

County Executive/Board of Commissioners  
Evaluation Standards for the Expenditure of  
American Rescue Plan Act Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

**Purpose**

Oakland County has been allocated \$244 million in American Rescue Plan Act Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. The use of these funds will be pivotal in shaping the strength, sustainability, and equity of Oakland County's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and future economic growth. The County Executive and Board of Commissioners establish the following guiding principles and standard evaluation criteria to be utilized in the development and presentation of proposals for the expenditure of County Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. It shall be responsibility of the proposing department, elected official and staff to complete an assessment worksheet detailing conformance of the proposal with guiding principles and standard evaluation criteria detailed below. Additionally, all proposals will need to clearly adhere to federal eligibility requirements for Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

**Investment Categories**

**Acute:** Limited, short-term investments that effectively mitigate clear and immediate community needs directly related to the COVID-19 public health emergency and its negative economic impacts. Funds may be utilized to facilitate equitable access to federal, state, and local programs targeted at addressing the acute need and to bridge short-term coverage gaps.

**Chronic:** One-time investments targeted at addressing long-term community needs that have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency and its negative economic impacts. These investments should bring transformational change and be sustainable without creating an ongoing obligation of county general funds. Funding should not be used for ongoing programs except for very limited pilots with clearly defined metrics of success.

**Guiding Principles and Evaluation Criteria**

Pandemic Response and Recovery

- Define correlation and effectiveness of proposed expenditure to address critical community needs caused by the COVID-19 public health emergency and its negative economic impacts.

Equity and Addressing Disproportionate COVID-19 Impacts

- Demonstrate effectiveness of proposed expenditure to address the needs of populations, households, and geographic areas disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 virus and its negative health and economic outcomes.

Transformational

- Demonstrate propensity for proposed expenditure to make a lasting impact to improve economic, environmental, social and health outcomes for residents.

### Leveraged and Coordinated

- Detail the planned use of additional resources from the public, private and non-profit sectors to maximize the reach and impact of the proposed expenditure.
- Evaluation of external planned/existing funding sources targeted at addressing identified need to improve coordination and avoid duplication of effort.

### Sustainable and Effective

- Demonstrate proposal ensures investment provides a material benefit with long-term financial viability without incurring any fiscal obligation to Oakland County beyond the availability of Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.
- Detail proposed metrics to evaluate the effectiveness of proposed expenditure in meeting stated objectives and demonstrate the return on investment.
- Provide supporting documentation and evidence that the proposed expenditure is an effective means to address the identified community need.

### Efficient

- Detail administrative responsibilities and associated costs to implement the proposal

### Priority Focus Areas

- Detail impact of proposed expenditure in addressing county COVID-19 response and recovery responsibilities and/or one or more of the following priority focus areas:
  - a. Health Care**

**Increasing access to quality physical and behavioral health care, close disparities in health care outcomes and address the social determinants of health.**
  - b. Housing and Food Insecurity**

**Addressing the long-term need for quality public housing, create a system that provides affordable housing options throughout the county and end homelessness.**
  - c. Workforce Development**

**Advancing the number of residents with a post-secondary degree or certification, to increase the wages of residents, eliminate barriers to employment, and ensure a talent pipeline for our businesses.**
  - d. Economic Innovation**

**Establishing an economic eco-system that further supports future advanced technologies and entrepreneurship. Recognizing the role of Foreign Direct Investment in our county economy, the county seeks to retain its ranking as a global destination while supporting increased opportunity for female, minority-owned, immigrant and small business development.**

**e. Environmental Sustainability**

**Addressing climate change and preserving our natural resources. Recognizing that our expansive park and trail system, thousands of lakes and recreational opportunities contribute greatly to our quality of life, the county deems to build on this and ensure all residents' benefit.**

**f. Placemaking and Infrastructure**

**Partnering with local governments to make long overdue investment in critical water and sewer infrastructure. Invest in arts, culture and other placemaking initiatives to promote vibrant and thriving communities.**

**g. Improving County Government Services and Operations**