ARP Tools + Resources: MISSISSIPPI
SEAP partners with policy thinkers and doers to amplify their efforts and bridge gaps in policy infrastructure. We act as a connector, convener, and policy entrepreneur across issues and states, translating good ideas to the Southern context. Our goal is to advance policies that improve economic security, healthcare access, and environmental justice for all Southerners.

www.theseap.org
THE OPPORTUNITY CONTINUES:
ARP STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RELIEF FUNDS

https://www.pandemicoversight.gov/data-interactive-tools/funding-overview
SPENDING IN THE SOUTH

As of May 31, 2022, across 4 Southern states (and WA):

- **Most spending decisions haven’t happened yet**
  - More than half of all funds (58%) are not yet allocated
  - Roughly a quarter of all cities (26%) have made no spending decisions yet
  - In many communities, there is significant opportunity for community engagement to help set spending priorities, ensure strategic and equitable SLFRF investments

- **Most spending decisions so far are limited to the first tranche of funds**
  - Of 127 cities with some SLFRF decisions, 69% have plans limited to some or all of first tranche

- **Few cities have made spending decisions for most/all of their SLFRF dollars**
  - Only 40 cities of 172 total (23%)

- **Generally, larger cities are further along in their spending decisions**
  - May reflect that larger cities have more capacity/staff, more familiarity with federal funding
MS FUNDING

- Total Funding Amount: $1.8 billion
  - $578 million for Mississippi counties
  - $101 million for metropolitan cities and
  - $268 million for local governments with pop < 50,000

- MAY 2021: First half of funds distributed

- MAY / JUNE 2022: Second half of funds distributed

- FLEXIBILITY in funding uses

[source]
SPENDING STATUS

SEAP has detailed information for 12 (out of 20) MS cities with pop. > 20,000

- Overall status
  - $101 million in total SLFRF allocations (both halves)
  - $32 million with spending plans (32%) and $69 million not yet planned (68%)

- Narrow spending focus
  - $14 million in water/sewer/stormwater
  - $17 million in Revenue Replacement/General Government

- No clear example of community outreach

- Identification of Equity Strategy is not common
  - Equity component identified in spending decisions for only 3 of 20 cities
SPENDING STATUS: City Specifics

SEAP has detailed information for 12 (out of 20) MS cities with pop. > 20,000

3 cities have plans for some or all of first half of funds
- Columbus
- Hattiesburg
- Vicksburg

4 cities have plans for full allocation
- Pascagoula
- Ridgeland
- Southhaven
- Starkville

5 cities have not yet made any spending decisions
- Biloxi
- Clinton
- Gulfport
- Madison
- Meridian
Executive Order 13985

(a) The term “equity” means the consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved communities that have been denied such treatment, such as Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.

Economic recovery and support for BIPOC small businesses

- **Gadsden, AL**: $1,000,000 to Nonprofit agencies
- **Morrisville, NC**: $200,000 Small Business Program
- **Greenville, NC**: $1,000,000 Grants to Small Businesses and Nonprofits
- **Carrboro, NC**: $300,000 Grants to Small Businesses
- **Hinesville, GA**: $400,000 IN Small Business & Nonprofit Recovery Grants
Funding for Affordable Housing

- **Wilson, NC**: $2,000,000 Housing redevelopment, and $1,825,000 Demolition of substandard structures
- **Morrisville, NC**: $125,000 Affordable Housing Plan
- **Greenville, NC**: $1,988,461 Affordable Housing
- **Statesboro, GA**: $5,000,000 - Housing Rehabilitation
- **Rome, GA**: $38,000 Housing Counseling (Housing Authority), and $1,000,000 Housing Incentive
RECOVERY SPENDING IN THE SOUTH

Additional examples of equitable recovery spending:

● Community Violence Interventions
● Parks / Greenspaces
● Job Training Assistance
● Youth Programs
SEAP’s ARP Resources and Tools
SEAP developed an ARP Toolkit to help communities make smart decisions about ARP spending.

We think getting ARP right means a commitment to community engagement and a focus on accountability.

We recognize the capacity challenges facing smaller cities and counties.

We are connecting local leaders with resources to support the places where both opportunity and need are greatest.
MISSISSIPPI

- Surveyed food insecure households
- Top personal challenge - paying utilities and personal debt
- Where funds should be spent - affordable housing
- 9% heard from a community leader about ARP funding decisions
- Usually receive information via
  - social media
  - newspaper
  - neighborhood / PTA meetings
ARP Spending Tracker

MISSISSIPPI

- **Funding decision status**
  - none of funds
  - some of first half
  - most / all of first half
  - most / all of all funds

- **Decisions by category**

- **12 cities** over 20,000 in population
Treasury released data for the December 31, 2021 reporting deadline. In MS:

- **19 recipients** (mostly counties)
  - less than 250,000 in population
  - more than $10 million in total reward

- **45 projects**
  - 22 Infrastructure
  - 7 Administrative and Other
  - 5 in Public Health
  - 5 Revenue Replacement
  - 5 projects still awaiting final decision
  - 3 Negative Economic Impacts
  - 3 Premium Pay
• College Park, MD (pop 32,000) has simple presentation with metrics and date
• Sun Prairie, WI (pop 34,000) a simple dashboard with approved spending, associated goals, and resolutions
• Lakewood, WA (pop 60,000) has easy to follow webpage with city contacts front and center, project updates, and community input visualizations
Use of “Standard Allowance” for up to $10 million in Revenue Replacement

This approach is recommended by Treasury to increase flexibility in use of funds and simplify reporting requirements

- Local governments can report up to $10 million in this category, with no need to compute or demonstrate actual revenue loss
- Funds under the standard allowance can be used for any general government purpose, with no deadline for expenditure
- Use of the standard allowance means that transparency and accountability are even more critical
RESOURCES

**SEAP**: theseap.org

**MS Toolkit**:  

**DASHBOARDS**:  
https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/southern.economic.advancement.project.seap

**Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC)**:  
https://www.pandemicoversight.gov

**Technical Assistance**  
Contact SEAP: seap@rooseveltinstitute.org