

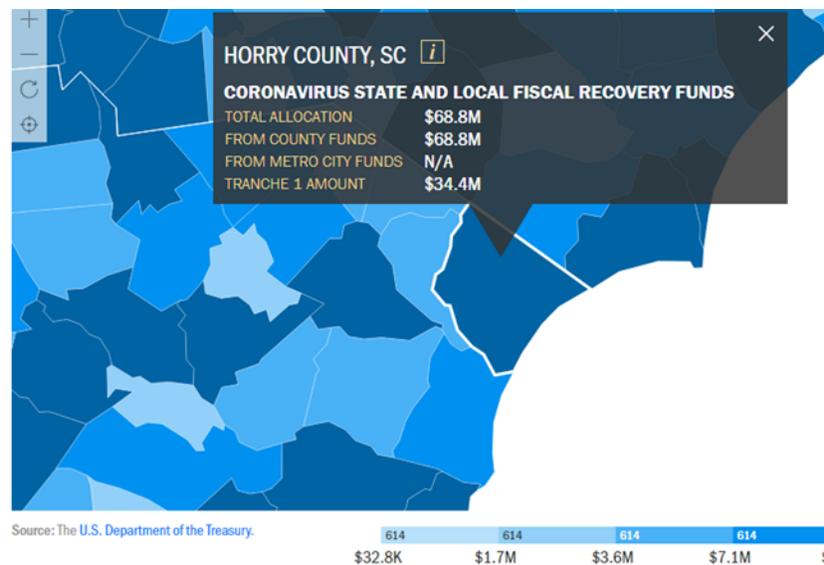
Executive Summary

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 is a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus bill passed by the United States Congress and signed into law by President Biden on March 11, 2021. It is meant to accelerate the United States' recovery from the economic and public health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. State and local governments can use the funds to cover costs obligated by December 31, 2024, for certain purposes, including:

- Responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency or its negative economic impacts, including providing assistance to households, small businesses and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel and hospitality;
- Providing premium pay to eligible workers of the government who are performing essential work, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who perform essential work;
- Funding government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue caused by the pandemic; and
- Making necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

The U.S. Treasury Department has not yet issued its final guidance regarding the permitted uses of these funds. Horry County has developed a Comprehensive Plan to develop the framework for programming this funding into eligible use categories to address local needs. The planning and implementation process aligns with the funding process of other federally-sponsored programs including the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development entitlement programs. This approach will allow Horry County to leverage other federally-sponsored COVID-19 pandemic allocations to meet the continuum of community needs throughout the County.

Local governments were constrained during the pandemic due to the increased need for services, countered by a reduction of revenues including fees and taxes due to economic downturn. In Horry County, a popular tourist destination, negative impacts on the hospitality industry were particularly acute. The CARES Act funding in 2020, designed in part to address the negative economic impacts of the



COVID-19 pandemic on state and local governments, nevertheless included guidance that expressly prohibited replacement of lost governmental revenues. This left many governments in precarious positions. Although funding was allocated to respond to the pandemic, general

governmental funds were depleted in order to maintain basic services. The ARPA allows use of funds for the “provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.” Like many other programs, such as the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), the reduction in revenue is calculated in relation to the previous full fiscal year prior to the health emergency.

Based upon the U.S. Treasury Guidance, Horry County could utilize the entire ARPA allocation toward the reduction of revenue category. In doing so, the County could then utilize the funds to meet a broader scope of recovery needs. In order to maintain the intent of the legislation, Horry County has categorized projects that meet the response and recovery areas set forth in the ARPA’s Interim Final Rule, published in the Federal Register on [date]. The “Revenue Loss for the Provision of Government Services” category allows broad flexibility to support general government services, while also allowing the County to meet its current long-term needs.

Public Health: Funds under this category support government services that provide aid to citizens, including public health and public safety. Approximately 5% of funds have been allocated to this category.

Support Economic Development: Funds to respond to the public health emergency and its negative economic impacts. 45% of funds will be utilized to foster economic recovery through infrastructure investments that aid tourism and economic development within the County.

Disproportionately Impacted Communities: 10% of funds will be allocated to support programs targeted toward those individuals and communities impacted most severely by COVID-19. These may include programs or services that address housing insecurity, lack of affordable housing, or homelessness, educational disparities, and neighborhood development.

Infrastructure Investment: 10% of funds will be allocated to make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.

Provision of Government Services: 18.5% of funds will be allocated for the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the COVID–19 public health emergency.

