

# City of New Orleans, LA **Recovery Plan**

## **State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds**

### 2024 Report

**City of New Orleans, LA**  
**2024 Recovery Plan**

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## **Executive Summary**

The City of New Orleans (the “City”) has received funding totaling nearly \$388 million in federal relief funds under the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan, which was passed by Congress in 2021 to help ease the economic toll the coronavirus and related restrictions took on individuals, governments, and businesses across the country. Like many communities across the country, The City experienced unprecedented challenges due the Covid-19 pandemic.

As the first step in setting ARPA expenditure priorities, Mayor LaToya Cantrell activated a 28-member stimulus task to focus on five key areas: case management, community services, the workforce, economic recovery investments and public health. The five working groups, made up of community stakeholders, weighed the long and short-term needs of the city's businesses and residents.

President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) into law on March 11, 2021, with \$1.9 trillion of relief and support. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in 2005, then neighborhood President LaToya Cantrell saw firsthand how federal dollars did not end up in the hands of the recipients that needed it most, thus causing needs to go unmet and critical dollars being left on the table. Now nearly eighteen years later, Mayor LaToya Cantrell is overseeing the city’s response to COVID-19 and sees an opportunity for every individual, family, and business in New Orleans to get their fair share.

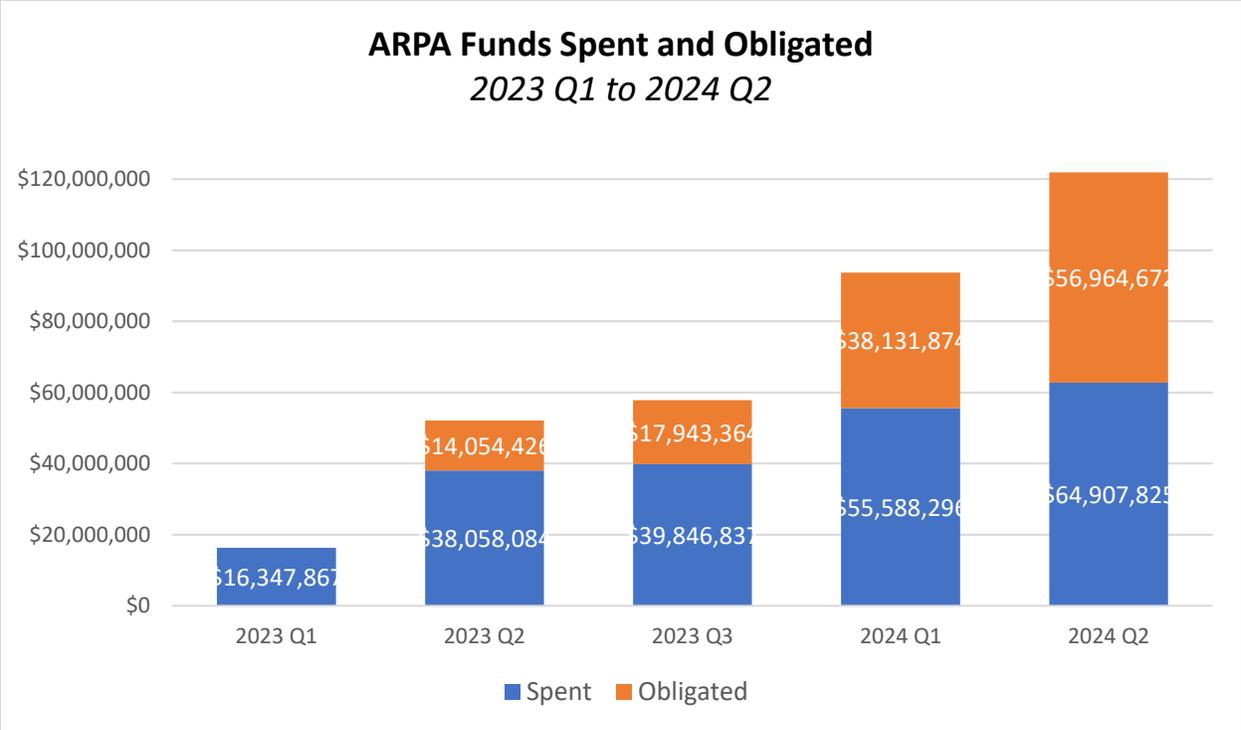
There are over 70 different funding sources in the Rescue Plan, administered through 18 Federal agencies. Each funding source works differently – some are competitive (like grants), some are allocated to States through a formula and then require the State to distribute locally through existing programs, application processes, or through a formula allocation.

