



ALABAMA AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN IN ACTION

April 2022 | As a part of its ARP Toolkit, the Southern Economic Advancement Project publishes its quarterly report for its ARP Local Funds Spending Tracker, highlighting State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds spending decisions currently underway by local leaders.

www.theseap.org | www.southstrong.org

BACKGROUND

As part of the American Rescue Plan ([ARP](#)), the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) is delivering \$130 billion in direct support across every community in the U.S. The scope and scale of the SLFRF program are unprecedented, and local governments have broad discretion in how to spend these funds, as well as an extended spending timeline (through 12/31/2026).

For the past year, the Southern Economic Advancement Project ([SEAP](#)) has been working to encourage local leaders to choose strategic recovery investments that address the highest priority needs and help residents and neighborhoods most affected by the pandemic. SEAP's [ARP Toolkit](#) provides resources and information to assist local governments and advocates in making the most of their SLFRF funds. SEAP ARP Assistance team's goal is to help residents and local governments work together to build SLFRF spending plans that incorporate community input and achieve a more sustainable, equitable recovery.

NOTABLE TOOLS, DATA & RESOURCES

ARP Local Funds Tracker Shows Real-Time Info on Cities' SLFRF Spending

The data through March 31, 2022, illustrates that the work to set priorities for local recovery funds is still very much in progress. In many communities, the majority of most local recovery funds have yet to be allocated. In these places, local government leaders and residents are working to collect input on needs and priorities and to identify investments that will have the most impact. SEAP's new [ARP Local Funds Spending Tracker](#) offers a first look at the status of over 120 cities' SLFRF spending across several Southern states.

The tracker also provides data on specific SLFRF spending choices for those cities that have made some decisions. Any planned SLFRF spending is grouped into 13 categories like spending on public health, affordable housing, business support, or general government. Our interactive tool allows viewers to access this information at either the city or state level.

Most communities (Non-entitlement Units of Local Government (NEUs) with a population of less than 250,000) are not required to report on their SLFRF spending until April 2022. These reports will only reflect actual expenses to date, not forward-looking plans. The tracker identifies real-time SLFRF plans, assesses the status of local decision-making, and visualizes trends in the type of recovery spending underway.

Notes:

Q4-2021 is defined by October - December of 2021.

Q1-2022 is defined by January - March of 2022.



SECOND-QUARTER RESULTS: ALABAMA

Our data currently covers 16 cities in Alabama. These cities have a population of more than 20,000 and collectively will receive \$382 million in SLFRF funds. Included in this report are key findings across the state.

Results on Status of SLFRF Decision Making in AL Cities:

Most spending decisions haven't happened.

- Roughly one-third of the AL cities (38%) have not made any spending decisions.
- Across all AL cities, 70% of funds are not yet programmed. There remains a significant opportunity for community engagement to help set local spending priorities, and advocate for strategic and equitable SLFRF investments.

Spending decisions to date are somewhat limited to the first allocation of funds.

- Of the 10 cities with some SLFRF decisions made, 7 cities have plans that are limited to some or all of the first half of funds.
- Three cities have made plans for most or all of their total funding.

Larger cities are further along in their spending decisions.

- Alabama's largest city is Huntsville, with a population of 215,000. Similar to other states, this larger city has more developed SLFRF spending plans than smaller cities.
- Huntsville has approved spending plans for all of its total allocation of \$34 million.

Alabama Results on Type of SLFRF Spending Planned to Date

Across the Alabama dataset, spending plans show funding in a range of categories. The highest priorities for decisions to date include Capital Expenses, Revenue Replacement/General Gov't., and Premium Pay. Within the Capital Expenses category, more than half of the spending is from Huntsville's spending plans.

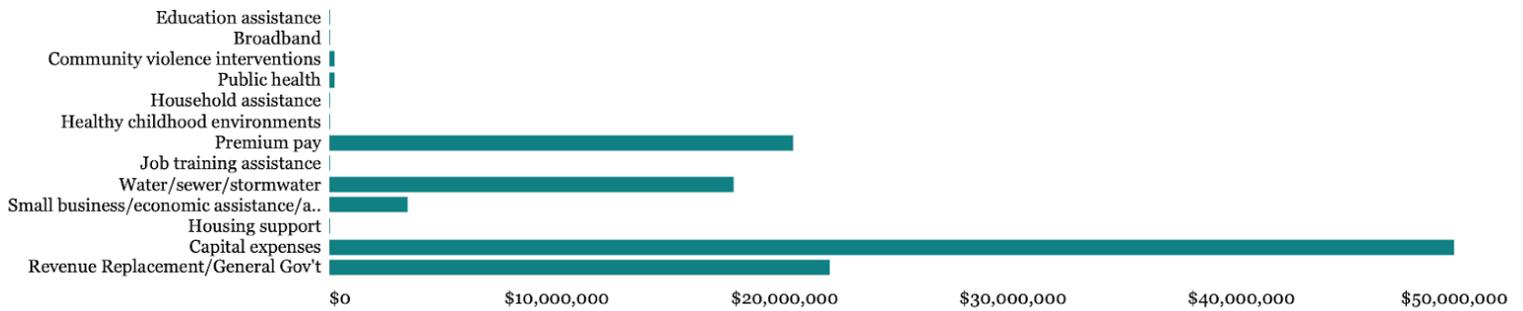


SECOND-QUARTER RESULTS: ALABAMA

Our data currently covers 16 cities in Alabama. These cities have a population of more than 20,000 and collectively will receive \$382 million in SLFRF funds. Included in this report are key findings across the state.

AL SLFRF Spending Decisions To Date By Category (16 Cities Represented)

ARP Local Funds Decisions by Category



Additional Alabama Findings:

Community outreach on SLFRF spending is not robust.

We found clear examples of community engagement in only 2 out of 16 cities.

Evidence of equity-focused spending is not robust.

Evidence of an equity focus within SLFRF spending decisions was indicated by either planned spending within a Qualified Census Tract (QCT) or through clear reference to equity goals in spending decision materials or discussions. Only 1 out of the 10 cities with some spending decisions showed a focus on equity.

For more information or to include data from your community, contact Morgan Smith at SouthStrong@rooseveltinstitute.org.