Proposed locally-funded activity types include:

- Overtime for public safety personnel
- Economic development & tourism infrastructure
- Development of a Community benefit grant fund
- Public facility upgrades
- Water and sewer infrastructure grant fund

The funding proposed above will be allocated on an annual basis in light of ongoing needs and the ability to leverage other COVID-related funding to address specific proposed projects. Through this process, ARPA funding has the potential not only to assist the County in recovery,

but also to effect transformational change and a more resilient infrastructure foundation for Horry County, its citizens and its visitors.

Overview of American Rescue Plan Act

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (“ARPA”) is a \$1.9 trillion economic stimulus package passed by Congress and signed by President Joe Biden on March 11, 2021, in response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and associated economic challenges. First proposed on January 14, 2021, the package builds upon many of the measures in the CARES Act 2020 and in the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021, including \$350 billion in state and local Aid. The goal of ARPA is to turn the tide on the pandemic by addressing its’ economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery.

There are four primary elements of the recovery legislation that supports the need of Horry County as it continues to recover from the pandemic.

- **Support public health response:** Fund COVID-19 mitigation efforts, medical expenses, behavioral health care and certain county public health, public safety, human services and other related staff
- **Address negative economic impacts:** Respond to economic harms to workers, families, small businesses, impacted industries and rehiring of public sector workers (including county staff)
- **Replace public sector revenue loss:** Use funds to provide government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced during the pandemic – *this provision allows a much broader use of Funds.*
- **Water, sewer and broadband infrastructure:** Make necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, invest in wastewater and stormwater infrastructure and provide unserved or underserved locations with new or expanded broadband access.

Detailed guidance on the use of ARPA funds from the U.S. Department of Treasury is ongoing. In order to expedite funding, Horry County has developed a plan that will act as framework and

Horry County Overview

Horry County, a political subdivision of the state of South Carolina, was incorporated in the year 1801. Located in the northeast corner of South Carolina, the county has a total area of 1,255 square miles, of which 1,134 square miles is land and 121 square miles (313.4 km²) (9.66%) is water. It is bounded on the north by the North Carolina State Line, on the east by the Atlantic Ocean, and on the west by Dillon and Marion counties.

The U.S. Census Data recorded the county’s population to be 354,081 (American Community Survey, Vintage 2019 Population Estimate). This represents an 80% increase in population since 2000 and 31% increase in population since 2010. By 2040, the County’s year-round population is expected to nearly double, reaching up to 584,500 permanent residents. In fact, the 2020 population projections developed in 2017 by the South Carolina Budget and Control Board for the County's long-term plan, Imagine 2040, have already been surpassed.

In addition to the growing base population, the Grand Strand beach area, one of the largest tourist destinations in the country, is located within Horry County. According to the Myrtle Beach

Area Chamber of Commerce, approximately 20.6 million tourists visited the Grand Strand area in 2019, contributing an estimated \$4.5 billion to the local economy. This increase in population has resulted in sharply increased demand for infrastructure as well as public safety services.

While all areas of the county have experienced growth, unincorporated areas have accounted for most of the growth in recent years. Approximately 75% of the permanent population lives in unincorporated areas of Horry County. 14.3% live in poverty and, due to rising housing costs driven by population increases, approximately 39% of homeowners and 56% of renters in Horry County are considered cost-burdened. In rural areas of the County, 37.3-45.4% of the population lives in mobile homes as an affordable housing option, many of which are in poor condition.

Critical Infrastructure in Horry County

Horry County contains a large amount of critical infrastructure that is protected by Horry County Fire Rescue. The County is home to four (4) hospitals including Grand Strand Regional Medical Center, a Level 1 Trauma Center (adult and pediatric) with 369 beds, Conway Medical Center, a Level 3 Trauma Center with 298 beds, McLeod Seacoast Hospital with 50 beds, McLeod Loris Hospital with 50 beds, and Lighthouse Behavioral Health Hospital with 96 beds. Horry County is also home to more than 80 additional South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) Licensed Facilities, the majority of which provide residential nursing care, assisted living care, memory care, or in-home care services. County facilities also include two (2) free standing Emergency Rooms in the north and south of the county respectively. The County is also home to fifty-two (52) public schools and sixteen (16) private schools. Adding to the County's annual population are Coastal Carolina University, with a student population of 10,641 and Horry Georgetown Technical College, with a student population of 7,856.