### **ARPA Implementation Project Management Office**

The New Orleans ARPA Implementation Project Management Office (PMO) was established in Fall 2023 to ensure \$387,523,048 from the U.S. Treasury is spent in full compliance with federal guidelines and to support departments in spending their ARPA allocations. The Office is responsible for providing technical support and guidance to support all city departments and subrecipients that received funds from SLFRF. Their mission is to ensure a strong, resilient, and equitable recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic by making investments that support long-term growth and opportunity to ensure a prosperous future for the city of New Orleans.

The ARPA PMO consists of ten project managers, three supervisors, one data analytics and reporting analyst, and a director; two project managers also support a compliance section.

Since the passage of the American Rescue Plan Act, there have been discussions on taking back portions of the State and Local Fiscal Recover Funds. To ensure funds are obligated and to mitigate the risk of “claw backs”, the ARPA PMO advises Council by providing projections on projects at risk for reallocation to ensure the City is committed to providing its citizens funding for ARPA eligible projects which are fully implemented. As of this reporting period (June 30, 2024), the City has obligated \$56,964,672 of its \$388 million allocation of the State and Local Fiscal Recovery funds and obligated an additional \$187.2M in revenue replacement.



*Note: Figure excludes \$187.2M in funding under revenue replacement*

### Uses of Funds

The City’s ARPA funding continues to focus on core responsibilities of:

- 1) Strengthening Economic Mobility
- 2) Enhancing Workforce Development
- 3) Strengthening Communities
- 4) Increasing Housing Affordability
- 5) Improving Infrastructure
- 6) Sustainability and Resiliency
- 7) Improving Health Outcomes

#### Strengthening Economic Mobility

A solid foundation is necessary to facilitate equitable fiscal growth.

#### Enhancing Workforce Development

To ensure a healthy workforce, the City is establishing ways our workforce, particularly youth, can connect with local employers and provide training and educational opportunities.

#### Strengthening Communities

The City is committed to facilitating growth and ensuring the City evolves to meet the needs of New Orleanians by connecting the communities we serve.

### Increasing Housing Affordability

Providing housing options for our most vulnerable low-income citizens impacted by the pandemic remains a priority.

### Improving Infrastructure

Developing an infrastructure system which ensures the safety of our citizens is critical. The City is focusing on improving safety, promoting sustainability and resiliency and making equitable investments across New Orleans is demonstrated through several key Department of Public Works projects. Allocations are slated for road safety and maintenance, repairs to City facilities and the development of park facilities.

### Establishing Sustainability and Resiliency

Ensuring our most vulnerable citizens have equitable access to a healthy, safe and clean City where citizens are not disproportionately impacted by health, environmental or safety hazards, the City has prioritized projects which address disparate health impacts but also increased coordination and collaboration with police, fire and community partners when responding to emergencies.

Lastly, the City used \$187.2M of SLFRF for lost revenues and pandemic response costs (Revenue Replacement). This allocation was utilized to cover the City's expenses related to the pandemic and the personnel costs for first responders.

## **Promoting equitable outcomes**

The City continued to engage stakeholders at all levels to identify programming to best utilize its ARPA allocations towards promoting equitable outcomes for the most vulnerable within the community.

## **Community Engagement**

The ARPA PMO conducted ARPA Information Sessions for feedback on projects, discussions on funding opportunities and to provide technical assistance on funding opportunities. In addition, the ARPA PMO has presented updates on the ARPA project portfolio on a quarterly basis during public hearings held by City Council. City Council meetings are available to watch on demand as well as live stream. In addition, the ARPA PMO engages the community via its website at [nola.gov/arpa](http://nola.gov/arpa).

Citizens are encouraged to provide feedback concerning the ARPA portfolio at council meetings during the approval of contracts over two years or :1M. They are given the opportunity to speak in-person or remotely at council meetings, submit online comments, send emails, make phone calls or send their comments to [arpa@nola.gov](mailto:arpa@nola.gov).

## **Labor Practices**

The City's Equal Employment Opportunity Ordinance is adhered to and contained within the City's contract documents. Our Procurement office ensures vendors who are awarded contracts promote equal opportunity and non-discrimination.

