

# AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUNDS:

Health and Public Safety



# The American Rescue Plan

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 was signed into law by President Joe Biden. With hopes of laying a foundation for economic recovery, the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) allocates approximately \$350 billion in federal assistance to states, territories, tribes, counties, and municipalities. Approximately \$65.1 billion is allocated for direct funding to all counties based on their share of the U.S. population. Eligible state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments are permitted to request and receive funding directly from the [U.S. Treasury](#).

On April 1, 2022, the Final Rule of the SLFRF went into effect, allowing for broader flexibility in fund use and greater simplicity in reporting requirements than the Interim Rule. The Final Rule enumerates the following use of sub-categories regarding SLRF dollars for the Public Health Impacts of Covid-19:

- **Covid-19 mitigation and prevention: Authorized uses include:**
  - Covid-19 vaccination and testing programs
  - Public health data systems/communication efforts
  - PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) and prophylactic supplies
  - Facility upgrades/Ventilation improvements
- **Medical Expenses: Authorized uses include:**
  - Reimbursement of medical expenses for Covid-19 testing or treatment, both acute and long term
  - Paid leave to enable compliance with public health guidelines
  - Emergency response expenses
- **Behavioral Health Care: Authorized uses include:**
  - Outreach, treatment, and long-term recovery programs for mental health/substance abuse crises
  - Expanded behavioral health services in schools
  - Reduction of behavioral health disparities and barriers to access
  - Peer support programs, supportive/recovery housing, and services for women or infants born with neonatal abstinence syndrome
  - Behavioral health facility/equipment upgrades
- **Violence Prevention and Response: Authorized uses include:**
  - Trauma recovery services for victims of crime
  - Violence intervention programs/housing relocation services
  - Enhanced law enforcement response efforts

# Tracking Investments

Following county investments, the Brookings Metro, the National Association of Counties, and the National League of Cities partnered together to create the [Local Government ARPA Investment Tracker \(naco.org\)](#). The ARPA tracker offers an in-depth overview demonstrating how large cities and counties (with populations of at least 250,000) are deploying the ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund dollars. The interactive tracker provides a further examination of Local Government types, Spending Groups, and Treasury Eligible Uses through the lenses of the following categories: Government Operations, Infrastructure, Housing, Economic and Workforce Development, Community Aid, Public Health, and Public Safety.



