



# WASHINGTON 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](http://www.theseap.org) | [www.southstrong.org](http://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: WASHINGTON

Our data currently covers 41 cities in Washington. These cities have a population of more than 20,000 and collectively will receive \$855 million in SLFRF funds. Included in this report are key findings across the state.

### Results on Status of SLFRF Decision Making in WA Cities:

#### Spending decisions in WA are accelerating.

- Most WA cities (76%) have now made some type of spending decision.
- Across all WA cities, 58% of funds are not yet programmed.
- These results indicate that there remains a significant opportunity for community engagement to help set local spending priorities, and advocate for strategic and equitable SLFRF investments.

#### Most spending decisions so far are limited to the first allocation of funds.

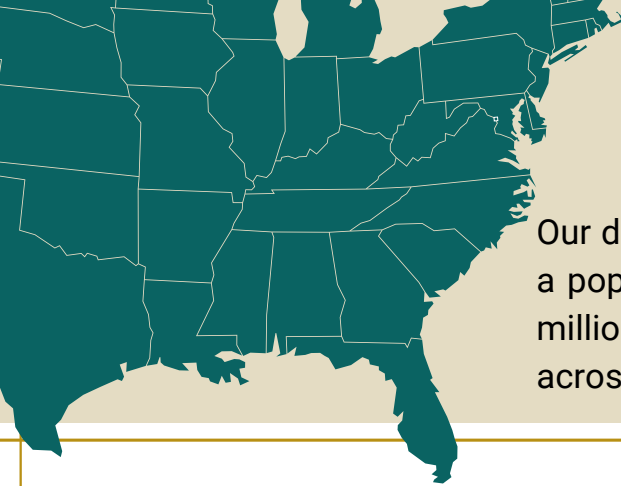
- Of the 31 cities with some SLFRF decisions, 25 have plans limited to some or all of the first half of funds.
- Six cities, including Seattle, have made plans for most or all of their total funding. Seattle has spending plans for 81% of its total SLFRF allocation.

#### Large cities are further along in their spending decisions.

- One city, Seattle, has a population greater than 250,000. Similar to other states, this large city has more developed SLFRF spending plans than smaller cities.
- In Seattle, plans are in place for 81% of the total allocation of \$239 million. The data shows that the 40 remaining smaller cities are further behind in their spending plans. In these smaller cities, there are spending plans in place for only 27% of their total \$616 million in recovery funds.

#### Washington Results on Type of SLFRF Spending Planned to Date

Across the Washington dataset, spending plans to date show funding in a range of categories. The highest priorities for decisions to date include Revenue Replacement/General Government, Housing Support, Job Training, and Small Business/Economic Assistance.

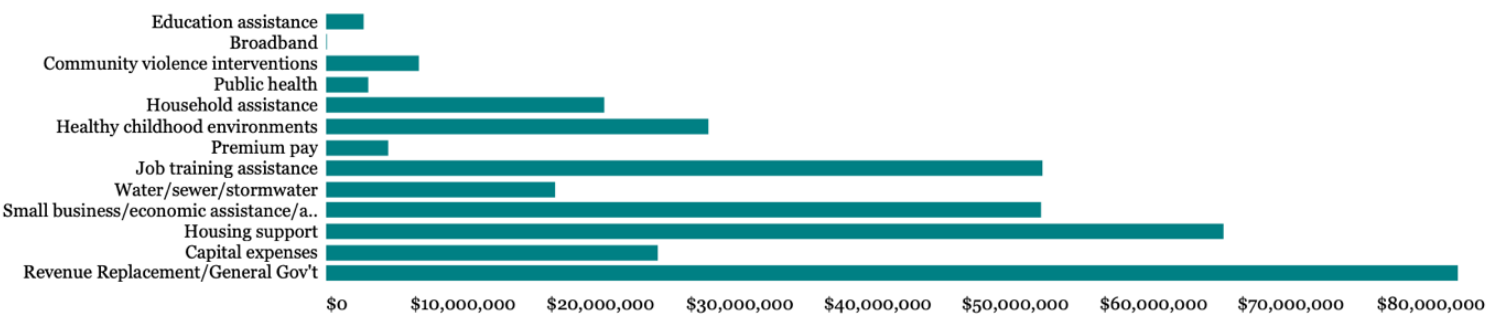


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## WA SLFRF Spending Decisions To Date By Category (40 Cities Represented)