The County's service area also includes several major transportation arteries such as U.S. 701, U.S. 501, Hwy 9, Hwy 22, Hwy 31 and Hwy 17. Although the majority of tourists travel to the area by car, air service to the area is rapidly expanding. Myrtle Beach International Airport serves nine (9) major airlines offering nonstop service to more than fifty (50) destinations in North America, carrying more than 1.3 million passengers in and out of the county each year. Horry County has three (3) additional regional airports within the county, Conway-Horry County Airport (HYW), Grand Strand Airport - North Myrtle Beach (CRE) and Twin City Airport - Loris (5J9). A short-line railroad, R J Corman Carolina Lines, is being renovated and will be reopened in 2022 to accommodate increased freight service in Horry County, and to support economic development in the region. Critical infrastructure also includes electric utility services, provided primarily by Santee Cooper, and Horry Electric Cooperative, Inc., which primarily serves the area on western side of the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway. Water infrastructure for unincorporated areas of Horry County is largely provided by Grand Strand Water & Sewer Authority (GSWSA). GSWSA also provides contractual services to six (6) of the county's municipal water and sewer utilities and two (2) public water companies.

ARP Project Summary

Introduction

Counties have served as a key resource for the provision of relief and recovery programs throughout the pandemic, despite limited resources to address local impacts comprehensively. The American Rescue Plan includes \$65.1 billion in direct flexible aid to every county in the United States, including Horry County, which has been allocated \$68.8 million in direct funding. Recovery requires a flexible framework and strong partnerships that can pivot effectively to meet changing demands. As such, this plan is intended to provide a structured framework through which the County can deploy annual project allocations to meet the changing demands of recovery.

As a local government providing essential public services during the pandemic, Horry County was faced with substantial unplanned and unbudgeted expenditures. Resources required to meet COVID-19 related demands created budgetary pressures on the County at a time when resources were already stressed by sharply increasing population growth, particularly in the areas of public safety and transportation. Horry County has committed considerable financial resources to protect the health, safety, and economic future of its local residents. The success of our response efforts hinge on the ability of local governments to respond to the virus at a time when post-pandemic economic recovery is just beginning, and future pandemic impacts resulting from the virulent Delta variant remain uncertain. Additionally, for Horry County, a tourism-based economy, the impacts are particularly acute. Accommodations and Food Service make up 23.1% of jobs, many of which have been lost due to COVID-19. In light of the continued negative economic and public health impacts of COVID-19, a review of available local resources, and funding categories for ARPA expenditures, Horry County proposes the following framework for resource allocation under the ARPA.

Allocations & Accountability

The goal of this document is to provide a programmatic framework, project selection structure, citizen participation procedures, and performance evaluation process that will be utilized and updated through the course of the ARPA allocation period. The primary objective of this document is to articulate the program structure in order to allow for public comment, and to distribute funds in a systematic and transparent, manner. This framework also provides a continued opportunity for selection of projects that could be transformational for the residents of Horry County, especially those identified in this framework as disproportionately Impacted by COVID-19.

No less than annually, Horry County Council will allocate funding for identified activities. Activities will be selected within the project areas described herein. County staff will recommend projects for funding which will fall under two categories 1) Internal County Activities 2) Solicited Activities from outside agencies to include the Economic Development, Infrastructure, or Community Impact Fund activities.

For Solicited Activities, the a request for proposals will be publicly issued, indicated eligible organizational types, types of projects solicited, budgetary thresholds, required elements of the proposal, deadlines for questions, review criteria and due date. The County Administrator will select proposal review committees, as appropriate, to make recommendations to the County Administration Committee. The Committee will review and its funding recommendation to County Council for full consideration. Public comment processes are indicated within the Citizen Participation Plan, but will occur no less than twice per year to include adoption of the plan and the annual performance review.

