

County of Mercer

## **Recovery Plan**

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery  
Funds**

2025 Report

# 2025 Recovery Plan

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## GENERAL OVERVIEW

### **1. Executive Summary**

County of Mercer (“County”) is publishing this Recovery Plan and Performance Report consistent with requirements outlined by the United States Department of the Treasury (“US Treasury”) in connection with the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (“SLFRF”) under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (“ARPA”).

Updated guidance and reporting requirements for the SLFRF program were released on April 29, 2025. These guidelines established the need for various reporting requirements, including the quarterly Project and Expenditure Reports, and annual Recovery Plan Performance Reports. This Recovery Plan Performance Report will provide the public and Treasury information on the projects the county is undertaking with program funds and how the county is planning to ensure program outcomes are achieved in an effective, efficient, and equitable manner, while complying with key performance and mandatory indicators identified by Treasury. This report, as required by Treasury covers the period from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. Subsequent annual reports will describe the county’s efforts to implement projects with these funds and while complying with federal guidelines.

The U.S. Department of Treasury has processed a payment in the amount of \$71,368,970.00 in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. These funds have been presented to the Board of Commissioners, the Governing Body for the county. County Executives Brian M. Hughes and Dan Benson have developed a strategy to determine priorities and funding strategies to utilize the SLFRF dollars over the course of the next several years. These funds have been obligated and must be spent by December 31, 2026.

The proposed initiatives follow the Objectives of the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds and will use funds to support COVID-19 response efforts to continue to decrease spread of any future the pandemics or related disasters, strengthen support for vital public services and help retain jobs, support economic stabilization for households and businesses, and address systemic public health and economic challenges that contributed to the unequal impact of the Pandemic. The County Administration has developed a plan to address the needs of the community, as impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic. These strategies will follow the overarching guidelines of the American Rescue Plan and requirements of SLFR Funds.

This report outlines the use of funds from the date of fund distribution from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. It also describes the ongoing efforts to expend funds in compliance with all ARPA Terms & Conditions.

## 2. Uses of Funds

The following section describes the usage and budgeting of funds during the annual Reporting period, from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025. The use of funds will be described within each of the funding categories, as established by federal reporting guidelines in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance. This section will also be used to describe other county's efforts to help mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

### a. Public Health (EC 1)

While this expenditure category was not specifically used, a portion of Revenue Replacement funds were allocated in the 2022 and 2023 adopted budget for use by the Mercer County Division of Health and Human Services. This included funds to support existing contracts for Mental Health Services, Peer Grouping, Child Care, Homeless Services, Addiction Services, and support services for the Youth Detention Center.

Funds were also allocated to the Medicool Program to provide 5,000 BTU window Air Conditioning Units and space fans to lower-income Mercer County residents who are 60 years or older, income-eligible households, and disabled persons in 2025 and 2026. Mercer County has solicited a non-profit entity to manage eligibility reviews and delivery of equipment to eligible households

In addition, funds were also allocated to telehealth assistance services for youth and families in the County. Mercer County has solicited a provider for a Mental Tele-Health Pilot Program. This pilot will help to establish baseline costs and usage measurements for future endeavors. Services will include an accessible online portal, direct contact and coordination with school counselors, and one-on-one services as determined by licensed professionals.

Funds were also allocated to Princeton Senior Services for the hiring of a Spanish-speaking case manager. This has resulted in additional outreach and care provided to the vulnerable population.

### b. Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2)

Mercer County successfully implemented a suite of programs to address challenges faced by local businesses, justice-impacted residents, and underserved communities. These programs are the Mercer Path Forward Expungement Services and Workforce Training, RT 130 Transport Expansion, Revitalize and Grow Grant Program, Business Builder Rebate Program, Food Insecurity Initiatives, Respite Care for Homeless Grant, Small Business Grant Program, Small Business Bond Pilot Program, and a Zero-Interest Loan Program.

- Mercer Path Forward - an initiative that provided legal services, workforce reentry assistance, and career planning to formally incarcerated individuals. This approach addressed barriers to employment and guidance through the process.
- RT 130 Transport Expansion – The Route 130 Connection bus helps Mercer County

residents reach jobs along the Route 130 Corridor. ARPA funds will expand its service to unmet areas to secure long-term funding.

- Revitalize and Grow Grant - This grant program supports Mercer County businesses with signage and façade improvements, offering increased funding for those in Qualified Census Tracts or owned by formerly incarcerated individuals—populations identified as disproportionately impacted and in need of additional economic support.
- Business Builder Rebate Program - The Business Builder Grant program offers rebates to eligible Mercer County businesses for startup and basic operational costs—such as accounting services, software, parking, and website development—with doubled rebate caps for those located in Qualified Census Tracts or owned by formerly incarcerated individuals, to support historically marginalized communities identified as disproportionately impacted.
- Food Insecurity Initiative - To address widespread food insecurity and support overburdened human services providers, Mercer County is implementing Fresh Food Grants, Innovation Grants, and a Food Hub Grant—targeting fresh food access, creative non-construction solutions, and the development of a regional Food Hub through a single award that may include construction.
- Respite Care for Homeless Grant - In partnership with the NJ Coalition to End Homelessness, is launching a Respite Care Pilot to support homeless individuals discharged from emergency care and in need of short-term nursing, with coalition members contributing resources and pilot funds covering staffing and equipment for the designated space.
- Small Business Grant Program - Mercer County awarded \$10K grants to 363 small businesses meeting specific eligibility criteria, prioritizing those in distressed areas and without prior grant support, while excluding franchises, real estate, consultants, and remote-based businesses.
- UCEDC Zero-Interest Loan Program – Provides direct aid to small businesses in Mercer County that have experienced difficulties obtaining capital. This program provides a 0% Interest Loan to small businesses with a repayment term of 5 years.

In addition, Mercer County also funded Senior Center enhancements to municipalities for expanded park accessibility features:

- Robbinsville – Walking trails, Benches, Signage, and Parking Lot.
- West Windsor – New or repaired items at their Senior Center, including furniture, and technology upgrades for virtual activities.
- Hamilton – Grant program for non-profits providing athletic programming to disabled participants.
- Hopewell – funds have been allocated to assist with the design and eventual rebuild of a Senior Community Center and library.
- Lawrence – repair and replace accessibility ramp to the Lawrence Nature Center

- Ewing – fund will be used for tables, benches, computers, monitors, and smartboards for the Senior and Community Center

**c. Public Sector Capacity (EC 3)**

Mercer County has awarded funds to each of 12 municipalities within its jurisdiction. The Subrecipient Municipalities are implementing initiatives that will improve services to vulnerable senior, veteran and disabled communities. The municipalities are taking this opportunity to upgrade programming (whether virtual or in-person) provided at community centers, accessibility upgrades, install new emergency generators that will allow the community centers to serve as an emergency shelters and vaccine storage locations, , expand senior bus services and hire new case worker staff for seniors.

Mercer County is also procuring or repairing equipment that will assist in providing emergency services across the county: this includes (1) an ambulance for Hopewell Township as their medical service needs have increased during and after the COVID-19 Pandemic, (2) radio equipment for county-wide emergency services (police, fire, ambulance), and (3) HVAC repairs and upgrades in various libraries that serve as cooling stations and centralized locations for the disbursement of aid during emergencies.

**d. Premium Pay (EC 4)**

Throughout the coronavirus public health emergency, Mercer County continued to provide necessary programs and services to constituents thanks to the hard work of its employees. The ARPA/SLFRF funds may be used to provide premium pay to eligible workers who performed in-person work during the COVID-19 emergency. Based on eligibility parameters set by the Federal Government, Mercer County provided one-time premium pay (in 2022) to qualifying and deserving Mercer County public servants who were relied on to maintain continuity of operations.

**e. Water, sewer and broadband infrastructure (EC 5)**

No expenditures were incurred and no projects in this Expenditure Category are planned. Other sources of funding in the State of New Jersey are available and Mercer County looks to tap into those statewide initiatives to improve existing internet services, replace lead pipes and improve quality of water delivery and stormwater and sewer management services.

**f. Revenue Replacement (EC 6)**

Revenue Replacement funds were allocated in the 2023 and 2024 Mercer County budgets to offset typical administrative, human service, community support, infrastructure improvements, and maintenance expenses. In addition to these budget allocations, Mercer County specifically set aside funds for long-awaited updates to Trenton-Mercer Airport (TTN). ARPA EC 6.1 funds will be used to pay for an Owner’s Representative/Construction Supervision company through 2026.

### **g. Administrative Expenses (EC 7)**

Mercer County has hired a consultant to assist with the compliance and management of ARPA/SLFRF funded projects. Also, a small set-aside for office expenditures related to the implementation of the various ARPA/SLFRF projects budgeted.

