the total population receiving at least one dose. A key focus of the county’s targeted vaccine outreach has been and will continue to be to residents residing in underserved census tracts. See Chart 1 below.
- The Polk County Emergency Operations Center was the central hub for the COVID-19 response and was utilizing original technology. An RFP was created and bids were received to upgrade the technology available in the emergency operations center and installation of the equipment is substantially complete.
- Training has been conducted with local 911 operators and police departments to better response to mental health calls to 911.
- The State of Iowa provided $5 million of matching funds to assist Central Iowa with a merger of the Public Safety Answering Points’ Computer Aided Dispatch systems into a single system. The goal of this initiative is to reduce response time for fire and police who are responding across multiple jurisdictions.
- Polk County has recouped lost revenue in conformity with U.S. Treasury rules.
- Polk County has invested in the tourism and hospitality industry by funding select operational and capital expenditures at the Iowa Events Center and the Hilton Hotel.
- Polk County provided $15,150,000 to address affordable housing needs in our community. The funds were obligated via a subrecipient agreement with the Polk County Housing Trust Fund with the intention to provide gap funding for permanent supportive housing developments that target those at 30% AMI and under. The Polk County Housing Trust Fund’s Development Committee began receiving applications in June of 2022 and received $42 million worth of requests.
• Polk County has engaged a third party local research firm to study rent assistance recipients and their long-term needs. This concept would include interviews of individuals receiving Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) funds that are currently being administered through our local Impact Community Action Network with the goal of learning more about the circumstances that have led recipients to need assistance. This data would be used to make informed and strategic decisions about how to invest ARPA funds to impact affordable housing.

Long term intended uses

Polk County has undergone a strategic planning process that included stakeholder discussions and public input sessions around four categories of work that will address human services and equity in our community. These four categories include affordable housing, mental health, water quality and economic stability. Criteria will be developed that seek proposals which go above and beyond current operations and plans. Proposals will be sought that address gaps in human services, equity issues and sustainability issues and that promote collaboration.

Chart 1

Uses of Funds by Expenditure Category

a. Public Health (EC 1)

Polk County is committed to a strong and equitable recovery by empowering the Polk County Health Department to prioritize the importance of a robust vaccination effort and to devote the resources to ensure this message is delivered to residents of Polk County, especially the hard to reach communities, such as the recently immigrated, the transient and the non-electronically connected citizens of Polk County. Tactics that will continue to be deployed include targeted marketing, a senior call center, and funding health navigators in immigrant and refugee communities to assist in vaccination education campaigns.
b. **Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2)**
   Strategic planning is underway to address negative economic impacts at the household level. Current recipients of housing assistance dollars through ERAP will be surveyed to identify long-term, systemic issues around housing so housing initiatives funded by ARPA can address long-term housing instability and economic opportunities for low-income residents. Additionally, Iowa State University Extension conducted a multi-county survey of small businesses and non-profits to assess current needs and gaps. This information will be used to inform decision making on future assistance to small businesses and non-profits.

   Polk County intends to use ARPA funds to address the negative economic impacts of the pandemic on the County-owned Iowa Events Center and associated hotel. Financial assistance will be provided to offset revenue losses experienced by this facility and to invest in capital improvements, thereby allowing continued operations in a safe and sustainable manner.

c. **Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities (EC 3)**
   When applicable, programs and policies will be informed by relevant census tract data and previously gathered economic data to ensure all Polk County residents can participate in a strong and equitable recovery. Inclusion, diversity and community wide participation will be priorities of all programming.

d. **Premium Pay (EC 4)**
   N/A

e. **Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure (EC 5)**
   Polk County is participating in several regional projects that are underway to address these issues. The Central Iowa Water Trails project is an initiative that aims to increase access to Iowa’s rivers while using the recreational interest in water to generate momentum on critical water quality projects. The Greater Des Moines Partnership is currently undertaking a survey on regional broadband access.

   Additionally, Polk County has begun an extensive infrastructure project that will connect 150 rural residences to a city water main. These homes have been utilizing sand-point wells that were unsafe and unreliable. During a recent large storm, these homes were cut off from a potable water source. Polk County’s financial commitment to this project was $600,000

f. **Revenue Replacement (EC 6)**
   Polk County has completed a comprehensive review of all lost revenue and will continue to utilize U.S. Treasury guidance in compiling future projections. The current amount of this revenue replacement calculation is approximately $38.5 million.

g. **Other Federal Recovery Funds.**
   Polk County has been a leader in administering Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) funds that were distributed from the CARES Act. Both Polk County and the City of
Des Moines requested these funds directly from the State of Iowa and administered them through IMPACT Community Action Partnership. IMPACT has delivered assistance to households more efficiently than the state and was able to provide up to three months rental assistance without requiring the renter to first become delinquent on payments. We are currently working with the State of Iowa to access an additional $30 million to be administered in our community. Additionally, at the beginning of the pandemic Polk County committed $800,000 for rental assistance that was administered at the Polk County Courthouse by staff from Iowa Legal Aid and the Polk County Housing Trust Fund. Staff worked with landlords who were at the Courthouse for eviction proceedings. In almost all cases, a direct payment to the landlord was made in lieu of evicting the tenant, and the landlord was connected to additional resources to mitigate future eviction efforts. Polk County provided additional funds and helped leverage private contributions. These funds were not ARPA funds but this narrative has been included in this report as an example of how ARPA funds could potentially be expended and to illustrate the collaborative and creative nature of our community.