Annual Resource Allocation Overview

Project Category	Uses of Funds	Expected Annual Allocation Amount		Total
		Allocation 1	Allocation 2	
Public Health & Payroll	COVID-19 Emergency Response Payroll	\$3,438,804.15		\$3,438,804.15
Negative Economic Impacts	Infrastructure to support economic development improvements	\$9,480,216.60	\$21,469,020.75	\$30,949,237.35
Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities	Community development fund and projects that serve disproportionately impacted community	\$3,563,804.15	\$3,313,804.15	\$6,877,608.30
Infrastructure	Investments in water, sewer & stormwater	\$3,438,804.15	\$3,438,804.15	\$6,877,608.30
Revenue Replacement: Provision of Government Services	Facility improvements related to sanitation, security, and general infrastructure improvements	\$10,511,787.68	\$2,211,787.68	\$12,723,575.36
Administrative & Contingency	10% project contingency & 1.5% administrative allocation	\$3,954,624.77	\$3,954,624.77	\$7,909,249.55

Project Name	Administration & Contingency
Goals Supported	Effective and efficient distribution of ARP funding.
Funding	\$7,909,249.55
Project Description	Funds to support the administrative elements of program planning, implementation, monitoring, reporting, and auditing. Contingency for program activities.
Disproportionate Community Benefit	n/a
Prospective Activities /Location Description	n/a
Project Name	Provision of Government Services: Public Health
Goals Supported	COVID Impacted – Overtime
Funding	\$3,438,804.15
Project Description	Payroll for County employees responding to COVID-19
Disproportionate Community Benefit	No
Prospective Activities /Location Description	Payroll overtime for county employees, public safety personnel including emergency responders to respond to COVID -19 community needs.
Project Name	Aid to Tourism, Travel & Hospitality
Goals Supported	Negative Economic Impacts
Funding	\$29,000,000.00
Project Description	Funds to respond to the public health emergency and its negative economic impacts.
Disproportionate Community Benefit	Yes
Prospective Activities /Location Description	Capital improvements to beaches facilities and development of the Rural Civic/ Equestrian Center.
Project Name	Other Economic Support
Goals Supported	Negative Economic Impacts
Funding	\$1,949,237.35
Project Description	Funds to respond to the public health emergency and its negative economic impacts.
Disproportionate Community Benefit	No
Prospective Activities /Location Description	Development of infrastructure for development of Industrial parks, as well as construction of a new Coast RTA operations and maintenance facility.

Project Name	Community Impact Projects& Community Parks & Openspace
Goals Supported	Building stronger communities through investments in housing & neighborhoods.
Funding	\$6,877,608.30
Project Description	Funds to assist disproportionately impacted communities. Programs or services that address housing insecurity, lack of affordable housing, or homelessness, neighborhood development.
Disproportionate Community Benefit	Yes
Prospective Activities /Location Description	Affordable Housing projects and community impact fund.
Project Name	Revenue Replacement: Provision of Government Services
Goals Supported	Public Health Facilities and Government Facility Capital Improvements
Funding	\$12,723,575.36
Project Description	Funds for the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the COVID–19 public health emergency
Disproportionate Community Benefit	A number of projects will provide increased opportunities to access government services including public health services and opportunities for public input.
Prospective Activities /Location Description	DHEC Facility improvements, technology: increased broadcast capabilities and security upgrades. Building upgrades to improve facility sanitation and mitigate virus transmission. Additional funding allocated address COVID impacts on the waste management system.
Project Name	Infrastructure
Goals Supported	Drinking Water: Transmission & Distribution
Funding	\$6,877,608.30
Project Description	To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.
Disproportionate Community Benefit	Potentially based on selected project service area.
Prospective Activities /Location Description	Completion of water distribution and system upgrades solicited through a competitive process.

Public Health

The U.S. Treasury recognizes that responding to the public health and negative economic impacts of the pandemic, including administering the services described above, requires a substantial commitment of State, local, and Tribal government human resources. As a result, the ARP Funds may be used for payroll and covered benefits expenses for public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees, to the extent that their services are devoted to

mitigating or responding to the COVID–19 public health emergency. Accordingly, Horry County will utilize funds to support the payroll and covered benefits for public safety division employee’s time that is dedicated to responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency. These employees include, EMS professionals, firefighters, E911 dispatch, police, and sheriff deputies.

Negative Economic Impacts

Historically, Horry County has been an important economic contributor to the financial success and stability of South Carolina and a leader in hospitality and tourism sector. Some of the metrics indicating the favorable impacts to the state as reported by the SC Department of Revenue and the SC Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism indicate that Horry County, ranks 4th in the State with a population of 354,081, and is also a national Top golf destination. The County is 1st in Accommodations Tax Revenues, \$21.8 million (29.1 % of state) ;1st in Admissions Tax Revenue, \$9.9 million (23.8% of state); and 1st in domestic travel expenditures with \$4.8 billion, 31.4% of State, supporting \$907 million in payroll income and 44,700 jobs for area residents, \$297.5 million state tax receipts. The area recorded 20.6 million visitors in 2019 (D.K. Shifflet & Associates Ltd. study).