### **h. Other County Initiatives (EC 8 – 10)**

Mercer County is not utilizing any ARPA/SLFRF funds under the Eligible Categories for Natural Disasters (8), Surface Transportation (9) or Title I Projects (10).

Mercer County has received CDBG-CV funds from the NJ Department of Community Affairs. The project scope for CDBG-CV1 funds includes the use of funds for provision of grants for eligible small businesses and non-profits in Hightstown, NJ. The project scope for CDBG-CV2 funds will be for the procurement of accessible buses and vans for use by municipal senior centers in Trenton, Hamilton, East Windsor, Ewing, and West Windsor.

## **3. Promoting equitable outcomes**

The County of Mercer has established a suite of projects specifically designed to assist small businesses and individuals who were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Following is a description of the County of Mercer's efforts to ensure equitable outcomes.

### **a. Public Services for the most vulnerable**

Revenue Replacement funds were allocated to the Division of Health and Human Services (in 2022) to support increased services needs in their department. Specifically, funding was provided to support solicited contracts that provide for the following:

- Mental Health Services
- Addiction recovery and medical services
- Child-care services (for after-care and low-income populations)
- Homelessness food and housing services

The Mercer County Community Investment Initiative (MCCII) was advertised to all the municipalities in the county – and specifically requested project proposals that would provide Programming, Transportation assistance or Health Services to seniors, veterans and disabled people in the community.

By specifically and intentionally specifying populations in need, while soliciting input from the municipalities, Mercer County strives to promote equitable outcomes for all.

### **b. Revitalize and Grow Grant and Business Builder Rebate**

The Revitalize and Grow Grant and Business Builder Rebate Program are two grant programs that provide aid to tourism, travel, or hospitality, and business incubators and start-up or expansion assistance launched on January 1, 2025.

The Revitalize and Grow Grant Program will provide grants to eligible Mercer County-based businesses for signage and façade improvements that will set them up for success going forward, improve traffic for businesses, and support increased tourism. To aid those most in need and historically marginalized, total program grant caps will be increased for businesses located in a Qualified Census Tract (QCT) or owned by a formerly incarcerated individual.

The Business Builder Grant program will provide rebates to eligible Mercer County-based businesses for items that will help them to start up and refresh on business basics that will set them up for success going forward. This includes costs for certified public accountants, registered agents, accounting or bookkeeping software, business parking, and website development. To aid those most in need and historically marginalized, total program rebate caps will be increased (doubled) for businesses located in a Qualified Census Tract (QCT) or owned by a formerly incarcerated individual.

Qualified Census (QCTs) are areas where 50% or more of the households have incomes below 60% of the area median income, or where the poverty rate is 25% or higher. These areas have been identified by the U.S. Department of the Treasury (the issuer of ARPA funds) as 'disproportionately impacted communities' for whom additional aid is desirable.

For these specific programs, formerly incarcerated individuals are defined as those who were imprisoned and unable to participate in the workforce, develop a work history, and were more likely to experience issues finding employment going forward. Some members of this community have started businesses as an available means of support for themselves and their families. Mercer County's inclusion of this population for additional aid will further support people most in need economically and help them continue their Path Forward.

The County made targeted marketing and outreach a priority for these communities to maximize participation. Outreach included an early-launch training invitation to interested applicants partnered with the NJ Small Business Development Center and the Economic Development Director at Mercer County. This training was conducted and recorded via Zoom, and then it was translated into Spanish. Program announcements were circulated through various newsletters. An in-person information and assistance event was held where small business applicants could meet in person with Program Managers for direct application assistance and was held at the Mercer County Community College in Trenton.

The application is a 3-step process. First, the interested applicant will register and create an account. Once registered, they must complete the intake process, known as the Eligibility Verification Application. After submission, program reviewers will conduct a thorough assessment to determine eligibility for the Business Builder Rebate Program and/or the Revitalize and Grow Grant Program. If deemed eligible, the corresponding program applications will become visible within the portal. Applicants can then proceed to complete and submit the full application(s) along with any required supporting documentation. Final decisions will be communicated via the portal and/or email once the

review is complete.

<b>Applications</b>	<b>Number of Applications</b>
Eligibility Verification	358
Business Builder	72
Revitalize and Grow	49

c. Mercer At Play for All

This program was launched in December 2024 with an allocation of \$450,000 to expand equitable access to recreational and developmental programming for historically underserved populations, including low-income seniors, underserved youth, and children with disabilities. The program provides upfront funding to municipalities and nonprofits through three tracks:

1. Municipal Senior Physical Recreation - Equipment and programming grants for municipal senior physical recreation.
2. Municipal Inclusive Playgrounds - Inclusive playground equipment for municipalities to create accessible and ADA-compliant play spaces.
3. Non-Profit Youth Mentoring & Sports Programming - Support for nonprofit after-school mentoring and youth sports programs targeting low-income families and communities of color.

To promote equitable awareness, the County conducted outreach through the Mercer County newsletter, community organizations, and local publications. The application process was intentionally streamlined to reduce barriers for first-time applicants and nonprofits with limited administrative capacity, with priority given to projects serving high-need areas based on income, race, and geographic data.

<b>Application Type</b>	<b>Number of Applications</b>	<b>Expended-to-Date</b>
Track 1	2	\$100,000
Track 2	1	\$50,000
Track 3	5	\$260,000

d. Route 130 Expansion Project

The Route 130 Connection transit initiative continues to demonstrate strong potential and growing impact as it addresses critical transportation needs for low-income individuals employed in warehouse and industrial facilities throughout the region. Originally conceived in response to observed gaps in public transit access—particularly between residential areas in Hightstown and job centers in East Windsor and the greater Route

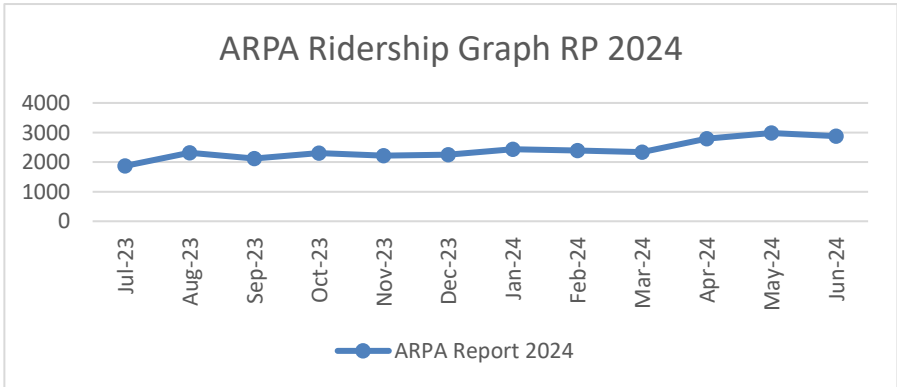
130 corridor—this effort has evolved into a model of responsive, equity-focused transportation planning.

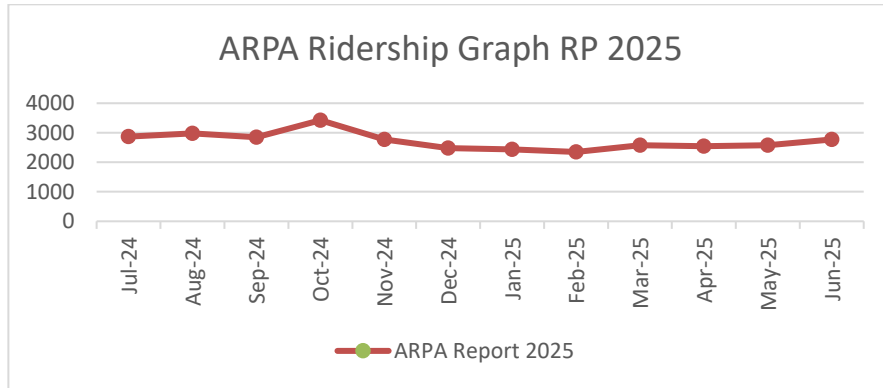
Through direct engagement with community service providers and anecdotal reports from employers advertising jobs at local food pantries and shelters in Trenton, the Mercer County Division of Economic Development and Greater Mercer Transit Authority identified a pressing need. Despite the region’s rapid growth in warehouse and logistics jobs, there remained few public transit options for those living in underserved residential neighborhoods. Recognizing this, Mercer County began exploring ways to expand services—ultimately leveraging ARPA/SLFRF funding to launch a pilot service expansion in June 2023.

This pilot is an extension of the existing Route 130 Connection, originally funded through the Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) program. JARC was designed to bridge the transportation gap faced by low-income and welfare-to-work individuals whose jobs often lie beyond the reach of traditional transit systems or occur during off-peak hours. The ARPA/SLFRF-funded expansion enhances this mission by adding late-night and early-morning runs to support shift workers at Amazon, Wayfair, UPS, and other employers. It also introduces new service stops in previously unserved areas and businesses, increasing both geographic reach and employment accessibility.

