

GENERAL GRANT FUNDING GUIDELINES AND ELIGIBLE USES

The material contained herein is intended to provide guidance to applicants on the types of eligible uses for the county grant funds; however, it should not be considered an exhaustive list and applicants are encouraged to apply based on their needs.

A. SUPPORT PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE

COVID-19 mitigation and prevention. The pandemic has broadly impacted residents. Applicants can provide services to prevent and mitigate COVID-19 and eligible uses include but are not limited to:

- ✓ Vaccination programs, including vaccine incentives and vaccine sites
- ✓ Testing programs, equipment and sites
- ✓ Support for prevention, mitigation, or other services in congregate living facilities, public facilities, and schools
- ✓ Monitoring contact tracing and public health surveillance (e.g., monitoring for variants)
- ✓ Medical facilities generally dedicated to COVID-19 treatment and mitigation (e.g., ICUs, emergency rooms)
- ✓ Public communication efforts
- ✓ Public health data systems
- ✓ COVID-19 prevention and treatment equipment, such as ventilators and ambulances
- ✓ Medical and PPE/protective supplies
- ✓ Support for isolation or quarantine
- ✓ Ventilation system installation and improvement
- ✓ Technical assistance on mitigation of COVID-19 threats to public health and safety
- ✓ Transportation to reach vaccination or testing sites, or other prevention and mitigation services for vulnerable populations
- ✓ Temporary medical facilities and other measures to increase COVID-19 treatment capacity
- ✓ Emergency operations centers and emergency response equipment
- ✓ Public telemedicine capabilities for COVID-19 related treatment

Behavioral health care, such as mental health treatment, substance use treatment, and other behavioral health services. The pandemic broadly impacted behavioral health and applicants can provide these services to the general public to respond. Eligible uses include but are not limited to:

- ✓ Prevention, outpatient treatment, inpatient treatment, crisis care, diversion programs, outreach to individuals not yet engaged in treatment, harm reduction & long-term recovery support
- ✓ Enhanced behavioral health services
- ✓ Services for pregnant women or infants born with neonatal abstinence syndrome
- ✓ Support for equitable access to reduce disparities in access to high-quality treatment
- ✓ Peer support groups, costs for residence in supportive housing or recovery housing, and the 988 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline or other hotline services
- ✓ Expansion of access to evidence-based services for opioid use disorder prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery
- ✓ Behavioral health facilities and equipment

Preventing and responding to violence. Recognizing that violence has increased in some communities due to the pandemic, applicants may use funds to respond through:

- ✓ Referrals to trauma recovery services for victims of crime
- ✓ Community violence intervention programs, including evidence-based practices like focused deterrence, with wraparound services such as behavioral therapy, trauma recovery, job training, education, housing and relocation services, and financial assistance
- ✓ Enforcement efforts to reduce violence, including prosecution
- ✓ Technology and equipment to support law enforcement response

B. REPLACE REVENUE LOSS/TRADITIONAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Government services generally include any service traditionally provided by a government, unless stated otherwise. Here are some common examples, although this list is not exhaustive:

- ✓ Road building and maintenance, and other infrastructure
- ✓ Health services
- ✓ Environmental remediation
- ✓ Provision of police, fire, and other public safety services (including equipment purchase)
- ✓ Parks and recreation

C. WATER, SEWER AND STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Funds may be used to make necessary investments in water, sewer and stormwater infrastructure. A “necessary” investment in infrastructure must be: (1) responsive to an identified need to achieve or maintain an adequate minimum level of service, which may include a reasonable projection of increased need, whether due to population growth or otherwise; (2) a cost-effective means for meeting that need, taking into account available alternatives; and (3) for investments in infrastructure that supply drinking water in order to meet projected population growth, projected to be sustainable over its estimated useful life.

Here are examples of eligible projects:

- ✓ Construction of publicly owned treatment works
- ✓ Projects pursuant to implementation of a nonpoint source pollution management program established under the Clean Water Act (CWA)
- ✓ Decentralized wastewater treatment systems that treat municipal wastewater or domestic sewage
- ✓ Management and treatment of stormwater or subsurface drainage water
- ✓ Water conservation, efficiency, or reuse measures
- ✓ Development and implementation of a water conservation and management plan
- ✓ Watershed projects meeting the criteria set forth in the CWA and/or County Action Plan
- ✓ Energy consumption reduction for publicly owned treatment works
- ✓ Reuse or recycling of wastewater, stormwater, or subsurface drainage water
- ✓ Security of publicly owned treatment works
- ✓ Facilities to improve drinking water quality
- ✓ Transmission and distribution, including improvements of water pressure or prevention of contamination in infrastructure and lead service line replacements
- ✓ New sources to replace contaminated drinking water or increase drought resilience, including aquifer storage and recovery system for water storage
- ✓ Green infrastructure, including green roofs, rainwater harvesting collection, permeable pavement
- ✓ Storage of drinking water, such as to prevent contaminants or equalize water demands
- ✓ Purchase of water systems and interconnection of systems
- ✓ New community water systems

- ✓ Culvert repair, resizing, and removal, replacement of storm sewers, and additional types of stormwater infrastructure
- ✓ Infrastructure to improve access to safe drinking water for individual served by residential wells, including testing initiatives, and treatment/remediation strategies that address contamination
- ✓ Dam and reservoir rehabilitation if primary purpose of dam or reservoir is for drinking water supply and project is necessary for provision of drinking water
- ✓ Lead remediation projects such as lead testing, installation of corrosion control treatment, lead service line replacement, as well as water quality testing, compliance monitoring, and remediation activities, including replacement of internal plumbing and faucets and fixtures in schools and childcare facilities

D. ADDRESS NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS FROM COVID

While the pandemic impacted everyone, some of its most severe impacts fell on low-income and underserved communities, where pre-existing disparities amplified the impact of the pandemic.

