

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
Recovery Plan Performance Report
Pinellas County Recovery Plan

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2022 Report



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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

On March 11, 2021, President Biden signed the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) to provide direct relief to Americans, mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and jump-start the economy. ARPA included an allocation of \$362 billion in state and local fiscal recovery funds (Recovery Funds) to assist state and local governments in the recovery.

Pinellas County Government (the County) will receive a total of approximately \$189 million in ARPA Recovery Funds. On August 12, 2021, the County received half of this total allocation. After several months of planning and deliberation, County staff recommended approval of the ARPA Recovery Funds Spending Plan to the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners (Board) to invest these funds in critical water and sewer infrastructure, new technology and tools to improve the delivery of government programs, vaccine incentives, assistance to non-profits and a wide range of infrastructure projects to lift up historically marginalized communities in unincorporated Pinellas County that have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.

Investing in underserved communities

While the COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on everyone's lives, the level of impact has been uneven. For example, many residents could safely enjoy the outdoors in nearby parks or at the beach. However, some residents do not have easy access to outdoor infrastructure that can be safely enjoyed during the COVID-19 pandemic. The County recognizes the unequal impact of the pandemic and is using its allocation of the Recovery Funds to build a more equitable, healthy, and sustainable County, with a focus on those communities that were disproportionately impacted.

Staff have identified communities within unincorporated Pinellas County that have fallen behind their neighbors in terms of quality of life and health outcomes. These Recovery Funds provide an unprecedented opportunity to make transformative investments in these communities. For example, funds will be used to improve stormwater drainage and complete sidewalks to create walkable neighborhoods with safe routes to schools for children and to develop and upgrade parks and playgrounds. These types of investments have long been identified as priorities within many underserved communities during previous and ongoing public engagement efforts as the County has worked with neighborhood leaders to create community redevelopment plans.

Of the seventeen projects in this category, fourteen are in design and three are not started.

Improving sewer and stormwater infrastructure

Pinellas County is Florida's most densely populated county and, during hurricane season, experiences frequent high-volume rain events. Much of the countywide sewer infrastructure is old, leaking and in need of maintenance. As such, the County has substantial water and sewer infrastructure needs. The County will use a significant portion of its allocation of the ARPA Recovery Funds for capital improvement projects that will upgrade necessary sewage collection and treatment infrastructure as well as stormwater infrastructure. These efforts are expected to both mitigate flooding and improve the quality of stormwater runoff into local waterways.

There are twelve projects in this category; three are in design and nine are not started.

Improving public services

Recognizing that investment in technology is needed to improve public sector capacity to deliver essential services, the Treasury Department revised its list of expenditure categories in January of 2022 to include projects that will result in improved public service delivery. The County has identified several opportunities to make transformative investments in technology to better serve the most vulnerable residents by improving information sharing among client-facing service agencies. There are three technology projects; one has begun the Request for Information process and the other two have not started.

The Sheriff's Mental Health Unit also received funding for fiscal year 2022 for its activities in diverting individuals with mental health issues away from the justice system and into mental health support services, resulting in fewer Baker Act commitments and better coordinated mental health service delivery for those who would otherwise fall through the cracks or end up incarcerated. This program is ongoing.

Other investments in the public health expenditure category include a one-time vaccine incentive for County employees. The vaccine incentive was announced at the same time the County appropriated the first tranche of Recovery Funds into its fiscal year 2022 budget. The vaccine incentive, now complete, resulted in an increased vaccination rate and may have reduced the severity and incidence of illness due to COVID-19.

Supporting nonprofits

Finally, the County has established a Capital Projects Fund for nonprofits that have experienced a negative economic impact from the pandemic. The County has partnered with the Pinellas Community Foundation to administer this program, which will allow local nonprofits to invest in capital projects that increase their capacity to serve their clients. This program is launching in August 2022.

Compliance with Treasury guidelines

Since the publication of the County's Initial Recovery Plan Performance Report, the Board approved the ARPA Recovery Funds Spending Plan on January 11, 2022, and amended the plan on May 24, 2022. This amendment was necessary to ensure that all projects funded by ARPA Recovery Funds had contracts that were compliant with the Federal Uniform Guidance that applies to federal grant recipient's management of funds. The County had anticipated that, due to the time limitations of the ARPA Recovery Funds program, recipients could obtain waivers from Treasury for strict compliance with 2 CFR 200.320 that governs methods of procurement and could amend existing competitively procured engineering and construction contracts with the federal terms and conditions to quickly carry out infrastructure projects. However, after several requests to Treasury for clarification and guidance on the matter, and consultation with local government advocacy organizations, the Department of Treasury did not provide the County with any guidance.

Rather than risk repayment of a portion of the ARPA Recovery Funds, staff determined that the most prudent course of action is to amend the Spending Plan to only include projects that had not yet had contracts solicited to ensure they comply with the Uniform Guidance. This has resulted in the delay to the infrastructure projects listed in this report but has eliminated the risk of non-compliant contracts. The delay and re-solicitation of engineering and construction

contracts has also increased project budgets due to inflation. Despite these challenges, most ARPA Recovery Funds-funded infrastructure projects are expected to be underway by FY23.

Uses of Funds

The County decided on its Spending Plan by comparing the objectives of Treasury's Interim Final Rule to the County's Strategic Plan, noting areas of intersection. These overlapping areas represent the mutual priorities of Treasury and the County, and the funding was directed to projects that served these priorities. Specifically, the priorities include COVID-19 vaccination, mental health, assistance to nonprofits, improving public service capacity, improving health and safety in underserved communities, and making investments in water, sewer, and stormwater infrastructure.