Polk County and IMPACT are currently implementing a non-mandatory study of rental assistance recipients to assess ongoing housing needs.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes

Polk County will promote equitable outcomes throughout the ARPA process. This will be accomplished by conducting open meetings, soliciting input, publicizing the target area of concern. A 2020 report by One Economy found that African Americans and Africans comprise 7.1% of the total population in Polk County, representing 27% of all African Americans and Africans living in the state of Iowa. However, the median household income for an African American or African household was $33,816 compared to the $63,530 median household income for all of Polk County. On nearly every economic measure examined, including banking, housing and employment, racial wealth disparities were evident. Addressing these disparities will be a primary focus of Polk County’s use of ARPA funds to address economic stability and utilizing current data to establish benchmarks.

a. Goals - As plans are made for utilization of ARPA funds, Polk County will add additional focus on historically underserved, marginalized or adversely affected groups or areas, such as the historically “redlined portion of Des Moines.” This includes African Americans, immigrants and refugees and the Latino community.

b. Awareness - Polk County has a strong group of community, civic, fraternal, service and neighborhood organizations that will be utilized in the dissemination of information regarding ARPA services. The One Economy report outlines disparities in our community and includes a Blueprint for Action that will be used to implement COVID-19 recovery strategies equitably. The priority topics in the report include financial inclusion, employment, education, health and housing. These priority topics align with several of the priority topics identified by the Polk County Board of Supervisors.

c. Access and Distribution - Polk County is committed to an open and transparent process that ensures equal access to benefits and services for all residents of Polk County. As part of the COVID-19 recovery process Polk County will examine the administrative
requirements of all of the assistance programs available to the community specifically to address disparities that negatively impact disadvantaged and underserved communities.

d. **Outcomes** - Polk County’s ARPA plan and process is rooted in the belief that closing gaps and achieving universal levels of service and eliminating any equity disparities is an essential focus of ARPA funding efforts. The Board of Supervisors will host a series of workshops with subject matter experts and community members for each identified priority area. The goal of these sessions will be to identify areas where ARPA funding can be strategically used and establish benchmarks and outcomes. Each priority topic will include outcomes related to resolving racial inequity.

e. **Equity Strategy by Expenditure Category**

   **Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2):** Refer to paragraph above regarding data collection and public input.

   **Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities (EC 3):** The Polk County Health Department has worked extensively with local neighborhood and community groups to reach as deeply as possible into disproportionately impacted communities. Additionally the Polk County Community, Family and Youth Services Department has worked collaboratively with the City of Des Moines to coordinate all aspects of rental housing assistance. Local funds have been used to create a “health navigator” program that pays leaders of immigrant and refugee communities to participate in COVID-19 mitigation training and conduct outreach in their respective communities. Additionally, COVID-19 vaccination rates are available by zip code and current Polk County data shows that a disproportionately lower number of people are vaccinated in underserved communities. Vaccination incentive campaigns will be tailored this fall to reach these neighborhoods.

   Directing the use of ARPA funds towards establishing affordable housing, addressing mental health issues, and promoting economic stability specifically support the goal of providing needed services and opportunities for disproportionately impacted communities.

f. **Data** - Polk County established a process for public input in our four strategic areas. Qualitative and quantitative data was sought from the public and from key stakeholders and subject matter experts.

g. **Geographic Distribution of Funding** - To date the largest amount of ARPA funding has been directed at incentive programs to increase vaccination rates. These education efforts have been targeted to the general population in Polk County. Additional investments have been made to fund vaccine promotion through Latino and African American media. Grassroots outreach efforts have also been made to reach immigrant and refugee communities.
Community Engagement

Polk County has proactively reached out to as many traditionally underserved groups as possible through various means including: community meetings, visiting neighborhood associations, and implementing a paid and free media strategy. Additionally, funds have been expended to hire health navigators from immigrant and refugee populations. They completed a training session with the Polk County Health Department and are now paid to host community education sessions.

In the creation of long-term strategic investments, Polk County is committed to expanding our outreach efforts to acquire this information and to ensure the public is well informed and has multiple avenues to provide this information. These efforts will include public input forums, requests for public written comments through regular mail, email and public surveys on the Polk County website. Outreach to civic groups, community-based organizations and any other group or organization that responds to the county’s request for invitations to make presentations and receive public input. Media outreach, both paid and through public service announcements will be conducted with a special emphasis to underserved communities to invite input and participation in addressing the strategic investment areas for economic recovery and building safe communities.