## **Use of Evidence**

The City provides programs that deliver evidentiary proof there were successful and the appropriate program for the community. The ARPA PMO will ensure an independent evaluator is engaged to review key performance indicators vendors provided were met.

## **Project Inventory**

### **Economic Mobility in Motion Funding Amount \$5,000,000**

In 2023, the Office of Economic Development (OED) received \$5M in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to increase financial stability, promote economic mobility, and support asset-building that leads to a decrease in poverty, stress, and violent crime (EMIM Program). In total, the funding aims to support 2,500 low- to moderate-income residents through financial literacy, workforce training, entrepreneur support, and universal basic income programming. In October 2023, the Office of Economic Development released a Notice of Funding Availability to solicit proposals to carry out the EMIM Program. OED received over 50 applications from local and national organizations. In December 2023, OED awarded 10 organizations funds to implement the EMIM Program.

#### **Guaranteed Income Projects**

March of Dimes will receive \$1,000,000 to provide 100 eligible pregnant mothers a guaranteed income for twelve months during pregnancy and post-partum to improve health and social outcomes for families.

Rooted School will receive \$1,000,000 for a guaranteed income longitudinal study of 800 public high school students who will receive \$50 per week for 40 weeks with an aim to improve academic performance, college enrollment, employment prospects, and financial literacy.

#### **Financial Literacy Projects**

El Centro will receive \$450,000 to provide access to wealth-building programs to 400 Latino residents of New Orleans annually, including financial wellness, small business development, tax preparation, and first-time home buyer training in a language-accessible and culturally competent manner.

United Way of SELA will receive \$250,000 to set up a New Orleans East Roving Prosperity Center to provide low- to moderate-income residents of New Orleans East access to UWSELA's services including financial education and coaching, credit building and counseling, benefits screening, income tax assistance, and a matching savings account program.

#### **Reentry Projects**

The First 72+ will receive \$500,000 to provide pathways to economic stability for formerly incarcerated New Orleanians through a small business incubator program and a cooking school in addition to wraparound services like case management and transitional housing.

Disability Rights of Louisiana will receive \$300,000 for their Financial Access Inclusion & Resources (FAIR) program, the Gulf Coast's sole reentry and financial coaching initiative specifically tailored to formerly incarcerated people with disabilities.

### **Youth Workforce Projects**

Educators for Quality Alternatives will receive \$325,000 to launch The Next Steps Program, which provides one year of intensive support to graduates of The Net Charter High Schools, including financial stipends, financial literacy, and individualized employment and educational coaching.

New Orleans Career Center will receive \$500,000 to continue and expand healthcare Career and Technical Education (CTE) programming for low-income graduating high school students and adults who are unemployed or underemployed in partnership with local hospitals and EMS providers.

### **Workforce Training & Entrepreneur Support**

Flyte will receive \$260,000 to support over 300 Black women entrepreneurs from low- to moderate-income households through their 12-month Entrepreneur Empowerment Program. Louisiana Green Corps will receive \$415,000 for its Construction and Conservation Corps to train young people for high-growth jobs in green construction, water management, and solar industries.

## **Department of Public Works Catch Basin Cleaning Funding Amount \$10,000,000**

In 2023, the Department of Public Works (DPW) received \$10M in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to complete a catch basin cleaning, monitoring, and inspection project. In total, the project is estimated to clean 750,000 linear feet of drainage lines which includes the inspection and cleaning of approximately 7,500 catch basins. A portion of the initial funding (\$1.7M) has been set aside to address any obstructions or repairs that are identified during cleaning. Any funding that is not used for repairs will be reallocated to clean additional drainage lines and associated catch basins.

### **Project Timeline**

The project is estimated to take 14 to 18 months to complete but may take longer due to weather delays and/or encountering an obstructed drain line or catch basin during cleaning. If an obstructed drain line or catch basin is identified, a crew will be dispatched to CCTV the lines and draft a scope of work the City can then use to issue an Invitation to Bid (ITB) on any needed repair work.