The short-term nature of the Recovery Funds program made one-time investments a better fit than funding new or ongoing programs that would create a need or expectation of funding beyond the period of performance. Consequently, with a few exceptions, all projects in the Spending Plan are one-time capital investments rather than programmatic expenditures. Some of the capital investments are expected to have maintenance costs beyond the period of performance, but the benefits to the recipient communities were determined to outweigh these costs. For example, sidewalks and drainage improvements in historically marginalized communities will result in safer conditions for pedestrians and cyclists and encourage parents to allow their children to walk or ride their bikes to school, resulting in better overall health and wellness, reduced traffic congestion, and improved air quality. Similarly, investment in parks and trails infrastructure will make these neighborhoods more attractive, encourage active transportation and outdoor recreation, and increase health and wellness. Simply put, by their very existence, these investments will pay dividends for residents long after the end of the Recovery Funds period of performance with minimal ongoing expense.

a. Public Health (EC 1)

The County evaluated the public health needs of residents based on availability of COVID-19 testing, vaccination, monoclonal antibody treatment, as well as hospitalization and other public health outcomes. The County's first project after receipt of the ARPA Recovery Funds was to implement a vaccine incentive for County employees to encourage those who have not yet done so to get vaccinated against COVID-19. The vaccine incentive was expected to increase vaccination rates among County employees and reduce the severity of illness and transmission rates for employees and their household members. According to data collected by Pinellas County Human Resources, the incentive increased the vaccination rate among County employees by 17%.

Mental health is a long-term County priority. The pandemic has exacerbated mental and behavioral health issues experienced by county residents. To this end, the Board approved a portion of Recovery Funds to the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office's Mental Health Unit (MHU), which serves to divert individuals that come in contact with law enforcement away from the criminal justice system and towards mental health service providers. The involvement of the MHU results in fewer individuals being subjected to Baker Acts, meaning they avoid involuntary institutionalization due to being a danger to themselves or others as a result of their mental health. This is one of only a few ongoing programs that the County found appropriate to fund with Recovery Funds. The current Spending Plan allocates \$1 million to the MHU for Fiscal Year 2022.

b. Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2)

When President Biden announced the American Rescue Plan Act in March of 2021, the County had plans to revitalize three target areas of the County that had fallen behind their neighbors in terms of quality of life and income. The communities of High Point and Lealman, which occupy Qualified Census Tracts, had recently undergone comprehensive public engagement to identify residents' priorities for investment. The Greater Ridgecrest Area, another historically marginalized community, has also recently been designated as a Community Redevelopment Area. As such, the County is ready to go with a list of about \$50 million worth of projects to improve these communities by creating neighborhood features that promote health and safety. These features are expected to improve the connectivity of neighborhoods, increase the park acres in the neighborhood, and encourage children to walk and ride bikes to school.

In addition, the County recognizes that children have been uniquely impacted by the pandemic, losing time with family and friends, and struggling with the fear and uncertainty of a lengthy public health emergency. Staff identified children as a disproportionately impacted population and chose several projects that specifically benefit children, like more inclusive playground structures and new sports fields. The County intends to improve opportunities for children to go outside and play, regardless of their physical and cognitive capacity, with projects that will increase recreational opportunities in organized sports and unstructured play. These additional facilities are expected to result in more families making use of the county's parks while improving mental and physical health for children now and in the future.

c. Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity (EC 3)

The COVID-19 pandemic created conditions that stressed individuals and increased demand for human services and emergency response. County staff and social service agencies rose to meet these demands, but the increased burden on the social welfare infrastructure revealed that the information systems County staff and service delivery agencies rely on are outdated and inefficient. Staff have responded by identifying a few areas of investment to improve communications between the County and client-facing agencies as well as between the agencies. The Department of Human Services will be procuring a modernized software system to coordinate its services and is implementing a coordinated access model of behavioral health services that will improve collaboration between agencies and County staff. In addition, the Business Technology Services Department will receive ARPA Recovery Funds funding for its efforts to ensure that the common Computer Aided Dispatch system used by Pinellas County 911 dispatchers and ambulances use the most up-to-date spatial geographic information system to direct emergency responders to residents in crisis. This will result in better response times, improved information sharing, and more effective emergency care.

d. Premium Pay (EC 4)

No projects are proposed for this expenditure category.

e. Water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure (EC 5)

Pinellas County is a growing, densely populated peninsula in coastal Florida that receives a lot of seasonal rainfall. The county's Gulf beaches are world-renowned, and tourism is its largest employment sector. For the tourist industry to remain strong, protecting the natural environment is imperative, including water quality in the Gulf of Mexico, Tampa Bay and the numerous lakes, rivers, and estuaries.

A major source of marine pollutants is nutrients from sewage. The County's Utilities department has proposed two projects at a total cost of about \$20.5 million to rehabilitate a reclaimed water plant that will remove nitrogen from the sewage and use that water as irrigation in the south of the County. Another project that the County will fund with the ARPA Recovery Funds is a program that will spend at least \$10 million to identify households on septic systems and pay the costs of bringing the County sewage collection system into those neighborhoods. Switching these households to the County sewage collection system reduces the risk of a leaking septic tank compromising the water quality in surrounding water bodies.

A collection of ARPA-funded stormwater projects will both help manage flooding in large rain events and protect local water bodies by providing stormwater management infrastructure to help filter the runoff as it travels to surrounding lakes and rivers as well as the Gulf of Mexico and Tampa Bay. Approximately \$25 million has been budgeted for these projects that are in various locations in the county including Palm Harbor, Lealman, the Seminole area, and the Clearwater area.

Finally, the Utilities Department is currently in the process of purchasing the aging, leaky water and sewer systems of 13 manufactured home communities to rebuild them to prevent sewage leaks. It leveraged a [RESTORE Act](#) grant to design the new systems and will use grant funds from both the State of Florida and the County's allocation of the ARPA Recovery Funds to construct the new sewage collection and water distribution systems. The result will both protect the surrounding water bodies from sewage leaks and help conserve drinking water by installing water meters at each unit. The metering will help residents conserve water and will address equity issues where low-volume water users, such as seasonal residents, no longer subsidize high-volume water users.

f. Revenue Replacement EC 6)

The County has identified a variety of worthwhile initiatives to dedicate the approximately \$30 million worth of revenue replacement of its allocation of the Recovery Funds that align with its Strategic Plan and the ARPA objectives and values.

One of these long-term goals is to convert much of the County fleet to electric vehicles. In anticipation of such a transition, the County will use a portion of its revenue replacement allocation to decommission County-run fueling sites, which require the removal of underground fuel storage tanks in some locations. The fund will also pay for a countywide master plan for electrifying the County fleet, which includes identifying locations suitable for electric vehicle charging stations.