Examples of tactics that have been used successfully to date include paid media on Spanish language media outlets, community outreach, paid health navigators and a call center for seniors and individuals without internet access.

Labor Practices

Polk County strongly believes in paying a fair and living wage to all workers currently and for any future ARPA projects. Paying the Prevailing wage and complying with Davis Bacon are County policy on all federally funded construction and infrastructure projects.

Use of Evidence

As Polk County begins to create a strategic plan on how to invest ARPA funds, evidence-based benchmarks and evaluations will be determined.

Performance Report

Polk County is in the process of determining both overall performance measures and project-specific project measures. The intent is to collect data related to the impact of ARPA funds on equity, sustainability, climate and economic development. We anticipate developing core performance measures for the overall expenditure of ARPA funds layered with project specific performance measures. Options for consideration in publication of performance measures include a dashboard and a quarterly report issued to the public.
PROJECT INVENTORY

Project 1.1: Vaccination Incentives
Funding amount: $619,549.26
Project Expenditure Category: 1.1, COVID-19 Vaccination

Project Overview

Polk County has initiated a cash and tuition scholarship incentive program to encourage all Polk County citizens to become vaccinated. From June 25 to August 27 a weekly drawing was held each Friday. Every Friday ten $1,000 winners were randomly selected. In addition, every other Friday one $50,000 winner and one $5,000 scholarship winner were randomly selected. The vaccination lottery was an opt-in promotion that any Polk County resident who had received one J&J vaccination or both of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccinations was eligible for. Other promotions include:

- In the weeks leading up to the Iowa State Fair, Polk County provided two free state fair tickets and hosted state fair food trucks at the Polk County Health Department. Several radio stations participated in live remotes during these events. They successfully saw up to 215 new vaccinations per day.

- In order to encourage more community conversations about the importance of vaccination, Polk County sponsored a non-profit challenge in which a non-profit would receive $50 per individual vaccinated at the Polk County Health Department on their behalf during the campaign. Youth organizations who work with youth 12 years of age and up were eligible for $100 for each newly vaccinated youth. The goal of these campaigns was to serve as a conversation starter among trusted community leaders. The promotion ended on September 3, 2021.


Use of Evidence

As the COVID-19 vaccination became widely available, it was clear that there were three categories of attitudes towards the vaccine: early adopters, those who strongly opposed to the vaccine, and those whose views were in the middle. Communities began to experiment with vaccination incentive campaigns to boost the number of undecided residents who chose to be vaccinated. A wide variety of incentive campaigns were reported daily during the summer of 2021. The Polk County vaccination incentive campaign consisted of several strategies as described above: a cash lottery, a scholarship lottery for those under 18, free state fair tickets, a non-profit and youth organization match program, and cash gift cards targeted to underserved populations. The evaluation of this program was not formal, it is simply comparing vaccination rates pre and post campaign.
Polk County, IA 2022 Recovery Plan Performance Report

**Performance Report**

- Polk County had continued to recognize the urgency of the COVID-19 pandemic and has been committed to the ongoing mitigation and vaccination strategies. The Board of Supervisors has continued to support investing ARPA funds to provide additional incentives that will encourage unvaccinated individuals to receive their vaccine. Polk County is currently at 68% vaccinated in the eligible population, with 74.1% having at least one dose. Reaching this level of vaccination has provided our community with the added protection, which is critical in protecting those who are unable to be vaccinated and in discouraging the spread of COVID variants. Polk County provided $25 gift cards for vaccinations in underserved communities and neighborhoods to reach our goal of 75% vaccinated population.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Polk County residents with at least 1 dose</th>
<th>% of Estimated Census pop with at least 1 dose</th>
<th>Estimated Census Population(*)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-4</td>
<td>1,240</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>34,212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9-May</td>
<td>11,492</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>36,503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18-Oct</td>
<td>36,615</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>62,295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-29</td>
<td>48,403</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>69,065</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-39</td>
<td>55,235</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>69,982</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-49</td>
<td>50,781</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>65,361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-69</td>
<td>50,886</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>69,727</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>48,216</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>49,269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 and older</td>
<td>48,526</td>
<td>111%</td>
<td>43,742</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>353,394</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>490,161</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Polk County residents with at least 1 dose</th>
<th>% of Estimated Census Pop</th>
<th>Estimated Census Population(*)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>23,054</td>
<td>96%</td>
<td>23,959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African-American</td>
<td>19,738</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>38,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>294,325</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>411,634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>27,042</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>42,477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All County</td>
<td>353,394</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>490,161</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Fully Vaccinated