Nationally, on net, the leisure and hospitality industry has experienced an approximately 24 percent decline in revenue and approximately 17 percent decline in employment nationwide due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. A study published by the Brookings Institute placed Myrtle Beach ninth among all U.S. metro areas as most vulnerable to the economic downturn resulting from the health crisis. About 29 percent of all jobs in the area fall in sectors considered “at risk”, with the vast majority of those in the leisure and hospitality category. Economic recovery activities in this category of ARPA funding may include the development of economic infrastructure, and tourism facility development and/or improvements.

Activities under this category could include the development of an industrial park, expansion of service areas along the beaches, including expanded parking, parks, and restroom facilities, improvements to transportation facilities, and the development of a rural Civic/ Equestrian Center.

Investments in Infrastructure

The ARPA provides funds to State, local, and Tribal governments to make necessary investments in water and sewer infrastructure. By permitting ARPA funds to be used for water and sewer infrastructure needs, Congress recognized the critical role that clean drinking water and services for the collection and treatment of wastewater and stormwater play in protecting public health. APRA funding will enable Horry County to make necessary investments in these sectors. The ARPA interim guidance allows for a broad range of necessary investments in projects that improve access to clean drinking water, upgrade wastewater and stormwater infrastructure systems, and provide access to high-quality broadband service.

Horry County will solicit applications for water, sewer, and stormwater projects from eligible providers. Industry applicants may address a number of issues outlined by U.S. Treasury to

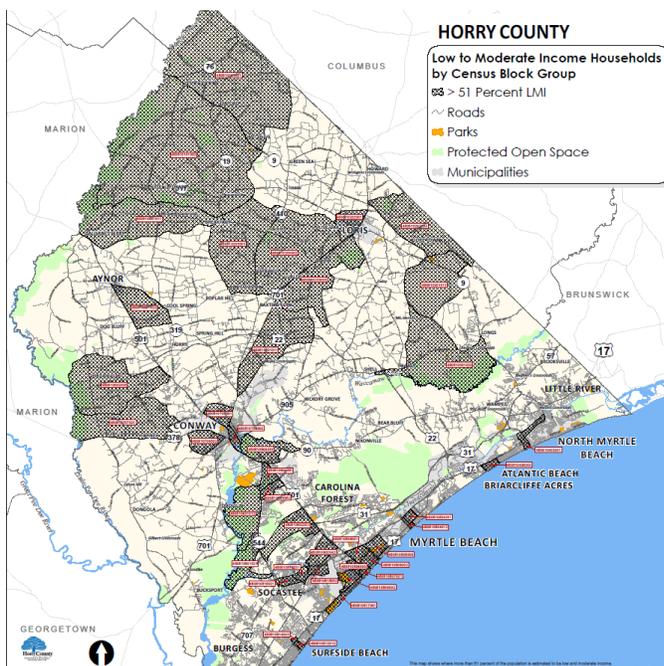
achieve the following aims: 1) Improve drinking water infrastructure, such as building or upgrading facilities and transmission, distribution, and storage systems, including replacement of lead service lines, 2) Support the consolidation or establishment of drinking water systems, and 3) Construct publicly owned treatment infrastructure, manage and treat stormwater or subsurface drainage water, facilitate water reuse, and secure publicly-owned treatment works. Additional eligible categories may be included when the U.S. Treasury has issued its final rule.

Disproportionately Impacted Communities

The negative impacts of the coronavirus pandemic have affected not only local economies but also families, employers and governments in unprecedented ways. Money spent under this category should address an economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency.

Economic disparities that existed prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency were amplified because of the impacts of the pandemic among low-income and minority cohort groups. Families facing housing, food, and financial insecurity are over-represented among low-income workers. Economic impacts of COVID-19 are most acute in lower income neighborhoods, which suffer from unemployment, housing instability, and educational disparities. Lower-income neighborhoods can also benefit from programs designed to promote healthy environments. Qualified activities may also have presumed benefits that provide services in qualified census tracts.

A qualified census tract (QCT), is an area that has an assumed disparate impact. Other low-income communities and communities of color also faced exacerbating effects on economic inequality, so funds may address disproportionate negative economic effects due to the COVID-19 public health emergency in the following ways:



- Investing in housing and neighborhoods to strengthen communities by supporting unhoused individuals and increasing supply of affordable and high-quality living units;
- Addressing educational and childhood welfare disparities by expanding early learning services and promoting evidence-based practices that address mental health needs of students; and
- Elevate healthy childhood environments through expanding childcare and enhancing services for child welfare-involved families.

