

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

STATE & LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS

REPORTING PERIOD

July 31, 2023

Cherokee County

1831
GEORGIA

Cherokee County, GA
Cherokee County Board of Commissioners

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
2023 Report

\$50,263,608

Amount Awarded



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Cherokee County Board of Commissioners has a unique opportunity to utilize the funds received from the American Rescue Plan Act to help the County, its citizens and businesses to recover from the Coronavirus or COVID-19 Pandemic. The County has used the funds to aid with the following broad initiatives:

- Job Training & Retraining Programs
- Business Recovery Programs
- Facility Improvements
- Judicial System Enhancements
- Make Up Lost Revenues
- Health and Safety Initiatives
- Technology Improvements
- Homelessness & Community Needs

To date, Cherokee County has utilized and/or allocated its entire allotment for the initiatives listed above.

More details on programs and projects in each category are discussed in the Project Inventory portion of this report.

Use of Funds

Cherokee County has allocated 100 percent of its awarded funding and expended almost 14 percent to date. Funding was appropriated across all seven expenditure categories to help support a strong and equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn. Specific strategies to maximize programmatic impact and effective, efficient, and equitable outcomes continue to be determined.

Cherokee County is promoting projects in each of the following Expenditure Categories:

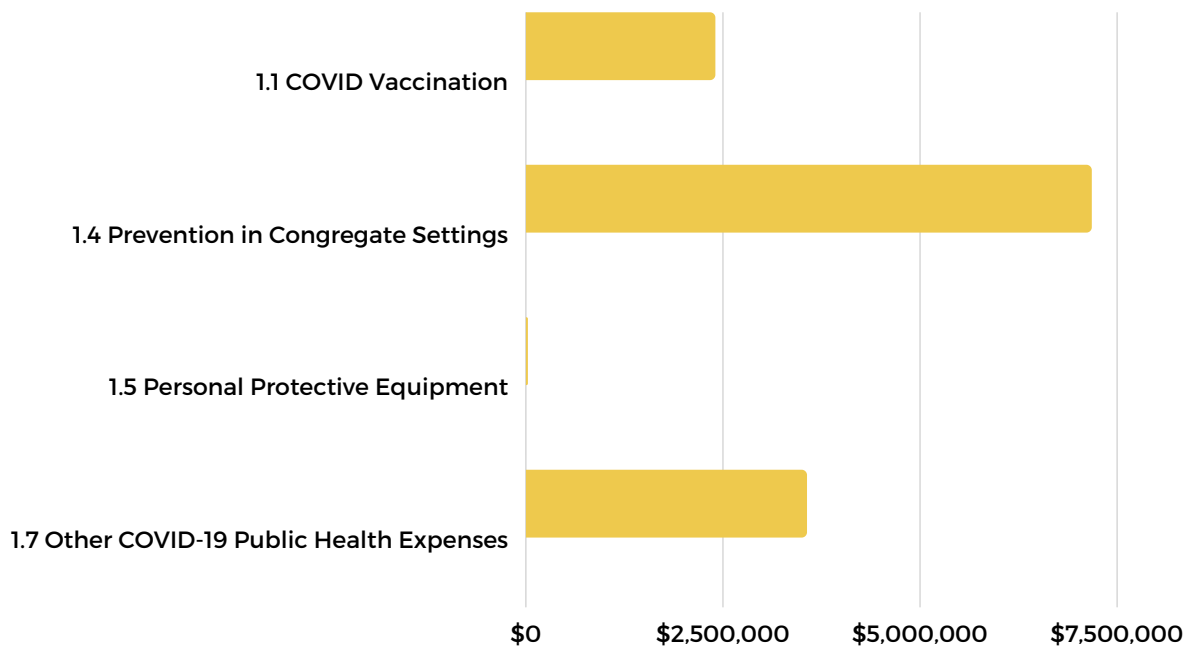
- a. Public Health (EC 1)
- b. Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2)
- c. Public Health - Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity (EC 3)
- d. Premium Pay (EC 4)
- e. Infrastructure (EC 5)
- f. Revenue Replacement (EC 6)
- g. Administrative (EC 7)

EC1 PUBLIC HEALTH

Public health was at the forefront of decision making when allocating State and Local Fiscal Recovery funding through the American Rescue Plan Act. Cherokee County identified areas that could be improved upon and protecting both frontline workers and the general public from the COVID-19 virus. The County Administration Building served as a mass vaccination site through a partnership with the local hospital. A storage building was required to house all of the vaccination partitions and equipment and are ready should another vaccination event be needed. To allow for social distancing, the County leased space for the court system and purchased an existing facility for elections. Personal Protective Equipment was purchased for the county coroner's office, and medical equipment and transport vehicles were included.