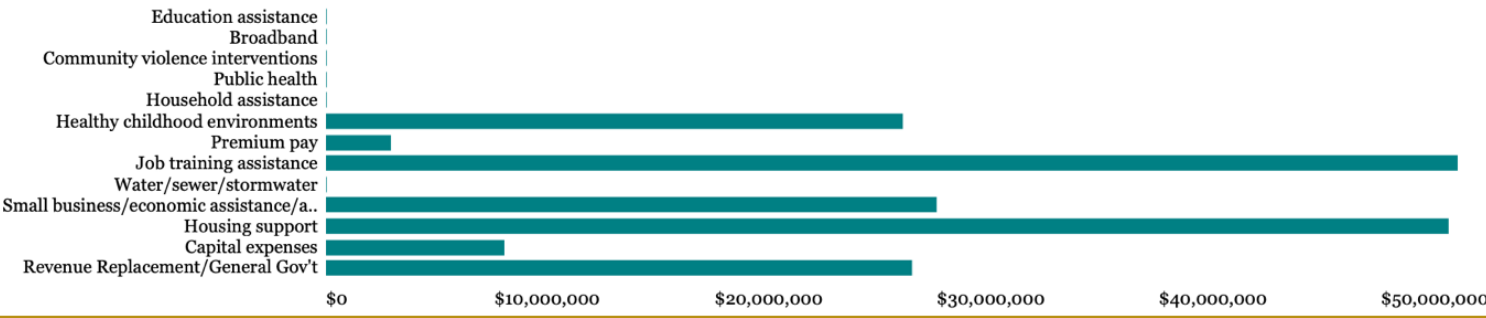
### ARP Local Funds Decisions by Category

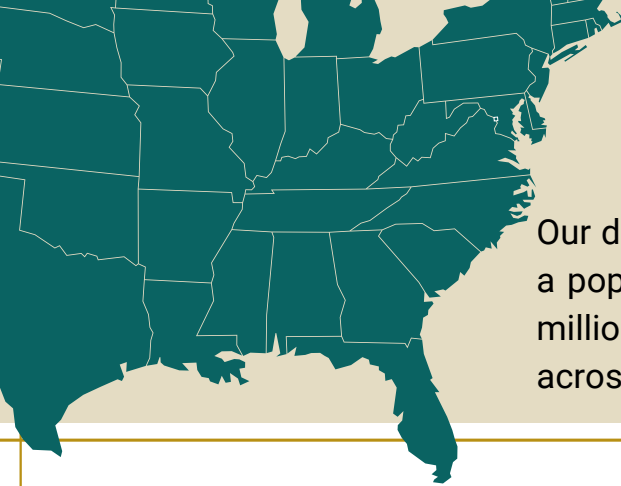


Due to the significantly larger SLFRF allocation for Seattle, and the fact that Seattle has made most of its spending decisions, it is useful to view the data for other WA cities separately from the data for Seattle. Please see below for spending differentiated by city population.

## WA SLFRF Spending Decisions in its Large City (Seattle Only)

### ARP Local Funds Decisions by Category



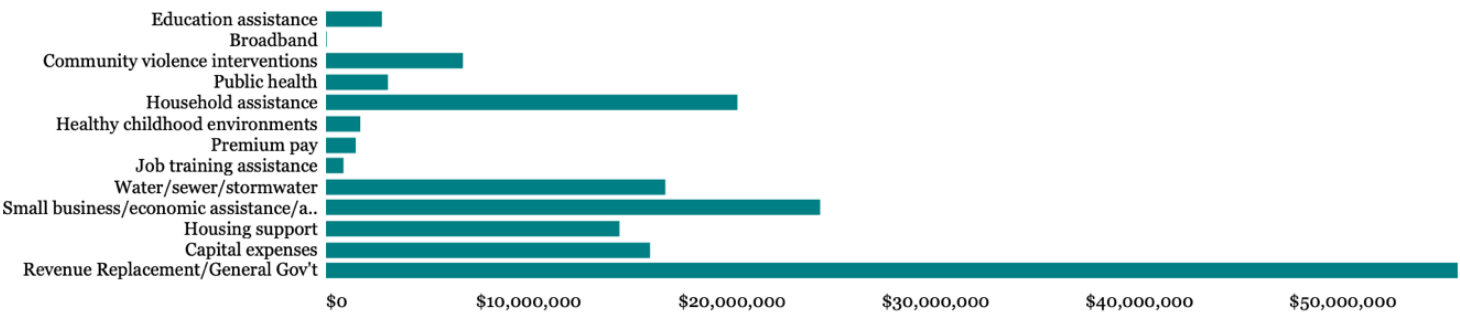


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## WA SLFRF Spending Decisions in Smaller Cities (40 Cities Represented)

ARP Local Funds Decisions by Category



### Additional Washington Findings:

#### Community outreach on SLFRF spending is lacking.

We found examples of SLFRF engagement in only 15 out of 41 cities. Of the 15 cities that undertook community engagement, 7 used more than one method of outreach.

#### Evidence of equity-focused spending is increasing in WA.

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 13 out of 31 cities with some spending decisions.

For more information or to include data from your community, contact Morgan Smith at [SouthStrong@rooseveltinstitute.org](mailto:SouthStrong@rooseveltinstitute.org).