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Fully vaccinated population (J&amp;J/2nd dose)</th>
<th>% of Estimated Census pop fully vaccinated</th>
<th>Estimated Census Population(*)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-4</td>
<td>NA</td>
<td>#VALUE!</td>
<td>34,212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-May</td>
<td>10,376</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>36,508</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-Oct</td>
<td>35,731</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>62,295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-29</td>
<td>44,092</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>69,065</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-39</td>
<td>52,052</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>69,982</td>
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<tr>
<td>40-49</td>
<td>48,894</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>65,361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-59</td>
<td>49,558</td>
<td>83%</td>
<td>59,727</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>46,889</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>49,269</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 and older</td>
<td>46,528</td>
<td>106%</td>
<td>43,742</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>334,120</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>490,161</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Fully vaccinated population (J&amp;J/2nd dose)</th>
<th>% of Estimated Census Pop</th>
<th>Estimated Census Population(*)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>22,027</td>
<td>91.90%</td>
<td>23,959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African-American</td>
<td>18,026</td>
<td>47.30%</td>
<td>38,150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>282,766</td>
<td>68.70%</td>
<td>411,634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>24,317</td>
<td>57.20%</td>
<td>42,477</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All County</td>
<td>334,120</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>490,161</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# 1st Booster Dose

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>6/28/2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eligible Population Based on CDC guidelines by type of vaccine</td>
<td>326,554</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population with 1st Booster Individuals with a 3rd</td>
<td>180,469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of eligible</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Age Group

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Eligible Population</th>
<th>Population 1st booster dose</th>
<th>% of Eligible Population With 1st Booster</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10-May</td>
<td>8,913</td>
<td>1,068</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19-Oct</td>
<td>34,226</td>
<td>11,207</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
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<td>20-29</td>
<td>43,018</td>
<td>15,909</td>
<td>37%</td>
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<tr>
<td>30-39</td>
<td>51,277</td>
<td>23,905</td>
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<td>40-49</td>
<td>48,316</td>
<td>25,380</td>
<td>53%</td>
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<td>50-59</td>
<td>48,985</td>
<td>30,064</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>46,269</td>
<td>34,765</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70 and older</td>
<td>45,550</td>
<td>38,181</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>326,554</td>
<td>179,401</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Race

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>Eligible Population</th>
<th>Population 1st booster dose</th>
<th>% of Eligible Population With 1st Booster</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>21,321</td>
<td>11,159</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African</td>
<td>17,039</td>
<td>7,325</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
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<td>White</td>
<td>277,665</td>
<td>162,357</td>
<td>58%</td>
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## Countywide Vaccination Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ZIP</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>Estimate Households Median Income (dollars)</th>
<th>At Least One Dose</th>
<th>Percentage At Least One Dose</th>
<th>Fully Vaccinated</th>
<th>Percentage Fully Vaccinated</th>
<th>First Booster</th>
<th>Eligible 1st Booster</th>
<th>Percentage Booster Eligible Residents</th>
<th>Data by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>50007</td>
<td>557</td>
<td>137,917</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>56.0</td>
<td>310</td>
<td>55.7</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>308</td>
<td>55.2</td>
<td>07/20/22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50009</td>
<td>20,033</td>
<td>80,740</td>
<td>14,549</td>
<td>72.6</td>
<td>13,975</td>
<td>69.8</td>
<td>7611</td>
<td>13659</td>
<td>55.7</td>
<td>07/20/22</td>
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<tr>
<td>50127</td>
<td>5,566</td>
<td>87,938</td>
<td>21,562</td>
<td>78.2</td>
<td>20,701</td>
<td>75.1</td>
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<td>20286</td>
<td>57.5</td>
<td>07/20/22</td>
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<td>50223</td>
<td>40,318</td>
<td>91,974</td>
<td>31,069</td>
<td>76.7</td>
<td>29,863</td>
<td>73.3</td>
<td>26279</td>
<td>29146</td>
<td>55.9</td>
<td>07/20/22</td>
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<td>50035</td>
<td>565</td>
<td>38,109</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>38.9</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>35.6</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>186</td>
<td>54.9</td>
<td>07/20/22</td>
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<tr>
<td>50039</td>
<td>3,652</td>
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<td>5,490</td>
<td>65.0</td>
<td>5,289</td>
<td>62.6</td>
<td>2482</td>
<td>5161</td>
<td>48.1</td>
<td>07/20/22</td>
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<td>50046</td>
<td>1,776</td>
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<td>1,711</td>
<td>9.6</td>
<td>1,619</td>
<td>9.3</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>60.1</td>
<td>07/20/22</td>
</tr>
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**Project 1.121: Mental Health Services**

**Funding amount:** $120,133  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 1.12, Mental Health Services

**Project Overview**

Polk County, Polk County Sheriff’s Office, and Polk County Health Services are partnering with the City of Des Moines, Des Moines Police Department (DMPD), and Broadlawns to create Crisis Advocacy Response Effort (CARE). As an expansion of mobile crisis response, a CARE clinician will be located at the DMPD Communications Center to answer mental health calls and dispatch a non-police mobile crisis team when appropriate.