In 2017, Horry County published a HUD-approved Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) plan. This plan utilizes a HUD-prescribed framework to review disparities found within the County, focusing on the identification of concentrated poverty, disparities in access to opportunities, and disproportionate housing needs. Local indicators suggest a need for further investments in education, affordable housing and improved access to public transportation and primary community needs. The existing gaps identified in the AFFH plan have been exacerbated by the pandemic. As such, Horry County will continue to prioritize all competitive proposals that serve a disproportionately impacted community and meet a goal of the AFFH plan.

Revenue Replacement

Provision of Government Services

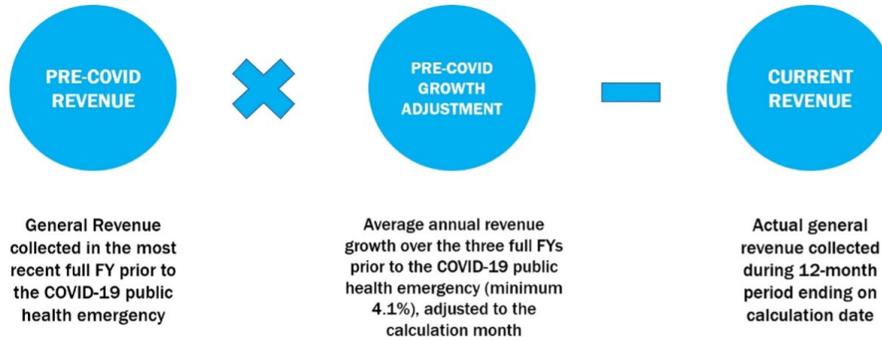
Horry County will make improvements to public facilities and services designed to reduce the risk of infection through the spread of airborne pathogens. Within the ARPA, such improvements can include improved ventilation, physical barriers or partitions, signage to facilitate social distancing, provision of masks or personal protective equipment, or consultation with infection prevention professionals to develop safe reopening plans. Provision of government services in the revenue replacement category also extends to roads and bridges. Projects will be designed to improve the safety and wellbeing of citizens by improving roads and ensuring structurally sound transportation infrastructure within the County.

Calculation of Revenue Reduction

One eligible category Counties may use Fiscal Recovery Funds is to replace lost revenue and then use these funds for a broad range of government services, programs and projects outside of explicit eligible uses of recovery funds under the interim rule. Additionally, the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), **calculation model. This calculation occurs in three steps.**

1. A county must determine its revenue collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the pandemic (i.e. last full fiscal year prior to January 27, 2020), also known as the base year.
2. After the base year figure is known, the county determines its average annual growth rate (i.e. growth adjustment) over the last three fiscal years prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
3. Identify actual revenue, which equals revenues collected over the past 12 months.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) has developed the figure below, which provides an overview of how a county calculates revenue loss:



In addition to developing the revenue loss calculation utilizing the prescribed methodology, Horry County also prepares its financial statements in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) as applied to governmental units. The Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) is the accepted standard-setting body for establishing governmental accounting and financial reporting principles.

Base Year Revenue - The base year for calculating revenue reduction is Fiscal Year 2019, the most recent year completed prior to the pandemic. Revenue for Fiscal Year 2019 totaled \$535,335,530 prior to excluded items. Base year revenue is calculated by removing excluded items as prescribed in the American Rescue Plan Act and Treasury Guidance. Exclusions are included for refunds and correcting transactions which are netted with reported revenues, proceeds from the issuance of debt which did not occur in the base period, interfund transfer which includes indirect cost allocation, interfund transfers, and interfund charges for service included in the internal service funds.

Horry County assumed the average actual three-year growth rate over the prescribed growth adjustment of 4.1% as provided in Treasury Guidance. The average actual three-year growth rate can be utilized if higher. A calculation of the actual rate represents a growth rate of 13.73%.

Therefore, the revenue reduction for the year ended December 31, 2020 is calculated by applying the same exclusions as noted above for revenues collected January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020 (six months of Fiscal Year 2020) and July 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 (six months of Fiscal Year 2021). The chart below reflects the revenue reduction for December 31, 2020 of \$147,922,915.