Another County priority that will use ARPA Recovery Funds is the development and implementation of a plan to remediate and use the Toytown property, a former landfill site, which occupies an ideal location in the county. The State of Florida recently appropriated an additional \$15 million in support of this effort.

The Business Technology Services department will be using the funds to improve cybersecurity and implement a fiber analysis tool to better manage the County-owned fiber optics network.

The County's fire districts will receive investment to replace an emergency rescue vehicle and build new fire stations. Funding has also been made available to pay for fire rescue training facilities.

In an ongoing effort to promote outdoor recreation and active transportation, the County will use funds to build the Lake Seminole Park Trail sidewalk extension. This will include a 10-foot-wide bike and pedestrian path from the Park Boulevard entrance to the North Trail Loop in Lake Seminole Park to provide safe pedestrian and bicycle access to Lake Seminole Park from main entrance on Park Boulevard. Currently, pedestrian and bike riders must share a busy road to access the park.

Finally, the County is undertaking a countywide comprehensive sidewalk condition index to assist in developing the capital improvement plan, estimating the annual sidewalk maintenance budget and prioritizing maintenance and repair projects. The results will allow the County to take a more proactive approach to maintaining and replacing sidewalk infrastructure while improving the level of service and ensuring that equity is a priority of the sidewalk replacement program by ensuring the infrastructure meets the standards of the American with Disabilities Act.

Emergency Rental Assistance Program

The Pinellas County Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) has expended approximately \$37 million to provide rental and/or utility assistance to over 4,200 households since its inception on March 31, 2021. The ERAP program closed to new applications on May 25, 2022. At this time, the County is continuing to process existing applications with approximately \$1.2 million of funding remaining to be distributed.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes

Pinellas County's ARPA Recovery Funds Plan focuses on making transformative investments in historically underserved communities and serving populations that have been identified as being disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The plan intends to close gaps in accessibility to neighborhood features that promote health and safety, such as parks, sidewalks, and multimodal trails while providing additional recreational opportunities to disproportionately impacted populations.

The county is home to 24 municipalities, each of which received its own ARPA Recovery Funds allocation. The remaining unincorporated parts of the county, covering just over a third of its land mass, are home to 287,200 residents. The areas of unincorporated Pinellas County identified here require improvements to physical infrastructure to meet the expectations of its residents and match the levels of service found in surrounding municipalities. As a result, the County has decided to use much of its ARPA Recovery Funds allocation to make

transformational investments in those areas of unincorporated Pinellas County with the greatest demonstrated needs; these are our disproportionately impacted communities.

Pinellas County has defined disproportionately impacted communities as follows:

1. Communities within Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs) as defined by Housing and Urban Development (HUD).
2. Communities with designated Community Redevelopment Area Plans
3. Communities that have been historically marginalized

The communities targeted by the Recovery Plan are High Point, Lealman, and the Greater Ridgecrest Area. High Point and most of Lealman are in QCTs. Lealman is a designated Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) with a plan initiated by the Board to address factors including higher rates of poverty, crime, and blight. The Greater Ridgecrest Area has a history of marginalization and is underserved compared to the neighboring communities.

What follows is a description of disproportionately impacted communities identified by County staff that will benefit from ARPA Recovery Funds projects.

The Greater Ridgecrest Area: A Historically Marginalized Community

History and Demographics

The Greater Ridgecrest Area is comprised of 11 neighborhoods: Taylor Lake, Ridgecrest, Oak Village, Baskins, Harmony Homes, Baskins Heights, Martin Terrace, Kerry Court, Gulf Terrace, Rainbow Village and Dansville. The region was established in the 1940s when two Black brothers, Lloyd and Dan Henry, relocated to Pinellas County from Georgia to work in the orange groves. The men began buying property and reselling it to Black orange grove workers, creating a community of Black landowners at a time when such opportunities were rare due to racial discrimination and segregation. These early land transfers happened informally without the benefit of surveys, title insurance and proper legal descriptions; the tight-knit community relied more on trust and mutual regard than the letter of the law.

Over the following decades, the Greater Ridgecrest Area received electric, water and sewer infrastructure, but motorists traversed on mostly dirt roads until well into the 1990s. On October 3, 1992, a tornado touched down in Dansville and destroyed 26 homes while damaging many others. At this point, the area's inequities came into sharp relief to Pinellas County officials and efforts commenced to address numerous health and safety issues. With the help of Community Development Block Grant (CBDG) funds, Pinellas County demolished 24 substandard houses and one substandard commercial building, removed 15,143 discarded tires, 12,050 cubic yards of junk yard material and 380 cubic yards of trash.

Dansville, named after Dan Henry, was designated a Florida Heritage Site in 2020 to commemorate its unique history. Both Dansville and the other 10 neighborhoods of Ridgecrest have been designated by Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as Revitalization Areas on separate occasions; the Dansville Redevelopment Area was approved by HUD and the Board of County Commissioners in 1994 and the Greater Ridgecrest Redevelopment Area was approved by HUD and the Board in 1999.

The Greater Ridgecrest Area is comprised of census tract 253.07, with a Black population of 31.2% and Hispanic or Latino population of 13% while census tract 252.07 has a Black

population of 20.5% and Hispanic or Latino population of 10.6%. Dansville occupies the southern portion of census tract 252.07.

Identified Needs

The 1990s era revitalization efforts cleaned up the damage and debris from the tornado and the dirt roads were subsequently paved. Nevertheless, inequities in these communities persist compared to surrounding neighborhoods. The Greater Ridgecrest Area has a geographical disadvantage in that it is roughly separated into four sections by relatively impassable barriers. The north-south running McKay Creek, cutoff from the neighborhood by a chain link fence in many sections, creates an east-west divide. In addition, a six-lane highway called Ulmerton Road curves through the community, creating a northeasterly diagonal and north-south divide. The lack of safe pedestrian crossings at Ulmerton Road intersections was partially addressed by the addition of a pedestrian crossing at 119th Street and a signal, crosswalk, and streetlight at Wilcox Road in 2016, which augments the single pedestrian bridge over Ulmerton Road that services the Pinellas Trail. Nonetheless, connectivity issues persist; much of the Greater Ridgecrest Area lacks sidewalks, and the many vacant lots in the community are contaminated sites, making infill development a challenge.