The service remains free to Work First New Jersey participants, eligible low-income individuals, and seniors, and continues to be available to the general public for just \$1. While the original service was funded through a blend of NJ Transit, federal, county, and private-sector contributions, the ARPA/SLFRF funds are being strategically applied to support expanded operations during the early implementation phase. These funds are expected to taper over the next few years as sustained funding sources and additional business partnerships are secured.

With ridership data being tracked and needs continuously assessed, the expanded Route 130 Connection is well-positioned for long-term sustainability. It stands as a successful and scalable model of how targeted public investment can remove barriers to employment, support economic mobility, and strengthen workforce infrastructure in Mercer County.





e. Small Business Investment Initiative: Bond Pilot Program & Zero-Interest Loan Program

Mercer County continues to address longstanding barriers that limit access to capital for small businesses—particularly those owned by economically disadvantaged or historically marginalized entrepreneurs. In 2024, the County launched the Small Business Investment Program through a competitive solicitation to fund two innovative proposals designed to provide alternative capital solutions. These programs were supported with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF).

The initiative targeted several common obstacles faced by small businesses:

- Lack of Physical Collateral: Many small businesses do not own commercial property or substantial equipment and rely primarily on labor-based models.
- Upfront Capital Requirements: Traditional loans often require deposits, personal guarantees, and fees for financial reviews, posing challenges for early-stage or cash-constrained businesses.
- Limited or Poor Credit History: Entrepreneurs operating on a cash basis or with prior financial hardships may struggle to meet credit requirements.
- Inadequate Recordkeeping: Missing or disorganized financial records can disqualify businesses from traditional financing sources.

The Bond Pilot Program, which formally closed in October 2024, leveraged SLFRF resources to reduce interest rates, cover underwriting costs, and fund reserve and marketing expenses—allowing the selected entities to offer no-cost or low-cost loan products to qualifying businesses.

Marketing and outreach efforts have included:

- Email campaigns to over 900 businesses previously engaged through Mercer County’s Small Business Grant Program.
- In-person workshops and business development events in partnership with the Princeton Mercer Regional Chamber of Commerce, the African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey, the Capital Region Minority Chamber of Commerce, the Latino Merchants Association, and other local partners.
- Print and digital media outreach, billboards, and flyer distributions targeting underserved commercial corridors and business districts across the County.

Although the Bond Pilot has concluded, Mercer County remains committed in 2025 to

expanding access to capital and promoting equitable economic recovery for its small business community.

<b>Small Business Investment Initiative</b>	<b>Number Served to date</b>	<b>ARPA/SLFRF Investment</b>
Bond Pilot Program	4	\$280,000
Zero-Interest Loan Program	66	\$590,000

f. Mercer Path Forward: Expungement Services and Workforce Training

Mercer County remains committed to supporting the successful reintegration of residents impacted by the justice system. The Mercer Path Forward initiative provides a comprehensive approach to addressing two critical needs: legal expungement services and workforce development support for individuals with prior incarceration or criminal records.

The Workforce Training component of the initiative was fully expended in December 2024, after successfully delivering a broad range of services aimed at preparing justice-impacted residents for sustainable employment. These services included:

- Assistance obtaining key legal documents (e.g., identification, social security cards)
- Grief and trauma-informed counseling
- Digital literacy and computer skills training
- Job-specific certification programs
- Resume development and other pre-employment preparation

The training program helped remove key employment barriers and supported individuals on their path toward economic independence. Its successful implementation established partnerships with workforce agencies and community-based organizations that may continue to offer services beyond the grant period.

The Expungement Services component remains active and continues to serve justice-involved Mercer County residents. While the State of New Jersey provides a legal path to expunge eligible criminal records, the process can be lengthy, confusing, and often interrupted by legal or procedural challenges. Mercer Path Forward offers free, full-service support to help residents navigate the expungement process, including:

- Step-by-step guidance through the expungement process
- Preparation and submission of all necessary legal documents
- Support with resolving side matters or additional court requirements
- On-site fingerprinting services to complete required identification steps
- Follow-up assistance through final legal resolution

In 2025, Mercer County continues to explore additional resources and partnerships to sustain and expand access to legal and economic mobility services for justice-involved residents.

<b>Mercer Path Forward</b>	<b>Number of Services provided to-date</b>	<b>ARPA/SLFRF Investment</b>
Expungement Services	608	\$500,000
Workforce Training	590	\$500,000

#### **4. Community Engagement**

The County Executive, Brian M. Hughes created and led a Community Advisory Board (CAB), which met multiple times to identify strategies and to determine priorities for ARPA/SLFRF projects. The CAB included county staff, city officials, non-profits, chambers of commerce, religious entities, some business owners, County Commissioners, State Assembly-persons, Educational Community representatives, and regional organized labor members to provide opportunities to shape the priorities for these funds. The CAB discussed priorities and provided written commentary across three scheduled meetings in August & September 2022. As stated in CAB guidelines – participants were to:

- Identify program areas that the ARPA/SLFRF funds could support
- Recommend the establishment of services and or programs that county has been unable to support in the past due to past budgetary priorities and available funding
- Identify service areas that would address problems or circumstances that would enable taxpayers to become more self-sufficient, viable and therefore able to enjoy an enhanced quality of life
- Confer with the twelve municipalities to compare programs/initiatives and avoid duplication of efforts

The Mercer County Community Investment Initiative (MCCII) was advertised to all the municipalities in the county – and specifically requested project proposals that would provide Programming, Transportation assistance or Health Services to seniors, veterans and disabled people in the community. This has led to continued conversations between Mercer County and Municipal elected officials on needs and methods of utilizing ARPA/SLFRF funds to aid vulnerable populations.

## 5. Labor Practices

Municipalities within Mercer County were allocated funds to help with repairs and needed upgrades to senior community centers. These subrecipients are smaller projects following NJ Prevailing Wage requirements in compliance with ARPA and local regulations. A project-tracking portal has been established with each of the subrecipients, where project and labor-related documentation can be uploaded and compiled. As the projects are implemented, the County of Mercer will provide updates on the documentation collected.

**Figure 1: Portal interface where project and labor-related documentation can be uploaded.**

The screenshot shows a web form for project entry. At the top, there are fields for 'entity name' (Township), 'project type' (Public Works/Capital Improvement), 'Project Number', and 'Project Name' (Township). Below these are two text areas: 'Scope of Work' and 'Project Narrative'. A horizontal menu below the text areas includes tabs for 'Budget', 'RFQ/Professional', 'RFP/Bid', 'Environmental', 'Force Account', 'Prevailing Wage/Davis-Bacon', 'Reporting', and 'Invoicing'. The 'Budget' tab is active, showing several input fields: 'Total Estimated Budget', 'ARPA Estimated Budget', 'What is the source of your Estimated Budget?' (with a text input 'past project experience; asst. municipal engine'), 'Is project fully funded?' (dropdown set to 'Yes'), 'Total Obligated Budget', and 'ARPA Obligated Budget'. At the bottom of this section is a text area for 'List of other funding sources (completed after solicitation by GW)'.

The screenshot shows the 'Documents' section of the portal. At the top, there is a horizontal menu with tabs for 'Budget', 'RFQ/Professional', 'RFP/Bid', 'Environmental', 'Force Account', 'Prevailing Wage/Davis-Bacon', 'Reporting', and 'Invoicing'. The 'Prevailing Wage / Davis-Bacon Applies' section has a dropdown menu set to 'Yes'. Below this is a section titled 'Documents' with a sub-header 'Full Report | Grid Edit | Email | More ▾ 5 Required Submittal records'. A table lists five required documents, each with an 'Add Document' button. At the bottom, there are 'Save & Close' and 'Cancel' buttons.