Horry County, South Carolina
Calculation of Revenue Reduction at December 31, 2020

Detailed Revenue (Year Ended December 31, 2020)	539,839,869
Excluded Items	
Refunds ¹	-
Correcting transactions ¹	-
Proceeds from the issuance of debt	23,981,312
Intergovernmental transfers (Federal)	56,302,908
Interfund transfers	46,981,736
Subtotal excluded items	127,265,956
Adjusted Revenue	412,573,913
Calculated Revenue Max (Fiscal Year 2019)	560,496,828
Revenue Reduction (Year Ended December 31, 2020)	147,922,915

¹ Included as reductions in detailed revenues.

Leveraged Funds

In addition to the ARPA funding, Horry County continues to benefit from additional federal supplemental funding that is intended to mitigate the negative economic and public health impacts, with a particular focus on disproportionately impacted communities. On March 27, 2020, the Federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) was signed into law to assist communities in their efforts to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. The CARES Act included supplemental formula allocations to HUD’s Community Planning and Development (CPD) programs, including CDBG (CDBG-CV), the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG-CV), and HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) for Horry County. The additional CARES Act funds allocated to the County were \$3,422,118 in aggregate for CDBG-CV and \$2,173,736 in aggregate for ESG-CV. Horry County has also received supplemental HOME funding in the amount of \$3,823,021. Horry County developed funding priorities aligning with program objectives and in compliance with the CDBG, ESG and HOME regulations respectively.

To date, CDBG-CV, Horry County has allocated funding to small business technical assistance (\$300,000), small business direct assistance (\$1,180,000), public services (\$270,000), rent/mortgage/utility assistance (303,065), small business direct assistance for Myrtle Beach (\$684,423), and administration (\$684,410). Technical assistance to small businesses allows for guidance for navigation of available funding resources to prevent, prepare for, and/or respond to the Coronavirus. Small business direct assistance consists of financial support to small businesses to maintain operations and retain full time equivalent low to moderate income jobs. Public services includes activities that served low to moderate income persons through programming that is designed to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the Coronavirus.

Administrative costs include planning, reporting, and compliance to ensure that CDBG-CV funds are utilized in a manner compliant with the CARES Act, CDBG regulations, and other applicable laws and authorities.

During the 2020-2021 Program Year, Horry County expended \$1,005,289.45 in CDBG-CV funds to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the Coronavirus. Activities included financial assistance to qualifying small businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. To date, more than \$1.1 Million in CDBG-CV funds have been obligated to assist more than 50 small businesses in Horry County and the City of Myrtle Beach. Additionally, public services were funded through CDBG-CV to provide support for safety and programming modifications to allow for continuing operation of a program assisting adults with Autism (\$4,838.83) and an after school program (\$10,043).

For ESG-CV, Horry County has allocated funding to rapid rehousing (\$960,812), homelessness prevention (\$759,703), emergency shelter (\$178,221), HMIS (\$85,000), subrecipient administration (\$95,000), and administration (\$95,000). Rapid rehousing includes rental assistance to help homeless individuals or families move as quickly as possible into permanent housing and achieve stability. Homelessness prevention consists of arrears and other assistance to prevent households who are at risk of homelessness from becoming being evicted and becoming homeless due to effects derived from the COVID-19 pandemic. Emergency shelter consists of vouchers for overnight stays for homeless individuals while isolating due to COVID-19 concerns. HMIS data management includes tracking of individuals and households receiving assistance through the ESG-CV program. Administration includes planning, reporting, and compliance to ensure that ESG-CV funds are utilized in a manner compliant with the CARES Act, ESG regulations, and other applicable laws and authorities.

During the 2020-2021 Program Year, Horry County expended \$1,126,770.60 in ESG-CV funds to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the Coronavirus. Activities have included homelessness prevention, rapid rehousing, emergency shelter, HMIS, and administration. To date, 182 persons have been assisted through rapid rehousing, 303 persons have been served through homelessness prevention, and 118 persons have received emergency shelter overnight vouchers. In addition to the above funding, Horry County has been awarded Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) program funding through the U.S. Treasury. The Emergency Rental Assistance program makes funding available to assist households that are unable to pay rent or utilities. Two separate programs were established: ERA1 was established under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, which was enacted on December 27, 2020, and ERA2 was established under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which was enacted on March 11, 2021. To date, Horry County has been awarded funding under both ERA 1 and ERA 2. In order to implement this program, Horry County has partnered with the Eastern Carolina Housing Organization (ECHO). Individuals interested in receiving rental and utility assistance can apply to the program through the following link: <https://erap.echousing.org>.