In 2021, to continue efforts to revitalize the Greater Ridgecrest Area, the County worked with the Friends of Ridgecrest, a community group of volunteers and community representatives, to develop the Ridgecrest Community Plan. They identified intersections and corridors that would benefit from improved pedestrian safety and empty lots that, once remediated and developed, will serve as passive parks that connect neighborhoods and provide healthy greenspace for residents.

The Pinellas County ARPA Recovery Funds will fund the following projects to meet these community needs:

006020A: Local Group Taylor Lake, Ridgecrest, Oak Village

Sidewalk and drainage improvements at 134th Ave N and Taylor Lake. Improves walkability and pedestrian safety.

006021A: Local Group Martin Terrace

Sidewalk and drainage improvements at 118th St N and 116th Ln. Improves walkability and pedestrian safety.

006022A: Local Group Gulf Terrace & Rainbow Village

Sidewalk and drainage improvements at 20th Ave SW & Adams Cir W to 22nd Ave SW & Adams Cir E. Improves walkability and pedestrian safety.

006023A: McKay Creek Greenway Connection (and open space conversion at State Highway Site)

This trail will unite several existing parks and follows the course of McKay Creek. The proposed route courses over four miles along new and existing trails off existing streets, stream or canal rights-of-way, and County land. The trail will run from Taylor Park at the north through Walsingham Park, Pinewood Cultural Park and Ridgecrest Park. The project will also realign

fencing on the County-owned former state highway site to allow for recreational and community event space on the northern portion of the site.

006024A: Rehabilitation of 119th Overflow Area – North Garden in Ridgecrest

This project involves the addition of clean fill, grading, irrigation, sod, parking and fencing to create a publicly accessible greenspace for a variety of activities in the heart of the Ridgecrest community.

006025A: Dansville Community Park at Stormwater Facility

This site is a fenced stormwater pond that is centrally located in the Dansville community. Turning this site into a passive community park with benches and a walking path has been identified as the top priority in the Greater Ridgecrest Area Community Plan.

Lealman Community Redevelopment Area

History

Lealman is an island of unincorporated Pinellas County surrounded by the municipalities of Kenneth City to the west, Pinellas Park to the north, and St. Petersburg at its south and east. As Pinellas County grew, these municipalities annexed the profitable parts of unincorporated Pinellas. What remains is Lealman, which encompasses census tracts 247.01, 247.02, 247.03 and 246.02; all but census tract 247.03 are Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs), bounded on the east, west and north by the other three QCTs.

On June 23, 2015, the Board identified Lealman as being physically, economically, and aesthetically distressed and approved the creation of the Lealman Community Redevelopment Area (CRA) Plan as part of Resolution 2015-62. The Lealman CRA is home to about 20,800 people.

Identified Needs

When the Lealman CRA Plan was developed in 2015, it found that approximately two-thirds of the residential areas lack sidewalks. Pedestrian and bicycle paths only exist along major roads and a few side streets. Stormwater drainage is substandard, particularly in residential neighborhoods, with some existing drainage ditches up to six feet deep. These ditches collect trash and create safety hazards in heavy rainfall events, making it difficult for residents to access their homes. In addition, poorly lit streets, alleyways, and empty lots attract crime. These infrastructure conditions create a lower quality of life, depress home values, and dissuade retail and commercial development.

Pinellas County will use ARPA Recovery Funds to make historic investments in the Lealman CRA by implementing a regional stormwater facility, constructing a network of sidewalks with appropriate drainage, building parks with a range of amenities, and transforming Joe's Creek from a stormwater channel with impaired water quality into a recreational corridor with pedestrian and bike routes as well as improved infrastructure that will both contain and filter stormwater runoff to better respond to high volume rainfall events, protecting homes and businesses. These Lealman projects are expected to result in a community with more and safer opportunities for active transportation as well as better flood control, making it more attractive to investment and instilling a sense of pride in residents. The projects are:

002201A: Raymond Neri Park Construction

Continued construction of the park that will add amenities such as an entrance road, parking, dog parks, play fields, picnic shelters, trails, walkways, and a playground.

006027A: Local Group Sunny Acres Lawn Estates & Adjacent Subdivisions

Sidewalk and drainage improvements for a neighborhood in Lealman. 40th Ave N to 60th Ave N. Improves walkability and pedestrian safety.

006028A: Lealman Drainage Improvements

This project will improve stormwater drainage in a historically underserved neighborhood, address local flooding concerns and enhance pedestrian and cyclist safety. This project focuses on drainage improvements in the Lealman area, bounded by 33rd Way N., 64th Avenue N., 33rd Street N. and 62nd Avenue N. Drainage work will address localized flooding in the general area and include construction of stormwater improvements.

002131A: 46th Ave N from 49th St N to 38th St N Roadway Improvements

This project includes the addition of curb and gutter on both sides of the roadway and an eight-foot sidewalk on the north side of 46th Avenue N. On the south side of the road, sidewalk gaps will be closed, ADA upgrades will be constructed, and mid-block pedestrian crossings will be added. An alternatives and safety analysis were recently completed as part of public outreach for this project.

004539A: Belcher Sidewalk

This project includes rehabilitating the existing sidewalks and filling in sidewalk gaps. It will also provide ADA upgrades and drainage improvements, including the addition of curbs and gutters to both sides of the road. It improves transportation safety in a historically underserved community. It will enhance pedestrian safety, walkability, and ADA accessibility.

003001C: Lealman Regional Stormwater Facility

A regional stormwater facility to address flood protection level of service deficiencies. It will encourage redevelopment by helping developers and property owners with meeting stormwater regulations using strategically placed green infrastructure to upgrade and aesthetically enhance transportation corridors while providing water quality and localized drainage improvements.

004116A: Joe's Creek Greenway Trail and BMPs

Preliminary engineering, design and construction of the Joe's Creek Greenway Trail, adjacent main channel improvements and projects identified by the watershed management plan for flood protection, erosion control and water quality improvements. Projects include the Joe's Creek Greenway Trail, culvert upgrades, main channel improvements, treatment swales, and dry retention (at Joe's Creek Greenway Park) as well as improvements affecting main channel tributary systems. Promotes outdoor recreation, active transportation and improves runoff quality.