*A vacuum truck preparing to clear a catch basin*



*Crews inspecting a problem catch basin*

The ARPA Portfolio includes the following:

Item	Department	Program Description
Catch Basin Cleaning	DPW	Funding will create a program to clean 24,000 catch basins per year with service contracts and in-house City crews to provide quality of life upgrades throughout the City.
Community Based-Violence Intervention & Prevention	OCJC	Funding will support a partnership with a community-based organization tasked with developing a street outreach/community violence interruption program focused on reducing violence in communities with the highest rates. This includes allocations to CASA, Covenant House, and Sexual Trauma Awareness and Response.
Crime Lab, Training Academy, Central Evidence Supplies	NOPD	Funding will procure equipment needed to fully outfit NOPD's Central Evidence and Property Section, Crime Lab, and Training Academy.
EMS Technology Upgrades	NOEMS	Funding will upgrade and expand departmental technology, such as office business systems, field computers, advanced real-world simulation and teaching systems, and technology infrastructure in the department's Emergency Operations Center and Watch Supervisor Office.
Expand the Healthy Neighborhood Project (HNP)	Code Enforcement	Funding will continue operations of the Healthy Neighborhoods Project, aimed at testing the impact of vacant and abandoned property remediation on community wellbeing.

Financial Stability / Asset Building Program	OED	Funding will provide direct support grants to financial stability programs focused on asset building, credit and financial counseling, soft skills, and access to banking and other critical needs to alleviate poverty and provide for generational wealth building.
Fire Department Rescue Equipment	NOFD	Funding will procure six additional "jaws of life" rescue tools to equip the New Orleans Fire Department's ladder trucks with this capability, as well as four Super Vac battery operated smoke ejector fans to allow Rescue Units to help clear smoke from buildings.
Fire Station Alerting System	Fire	Funding will provide for a complete replacement of the New Orleans Fire Station Alerting system, a vital component of Firefighter health, safety, and response time.
Firearm Safety Campaign	Health	Funding will provide a gun safety campaign aimed at promoting safe storage practices for gun owners, including the purchase of gun locks and formation of partnerships with public community groups, private entities, researchers, and existing gun safety campaigns to distribute locks, track distribution and outcomes, and promote safe storage.
Food Security Program	NOHD	Funding will provide awards to community-based organizations that work to improve food security and access for those in need, especially within identified food deserts, high-crime areas, and for those with high rates of chronic disease. Prioritization will also be given to those that support local food or agricultural businesses and/or create new jobs in the food or agricultural sector.
Grounds Patrol Expansion in the French Quarter	PSSS	Funding will support hiring additional Grounds Patrol Security Officers to conduct foot and vehicle patrols in the French Quarter to prevent violent crime and, through coordination with sanitation and health services, improve public sanitation and prevent the spread of disease.

Gun Safety Campaign	NOHD	Funding will support an earlier ARPA appropriation for gun locks by acquiring a non-profit partner to oversee the City's gun safety initiative, including implementation of a communications campaign, purchase and distribution of gun safety devices, and partnerships with community groups.
Health and Hygiene Needs for Vulnerable Populations	Health	Funding will support continued access to sanitation infrastructure for unhoused populations, including maintenance of the City's eleven public health sanitation stations near encampments.
Justice Technology Modernization Program	CAO	Funding will replace outdated criminal justice software and create a hybrid cloud infrastructure to equip professionals with accurate and timely information to fulfill their respective missions. Upgrades to technology will provide policymakers with data to effectively plan, prioritize, and evaluate the impact of resources and allow case parties and the public at large to meaningfully interact with the justice system.
Juvenile Probation, parole, diversion, and conflict resolution programs	OCJC	Funding will support programs working with youth around probation, parole, diversion, and conflict resolution.
Language Access Pilot Program	Mayor's Office	Funding will provide services to interpret public meetings held by the City of New Orleans, translate all existing, public-facing, City government-issued materials, and develop a long-term language access plan for all City agencies.
Low Barrier Shelter	OCD	Funding will make immediate infrastructure improvements, add security, and improve employee wages at the low barrier shelter, which provides temporary housing for those in need.