**Explanation of Expenses:**

- **Training:** All 99 dispatchers in Polk County will be trained in Mental Health First Aid (8 Hours), Hearing Voices that are Distressing, Interactive Individual and Family Panels, and Community Diversion Services (8 Hours).

- **Mobile Data Computers:** Each of the CARE and Mobile Crisis Response Team (MCRT) vehicles need to be equipped with a Mobile Data Computer with connection to the DMPD CAD (Computer Aided Dispatch) application. This will provide real time GPS location of CARE and MCRT units as well as a discrete emergency button that displays to dispatch. It gives the CARE and MCRT units access to incident location history, safety flags and real time notes about the incident they are dispatched on. It also allows them to make notes for follow up, preview incoming trips in queue and track their own times and dispositions.

- **Communication Radios:** MCRT and CARE employees will be dispatched by the DMPD Communications section and need radios for such communications. Our new radio system has emergency activation settings that give them priority service on the radio system as well as moves them to a dedicated radio channel to communicate with Dispatch without any interruptions of radio service. Each piece of equipment inherently has operational benefits, the most important functions are the safety features designed to protect our MCRT and CARE team members during emergency situations they may find themselves in.

**Use of Evidence**

This project was modeled after the Austin Texas, Communications Center and Police Department.
Performance Report

This initiative was launched in the summer of 2022 and has begun collecting the following data:

- We are currently collecting from the Mobile Crisis Team Members:
  1. Total number of calls for service
  2. Date of Service
  3. First Name
  4. Last Name
  5. DOB
  6. Gender
  7. Address of Client
  8. Location of Intervention
  9. Response Time from Dispatch
  10. Length of call
  11. Result of Call
  12. 24 Hour Follow Up

- We are currently collecting from the Computer Aided Dispatch system:
  1. Total number of Mental Health Calls
  2. Number of calls transferred to mental health clinician located in dispatch
  3. Which Mobile Crisis Unit was dispatched, if any. (Co-responder (police/MH clinician or MH clinician/MH clinician)

Project 1.7: Emergency Management - Emergency Operating Center technology upgrade
Funding amount: $579,781
Project Expenditure Category: 1.7, Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses including Communications Enforcement Isolation/Quarantine

Project Overview

- Replacement of current outdated audio video and control system to current technological standards in Polk County’s Emergency Management Operation Center. The Emergency Operation Center directly supports responses to public health emergencies by serving as a central command center for local responders. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the critical need for reliable and efficient technology that allowed partners to continue the prolonged response to the pandemic while social distancing.
Project 1.14: Everystep - Healthy Homes Iowa
Funding amount: $195,000
Project Expenditure Category: 1.14, Other Public Health Services

Project Overview

- Everystep helped fund home asthma remediation and home modifications across Polk County, prioritizing Impacted and Disproportionately Impacted communities based on census tract data. Healthy Homes Iowa (HHI) is a community partnership to improve child health and healthy home environment of children ages 2-18 diagnosed with an asthma or reactive airway disease. Services include home assessment, child asthma control assessment, education, and advocacy about asthma.
- [https://www.everystep.org/provider-resources/healthy-homes](https://www.everystep.org/provider-resources/healthy-homes)

Use of Evidence

Healthy Homes Iowa (HHI) development included national guidance and technical assistance from BUILD Health Challenge and the Green & Healthy Homes Initiative, operating with and on behalf of families at the intersection of health, human services, housing, and community. The program has worked with over 250 Polk County families since its inception in 2015.