EC1 Allocation Total: \$13,133,729

Total Expended: \$8,188,497 Remaining: \$4,945,232



EC2:

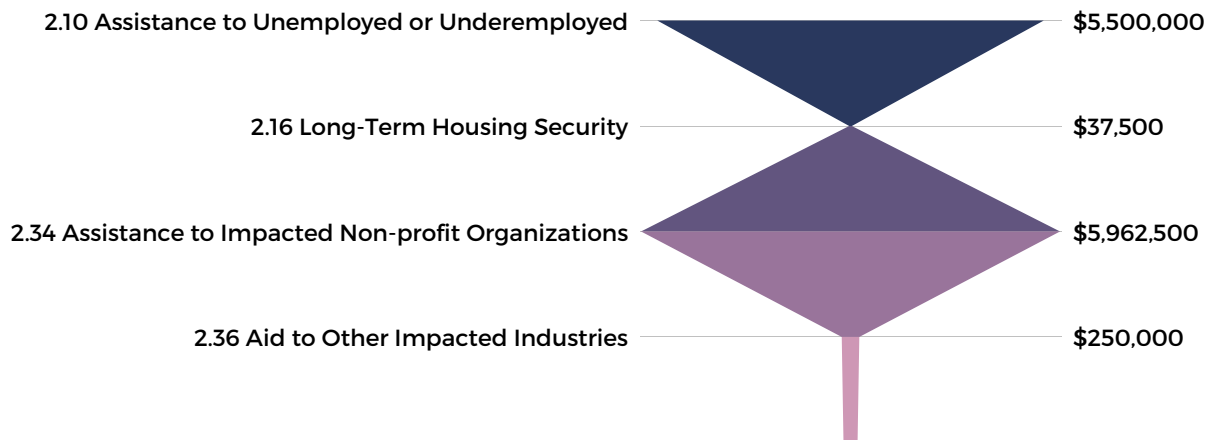
NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS



Funding allocated for assistance to households, businesses and non-profits under Negative Economic Impacts puts focus on identifying and serving the needs of the underprivileged and helping people get back to work through job assistance and training programs. The County has allocated \$5-million for non-profits to help provide relief in housing expenses, homelessness and provide everyday assistance to those in need. The County has issued two rounds of solicitations and made awards to 12 non-profits. The County has also partnered with the Cherokee Office of Economic Development and allocated \$5.5-million to assist local businesses that experienced a negative economic impact due to COVID-19 and provide job training assistance to under and unemployed workers. The final project with COED is the installation of a new sewer line from Ball Ground to Canton in order to expand the infrastructure to allow new industrial development along the northern corridor of the County.

EC2 Allocation Total: \$10,500,000

Total Expended: \$2,823,884 | Remaining: \$7,676,116



*EC3: Public Health-
Negative Economic Impact*

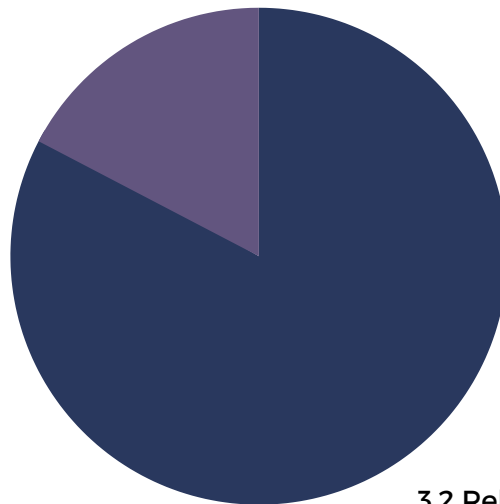
PUBLIC SECTOR CAPACITY

The Public Sector, especially Court Services, faced a backlog during the COVID-19 pandemic, fueled by shutdowns ordered by the Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice. Cherokee County has allocated about \$5.5 million to provide additional space and hire more personnel to process existing and new cases in the court system. Enhancing Service Delivery Effectiveness efforts include a secure, records storage upgrade/expansion for the County Clerk, Clerk of Courts and Sheriff's Office, the addition of a code enforcement module, body camera system for the Sheriff's Office, upgrades to both the camera system and duress system for the Sheriff's Office.