Medical Debt Payments	Finance	Funding will provide medical debt relief to income-qualified New Orleans residents through a partnership with a nonprofit entity that specializes in acquiring and cancelling outstanding medical debt. The partnering entity will recruit local hospitals, health care providers, and commercial debt buyers to participate in the program and through those partnerships the vendor will acquire medical debt for purposes of debt cancellation.
Medical Supplies, Rescue Tools, Equipment	NOEMS	Funding will replace and update the department's equipment, including rescue tools, PPE equipment, supplies used in Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and high yield Explosives (CBRNE) response, and patient care medical equipment used in single and multi-patient emergency response
Mounted and Canine Unit Support	NOPD	Funding will procure new horse trailers, dogs, kennels, and a hot walker for the New Orleans Police Department's Canine and Mounted units.
NOPD Technology Upgrades	ITI	Funding will upgrade necessary technological equipment to ensure NOPD personnel have the resources needed to perform their duties efficiently.
Pathways and Summer Success Programs	Youth and Families	Funding will be used to support the Department of Health's Pathways and Summer Success Program. Pathways is for 14-17-year-old system-involved youth and seeks to mitigate youth poverty, unemployment, and recidivism. Summer Success is a 5-week summer internship program for at-risk and system-involved youth run in partnership with JOB1 NOLA Youth Works.
Pocket Parks Program	PPW	Funding will be used to procure landscaping firms to redesign and landscape identified vacant parcels of land in high-crime areas, which will then be regularly maintained by the City's Dept. of Parks and Parkways or partners.
Public Safety Radio Accessories	Public Safety Support	Funding will purchase 30 new radios for New Orleans EMS and a stock of radio accessories and parts to replace aging equipment.

Public Safety Vehicles and Equipment	CAO	Funding will support the replacement of public safety fleet at end of life due to increase in use in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
Recruitment & Retention of Public Safety Personnel	NOPD	Funding will ensure the continued deployment of a well-staffed, well-trained, and well-equipped police force and provide retention payments for public safety personnel.
Regional Business Park Improvements / Six Flags	Economic Development	Funding will be granted to the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority for predevelopment activities associated with redevelopment of the former Six Flags site in New Orleans East.
Revenue Sales Tax System Funding	Finance	Funding will implement a new sales tax collection system to provide efficiencies.
Right of Way Maintenance	DPW	Funding will re-wire traffic signal mast arms to lessen impacts to the traffic signal hardware during severe wind events and install retroreflective backplates on the overhead traffic signals to improve visibility, especially during power outages.
Service Coordination for Human Trafficking Victims	OCJC	Funding will create a Survivor Coordinator at Covenant House, whose role will be to cultivate and support a collaborative network of law enforcement, prosecution, nongovernmental, labor, and regulatory agencies, along with system and victim service providers to connect trafficking victims to critical services.
Sobering Center Operations	Health	Funding will support the Sobering Center, a public safety and public health endeavor to allow overly intoxicated individuals to recover from immediate acute alcohol impairment under the care of trained staff. It is a 25-bed facility, open 24 hours per day, and operated by Odyssey House Louisiana.
Support the ThriveKids Program	NOHD	Funding will support a partnership between New Orleans Public Schools and Children's Hospital of New Orleans to provide mental health professionals and direct services to 10-20 of the highest risk schools, as well as district-wide mental health resources.
SWBNO Substation	CAO	Funding will construct a new Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO) substation to replace outdated turbines and ensure redundancies in the City's pump system.

Together New Orleans Solar Project	ORS	Funding will support construction of resilience hubs at households of faith within Orleans Parish by installing backup batteries and solar panels for the purpose of strengthening relief efforts in the wake of future disasters or major power outages.
Transportation Support	RTA	Funding will provide reduced or free Regional Transit Authority fares for New Orleans residents.
Unhoused Populations Program	Health	Funding will be used to support hiring and salary for the Director of Homeless Services & Strategy, as well as necessary office staff, and a Homelessness Expert Consultant to work in partnership to create a comprehensive homelessness reduction strategy. Implementation & evaluation of the strategy will require further funding over the next several years.
Utility Assistance	City Council	Funding provides utility payment assistance to individuals who were not able to pay their full utility bills due to the economic impacts of COVID-19.
Vector Control Preparedness	MTRCB	Funding will procure automatic DNA/RNA extractors, commission a Modular BSL 3 laboratory, and purchase essential equipment for the New Orleans Mosquito, Termite, and Rodent Control Board to conduct sample analyses of DNA/RNA of rodents and insects.
Workforce Development Training for Youth	Workforce Investment	Funding will equip the New Orleans Career Center and New Orleans Technical Education Provider with technical training supplies for their new state-of-the-art building. YouthForce NOLA will also receive funding for soft skills expansion among high schools.

**Ineligible Activities: Tax Offset Provision (States & Territories Only)**

At the time of this report, the City of New Orleans’ ARPA allocations have not been appropriated or expended towards any ineligible activities nor are any ineligible activities planned to be appropriated.