High Point: Qualified Census Tracts

History and Demographics

High Point occupies two Qualified Census Tracts, 245.10 and 245.14. It was first targeted by County staff for revitalization in the mid-1990s and continues to lag the surrounding neighborhoods in metrics such as poverty, crime, and homeownership. In 1998, residents of a portion of High Point asked the Board to address the deteriorating conditions and high crime in the community. County staff encountered substandard rental properties and lack of walkability in the area, which results in neglect and litter. A 2013 Pinellas County Health and Community Services Department Study identified High Point as one of five communities of poverty, having a higher percentage of households in poverty than the countywide average. Since then, Pinellas County has invested almost \$13 million in federal, state, and local funds in infrastructure, recreational facilities and programs, and social services and programs.

Identified Needs

The [2020 Gateway Master Plan](#) identified the need for recreational open space, complete streets, and mobility improvements in and around the High Point community. In 2021, the County formed a community advisory group, held community meetings and surveyed residents to get recommendations and ideas for community improvements. This community input was incorporated into the High Point Community Plan, which includes three goals: to enhance community connectivity, enhance economic opportunities, and to expand service delivery to the community.

Four priority projects were identified by the community from the goals laid out in the High Point Community Plan and the 2020 Gateway Master Plan. The County is using its allocation of the ARPA Recovery Funds to fund two of these priority projects. Another project to install sidewalks to enhance community connectivity will also be funded. Collectively, these projects, with a combined estimated budget of \$4.7 million, will improve the health and wellness of residents. The ARPA Recovery Funds projects in High Point are listed below.

002998A: High Point Community Park

High Point residents have identified this facility as a priority for the neighborhood. It is the development of a 10-acre community park to include basketball courts, multipurpose fields, restrooms, picnic shelters, playgrounds, walking paths, landscaping, parking, and utilities.

006030A: Russell Ave Connection

Construction of a pedestrian connection through Russell Avenue in High Point. This is an unimproved right-of-way that's heavily used by pedestrians as a connection in the High Point community. To the east is a residential area of the community and to the west is 58th Street, which is the arterial roadway through the community. Located just to the south of this connection is a church, High Point Elementary, High Point Neighborhood Family Center and the proposed High Point Community Park. Improves walkability and pedestrian safety.

006029A: Local Group High Point Subdivision

Paving, sidewalk, and drainage improvements for Roosevelt Blvd and 150th Ave N. Improves walkability and pedestrian safety.

Children: A Disproportionately Impacted Population

As with the rest of the world, Pinellas County's children and youth have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Children have lost education time resulting from school closures, lost out on opportunities to develop social skills due to being quarantined away from friends and family, and experienced excess stress due to loss, fear, and uncertainty from the pandemic. Two years is a much larger proportion of a child's lifetime compared to adults and the impact of losing that time is far greater as a result.

The County recognizes the outsized impact that the pandemic has had on children and has identified projects that increase opportunities for them to enjoy outdoor sports and recreation while also supporting activities appropriate for children of varying ages and abilities. These projects are in various locations in County parks to ensure all youth have improved access to playgrounds and play fields within a reasonable drive time.

The Pinellas County ARPA Recovery Funds program is funding the following projects to better serve the county's children and youth:

004171A: All Inclusive Playground Upgrades

Playground renovations at regional parks to provide ADA accessible playground facilities for 2-to-5 and 6-to-12-year age groups, to include poured in place rubberized surface and shade structures.

004556A: Unincorporated Seminole Recreation Facility Improvements

Renovations and upgrades to unincorporated Seminole youth sports facilities operating on County property at South Cross Bayou Sports Fields. Improvements to include new baseball diamonds, lighting/electric, restrooms, parking, irrigation, etc. Promotes outdoor recreation.

006033A: Safe Routes to Schools

Sidewalk and drainage improvements near schools in underserved neighborhoods. 13 projects identified. Includes funding for school flasher/speed feedback sign connected equipment upgrade.

Community Engagement

The projects contained in the County's Spending Plan were proposed using public input from residents, community organizations, and other stakeholders who have participated in previous outreach events. The communities of Lealman, High Point and Ridgecrest each have Community Development Area Plans with goals and priorities identified by residents, service providers, business owners, educators, clergy, and law enforcement through a collaborative process, including in-person meetings and online surveys.

As the County implements its ARPA Recovery Funds Spending Plan, staff will keep the Board and the public apprised of progress through regular updates at Commission meetings and online via a dedicated ARPA Recovery Funds website that residents can access to find out

about projects taking place in their neighborhood. Throughout the grant eligibility period, the County intends to incorporate ARPA-related funding questions in ongoing community engagement to keep up with citizens' priorities as they arise.

County staff meet with the Friends of Ridgecrest every month to review progress on the Greater Ridgecrest Community Plan, which includes all the Greater Ridgecrest Area's projects funded by ARPA Recovery Funds. Staff hold meetings every other month with the Lealman CRA Advisory Committee, comprised of residents, business and/or property owners and other stakeholders from within the CRA. They also provide monthly updates to members of the Lealman Community Association at the Lealman Exchange. Finally, the Lealman Community District Association hold meetings that often include County staff when requested. More information on the Lealman CRA Advisory Committee can be found [here](#).

Specific to the Nonprofit Capital Projects Fund, the Pinellas Community Foundation is working with County Communications to ensure that funding opportunities are broadcast across the county, through email campaigns, press releases, social media, and other channels. Both the County and the Pinellas Community Foundation have websites that are updated regularly. Interested entities may register to have [updates](#) automatically sent to their email address.

Labor Practices

All infrastructure projects will be carried out using contracts that comply with both State and Federal labor laws, in addition to the guidelines set out by the Treasury Department. Contractors and subcontractors employed on large infrastructure projects with budgets over \$10 million will be subject to prevailing wage agreements and project workforce continuity plans.

Pinellas County administers a [Small Business Enterprise \(SBE\) Program](#), which encourages local small businesses to enter bids to sell goods and services to the County. Prospective vendors must apply to the program and register with the County's procurement vendor registration.