Performance Report

- Healthy Homes Iowa has served racially, ethnically, linguistically, and culturally diverse populations. For example, families speaking 11 different languages have been referred to HHI. Though the majority (84 percent) of families speak English as their primary language, nearly 1 in 10 speak Spanish as their primary language. Additional languages spoken include Arabic, Burmese, Karen, Nepali, Somali, Swahili, Tigrinya and Vietnamese. Of the families served, 46% are African-American, 35% white, 12% Asian, and 7% multi-racial. By age, 90% of referrals are for children age 2-12, with 10% being children over the age of 12. Most families referred to HHI rent (59 percent) rather than own (41 percent). Referrals have been received from 17 different zip codes but the majority (58 percent) were made for children living in four zip codes: 50315 (25 percent), 50314 (14 percent), 50317 (11 percent), and 50320 (8 percent). The ability of HHI to serve children and families from diverse backgrounds is critical to the program’s success. Healthy Homes Iowa produces tangible results.
- An evaluation of the HHI program by Common Good Iowa indicated the impact of HHI on the management of asthma, the burden asthma places on the child’s family, the perceived impact of the intervention and parental empowerment to manage their child’s asthma can be evaluated by comparing “pre-intervention” and “post-intervention” assessments of the families referred to the program. The comparison of these two assessments found: The number of asthma-related emergency department visits dropped significantly. Prior to HHDSM, referred families reported an average of 0.5 asthma-related emergency department visits in the previous four weeks. After HHDSM, the average asthma-related emergency department visits dropped to 0. The reduction in
asthma-related ED visits represents a savings of $350 per member per month (or $4,200 per child on an annual basis). For context, Iowa spends roughly $2,200 per child enrolled in Medicaid each year; The number of symptom-free days experienced by children referred to HHDSM increased. After participating in HHDSM children averaged an additional 6 symptom-free days per month. The number of days parents/caregivers had to miss work due to their child’s asthma was reduced by 70 percent (from 1.42 days per month to 0.42 days per month). Similarly, the number of days children reported missing school was reduced by 64 percent (from 2.18 absences per month to 0.79 absences). The reduction in asthma-related school absences represents a savings of over $620 per student each year and moves below the threshold for chronic absence (missing 10% or more of school days). Adult’s rating of degree to which asthma is controlled improved from 2.54 to 1.82 on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 = completely controlled and 5 = severe, persistent, out of control. The understanding of asthma care and management increased for both adults and children following HHDSM intervention. Parents/caregivers were asked to rate their understanding of their child’s asthma care management on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 = no understanding and 5 = very strong. The average rating increased for parents/caregivers from 3.75 pre-HHDSM to 4.68 post-HHDSM. The child’s understanding of asthma care and management increased from 2.79 to 3.33 post-HHDSM; Adult’s level of stress related to their child’s asthma decreased post-intervention (from 2.78 to 2.19 on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 = no stress and 5 = high stress). Parents and caregivers also reported a reduction in overall stress levels after participating in HHDSM (from 1.74 to 1.41). This could be attributed to the additional community resources families were connected to by HHDSM. The HHDSM program has been able to connect families to a diverse array of resources in the community to help improve the overall health, well-being, and economic security. To date, HHDSM has connected families with energy assistance programs (LIHEAP), employment assistance programs (ELL work group), early childhood development (1ST Five), community home visiting nurses, child development evaluation and intervention, and other home health improvement programs (lead remediation program, food pantry and reduction of food insecurity, safe sleep solutions including beds and mattresses, energy assistance programs, weatherization, family therapy, etc.); and families reported feeling empowered to maintain their homes in a way that manages their children’s asthma. This strong confidence in their ability to maintain a healthy home environment could be reflective of HHI’s dual strategy of equipping families with both physical remediation to their homes as well as the knowledge and information to manage their children’s asthma.

- With the assistance of the ARP funding, HHI has set goals for the next year of programming to serve 100 families with Outcomes Measures: Achieve clinically significant improvement in post-intervention asthma control indicators by 3 or more points for children 12 years and older; improve indicators by 2 or more points in children 11 years and younger; reduce emergency department visits by 10%; increase number of symptom-free days by 10%; and program satisfaction of 75% or greater.
Project 2.37: Polk County Financial Empowerment Center
Funding amount: $600,000
Project Expenditure Category: 2.37, Economic Impact Assistance: Other

Project Overview

- Polk County Financial Empowerment Center provides individuals and small business owners free one-on-one financial counseling. This initiative was created in partnership with the Cities for Financial Empowerment Fund and is hosted at the Evelyn K Davis Center for Working Families in the heart of one of our most underserved communities. This free service has been crucial for supporting individuals and small businesses who were financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Website: https://www.polkcountyiowa.gov/community-family-youth-services/community-and-family/financial-empowerment-center-home/

Use of Evidence

Our counselors get their primary content training through the national association of certified credit counselors https://fcnonline.org/

- Then they receive their CFE Fund Financial Counselor certification based on additional requirements that include the data tracking part https://cfefund.org/overview-financial-empowerment-center-fec-counselor-training-standards/

- Each certification exam is written in accordance with The Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing developed by The American Educational Research Association, The National Council on Measurement in Education, and The American Psychological Association. All exams are monitored by testing and measurement experts (such as industrial/organizational psychologists) to ensure content validity, reliability, and non-discriminatory items for protected classes. Exams are administered through proctoring services offered at universities and community colleges, and libraries nationwide. NACCC offers webcam proctoring, please call our office or email exams@naccc.us to get more information on this service.

Performance Report

Our Financial Counseling Center model is heavily data driven, logging client information such as demographics, service plans and goals, then tracking such outcomes as increased utilization of safe and affordable banking, decreased debt and delinquent accounts, increased savings and assets, increased credit scores, establishment of budgets, etc. We get baselines, and track them over time both cumulatively and individually. Information about the three year evaluation process can be found here: https://cfefund.org/cfefund-releases-national-three-year-evaluation-of-municipal-financial-counseling-model/
**Project 2.35: IEC Hotel Operating Expenses**  
**Funding amount:** $2,376,759  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.35, Aid to Tourism Travel or Hospitality

**Project Overview**

- The Hilton Hotel experienced negative economic impacts due to the COVID-19 pandemic. ARPA funds can be expended to aid in tourism and hospitality industries and $2.4 million is earmarked to support these operations on an as-needed basis until the facility stabilizes.

