



MISSISSIPPI 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.

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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.

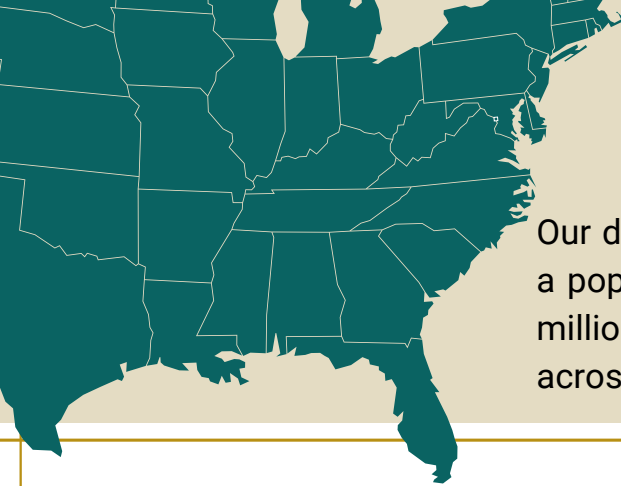
The tracker also provides data on specific SLFRF spending choices for those cities that have made some decisions. Any planned SLFRF spending is grouped into 13 categories like spending on public health, affordable housing, business support, or general government. Our interactive tool allows viewers to 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: MISSISSIPPI

Our data currently covers 12 cities in Mississippi. These cities have a population of more than 20,000 and collectively will receive \$100 million in SLFRF funds. Included in this report are key findings across the state.

Results on Status of SLFRF Decision Making in MS Cities:

Most spending decisions haven't happened.

- 58% of MS cities (7 out of 12 cities) have made some type of spending decision.
- Across all MS cities, 78% of funds remain unprogrammed.
- These results indicate that there remains a significant opportunity for community engagement to help set local spending priorities and advocate for sustainable and equitable SLFRF investments.

Spending decisions are not limited to the first half of funds.

- Of the 7 cities with some SLFRF decisions made, 4 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.

Comparisons between larger and smaller cities are less clear.

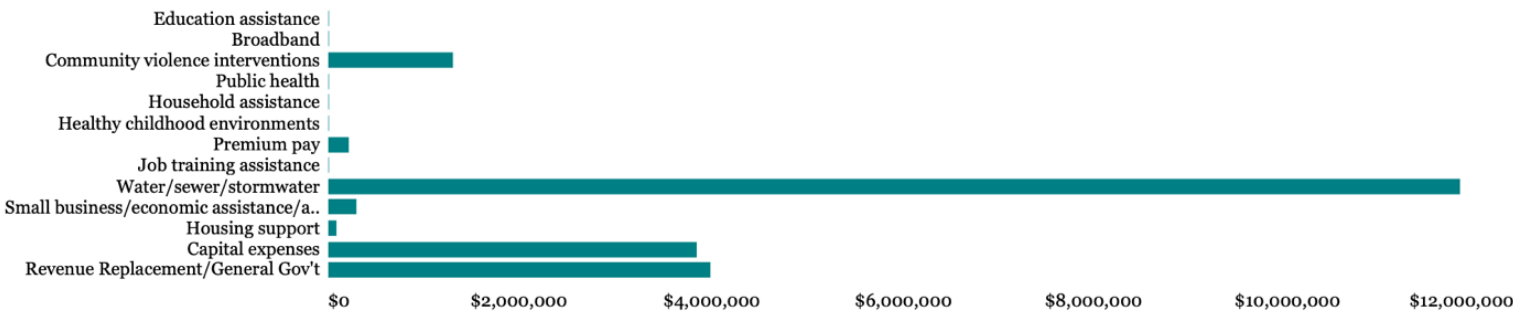
- Only one Mississippi city, Jackson, has a population greater than 100,000.
- No Mississippi cities have a population greater than 250,000.

Mississippi Results on Type of SLFRF Spending Planned To Date

Across Mississippi, spending plans show an emphasis on Water/Sewer Infrastructure. This category accounts for roughly half of the total \$22 million in approved spending plans. Other early spending decisions include Revenue Replacement/General Government and Capital Expenses.

MS SLFRF Spending Decisions by Category (12 Cities Represented)

ARP Local Funds Decisions by Category





SECOND-QUARTER RESULTS: MISSISSIPPI

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.

Additional Mississippi Findings:

There is very little evidence of community outreach regarding SLFRF spending.

We found only one example of SLFRF engagement in 1 out of 12 cities.

There is also very little evidence of equity-focused spending.

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. These criteria were identified in only 2 of the 7 cities with some spending decisions.

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