

Appendix

Methodology and data-gathering

This report assesses implementation of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 by drawing on qualitative interviews with local leaders, nongovernmental organizations, and industry representatives in **seven cities** (Phoenix; Detroit; St. Louis; Cleveland; Kansas City, Mo.; Birmingham, Ala.; and Dayton, Ohio), **seven counties** (Palm Beach County, Fla.; El Paso County, Texas; Multnomah County, Ore.; Erie County, Pa.; Hennepin County, Minn.; Coconino County, Ariz.; and Kittitas County, Wash.), **two consolidated city-counties** (Louisville-Jefferson County, Ky.; and the City-County of Honolulu), and **one multijurisdictional partnership** (Saint Paul-Ramsey County, Minn.). Participants were selected based on their participation in economic programming with Brookings Metro, Accelerator For America (AFA), and the National Association of Counties (NACo) between 2020 and 2022. Our objective in these interviews was to identify how local governments set strategic priorities for their SLFRF allocations, what types of investments they prioritized, where they identified funding opportunities, how they have collaborated with external partners to implement projects, key performance indicators they are using to track the impact of their investments over time, and what those metrics reveal about the program's early impact.

Local Government ARPA Investment Tracker data

Findings from these interviews were supplemented with quantitative data from Brookings Metro's Local Government ARPA Investment Tracker and quarterly reporting data submitted to the U.S. Department of the Treasury to assess how cities and counties budgeted and spent their SLFRF dollars across investment domains.

While city and county expenditure reports classify SLFRF projects using Treasury-defined "eligible use" categories, the Local Government ARPA Investment Tracker categorizes projects into seven primary use groups and 41 subgroups based on their project descriptions. These classifications are reviewed using a three-step process to categorize each project:

1. Automatically code all projects whose Treasury use category is a one-to-one match to the ARPA Tracker's coding schema.
2. Programmatically match pre-existing projects that were previously coded from different iterations of Treasury data.
3. Manually code remaining projects using their project descriptions to select categories based on our coding schema.

While Treasury's eligible use classifications provide clarity and consistency for reporting, our alternative classifications, with a simplified nomenclature, elevate the work governments are doing by identifying some of the root issues each project aims to address.

This report reflects data reported to the U.S. Department of the Treasury for appropriations, obligations, and expenditures made on or before December 31, 2022.

APPENDIX FIGURE I: SLFRF projects are coded into 41 use categories

| Use Group | Use Subgroup |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Infrastructure | Sewer and Water |
| Infrastructure | Public Transportation |
| Infrastructure | Roadways and Bridges |
| Infrastructure | Cybersecurity |
| Infrastructure | Green Infrastructure |
| Infrastructure | Broadband |
| Infrastructure | Public Space |
| Infrastructure | Other Infrastructure |
| Housing | Eviction Prevention |
| Housing | Homelessness |
| Housing | Affordable Housing |
| Housing | Rental Assistance |
| Housing | Other Housing |
| Government Operations Investments | Government Employee Wages or Hiring |
| Government Operations Investments | Fiscal Health Recovery |
| Government Operations Investments | Investment In Government Facility, Equipment, and/or IT |
| Government Operations Investments | Other Government Investment |
| Economic and Workforce Development | Small Business Support |
| Economic and Workforce Development | Economic Development |
| Economic and Workforce Development | Workforce Development |
| Economic and Workforce Development | Neighborhood/Downtown Revitalization |
| Economic and Workforce Development | Tourism and Hospitality |
| Economic and Workforce Development | Other Economic and Workforce Development |
| Economic and Workforce Development | Youth Workforce Development |
| Community Aid | Nonprofit Support |
| Community Aid | Youth and Family Support |
| Community Aid | Nutrition and Food Assistance |
| Community Aid | Arts and Culture |
| Community Aid | Direct Payments or Subsidies |
| Community Aid | Other Community Aid |
| Community Aid | Veterans |
| Community Aid | Refugees and Migration |
| Public Health | Covid Response |
| Public Health | Mental Health |
| Public Health | Other Public Health |
| Public Health | Substance Abuse and Addiction |
| Public Safety | Police Department |
| Public Safety | Fire Department |
| Public Safety | Violence Reduction and Prevention |
| Public Safety | Other Public Safety |

While the ARPA Tracker traditionally only tracks cities and counties with more than 250,000 people (Tier 1), this report uses the same methodology to evaluate SLFRF data reported by Birmingham, Dayton, and Coconino County, which have populations below 250,000 but received SLFRF allocations greater than \$10 million (Tier 2). Treasury does not publish quarterly budget and expenditure data for Kittitas County and other jurisdictions that received less than \$10 million from the SLFRF program (Tier 5).

APPENDIX FIGURE II: Reporting requirements vary by jurisdiction type, population, and allocation size

| Tier | Recipient | Interim Report | Project & Expenditure Report | Recovery Plan Performance Report |
|------|---|---|--|--|
| 1 | States, U.S. territories, and metropolitan cities and counties with populations that exceed 250,000 residents | By August 31, 2021, or 60 days after receiving funding if funding was received by October 15, with expenditures by category | By January 31, 2022, and then 30 days after the end of each quarter thereafter | By August 31, 2021, or 60 days after receiving funding, and annually thereafter by July 31 |
| 2 | Metropolitan cities and counties with populations below 250,000 that are allocated more than \$10 million in SLFRF funding, and NEUs that are allocated more than \$10 million in SLFRF funding | | | By April 30, 2022, and then annually thereafter |
| 3 | Tribal governments that are allocated more than \$30 million in SLFRF funding | | | |
| 4 | Tribal governments that are allocated less than \$30 million in SLFRF funding | | | |
| 5 | Metropolitan cities and counties with populations below 250,000 that are allocated less than \$10 million in SLFRF funding, and NEUs that are allocated less than \$10 million in SLFRF funding | | | |

Source: U.S. Department of the Treasury. Some reporting requirements may differ for non-entitlement units of government (NEUs).