Edit	Submittal	Description	Document Template	Narrative	# of Documents	
		Upload copy of Wage Rates included in RFP/Bid			0	<a href="#">Add Document</a>
		Upload copy of Wage Rate sheet in Contractor agreement			0	<a href="#">Add Document</a>
		Upload copy of Monthly A202 Reporting form for each Contractor (see template with doc naming convention)			0	<a href="#">Add Document</a>
		Upload copy of Weekly Certified Payrolls from each Contractor (see template with doc naming convention)			0	<a href="#">Add Document</a>
		Upload copy of employee benefits documentation/support			0	<a href="#">Add Document</a>

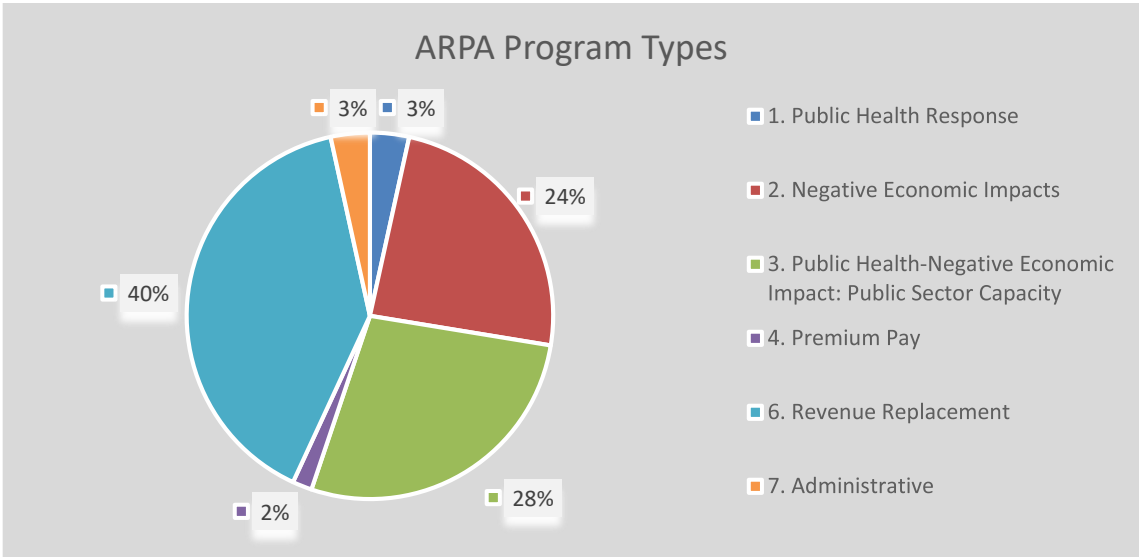
### 6. Use of Evidence

The County of Mercer is starting project evaluations on a few initiatives that have been completed. Some of these project evaluations are being completed with the assistance of partnering organizations that will have data to help make comparisons with other, similar projects. This analysis will help Mercer County to determine what methods of Economic Development assistance are most readily utilized and which Equity-based services affect long-term change and could be pursued as sustaining initiatives in the long term.

### 7. Performance Report

The County of Mercer has secured the services of an ARPA Program Management company that is helping to aggregate data on dollars spent, and businesses/ households served and summarize project service types. As of the date of this report, budgeted funds are allocated as follows:

**Figure 1: Allocation of ARPA funds across service/intent areas**



**Figure 2: Metrics available as of the date of this Annual Report**

Programs	Metrics 1	Metrics 2
Business Builder and Revitalize and Grow Program	35 New Applications to Review	36 Approved Applications
Mercer At Play for All	9 Applications	8 Approved Applications
Mercer Path Forward: Expungement	366 Applications	239 Petitions
Mercer Path Forward: Workforce	56 Participants	590 services provided

Mercer County has managed the allocation of funds and program monitoring through a variety of methods and followed a phased approach:

- A. **Obligation of Funds.** Mercer County executed Memorandum of Understandings, Agreements or Contracts that included ARPA Terms and Conditions' compliance and monitoring requirements. Prior to or soon after execution of contracts, Subrecipients, awardees and vendors were requested to provide evidence of policies, solicitations, program design documents and other forms that would document implementation of funds as specified in the agreement. As much as possible, documentation in compliance with various ARPA requirements were collected and reporting requirements identified during the process of selecting Subrecipients, awardees and vendors.
- B. **Subrecipient Monitoring.** For Subrecipients, Mercer County established secure Portals that were only accessible to the County, grant manager(s) and the Subrecipient. Portals were developed for each of the municipalities awarded funds through the Mercer County Community Investment Initiative and for the providers of Business Builder Rebate and Revitalize and Grow Grant Program, the Small Business Loans, Workforce Training, Expungement Services and Expanded Bus Route Services. Each Subrecipient has their own unique log-in portal where they have uploaded program policies, submitted invoices, and reported on program metrics (people served, loans provided, bus routes miles and ridership, etc.). The portals provide auto-invoice generation based on monthly reporting parameters completed; as well as templates for Subrecipient policies, solicitations and other inspection or reporting forms. Online portals with customizable access (1) allow for direct interface with Subrecipients, (2) ensure clear communication on required documents and deliverables, and (3) provide a centralized place for templates and training. Mercer County has had success utilizing portals for invoicing standardization, monthly reporting and document collection on ARPA projects.
- C. **Program Implementation.** The Small Business Grant program and Business Builder Rebate, and Revitalize and Grow Grant Program utilized a standardized application portal. There were separate facets of the portal that were only accessible to people assigned to specific tasks (eligibility reviews, status changes and approvals, and issuance of checks). The portal template includes tabs that capture the following: eligibility criteria, business registration, location mapping, compliance acknowledgments, optional demographic data reporting, non-debarment statements, and calculated loss based on tax returns.
  - a. Applicant documentation was uploaded directly to either the Small Business Grant Program Application portal or Business Builder Rebate and Revitalize and Grow Grant portal. The Application Portal was password protected and only accessible by assigned IT staff, program managers and select Mercer County employees.
  - b. The documents uploaded by applicants are stored on a separate SharePoint site accessible only by invitation and password to designated program management and Mercer County employees.

**Figure 4: To monitor the obligation of funds, subrecipient monitoring, and program implementation, Mercer County has utilized the customized portal to ensure objectives are met.**



**Mercer County Community Investment Initiative**  
**Mercer County ARPA Allocation to Municipalities**  
 Health Care, Social Services, and Transportation Expansion Programs

Click the tabs below to jump to sections of the application

**UPDATE (6/23/2023):** Thank you so much for meeting and working with me on finalizing your Subrecipient Agreements. As we are able to complete resolutions at both City and County levels - we can start working to complete/collect the Subrecipient Policies & Procedures documents found at the bottom of the Subrecipient Documentation Tab. Also, if you are ready - I can send you RFP, Bid, Professional Services and Beneficiary Program ARPA templates to start working on solicitation drafts. Please be advised that Mercer County would like to review and approve your solicitations/notices before they are released.

Mercer County Executive Brian M. Hughes and Commissioner Chair Nina D. Melker, with the Mercer County Board of Commissioners have approved the allocation of \$3,300,000 in ARPA funding to expand upon existing programs that provide social services, health care and transportation needs for seniors, veterans and the disabled in our communities. This is a one-time funding initiative that may take several years to be expended or implemented. Additional allocations of funding are not anticipated.

Mercer County has retained the services of GrantWorks to provide grant and ARPA program compliance and documentation management. This portal is being maintained in GrantWorks secure G/W 20/20 proprietary tracking system - with limited access. Please do not share your GW 20/20 log-in information.

If another individual besides yourself needs access to this site, you may request a new log-in account via the New User Request button found on your Home Page.

- General Information
- Requested Funds Usage
- Subrecipient Documentation
- Projects
- Budget
- Correspondence
- Program Descriptions and Selection

Section 1 of this tab includes the documents previously submitted by the Municipality and are available for review and download as needed. At our kick-off meeting, we will review and start working to complete the documents listed in Section 2. Section 3 documents may be worked on concurrently and should be completed prior to the first disbursement of funds.

**1. Application Documents Submitted**

(Previous documents submitted are stored here.)

Full Report | Grid Edit | Email | More ▾ 2 Submittal records

Submittal	Description	Document
<input type="checkbox"/>	Attestation	

**2. Subrecipient Agreement**

(Click the Edit "Pencil" icon to open the required submittal and upload your document.)

Full Report | Grid Edit | Email | More ▾ 12 Required Submittal records

Agreement Execution Date

Edit	Submittal	Description	Document Template	Narrative	# of Documents
	Subrecipient Agreement	Please see the available general template. In advance of our Kick-off meeting, we will have uploaded a Municipality-specific template for our review.	<a href="#">Click to Download</a>		0 <a href="#">Add Document</a>

**3. Subrecipient Monitoring Required Documents**

(Click the Edit "Pencil" icon to open the required submittal and upload your document.)