ARPA Appropriation #1:

Appropriation # 1	
Public Health	
Public Health - COVID Overtime	\$ 3,438,804.15
Provision of Government Services	
Cyber Security	\$ 2,000,000.00
Remote Work Capabilities	\$ 511,787.68
DHEC South Strand	\$ 100,000.00
COVID Impacts - Waste Management	\$ 400,000.00
Facility Information Technology Enhancements	\$ 100,000.00
County Facility Security & Upgrades	\$ 550,000.00
Total	\$ 7,100,591.83

Horry County ARP Citizen Participation Plan

I. Purpose

As a recipient of U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) funds, Horry County is required to formally outline and document measures to promote the active participation of Horry County residents in the planning process regarding Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and HOME Investment Partnerships Program funds. Horry County intends on aligning the American Rescue Plan (ARP) citizen participation plan processes. The goal of the citizen participation plan is to actively encourage citizens, particularly the low and moderate income population, to contribute to the planning processes as well as the performance and evaluation process annually.

II. Public Meetings and Hearings

All notices of public meetings will be published in local newspapers at least ten (10) days prior to the public meeting. Notices will also be posted electronically on the Horry County website at www.horrycounty.org. All public meetings will be held at times and in locations convenient to residents, particularly those who are potential or actual beneficiaries. Meetings will be held at a variety of times to provide maximum flexibility for an array of citizen schedules. Attention will be given to ensure meeting times increase the probability of maximum citizen participation. Meetings will not be scheduled on Sundays.

III. Public Comment Period

A public comment period is provided to the public during the ARP planning and implementation process. The public will have 15 days after publication to provide written comments regarding the Annual Appropriation Plan, Annual Evaluation and Performance period, and any substantial change to the Plan.

The publication in local newspapers shall include a summary of the contents and purpose of the Action/Consolidated Plan, and shall include a list of the locations where copies of the entire proposed plan may be examined. The County will respond to all written correspondence received. Comments can be sent via e-mail to arpa@horrycounty.org

IV. Amendments/Changes

Prior to making any substantial change to the American Rescue Plan Framework or Annual Appropriation Plans, Horry County will hold at least one (1) public hearing to inform citizens, particularly those who might be affected by the proposed change, and to solicit public comment. Examples of a substantial change would be a 50% decrease in the number of proposed beneficiaries, any increase or decrease of more than 50% in the budget, and/or any addition or deletion of proposed activities.

V. Program Performance

Horry County will conduct one (1) public hearing annually to review program performance and accomplishments for that plan year. This public hearing will address and outline the various activities that have been accomplished or are underway.

VI. Access to Information and Records

Horry County's Citizen Participation Plan is included as a part of the American Rescue Plan. The Framework for the Horry County American Rescue Plan is available for public review on the County's web site at www.horrycounty.org. The Plan is also available at the Horry County Community Development Office, located at 100 Elm Street, Conway, SC 29526. Hours of operation are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, with the exception of designated holidays. Copies of the Plan can also be requested by mail or phone. Residents can contact the Community Development Director at 843-915-7033 or mail a written request to the above address Attn: Community Development Director. Information and records open to the public are located in the Horry County Government Community Development Office, 100 Elm Street, Conway, SC 29526. Confidential materials, such as documents that include a citizen's personal identity information, are not available for public review.

VII. Grievances

Complaints and grievances are handled in a timely and professional manner. All complaints are reviewed by the Community Development Director and the Assistant County Administrator. Written grievances should be addressed to Horry County Government, Department of Community Development, 100 Elm Street, Conway, South Carolina 29526. Written responses to complaints and other general grievances will be made within fifteen (15) days after receipt of the complaint. A response to the complaint will be prepared by the Assistant County Administrator.

VIII. Accommodate Individuals with Disabilities and Non-English Speaking Population

Horry County will accommodate the needs of individuals with disabilities including hearing impairment as well as non-English speaking residents, as required by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Individuals with specific requirements may make requests at least twenty four hours in advance, in order to fully participate in public meetings.

Census figures for Horry County indicate that less than 10% of the County population is non-English speaking and there are no significant concentrations of non-English speaking residents within the County as determined by the most currently available Census data. If 10% or more of the potential or actual beneficiaries of a Community Development project are determined to be non-English speaking, provisions will be made at the appropriate public hearings for translation of comments and documents into the native language of the majority of the non-English speaking residents affected.