While local labor is welcome on County jobs, at last measure, the unemployment rate in Pinellas County is a [very low 2.2%](#). Given the strong local jobs market, it would be counterproductive to require local hiring for infrastructure projects because of the already tight labor force. The County expects that the tight labor market will result in higher wages for employees and subcontractors on all projects.

There is some concern that supply chain issues and the availability of diesel fuel may hamper progress for some construction projects. While these factors are outside of the County's control, all efforts will be made to identify multiple sources of goods and services within federal and state regulations to ensure seamless project management.

Use of Evidence

The Department of the Treasury's Final Rule mandated that projects in specific prescribed expenditure categories must indicate whether the approach is evidence-based. As a behavioral health project in expenditure subcategory 1.12 – Mental Health Services, the Mental Health Unit project is an evidence-based program that has received an allocation from the ARPA Recovery Funds. The approach of the MHU is [grounded in evidence](#) that partnering law enforcement with mental health professionals achieves better outcomes with individuals exhibiting behavioral issues than law enforcement alone. The outcomes of this partnership, which include Baker Act diversions, reduction of incarceration and connecting individuals with mental health resources, are fully stated in the project description for the first six months of the County's 2022 fiscal year.

Performance Report

Due to the time-limited nature of the ARPA Recovery Funds, the County's Spending Plan is comprised mostly of one-time capital investments in disproportionately impacted communities. These capital investments are priorities of residents themselves, gathered through targeted and ongoing public engagement efforts.

As capital projects commence, the County will communicate the progress of these projects on both internal and external dashboards, including maps to show residents where the projects are located.

Projects in other expenditure categories, such as those to improve effective public service delivery, are also mainly comprised of discrete acquisitions that are intended to provide the County with tools and technology to improve the service to the public.

Performance metrics, such as outputs and outcomes, have been identified for each project or group of projects to track outcomes against timelines and benchmarks. Once projects get underway, the County will provide updates to community stakeholders and residents through in-person and digital channels.

The key performance metrics for each project or group of projects are listed in the following project inventory. As projects progress, the performance metrics will be tracked and reported in subsequent Recovery Plan Performance Reports and the County's ARPA website available to the public.

PROJECT INVENTORY

EC 1: Public Health

Project 006000A: COVID-19 Vaccine Incentive

Funding amount: \$4,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.1 COVID-19 Vaccination

Status: Complete

Project Overview:

A \$750 incentive available to Pinellas County Government employees to encourage those who have not been vaccinated to get fully vaccinated by November 8, 2021. In addition to employees working directly for the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners, employees from all Appointing Authorities and the Sheriff were eligible for the incentive upon providing proof of full vaccination. Those employees who received monoclonal antibody treatment and were therefore required to wait a minimum of 90 days from the treatment to receive vaccination were provided additional time to get fully vaccinated. The date of first and second vaccination, as well as the vaccine manufacturer, was recorded to establish the rate of increase of vaccinated employees achieved by the incentive.

- Outputs:
 - the number of employees that applied for the incentive: 4,299
 - the number of employees who either commenced or completed full vaccination because of the incentive: 636
- Outcomes:
 - percent increase in vaccination because of the incentive: 17%
 - percent of County employees vaccinated: 73%

PID #006002A: Sheriff Mental Health Unit

Funding Amount: \$1,000,000 (FY22)

Project Expenditure Category: EC 1.12, Mental Health Services

Status: Ongoing

Project Overview:

In 2015, [Pinellas County Sheriff Bob Gualtieri](#) spearheaded an effort to reduce the number of incarcerated individuals in the County jail that required mental health services. The Mental Health Unit's (MHU) focus is to divert Baker Acts, where possible, and connect individuals with services to reduce incarceration due to acts committed because of their untreated mental

illness. A Baker Act is an involuntary provision of mental health services to persons who cannot or will not request help for themselves. They are completed when a person refuses a voluntary mental health evaluation or doesn't understand why one would be necessary and that person is a threat to themselves or others or is incapable of caring for themselves.

The MHU responds to in-progress calls for service and conducts follow-up contacts with individuals to see if they need further assistance with getting connected with services and resources. Follow up contact with high needs, high utilizers occur throughout Pinellas County Sheriff's Office's (PCSO) jurisdiction.

The MHU has built relationships with the Pinellas Integrated Care (PIC) Alliance, a consortium of behavioral health agencies in the county. The partnership between the law enforcement and behavioral health communities allows the individual to receive therapeutic assistance immediately while the behavioral health specialist has the security of knowing they are safe while interacting with individuals in crisis.

Performance Metrics for Oct 2021 – March 2022 (6 months):

- Number of instances where the Mental Health Unit was called to respond a client: 614
- Total number of clients who were linked with community resources: 288
- Total number of diverted Baker Acts: 49

[EC 2: Negative Economic Impacts](#)

Projects in the Greater Ridgcrest Area

PID # 006020A: Local Group Taylor Lake, Ridgcrest, Oak Village

Tentative Funding Amount: \$1,515,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

Status: In Design

Project Overview:

This project includes sidewalk repairs, upgrading sidewalk ramps to current ADA standards, drainage improvements and milling and resurfacing of the roads located at the 134th Ave N and Taylor Lake subdivision of Ridgcrest. Improves walkability and pedestrian safety.

Tentative Schedule:

Design: April 2022 – May 2023

Construction: May 2023 – July 2026

PID # 006021A: Local Group Martin Terrace

Tentative Funding Amount: \$530,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

Status: In Design

Project Overview:

This project includes the milling and resurfacing of the roads located at 118th St N and 116th Ln in the Martin Terrace subdivision of Ridgecrest. It includes sidewalk repairs and upgrading sidewalk ramps to current ADA guidelines at intersections as needed. Spot drainage improvements will also be completed. Project objective is to improve pedestrian safety and walkability.

Tentative Schedule:

Design: April 2022 – August 2022

Construction: September 2022 – March 2023

PID # 006022A: Local Group Gulf Terrace & Rainbow Village

Tentative Funding Amount: \$420,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

Status: In Design

Project Overview:

This project includes sidewalk repairs and upgrading sidewalk ramps to current ADA standards and milling and resurfacing of 20th Ave SW & Adams Cir W to 22nd Ave SW & Adams Cir E in the Gulf Terrace and Rainbow Village subdivisions of Ridgecrest. Spot drainage improvements will also be completed. This will improve pedestrian and cyclist safety and improve walkability.