EC3 Allocation Total: \$6,695,267

Total Expended: \$3,492,380 | Remaining: \$3,202,887

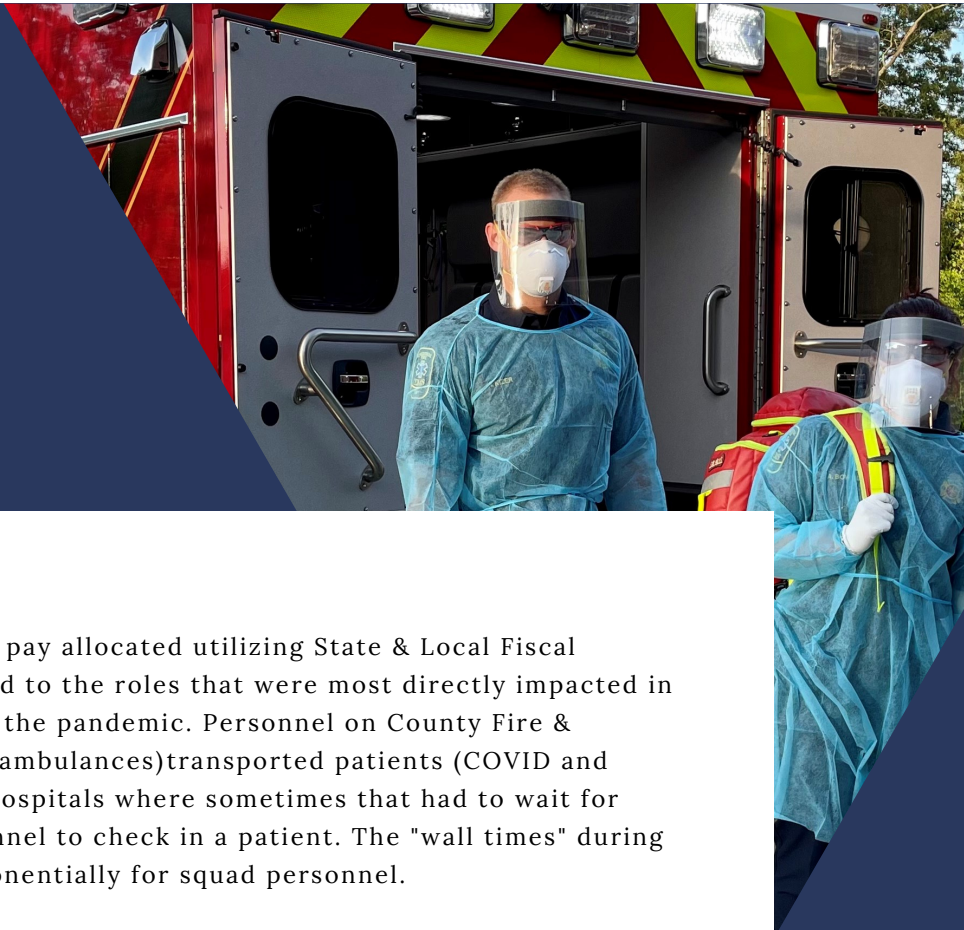
**3.4 Effective Service Delivery
\$1,161,230**



**3.2 Rehiring Public Sector Staff
\$5,534,037**

EC4

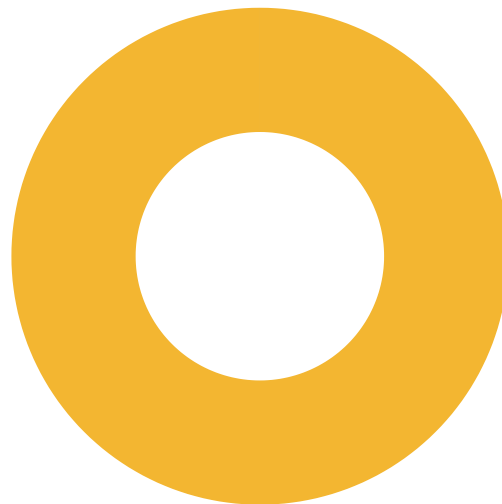
PREMIUM PAY



The majority of the premium pay allocated utilizing State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funding was applied to the roles that were most directly impacted in their day-to-day jobs during the pandemic. Personnel on County Fire & Emergency Services squads (ambulances) transported patients (COVID and non-COVID related) to area hospitals where sometimes that had to wait for hours for the hospital personnel to check in a patient. The "wall times" during the pandemic increased exponentially for squad personnel.