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**Project 210: IEC Hotel Corp - Lost Revenue**  
**Funding amount:** $3,698,061  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.35, Aid to Tourism Travel or Hospitality

**Project Overview**

- Iowa Event Center-Hotel Corp experienced negative economic impacts due to the COVID-19 pandemic. ARPA funds can be expended to aid in tourism and hospitality industries and $3.7 million is earmarked to support these operations on an as-needed basis until the facility stabilizes. This is a grant to replace lost revenue for Iowa Event Center Hotel Corporation.

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**Project 2.371: IEC Public Facility Maintenance Surcharge**  
**Funding amount:** $294,000  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.37, Economic Impact Assistance: Other

**Project Overview**

- Iowa Events Center IEC managed facilities experienced negative economic impacts due to the COVID-19 pandemic. ARPA funds can be expended to aid in tourism and hospitality industries and $294,000 is earmarked to support these operations on an as-needed basis until the facility stabilizes.

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**Project 2.15: Affordable and Supportive Service Complex**  
**Funding amount:** $1,000,000  
**Project Expenditure Category:** 2.15, Long-Term Housing Security Affordable Housing

**Project Overview**

- A conversion of an under-utilized hotel into a 40 unit affordable and supportive service complex owned and operated by Anawim Housing. This investment successfully leveraged an additional $3 million in federal funds to assist with this work.
- [https://www.anawimhousing.org/](https://www.anawimhousing.org/)
Use of Evidence

The Monarch Apartments will utilize Permanent Supportive Housing as an Evidence Based practice to support people exiting homelessness with housing and voluntary supports. Voluntary supports will be tailored to the individual and will focus on housing stability as the primary goal but secondary goals can include connection to mainstream services, education and employment, improved health and connection to community and family. These quality of life improvements can be measured through increased income or self-reporting assessments. Anawim Housing operates all of our Permanent Supportive Housing utilizing Stage Matched and person centered case management, Motivational Interviewing and Trauma Informed care. Program success is usually measured in housing retention or exits to other permanent housing. 100% of the funds allocated toward the project will be used towards evidence-based practices.

Performance Report

All Permanent Supportive Housing programs are required to participate in data collection and reporting to HUD (U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development) regarding every program participant served in Anawim Housing programs. This reporting ensures Anawim Housing is serving the most vulnerable individuals in our community and to provide challenging benchmarks for program performance and review. The following data points highlight the success Permanent Supportive Housing achieves when there is agency wide commitment to Housing First fidelity.

PROJECT STATUS:

- Through the design process we have been able to increase the total number of units being created to 42
- Project funding is now complete and the construction phase is underway. We expect occupancy to begin in early 2023.

PROJECT OUTCOMES:

- Reduce the unsheltered population in Polk County
- Maintain housing stability for those housed
- Tenants will be entered into Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Data regarding race, ethnicity, gender, income, connection to resources and existence of a disabling condition is available.

- Number of affordable housing units preserved or developed - 42 affordable housing units being developed
Project 3.4: Research Study Public Surveys  
Funding amount: $50,000  
Project Expenditure Category: 3.4, Public Sector Capacity Effective Service Delivery  

Project Overview  

- Iowa State University conducted a qualitative and quantitative research study on the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 to small businesses and non-profits in the Central Iowa region.  
- This small business and community organization ecosystem was conducted throughout a twelve-county region in Iowa (Boone, Story, Marshall, Guthrie, Dallas, Polk, Jasper, Poweshiek, Adair, Madison, Warren, and Marion). The first phase included stakeholder meetings and facilitated sessions to understand challenges and strengths related to community capitals (financial, political, social, human, cultural, natural, and built). This was followed by a business and community organization survey to understand further details of specific topics that were identified from the stakeholder sessions. Based on survey and stakeholder session findings, an action planning session occurred to determine next steps and roles for partners to ensure action regarding needs and priorities.  
- Core Values are inherent to our work that we want to accomplish: 
  
  i. Equity and Inclusion: intentional engagement with and support for minority owned and operated businesses and organizations  
  ii. Resilience: innovative strategies to increase business and organization survival rate  
  iii. Creativity: fostering dynamic and innovative thinking  
  iv. Networking: strategic and aligned partnerships to support regional development  
  v. Investment: deliberate support for access to capital and financing, information, and services  

Performance Report  

Two stakeholder meetings were hosted in July and August of 2021 with over 60 participants in total. One intent of the study was to host public input sessions, however, while there were both virtual and in-person offering, there was no participation from the public. Additionally, a survey for businesses and community organizations was sent out in August with a total of 140 participants. Both stakeholder meetings and survey requested feedback on goals for the future regarding the small business and community organization ecosystem. The following is a synopsis from responses.
• Increase investment in community organizations and businesses, particularly for BIPOC/ female owned/ immigrant populations. This also includes increased support for partnerships and funding allocations.
• Support for small business start-up and entrepreneurship
• Increase business to business partnership
• Provide equitable Access to healthcare and insurance for all small businesses and organizations
• Increase and develop resilient strategies for small businesses and organizations
• Assess community and business needs, which may include sales, prices, workforce, client needs, etc.
• Developing COVID and general disaster preparedness plans