Full Report | Grid Edit | Email | More ▾ 13 Required Submittal records

Edit	Submittal	Description	Document Template	Narrative	# of Documents	Review	Acceptance
	Subrecipient Procurement Procedures/Policy	2 CFR 200.318 - The non-Federal entity must have and use documented procurement procedures, consistent with State, local and tribal laws and regulations and the standards of this section, for	<a href="#">Click to Download</a>		0 <a href="#">Add Document</a>	<a href="#">Pending Document</a>	<a href="#">Pending Document</a>

**4. Subrecipient Resource Documents**

Full Report | Grid Edit | Email | More ▾ 9 Required Submittal records

Document Name	Description	Document Template
<b>General Templates (3 Required Submittal records)</b>		
Resolution Template		<a href="#">Click to Download</a>
ARPA Construction Bid Template		<a href="#">Click to Download</a>
ARPA Professional Services Template		<a href="#">Click to Download</a>
<b>MicroPurchase Templates (6 Required Submittal records)</b>		
MicroPurchase Bid Tabulation	Required for MicroPurchases; This document includes written instructions.	<a href="#">Click to Download</a>
Vendor Quote Form	Required for MicroPurchases; This document should be completed by the vendor when soliciting pricing. It is important that the selected vendor have a UEI in SAM.gov.	<a href="#">Click to Download</a>
MicroPurchase Terms & Conditions	Required for MicroPurchases; This document should be completed by the vendor when soliciting pricing. It is important that the selected vendor have a UEI in SAM.gov.	<a href="#">Click to Download</a>
Eligibility Verification form	Required for MicroPurchases; This document should be completed by the vendor when soliciting pricing. It is important that the selected vendor have a UEI in SAM.gov.	<a href="#">Click to Download</a>
Title IV Form	Required for MicroPurchases; This document should be completed by the vendor when soliciting pricing. It is important that the selected vendor have a UEI in SAM.gov.	<a href="#">Click to Download</a>
Executive Compensation Reporting	Required for MicroPurchases; This document should be completed by the vendor when soliciting pricing. It is important that the selected vendor have a UEI in SAM.gov.	<a href="#">Click to Download</a>

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- D. Regular Contact. Mercer County, through their program manager, hosts regular weekly or bi-weekly meetings with select vendors and subrecipients. A regular meeting schedule with emailed meeting minutes has kept each project/programs team on track for meeting the objective of each initiative. Through regular contact, Mercer County and its subrecipients and vendors have been able to discuss steps taken to promote the services, coordinate on public outreach efforts and discuss possible program modifications needed and learned during implementation.
  
- E. Public Outreach. Mercer County has been proactive in working towards the success of each initiative. Each new service has been advertised on Mercer County's ARPA website, via emailed newsletters from the County Executive, through digital and print marketing campaigns, door-to-door neighborhood outreach with partnering organizations, utilization of targeted email lists, and through many publicly posted and hosted events. Mercer County has been an active partner in each initiative and has worked closely with ARPA program managers and subrecipients.

## 8. Project Inventory

Project ID	Project Title	Description	Expense Class	Estimated Budget	Total Obligations	Total Expenditure	Estimate Completion Date
2201	Administrative Services	General administrative services for the management and oversight of ARPA-funded programs and projects. These services, provided by consultants, contractors, and/or staff, may include tasks such as public notices, accounting and audit support, fund disbursement, monitoring, reporting, and other administrative or grant management functions. Additionally, the development of internal policies and procedures will ensure compliance with ARPA guidelines, covering areas such as procurement, financial management, labor monitoring, and oversight of subrecipient awards.	7. Administrative	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,137,910	8/21/2025
2202	Mercer Path Forward: Expungement Services	<p>Mercer County is committed to supporting the economic health and employment opportunities of all our residents, including those previously incarcerated and/or with criminal records. While the State of New Jersey offers people the opportunity to ‘wipe the slate clean’ via the Expungement process - it can be time consuming and confusing for eligible individuals to navigate the various steps of the process. If there should be a side matter that needs to be addressed or an additional court hearing needed to manage an extra step - this can effectively halt an individual’s expungement efforts. In addition to the time and occasional extra steps for non-straightforward situations, there are various fees that may affect a person’s ability to move forward.</p> <p>The Mercer Path Forward: Expungement Services was conceptualized to address these various reasons for incomplete expungement efforts and to provide complete services that will take an applicant through the entire process to whatever the final, legal status is determined. Via competitive solicitation, Mercer selected a legal firm to provide intake, eligibility reviews and complete the expungement process with eligible applicants.</p>	2. Negative Economic Impacts	\$350,000	\$350,000	\$253,725	11/30/2026
2203	Small Business Grant Program	Mercer County is providing \$10K grants to two sets of eligible small businesses: (1) those within designated economically distressed areas and (2) any qualifying small business within Mercer County. Eligibility will be based on: for-profit small business only, 20 employees or less, business formed before Sept 1, 2019, legal entity registered with NJ, less than \$3M in gross revenue (or less than \$5M for restaurants), location of business, a physical store-front and must demonstrate a negative impact. Preference will be given to those who have not previously received specific business grant assistance from federal, state or local government. National franchises, real-estate businesses, independent consultants, residential	2. Negative Economic Impacts	\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000	9/1/2023

		businesses and businesses capable of conducting a majority of their business remotely are ineligible. 363 Small Businesses were funded through this program.					
2204	Route 130 Transportation Expansion	<p>The Route 130 Connection bus provides Mercer County residents a safe and reliable transportation system to the employers along the Rt 130 Corridor. The goal of the Route 130 Connection bus is to improve access to employment and employment-related activities and to transport residents of both urban and nonurban areas to suburban employment opportunities. This service is available to Work First New Jersey (WFNJ) customers, eligible low-income individuals, senior citizens, residents with disabilities, and the general public.</p> <p>This expansion will serve identified additional needs that are not currently funded by the following funding sources: NJ Transit/JARC, Mercer County, commercial business contributions and fares. ARPA funds will be used to start the additional service runs and stops. It is anticipated that by using ARPA funds to demonstrate need and usage at added locations - that additional other funding can be applied for to continue services beyond this initiative.</p>	2. Negative Economic Impacts	\$1,060,315.78	\$1,060,315.78	\$649,474.92	12/31/2026
2306	Mercer County Employees - Premium Pay	Throughout the coronavirus public health emergency, Mercer County continued to provide necessary programs and services to constituents thanks to the hard work of the employees. The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Local Fiscal Recovery Funds received by Mercer County may be used to provide premium pay to eligible workers who performed in-person work during the COVID-19 emergency. Based on eligibility parameters set by the Federal Government, Mercer County will ensure that this critical 'premium pay' support is provided to qualifying and deserving Mercer County public servants who have been relied on to maintain continuity of operations.	4. Premium Pay	\$1,392,200.39	\$1,392,200.39	\$1,392,200.39	8/12/2022
2307	MCCII - Ewing Township	This project aims to purchase essential equipment to improve both the outdoor and indoor environments of a community space. Outdoor enhancements include up to two outdoor benches and up to three outdoor tables, designed for comfort and durability, providing improved public services for seniors and people with disabilities within the township. Indoor upgrades include 25 Lenovo ThinkCentre M90q computers with monitors for the Learning Center, an Audio/Visual system for the Multi-Purpose Room, featuring wireless mics, speakers, an audio processor, Bluetooth, and volume controls. Additionally, the project includes a 15,000 Lumen Laser Projector with a motorized screen and control system for the Multi-Purpose Room, and two Clear Touch 6000A+ Series smartboards (86") with accessories for the Learning Center and Nutrition Cafe. To ensure cybersecurity, 25 licenses of Faronics Deep Freeze Cloud security software for the Learning Center are also included. These improvements will create a modern, functional space for learning, interaction, and community engagement for seniors and people with disabilities.	2. Negative Economic Impacts	\$164,000	\$164,000	\$9,772.95	11/30/2026

2308	MCCII - Hamilton Township	Emergency Generator - Hamilton will buy and install a generator at the Senior Center for \$353,000. There is no generator at the Senior Center and the project has never been funded or planned prior to March 3, 2021. Over the last 22 months, Hamilton has had numerous COVID-19 vaccine clinics at the Senior Center but is unable to store the vaccine at the Senior Center because it does not have a backup generator. A generator would eliminate said issue and cut down on issues related to the transportation of the vaccine. Additionally, the generator would permit the Senior Center to be used as an emergency relief shelter.	3. Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity	\$353,000	\$353,000	\$353,000	12/31/2024
2309	MCCII - Hopewell Township	Hopewell Township is partnering with the Borough of Hopewell and the Borough of Pennington to rebuild a new (previous center damaged) Senior/Community Center in Hopewell Township. The center not only intends to address the issue of adequate space for the programs, but the building program developed to date accounts for increased participation and expansion recognizing the increased senior population. The total cost of the project is expected to be \$30M and shall be funded through a bond ordinance. The Senior/Community Center will provide space for exercise classes, health exams, recreational activities, swimming, and providing meals for seniors.  The \$60,000 grant shall be used for design and planning only. Design Services are to cover engineering and architectural design.	3. Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity	\$60,000	\$60,000	\$45,000	9/30/2025
2310	MCCII - Lawrence Township	This project will construct accessibility improvements to the Lawrence Township Nature Center at 481 Drexel Avenue to expand services for senior and disabled citizens to visit and enjoy the Nature Center. The accessibility improvements will include a paved parking area with high visibility striping, lighting for safety and security, a pathway to the rear deck, and deck handrails. Other miscellaneous site improvements may be determined during the development of construction plans.	3. Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity	\$86,095	\$86,095	\$86,095	12/31/2024
2311	MCCII - Trenton - Senior Program Services	The City of Trenton serves its senior population out of 4 different facilities. Due to financial constraints, the programming and enrichment activities are very limited. Additional funding would allow the City to provide unique experiences to our older population, such as age-appropriate workouts, crafts, yoga classes, painting, day trips, excursions, etc.  Based on a recent survey conducted by the Department of Recreation, Natural Resources & Culture and Department of Health & Human Services. Trenton's Seniors predominantly requested day trips and excursions. However, some requested yoga and age-appropriate workouts. Trenton has a very active Senior population where over 100 seniors visit centers daily for activities and over 200 will attend special events and trips/excursions. Funding is being allocated to provide these additional services tracked as a series of Micro-Purchases for various activities. Also, Trenton requested a small construction project to replace/update an existing water fountain to a newer, bottle-filler water fountain.	3. Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity	\$260,000	\$260,000	\$0	9/30/2026