## Florida's County ARPA Funds

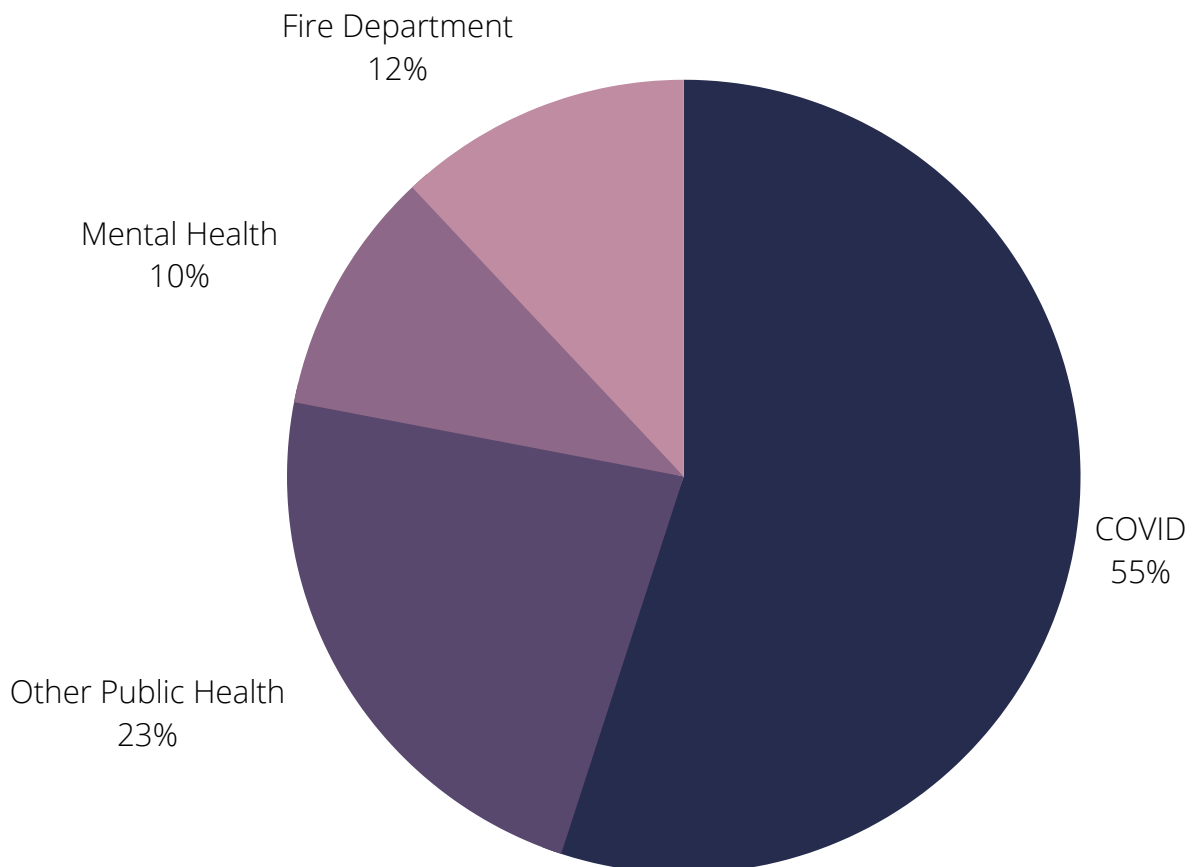
Collectively, counties in the state of Florida received \$4.2 billion in direct federal aid or 6.5% of funds set aside for all counties in the U.S. (FL ICG.) To see a complete list of each county's allocations, [click here](#). Responding to the Final Rule, counties have adopted projects to address specific issues brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. These projects resemble unique investments in the public health and safety of communities across the state.

# Public Health and Safety Investments for Florida

Based on the Local Government ARPA Investment Tracker, the following counties have been highlighted for their Public Health and Safety projects in Florida:

**Broward, Collier, Duval County/City of Jacksonville, Leon, Orange, Pasco, Palm Beach, Polk, Saint Johns, Saint Lucie, and Seminole.**

In total, **\$106,157,726** has been designated for Public Health and Safety investments in these respective counties. Each county has arranged its spending into Subgroups which include Covid Response, Mental Health, Substance Abuse and Addiction, Fire Department, and Other Public Health. To see a full list of Florida's projects and their details, [click here](#).



## COVID Response

The largest sector of spending was dedicated to “Covid Response” with \$58,458,320 (55% of the total amount). The projects within this subgroup range from vaccine program incentives and community facility repairs to personal protective equipment and outreach to underserved communities. Additionally, some counties utilized their funding to reimburse first responders for their self-funded workers’ compensation while providing them with new personal safety equipment.

## Other Public Health

The second-largest sector of spending was allocated to “Other Public Health” projects with \$24,699,406 (23% of the total). Over \$15 million will be spent on improvements to medical centers and health services to enhance health outcomes for designated individuals, such as inmates, low-income residents, the uninsured, and the underinsured. A majority of the remaining sources of funding will be used to address community health, substance abuse, and crisis incident issues.

## Fire Department

A total of \$12.5 million, or 12% of total investments, has been set aside for Fire Departments in Orange County. This includes construction developments of old and new stations.

## Mental Health

Collectively, Collier County and Orange County have designated a total of \$10,500,000 for Mental Health projects. This funding will seek to address the gaps in mental health efforts within each county.

## Conclusion

Since the ARPA funds have been allocated to Florida, counties have responded by investing their authorized funds into the direct needs of communities through public education, infrastructure improvements, mental health services, and more. While the need for prolonged investment in public health and safety will persist as the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic unfold, local entities are moving forward to address their respective demands.

Resources:

[Local Government ARPA Investment Tracker\\_EXTERNAL\\_DOWNLOAD \(1\).xlsx](#)

[Florida Institute of Government ARPA Resources: https://flicg.org/american-rescue-plan-resources/](https://flicg.org/american-rescue-plan-resources/)



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