Tentative Schedule:

Design: April 2022 – August 2022

Construction: September 2022 – March 2023

PID # 006023A: McKay Creek Greenway Connection

Tentative Funding Amount: \$5,809,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

Status: Not Started

Project Overview:

This project includes the planning and design phases of a trail system that will unite several existing parks and generally follow the course of McKay Creek. The proposed route covers new and existing trails along streets, canal rights-of-way, streams, and County land. The project may include partial construction of the proposed trail system. The trail is planned to connect Taylor Park, Ridgecrest Park, Pinewood Cultural Park and Walsingham Park. It will also realign fencing on the County-owned former state highway site to allow for recreational and community event space on the north portion of the site. The project will make it easier and safer for residents to travel between communities, County parks and the Pinellas Trail. Promotes outdoor recreation and provides access to natural space.

Tentative Schedule:

October 2022 – December 2026

PID # 006024A: Rehabilitation of 119th Overflow Area – North Garden in Ridgecrest

Tentative Funding Amount: \$5,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

Status: In Design

Project Overview:

Ridgecrest residents have long advocated to transform this piece of property into public greenspace for safe outdoor recreation. This project will remediate contamination on land along McKay Creek and expand the existing Ridgecrest Park by approximately 37 acres to create a publicly accessible greenspace for a variety of multipurpose activities in the heart of the Ridgecrest community. Project will involve addition of clean fill, grading, irrigation, sod, parking, and fencing.

Tentative Schedule:

Design: January 2022 – January 2025

Construction: February 2025 – July 2026

PID # 006025A: Dansville Stormwater Park

Tentative Funding Amount: \$5,725,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

Status: In Design

Project Overview:

This site is a fenced lot with stormwater pond that is centrally located in the underserved Dansville community and is maintained by Public Works. Turning this site into a passive community park with benches and a walking path has been identified as the top priority of the community as set out in the Ridgecrest Community Plan.

Tentative Schedule:

Design: January 2022 – December 2024

Construction: January 2025 – June 2026

Ridgecrest Outputs and Outcomes

Outputs:

- Increased acres of greenspace to Ridgecrest residents
- Installation of sidewalks and drainage infrastructure

Outcomes:

- Improved connectivity score
- Improved walkability score
- Reduced flooding events

Projects in Lealman

PID # 002131A: 46th Ave N from 49th St N (CR 611) to 38th St N. Roadway Improvements

Tentative Funding Amount: \$3,765,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

Status: In Design

Project Overview:

This project includes the addition of curb and gutter on both sides of the roadway and an eight-foot sidewalk on the north side of 46th Avenue N. On the south side of the road, sidewalk gaps will be closed, ADA upgrades will be constructed, and mid-block pedestrian crossings will be added. An alternatives and safety analysis was recently completed in conjunction with public outreach for this project.

Tentative Timeline:

Design: April 2022 – November 2023

Construction: May 2024 – September 2025

PID # 002201A: Raymond Neri Park Construction

Tentative Funding Amount: \$3,800,000

Project Expenditure Category: EC 2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

Status: In Design

Project Overview:

Converting Joe's Creek Greenway Park, now renamed Raymond H. Neri Community Park, into a community asset has long been a priority for Lealman residents. Since 2004, many community consultations have occurred to discuss improvements to this 38-acre greenspace. As part of the Lealman CRA Plan started in 2015, various concepts for the park were reviewed by the community, which came to a consensus on design. The ARPA Recovery Funds will fund Phase 1 and 1a of the park construction, which will include the entrance road, a parking lot, dog parks, playfields, playgrounds, restrooms, walking trails and walkways.

Tentative Timeline:

Design: January 2019 – December 2022

Construction: July 2023 – January 2024

PID # 004539A: Belcher Sidewalk

Tentative Funding Amount: \$3,150,000

Project Expenditure Category: EC 2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

Status: In Design

Project Overview:

This project entails sidewalk improvements on Belcher Road from 38th Ave N to 54th Ave N. It includes rehabilitating the existing sidewalks and filling in sidewalk gaps. It will also provide ADA upgrades and drainage improvements, including the addition of curbs and gutters to both sides of the road. This project improves pedestrian safety, walkability and expand ADA accessibility in a historically underserved community.

Tentative Schedule

Design: April 2022 – May 2023

Construction: October 2023 – September 2025

PID # 006027A: Local Group Sunny Acres Lawn Estates & Adjacent Subdivisions

Tentative Funding Amount: \$3,320,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

Status: In Design

Project Overview:

Paving, sidewalk, and drainage improvements for 40th Ave N to 60th Ave N. It will enhance pedestrian safety and walkability, encouraging active transportation choices for a healthy community. It includes the milling and resurfacing of roads to encourage cycling and will repair and upgrade sidewalk ramps to current ADA standards. Drainage will also be improved to accommodate greater flood control and transportation safety. Improves walkability and pedestrian safety.

Tentative Schedule

Design: April 2022 – May 2023

Construction: May 2023 – July 2026

PID #006028A: Lealman Drainage Improvements

Tentative Funding Amount: \$200,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

Status: In Design

Project Overview:

Paving, sidewalk, and drainage improvements for 33rd Way N and 33rd St N. This project will improve stormwater drainage in a historically underserved neighborhood, address local flooding concerns and enhance pedestrian and cyclist safety. This project focuses on drainage improvements in the Lealman area, bounded by 33rd Way N., 64th Avenue N., 33rd Street N. and 62nd Avenue N. Drainage work will address localized flooding in the general area and include construction of stormwater improvements. Improves walkability and pedestrian safety.

Timeline:

Design: April 2022 – May 2023

Construction: May 2023 – July 2026

PID #003001C: Lealman Regional Stormwater Facility

Funding Amount: \$5,629,000

Project Expenditure Category: 5.6 Clean Water: Stormwater

Status: In Design

Project Overview:

This is a regional stormwater facility to address flood protection level of service deficiencies. It will encourage redevelopment by offering assistance to developers and property owners with meeting stormwater regulations and strategically placed green infrastructure to upgrade and

aesthetically enhance transportation corridors while providing water quality and localized drainage improvements. This project will identify and assess opportunities for regional stormwater retention and Green Infrastructure for the Lealman CRA and develop a stormwater credit system.