2312	MCCII - West Windsor	West Windsor is looking to complete several purchases for their Senior Center; including: (1) Replacement of furniture - damaged and require repair at the Senior Center (couches - chairs, two seat sofa, three seat sofa); (2) Replacement of outdoor Gazebo (utilized for weddings, public use for residents - picnics, socialization); (3) Renovation of Senior Center Kitchen (commercial appliances, update cabinets, etc.) and (4) Hybrid (in-person/virtual technology installed in the activity room) technology for Senior residents to participate in Senior Center Activities. Gives residents who are homebound/ uncomfortable to enter the Senior Center the opportunity to participate virtually in in-person fitness, lectures, art at the same time as in-person participants.	2. Negative Economic Impacts	\$76,000	\$86,112.74	\$23,027.68	9/30/2025
2313	MCCII - Hightstown	Funds are being allocated to all Municipalities in Mercer County for the benefit of seniors and those with disabilities. Hightstown's allocation will be used to procure benches and picnic tables to be used at a park where they are currently making significant investment to make it accessible and inclusive. The equipment will be purchased by Mercer County and then stored and delivered to Hightstown by Mercer County.	3. Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$13,244	12/31/2025
2314	MCCII - Municipality of Princeton	Expansion of the existing WeDriveU transportation system in Princeton. Its primary focus is on providing transit services to senior and low-income residential communities with fewer travel options within the municipality. The Princeton Muni Transit runs 5 days a week from 7:30 am to 8:50 pm and provides interconnection with New Jersey Transit and Princeton University Tiger Transit services for transportation within and outside Princeton. The fixed-route system is limited in that it connects only specific communities with limited locations. Additional destinations are desirable, such as health providers, or additional service times, such as for cultural activities on the weekend or later in the evening. Supplementing the fixed-route system with on-demand options is also desirable. The expansion would increase accessibility for older adults, veterans, and disabled residents.	3. Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity	\$76,000	\$76,000	\$0	9/30/2025
2315	MCCII - Robbinsville	Capital Improvement Project: The scope of work includes the installation of the following features as Windsor Park: stone dust walking trail, millings parking lot with a paved area for ADA parking, and two garden areas are to be sculpted with topsoil and stabilized with mulch. A water service, including a new meter, is to be constructed for a yard hydrant from School Drive to the gardens. The existing flagpole is to be removed and a new one to be installed at the entrance. A historic monument plinth is to be constructed from historic brick. Numerous benches are to be installed with concrete slabs, and a section of concrete sidewalk is to be constructed. Both labor and materials may be paid for with these funds. Any costs beyond the MCCII allocation are to be covered by other funds obtained by the Municipality.	2. Negative Economic Impacts	\$39,000	\$39,000	\$39,000	12/30/2024
2316	MCCII - East Windsor	ARPA funding is being requested to support the great need for more programs, classes, presentations and events at the E. Windsor Senior	3. Public Health-Negative	\$74,000	\$74,000	\$74,000	5/31/2024

		Center. The County hereby awards to Township a grant in the total amount of \$74K to fund Township Senior Center equipment, classes, activities, and programs, audio/visual and Wi-Fi equipment, and senior citizen activity programs.	Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity				
2317	MCSBI - SMBX - Bond Pilot Program	Mercer County Small Business Investment Program will provide direct aid to small businesses in the Mercer County community that had experienced difficulties obtaining capital via currently available options such as traditional small business loans, revenue through creation of stock, and traditional investors. SMBX will be piloting a Small Business Bond program in Mercer County. They will connect small business with investors in their communities and throughout the country. SMBX will be assisting small business with their marketing and outreach to entice the community and anywhere to invest in the small business.	2. Negative Economic Impacts	\$280,830.20	\$280,830.20	\$280,830.20	9/30/2024
2318	MCSBI - UCEDC - Zero Interest Loans	Mercer County Small Business Investment Program will provide direct aid to small buinesses in The Mercer County community that had experienced difficulties obtaining capital via currently available options such as traditional small business loans, revenue through creation of stock, and traditional investors. UCEDC will provide a 0% Interest Loan program to small business in Mercer County with a repayment term of 5 years. The provided funds will be used for working capital, inventory, and purchases of furniture and equipment.	2. Negative Economic Impacts	\$590,000	\$590,000	\$569,700	12/31/2023
2319	Mercer County ARPA Admin Incidentals	Mercer County has set aside ARPA Admin funds to address printing, advertisement, sign-making, and other incidental costs for the implementation of the various ARPA projects to be handled by Mercer staff. Funds also used to cover a grant application fee with another NJ State entity. Staff will be provided with the cost code and expenses tracked via inter-departmental notices.	7. Administrative	\$50,974.02	\$69,569.02	\$64,618.76	11/30/2026
2320	Revenue Replacement - Admin 2023	Per the annual budget, Mercer County allocated Revenue Loss ARPA funds for annual administrative expenses that include Medical Examiner services via an agreement with Middlesex County, Salaries in the Communications, Health and Building and Grounds department, Gasoline expenses for a specific department and Health Insurance expenses negotiated via the Insurance Commission. (1) The Medical Examiner services are a joint agreement with Middlesex County, who manages the ME office and bills Mercer on a quarterly basis and reconciled per-unit cost; (2) gasoline; (3) Health insurance; and (4) county staff salaries.	6. Revenue Replacement	\$12,000,000	\$12,000,000	\$12,000,000	12/31/2023
2321	Revenue Replacement - Admin 2022	The Mercer County expended funds in 2022 for a variety of administrative functions covering: gasoline, insurance and telephone expenditures; payments to the State, Middlesex County and other public entities for continuity of services; and salaries: (1) The Medical Examiner services are a joint agreement with Middlesex County, who manages the ME office and bills Mercer on a quarterly basis and reconciled per-unit cost; (2) gasoline, telephone, insurance and IT services are fixed per NJ procurement for all county staff.	6. Revenue Replacement	\$16,782,743.04	\$16,782,743.04	\$16,782,743.04	12/31/2022