Project 5.6: Urban Ag Seeding Partnership
Funding amount: $600,000
Project Expenditure Category: 5.6, Clean Water: Stormwater

Project Overview

• The Urban Ag Seeding Partnership aims at purchasing a specialized cover crop seeder that will be used to create a public-private partnership that builds an increased and sustainable cover crop program in Iowa. Polk County Public Works is helping with this initiative and this effort will be target upstream of the Des Moines metro to improve water quality and reduce flooding.
• Improving soil health on agricultural fields is vital to improving water quality and a recent study of the Des Moines Lobe from the Iowa Flood Center identified soil health as the key to reducing flooding. Cover cropping improves soil health, reduces nutrient loss, and improves water-holding capacity within agricultural fields. Cover crop adoption has been constrained by the traditional mindset of a planting window after harvest, considerably limiting success in Iowa. The best option is to overseed cover crops into standing row crops in August or September, resulting in better fall growth and earlier spring emergence. This increases nutrient retention and over winter cover, providing an improved return on investment for both farmers and government programs. A fully set up Hagie with a Montag Fortifier 2212 Cover Crop Seeder is the ideal machinery to increase the volume of acres seeded into standing row crops. These machines provide a better distribution of seed, improved seed to soil contact, and can navigate fields inaccessible to airplanes. Unfortunately, most growers do not have access to this equipment to appropriately seed cover crops and, when relying on alternate options, are often left with nominal cover crop success. This fact, paired with out of pocket costs and the long-term nature of achieving soil health benefits, has hindered adoption of cover cropping. In 2019, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment successfully launched a partnership program that purchased eight of these seeders that were leased to local ag retailers to increase cover crop adoption in targeted watersheds. Utilizing private ag retailers provides a unique opportunity to build a partnership with a trusted source in the agricultural community. This model is not “just another government person
pushing conservation,” rather it is experienced agricultural businesses providing an
additional service to their growers. This Kansas model focuses on stimulating business
to develop a conservation market that is mutually beneficial to businesses, growers, and
environmental goals.

- Central Iowa Cover Crop Seeder Project will provide water quality and flood reduction
  benefits to meet local watershed goals. The Central Iowa Cover Crop Seeder Project
  involves the purchase of a fully operational cover crop seeder that will improve cover
crop success within the Des Moines River watershed. Cover Crops provide benefits to
soil health that correlates to improved water quality and reduced downstream flooding.

Use of Evidence

The Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, is the state’s science based plan to achieve our
water quality goals. This plan specifically calls out Cover Crops that provide a 30%
reduction in nitrate loss on agricultural fields. The NRS has incorporated extensive research
to support this
practice. https://www.nutrientstrategy.iastate.edu/sites/default/files/documents/NRSfull-
130529.pdf

Performance Report

This initiative was launched in July of 2022 and will be documenting the number and
location of acres seeded. Our goal is 40,000 acres which would equate to a reduction of an
estimated 240,000 pounds of nitrates from entering Iowa’s water. The cover crop seeder
gives farmers a better chance of seeing the expected benefits which improves the chance of
long term adoption.

Project 6.11: Iowa Events Center

Funding amount: $1,635,108
Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

- Iowa Events Center IEC managed facilities experienced negative economic impacts due
to the COVID-19 pandemic. ARPA funds can be expended to aid in tourism and
hospitality industries and 16 million is earmarked to support these operations on an as-
needed basis until the facility stabilizes.
Project 6.1: Lost Revenue  
Funding amount: $24,804,929  
Project Expenditure Category: 6.1, Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

- The amount of lost revenue through calendar year 2020 has been calculated at $24,804,929 and Polk County may use ARPA funds for the provision of government services to the extent of this revenue reduction.

Project 2.15: Polk County Housing Trust Fund - Affordable Housing  
Funding amount: $15,150,000  
Project Expenditure Category: 2.15, Long-Term Housing Security Affordable Housing

Project Overview

- $12,000,000 to support the acquisition, conversion, and/or construction of permanent housing with an emphasis on supportive housing for underserved populations targeting lifestyle intervention with options for education and workforce training.

- $3,000,000 revolving loan fund to provide short-term bridge loans acquisition loans and/or funding for due diligence and pre-development expenses. Funded projects will meet the same qualifying purposes of the capital funds.

- $150,000 for a two year pilot program to hire two community advocates that are not tied to a specific homeless service provider.


Performance Report

Performance report is currently being drafted. Funds have not been issued to specific projects as of 7/1/22.

   a. No housing developments have been allocated funds as of 7/1/22.