The following households and communities are considered impacted by the pandemic:

- ✓ Low- or-moderate income households or communities
- ✓ Households that experienced unemployment
- ✓ Households that experienced increased food or housing insecurity
- ✓ Households that qualify for the National Housing Trust Fund and Home Investment Partnerships Program
- ✓ Households that qualify for the Children’s Health Insurance Program, Childcare Subsidies through the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Program, or Medicaid
- ✓ When providing services to address lost instructional time in K-12 schools: any student that lost access to in-person instruction for a significant period of time

Low- or moderate-income households and communities are those with (i) income at or below 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for the size of the household based on the most recently published poverty guidelines or (ii) income at or below 65 percent of the area median income for the county and size of household based on the most recently published data. For the vast majority of communities, the Federal Poverty Guidelines are higher than the area’s median income and using the Federal Poverty Guidelines would result in more households and communities being presumed eligible.

Applicants can measure income for a specific household or the median income for the community, depending on whether the response they plan to provide serves specific households or the general community. The income thresholds vary by household size; applicants should generally use income thresholds for the appropriate household size but can use a default household size of three when easier for administration or when measuring income for a general community.

The income limit for 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a household of three is \$65,880 per year. In other words, recipients can always presume that a household earning below this level, or a community with median income below this level, is impacted by the pandemic and eligible for services to respond.

The projects below are eligible to respond to impacts of the pandemic on households and communities:

- ✓ Food assistance and food banks
- ✓ Emergency housing assistance: rental assistance, mortgage assistance, utility assistance, assistance paying delinquent property taxes, counseling and legal aid to prevent eviction and homelessness and emergency programs or services for homeless individuals, including temporary residences for people experiencing homelessness
- ✓ Assistance to individuals who want and are available for work, including job training, public jobs programs and fairs, support for childcare and transportation to and from a jobsite or interview, incentives for newly-employed workers, subsidized employment, grants to hire underserved workers, assistance to unemployed individuals to start small businesses and development of job and workforce training centers
- ✓ Financial services for the unbanked and underbanked
- ✓ Home repair and home weatherization
- ✓ Programs, devices and equipment for internet access and digital literacy, including subsidies for costs of access
- ✓ Cash assistance
- ✓ Assistance in accessing and applying for public benefits or services
- ✓ Childcare and early learning services, home visiting programs, services for child welfare-involved families and foster youth and childcare facilities
- ✓ Assistance to address the impact of learning loss for K-12 students (e.g., high-quality tutoring, differentiated instruction)
- ✓ Programs or services to support long-term housing security: including development of affordable housing and permanent supportive housing

Disproportionately Impacted Households and Communities. The projects below are eligible to respond to disproportionate impacts of the pandemic on households and communities:

- ✓ Pay for community health workers to help households access health and social services
- ✓ Remediation of lead paint or other lead hazards
- ✓ Primary care clinics, hospitals, integration of health services into other settings, and other investments in medical equipment and facilities designed to address health disparities
- ✓ Housing vouchers and assistance relocating to neighborhoods with higher economic opportunity

- ✓ Investments in neighborhoods to promote improved health outcomes
- ✓ Improvements to vacant and abandoned properties, including rehabilitation or maintenance, renovation, removal and remediation of environmental contaminants, demolition or deconstruction, greening/vacant lot cleanup and conversion to affordable housing
- ✓ Services to address educational disparities, including assistance to high-poverty school districts and educational and evidence-based services to address student academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs
- ✓ Other educational equipment and facilities

E. ASSISTANCE TO NONPROFITS

Non-profit entities may qualify for funding under a variety of the other eligible uses outlined in the prior categories.

Nonprofits have faced significant challenges due to the pandemic’s increased demand for services and changing operational needs, as well as declines in revenue sources such as donations and fees. Nonprofits eligible for assistance are those that experienced negative economic impacts or disproportionate impacts of the pandemic and meet the definition of “nonprofit”—specifically those that are tax-exempt organizations

Eligible non-profit organizations have to be located in Union County or provide substantial services to Union County. Funds will only be made available for those services offered to and directly benefiting Union County residents.

In considering awards to these entities the county will consider the following:

- ✓ Decreased revenue (e.g., from donations and fees)
- ✓ Financial insecurity
- ✓ Increased costs (e.g., uncompensated increases in service need)
- ✓ Capacity to weather financial hardship
- ✓ Challenges covering payroll, rent or mortgage, and other operating costs
- ✓ Challenges as a result of COVID to recover and deliver current and future services
- ✓ Opportunities to provide services/programs with future benefit to Union County residents

ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Additional restrictions and requirements that **apply across all eligible use categories** include:

- No debt service or replenishing financial reserves. Since the grant funds are intended to be used prospectively, applicants may not use the funds for debt service or replenishing financial reserves (e.g., rainy day funds).

- No satisfaction of settlements and judgments. Satisfaction of any obligation arising under or pursuant to a settlement agreement, judgment, consent decree, or judicially confirmed debt restructuring in a judicial, administrative, or regulatory proceeding is not an eligible use.
- Grant funds may not be used for a project that conflicts with or contravenes the purpose of the American Rescue Plan Act (e.g., uses of funds that undermine mitigation practices in line with CDC guidance and recommendations) and may not be used to pursue any activity that would be in violation of other applicable laws and regulations.
- Any use of funding not meeting the intended use or outcomes described in the applicant's submitted and approved application will be subject to repayment to the county.