2322	General Grant Application Services	Mercer County went out for procurement of professional services - seeking to procure an entity that would assist in applying for various available state and federal funding sources. Bruno and Associates was selected through the solicitation. Bruno is assisting in applying for Historic Preservation, Airport Renovations, Infrastructure, CDBG and FCC funds.	6. Revenue Replacement	\$159,000	\$159,000	\$131,000	6/30/2025
2323	Revenue Replacement - DHS 2022 Peer Grouping	The Mercer County Department of Human Services was allocated funds in the 2022 Annual County Budget for Peer Grouping. The purpose of County funding is to augment existing sources of support to allow community agencies to provide high-quality, full-continuum peer grouping services. The vast majority of these comprehensive programs are targeted for Mercer County's indigent population with serious and persistent psychiatric disabilities using modalities most appropriate to client level of function and to ensure that services are provided in the least restrictive setting possible.	6. Revenue Replacement	\$276,772	\$276,772	\$276,772	12/31/2022
2324	Revenue Replacement - DHS 2022 Mental Health Programs	The Mercer County Department of Human Services was allocated funds in the 2022 Annual County Budget for Mental Health Programs for services including Support for Families and Consumers, Senior Care Management, Representative Payee Services, Crisis Intervention, and various other services and treatments. The vast majority of these comprehensive programs are targeted for Mercer County's indigent population with serious and persistent psychiatric disabilities using modalities most appropriate to client level of function and to ensure that services are provided in the least restrictive setting possible.	6. Revenue Replacement	\$420,662.54	\$420,662.54	\$420,662.54	12/31/2022
2325	MCCII - Trenton - Reading Senior Center	Trenton has a very active Senior population - where over 100 seniors visit centers daily for activities and over 200 will attend special events and trips/excursions. Funding is being allocated to provide needed repairs to the Reading Senior Center. Procurement of Professional Services, Purchase and Installation of new HVAC system, 1st Floor flooring replacement and Kitchen renovation with new appliances and contingency set-aside.	3. Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity	\$647,717	\$647,717	\$0	9/30/2026
2328	MCCII - Hamilton Township	Non - Profit Grant Program - Hamilton is looking to provide grant funding to non-profits in Hamilton Township that provide Professional Services - athletic programming to disabled (mental or physical) participants. Eligibility reviews will include the determination of negative economic impact from/during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic to now.	2. Negative Economic Impacts	\$92,000	\$92,000	\$92,000	4/1/2024
2329	MCCII - Princeton - PSRC Case Manager	Older adult case worker and mental health clinical support through Princeton Senior Resource Center (PSRC), Corner House Behavioral Health, and Princeton Human Services. As individuals transition into Medicare, they lose health coverage such as substance abuse help and dental care. This funding allows for the expansion of PSRC's social services team with the hiring of a social worker/case manager position. A bi-lingual staff person was hired to provide better assistance and dedicated outreach to those with limited English proficiency. Staff have hosted additional outreach events and developed flyers and information materials in Spanish.	3. Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity	\$75,000	\$75,000	\$43,750	9/30/2026

2330	Incentive Pay Program	Mercer County wished to provide incentive pay for ALL employees who's working conditions were impacted through COVID-19. This program is for incentive pay offered at the same rate to those not eligible for premium pay. Also, to pay additional amounts beyond what was calculated for the Premium Pay category for ALL employees - including those being funded under premium pay.	6. Revenue Replacement	\$198,799.61	\$198,799.61	\$198,799.61	8/12/2022
2331	Revenue Replacement - DHS 2022 Child care	The Mercer County Department of Human Services was allocated funds in the 2022 Annual County Budget for Child Care. At least 75 eligible clients/families are to receive case management annually for the duration of the resulting contracts of this RFP for comprehensive social services programs that include emergency food assistance/food pantry services; information and referral; emergency services; health, nutrition and general services; and youth programs. Case management is the foundation by which all outcomes are achieved. Case management entails providing families and/or individuals with support and linkages to needed services by face-to-face, email and telephone, although for this grant the first case management encounter must be face-to-face for it to be counted as such.	6. Revenue Replacement	\$490,127.34	\$490,127.34	\$490,127.34	12/31/2022
2332	Revenue Replacement - DHS 2022 Homeless Services	The Mercer County Department of Human Services was allocated funds in the 2022 Annual County Budget for Homeless Services. Funding will be made available in the following five categories, up to the indicated amounts: Case Management, Emergency Shelter Services, Rapid Re-Housing, Day Drop-in Center, and Shallow Subsidy Program. Liaison/Case Manager position to provide case management services to individuals experiencing homelessness at the Rescue Mission of Trenton (MISSION), the emergency services program, which is a vital member of the Coordinated Entry and Assessment System (CEASe)	6. Revenue Replacement	\$582,206.34	\$582,206.34	\$582,206.34	12/31/2022
2333	Revenue Replacement - DHS 2022 Youth Detention Center	The Mercer County Department of Human Services was allocated funds in the 2022 Annual County Budget for Youth Detention Center - housing services. Mercer County has a shared services agreement with Middlesex County to provide pre-disposition and adjudicated juveniles safe and secure housing at an accredited Juvenile Detention Center. The agreement between counties is for 2021 through 2026 and is a recurring administrative expense that was addressed with needed ARPA funds.	6. Revenue Replacement	\$1,348,031.25	\$1,348,031.25	\$1,348,031.25	12/31/2022
2334	Revenue Replacement - DHS 2022 Addiction Services	The Mercer County Department of Human Services was allocated funds in the 2022 Annual County Budget for Addiction Services. Scope of service includes providing addiction services to indigent Mercer County residents and their affected families. This includes screening those in need of services, assessing the level of care needed and providing what is needed. All services that will be billed are fixed at the state level at a fee-per-service. Services include evidence-based programming such as: education and advocacy; transitional and permanent housing; and case managers.	6. Revenue Replacement	\$570,417.49	\$570,417.49	\$570,417.49	12/31/2022

2335	Revenue Replacement - Purchases 2022	Mercer County allocated funds in the 2022 Annual County Budget for Purchases 2022 by Building & Grounds. Funds were used to cover the 2022 expenses on existing contracts for Thermal Energy at the existing Mercer County Criminal Court House and for Janitorial Services at the Mercer County Civil Court House.	6. Revenue Replacement	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	12/31/2022
2336	Airport - Professional Services	Hired a professional services company to provide Owner's Representative / Construction Management services for Airport Capital Improvement projects, including: New Tower, New Firehouse, Environmental Cleanup, Sitework, New Garage, Terminal Upgrades and New Control Tower. Professional provides documentation and confirms compliance with various funding sources used for the many projects; oversees development of plans, specifications, solicitations and construction.	6. Revenue Replacement	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$2,206,398.94	11/30/2026
2340	Workforce Training	Mercer County is providing Workforce Training to formerly incarcerated individuals. Morph Mentoring has been selected to provide services that include: assistance in personal documentation (SSN, Birth Certificates, DL, etc), financial management, job preparation, job training skills, computer skills, resume development, etc. This initiative is concurrently run with Mercer County's expungement assistance program. Outreach events will be held for Mercer County's sponsored services with participation by non-profits and other entities that would be of help in the areas of housing, counseling, and other aid.	2. Negative Economic Impacts	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000	12/31/2025
2341	Trenton Thunder Professional Services	Architectural and engineering services associated with Lower-Level Renovations to Mercer County Waterfront Park. CCH will work with the Owner - Mercer County and the tenant - Trenton Thunder management and staff to develop a concept program that meets the needs of Major League Baseball's PDL Guidelines as well upgrades to key ballpark areas that require renovation. CCH's efforts will culminate in an approved program and concept design that will serve as the basis of design moving forward. This proposal is for the development of bid documents for the scope of work related to a portion of the lower level of the Stadium facility including: Home and Visitor Locker Room upgrades, Women's Locker Room, Umpire's Locker Room, etc.	6. Revenue Replacement	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	12/31/2024
2442	Revenue Replacement - Admin 2024	Mercer County wishes to expend ARPA Revenue Replacement funds to help cover budget gaps in 2024. Will be used to cover salaries for Human Services staff and Building & Grounds staff. Human Services staff provide services that address homelessness, food insecurity, childcare, and senior/disability services. Will also be used to cover shared services agreement with Middlesex County Medical Examiner.	6. Revenue Replacement	\$2,490,000	\$2,490,000	\$2,490,000	12/31/2024

2443	Signal 22 Rescue Aid Vehicle	<p>Mercer County has designated Signal 22, a non-profit Canteen volunteer group that stands ready to respond to natural or man-made disasters by providing refreshments, pop-up tents, and meals to on-site personnel and victims within a 30-mile radius of Trenton. John Donahue chief of Signal 22 stated, They are out to provide water, Gatorade, food, snacks and whatever other comforts they can offer. If they show up then generally it means something bad has happened. They show for fires, hostage situations, natural disasters, building collapses. They just want to help any way that They can. Signal 22, share a desire to not only successfully continue to serve within a 30-mile radius of Trenton, NJ but also continue to expand their services and participate in community events within Mercer County - to that end, Mercer County allocated funds to them for the purchase of a new service delivery vehicle.</p>	6. Revenue Replacement	\$339,900	\$339,900	\$339,900	12/31/2024
2444	Hopewell Twp Ambulance	<p>Mercer County is providing funds to Hopewell Township for the procurement of a new Ambulance. The COVID-19 pandemic brought about an unprecedented need for Emergency Medical Services to Hopewell Township - and the additional ambulance is needed to continue to meet a new level of services by both the volunteer and paid Emergency Medical Services division of Hopewell Township. The Ambulance will be procured and maintained by the Township.</p>	3. Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$0	2/1/2025
2445	Hearing Induction Loops	<p>Mercer County received a grant from the state in order to install Hearing Induction Loops at various Mercer County Locations. With over 40 million Americans living with hearing loss, Mercer County recognizes the present need for accessible technology. Approximately 7.1% of our residents under 65 have a disability and nearly half of our older adult population experiences hearing loss. Hearing induction loops allow people with hearing loss to participate in public spaces easily and discreetly by simply turning on the 't-coil' switch on their hearing aids and cochlear implants. To significantly advance our accessibility infrastructure, Mercer County proposes the installation of LOOP systems in key public locations.</p>	6. Revenue Replacement	\$7,895	\$7,895	\$7,895	12/31/2025
2446	Mercer County Libraries	<p>Mercer County's libraries continued to serve community members through the COVID-19 pandemic. They are a centralized location where guidance, aid and programming is distributed to the community. Three libraries are selected for HVAC upgrades and repairs - with related roofing repairs. A feasibility study is included for all three libraries. Based on the study, two of the libraries (West Windsor and Lawrence locations) will receive Roof and HVAC systems replacements.</p>	3. Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$28,472.79	12/31/2025
2447	Mercer Emergency Radio System	<p>Mercer County seeks to enhance public safety communications by upgrading its aging emergency radio equipment. The current radios are approaching the end of their useful life, which poses a risk to effective emergency response and public safety operations. To ensure reliable and efficient service delivery, the County will utilize ARPA funds to invest in modern radio equipment. This critical infrastructure upgrade will</p>	3. Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity	\$3,800,000	\$3,800,000	\$1,274,801.61	12/31/2024