EC4 Allocation Total: \$2,038,856

Total Expended: \$2,038,856 | Remaining: \$0



**4.1 Premium Pay
\$2,651,739**

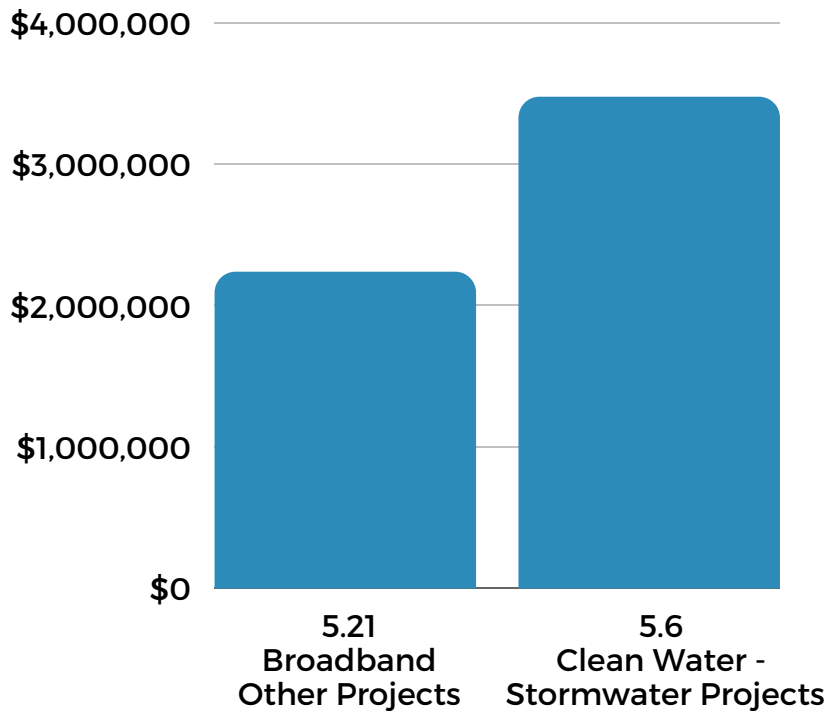
EC5

INFRASTRUCTURE

Cherokee County identified two segments of infrastructure projects including cybersecurity and stormwater. The County allocated about \$2.2 million for infrastructure improvements and increasing bandwidth to protect the County's digital infrastructure from cybersecurity threats, including firewalls, additional offline storage for the Justice Center and main administration building, and encryption solutions. Nearly \$3.5 million was allocated for multiple stormwater projects in unincorporated Cherokee County to protect public and personal property, as well the County's waterways.

EC5 Allocation Total: \$5,707,339

Total Expended: \$2,318,741 | Remaining: \$3,388,598

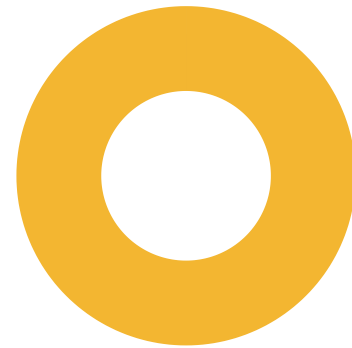


EC6

REVENUE REPLACEMENT

As provided by guidance by the U.S. Treasury, Cherokee County received the allocated \$10 million for lost revenue, which is used for the provision of government services.

EC6 Allocation Total: \$10,000,000
Total Expended: \$0 | Remaining: \$10,000,000



6.1 Provision of Government Services
 \$10,000,000

EC7

ADMINISTRATIVE

Cherokee County identified an existing employee with the proper knowledge and credentials to manage the documentation and ensure compliance with U.S. Treasury guidance. The Grant Manager salary is being funded through this program.

EC7 Allocation Total: \$125,534
Total Expended: \$98,482 | Remaining: \$27,052