		significantly improve the capacity and coordination of first responders, supporting the health and safety of the community for years to come.					
2448	Medi-Cool Program	The MediCool Program is geared to provide 5,000 BTU window Air Conditioning Units and space fans to lower-income Mercer County residents who are 60 years or older, income eligible households and disabled persons in 2025 and 2026. Mercer County has solicited for a non-profit entity to manage eligibility reviews and delivery of equipment to eligible households.	1. Public Health Response	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$0	12/31/2026
2449	Mental Tele-Health Pilot	Mercer County is providing telehealth assistance services for youth and families in the County. Mercer County has solicited a provider for a Mental Tele-Health Pilot Program. This pilot will help to establish baseline costs and usage measurements for future endeavors. Services will include an accessible online portal, direct contact and coordination with school counselors and one-on-one services as determined by licensed professionals.	1. Public Health Response	\$1,350,000	\$1,350,000	\$1,300,000	12/31/2026
2450	Food Insecurity Initiatives	Food Insecurity is a silent epidemic, coexisting in event the wealthiest of Counties. In Mercer County, many family, homelessness, housing, disabled, aging, addiction and other non-profit service providers struggle to meet the complete needs of the people they are helping - including basic meals. Mercer County seeks to address this added burden to our essential non-profit human services partners. Mercer County is implementing multiple grants and purchases to help address this issue. There are three program initiatives: Fresh Food Grants; Innovation Grants; and a Food Hub grant. Fresh Food Grants are limited entities purchasing fresh food (not non-perishable items). The Innovation Grant funded items may range in scope, but are not allowed to include construction that will necessitate Environmental or Construction permits. The Food Hub grant will be awarded to a single entity and include possible construction measures to build an area Food Hub.	2. Negative Economic Impacts	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$0	12/31/2024
2451	Mercer At Play for All	The County of Mercer has launched the Mercer At Play for All grant program, which dedicates American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to support non-profits and municipalities in order to provide programming to vulnerable populations and facility improvements to non-profit spaces. The grant program which will provide up-front funding via three eligible use categories:  (1) Equipment purchases and Programming expenses for Municipal Senior Physical Recreation programs  (2) Inclusive Playground equipment grants to Municipalities  (3) Programming support grants for Non-profits that provide after school mentoring and Sports programming to underserved youth	6. Revenue Replacement	\$450,000	\$450,000	\$410,000	12/31/2024

2452	MCCII - Trenton - South Ward Senior Center	Trenton has a very active Senior population - where over 100 seniors visit centers daily for activities and over 200 will attend special events and trips/excursions. Funding is being allocated to provide needed repairs to the South Ward Senior Center. Currently the center is not used because repairs are needed to the entry doors, windows, lighting, kitchen, etc. In addition to the repair areas listed - the entire building will be cleaned and repainted, fixtures updates as needed and other cosmetic repairs. Currently, the South Ward is not well served and bringing this building back into operation will provide needed, local services.	3. Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity	\$981,283	\$981,283	\$0	12/31/2026
2453	COVID Impact Stipend	Mercer County is looking to provide COVID stipends to County staff per collective bargaining negotiations. County civil service unions/bargaining units had agreements expire during the COVID pandemic (2019 - 2023) - and renegotiations and new agreements were deferred until the end of 2024 and into 2025. COVID stipends are included in new agreements. The county appreciates the work completed by staff through the COVID pandemic.	6. Revenue Replacement	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$0	12/31/2025
2454	Respite Care for Homeless Grant	Mercer County and the NJ Coalition to End Homelessness has been working together over time to bring to fruition this Respite Care Pilot. Members of the Coalition have agrees to provide services, supplies, funds or a location to house homeless persons who have been released from hospital emergency care and are in need of interim nursing care. Funds for this pilot will be used for staffing and equipment needed to fit out the dedicated space.	2. Negative Economic Impacts	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	11/30/2025
2455	Mercer Facilities Grants	Mercer County and the Municipalities within has a long history of supporting non-profit entities and the unique, needed community services that they provide. This has been done through long-term lease agreements where Municipalities have provided low-cost lease agreements or regular funding to non-profits. Over time, these buildings have degraded and are in need of an influx of funds to repair and maintain them – specifically for the continued use of non-profits the service programs they provide. This grant initiative serves to address this need and continue to support non-profits and the residents they serve in the long term.	6. Revenue Replacement	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$250,000	12/31/2024

2456	Revitalize & Grow Grants	<p>This grant program will provide grants to eligible Mercer County-based businesses for signage and façade improvements that will set them up for success going forward, improve traffic for businesses and support increased tourism. In an effort to aid those most in need and historically marginalized, total program grant caps will be increased for businesses located in a Qualified Census Trace (QCT) or are owned by a formerly incarcerated individual. Qualified Census (QCTs) are areas where 50% or more of the households have incomes below 60% of the area median income, or where the poverty rate is 25% or higher. These areas have been identified by the U.S. Department of Treasury (the issuer of ARPA funds) as ‘disproportionately impacted communities’ and for whom additional aid is desirable.</p> <p>For this specific program, ‘formerly incarcerated individuals’ is defined as those who were imprisoned and unable to participate in the workforce, develop a work history and were more likely to experience issues finding employment going forward. Some members of this community have started businesses as an available means of support for themselves and their family. Mercer County’s inclusion of this population for additional aid will further support people most in need economically and help them continue their Path Forward.</p>	2. Negative Economic Impacts	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$43,557.06	12/31/2026
2457	Business Builder Grant	<p>The Business Builder Grant program will provide rebates to eligible Mercer County-based businesses for items that will help them to start up and refresh on business basics that will set them up for success going forward. This includes costs for certified public accountants, registered agents, accounting or bookkeeping software, business parking and website development.</p> <p>In an effort to aid those most in need and historically marginalized, total program rebate caps will be increased (doubled) for businesses located in a Qualified Census Trace (QCT) or are owned by a formerly incarcerated individual.</p> <p>Qualified Census (QCTs) are areas where 50% or more of the households have incomes below 60% of the area median income, or where the poverty rate is 25% or higher. These areas have been identified by the U.S. Department of Treasury (the issuer of ARPA funds) as ‘disproportionately impacted communities’ and for whom additional aid is desirable.</p> <p>For this specific program, ‘formerly incarcerated individuals’ is defined as those who were imprisoned and unable to participate in the workforce, develop a work history and were more likely to experience issues finding employment going forward. Some members of this community have started businesses as an available means of support for themselves and their family. Mercer County’s inclusion of this population for additional aid</p>	2. Negative Economic Impacts	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$36,812.33	12/31/2026

		will further support people most in need economically and help them continue their Path Forward.					
2458	J. O. Wilson Community Center	Funds to be provided to J.O. Wilson Community Center for Administrative expenses going forward - for the purpose of continuing needed services for the area. The J.O. Wilson Hamilton Township Neighborhood Center, Inc is the main community service center for this area of Hamilton Township; has experienced economic impacts through the COVID-19 pandemic; is surrounded by HUD designated Qualified Census Tracts; and serves as the main location for vaccine and other community services before, during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.	6. Revenue Replacement	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	12/31/2026

## **9. Summary**

The County of Mercer will use State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds within the American Rescue Plan Act effectively and in a manner that makes the most impactful use of funds for the County. The County's prioritization process included public and community input, and collaboration with units of local government. County staff are evaluating community impacts, as well as the level of economic impacts on the community. Throughout this process, County of Mercer is also taking into account other resources of funds that can help meet needs that have been created or exacerbated by the COVID-19 Pandemic. This Recovery Plan Performance Report serves to demonstrate the efforts taken by the county to help ensure a strong and equitable recovery for County of Mercer.