Timeline:

Design: October 2020 – September 2025

Construction: October 2025 – October 2026

PID #004116A: Joe's Creek Trail and BMPs

Funding Amount: \$3,161,000

Project Expenditure Category: 5.6 Clean Water: Stormwater

Status: In Design

Project Overview:

This project is for preliminary engineering, design and construction of the Joe's Creek Greenway Trail, adjacent main channel improvements and implement projects identified by the watershed management plan for watershed wide flood protection, erosion control, and water quality improvements. These efforts are highly interdependent and will benefit from a coordinated single project approach, at least through the preliminary engineering phase. Projects include the Joe's Creek Greenway Trail, culvert upgrades, main channel improvements, treatment swales, and dry retention (at Joe's Creek Greenway Park) and improvements affecting main channel tributary systems. Promotes outdoor recreation, active transportation and improves runoff quality.

Timeline:

Design: October 2020 – June 2025

Construction: July 2025 – June 2027

Lealman Projects' Outputs and Outcomes

Outputs:

- Installation of sidewalk and drainage infrastructure
- Increased park acreage

Outcomes:

- Improved walkability index
- Improved connectivity score
- Fewer flood events

Justice40 Initiative Applicability

The Justice40 Initiative is a federal government program to direct at least 40% of funding and efforts to respond to the impacts climate change to underserved communities. The drainage and stormwater projects in Lealman further the objectives of the Justice40 Initiative by mitigating the impacts of flooding on low-income communities in Qualified Census Tracts. The overall impact of these projects will improve the health and safety of the entire community, create more recreational opportunities, reduce legacy pollution, and attract investment to create more and improved housing and job opportunities.

Projects in High Point

PID #002998A: High Point Community Park

Tentative Funding Amount: \$3,300,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

Status: In Design

Project Overview:

The High Point community has identified this facility as a priority for the neighborhood. Development of a 10-acre community park in the underserved High Point community to include basketball courts, multipurpose fields, restroom, picnic shelter, playgrounds, walking paths, landscaping, parking, and utilities. ARPA Recovery Funds will fund the construction of the park once design is complete. Promotes outdoor recreation.

Tentative Schedule

Design: May 2021 – February 2023

Construction: March 2023 – February 2024

PID #006029A: Local Group High Point Subdivision

Tentative Funding Amount: \$880,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

Status: In Design

Project Overview:

Paving, sidewalk, and drainage improvements for Roosevelt Blvd and 150th Ave N. The project includes sidewalk repairs and upgrading sidewalk ramps to current ADA standards at intersections as needed. Spot drainage improvements will also be completed. Improves walkability and pedestrian safety.

Tentative Timeline:

Design: April 2022 – August 2022

Construction: September 2022 – March 2023

PID #006030A: Russell Avenue Connection

Tentative Funding Amount: \$550,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

Status: In Design

Project Overview:

Construct pedestrian connection through Russell Ave in High Point. This is an unimproved right-of-way that is heavily used by pedestrians as a connection in the High Point Community. The project includes the addition of curb and gutter on both sides of the roadway and an eight-foot sidewalk on the north side of 46th Avenue N. To the east is a residential area of the community and to the west is 58th St which is the arterial roadway through the community. Located just to the south of this connection is a church, High Point Elementary, High Point Neighborhood Family Center and the proposed High Point Community Park. Improves walkability and pedestrian safety.

Tentative Timeline:

Design: March 2022 – December 2024

Construction: April 2025 – October 2026

Proposed High Point outputs and outcomes:

Outputs:

- New community park for High Point
- Installation of pedestrian infrastructure

Outcomes:

- Increased park attendance
- Fewer flood events
- Improved walkability score

Projects for Children

PID #004171A: All Inclusive Playground Updates

Tentative Funding Amount: \$4,500,000

Project Expenditure Category: EC 2.2 Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

Status: not started

Project Overview:

Playground renovations at county parks to provide funding for ADA accessible playground facilities for 2-to-5 and 6-to-12-year age groups, including poured in place rubberized surface and shade structures. This project will expand the inclusiveness of several County parks by installing playground structures that are accessible to differently abled children. The “all inclusive” nature of the play equipment encourages kids to play by providing varying levels of challenge and grouping equipment by type and age appropriateness. Physical and sensory play equipment is offered, as well as alternatives for children who prefer to play independently or in parallel with others. The play equipment will be able to be used by kids in wheelchairs, with crutches or that have different ranges of motion. All new playgrounds will have poured in place rubber surface which is easy to use with ADA mobility devices, such as wheelchairs. The pour in place rubber surfaces will also provide a greater impact/shock adsorption for a safer environment.

Locations:

- Phillipe Park
- Taylor Park
- Walsingham Park
- Ridgecrest Park
- Fort De Soto Park
- Howard Park

Project outputs and outcomes:

Outputs:

- New play equipment at a variety of County-operated parks

Outcomes:

- Increased park attendance

PID #004556B: South Cross Bayou Little League Field Refurbishment

Tentative Funding Amount: \$10,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

Status: Not Started

Project Overview:

Renovations and upgrades to the Cross Bayou Little League Fields. Improvements include new baseball fields, associated lighting, concession building, restrooms, landscaping, office, storage

facilities and associated infrastructure such as electric, water, irrigation, and stormwater facilities.

This project involves removal of dilapidated and potentially dangerous concession buildings, light fixtures, ballfields, and other infrastructure that has outlived its useful life, and replace with new fields, lighting, facilities, and infrastructure to ensure safe play for area youth. The project will also provide ADA access for parking, playfields, restrooms, and concession facilities.

Project Outputs and Outcomes:

Outputs:

- New baseball fields to accommodate youth baseball and girls' softball players ages 5 to 13 years.
- New restrooms, lighting, parking and ancillary buildings for the baseball fields

Outcomes:

- Improve Park and Recreation services, access, and quality sports fields for all County residents, including residents in the unincorporated areas of the County.
- Improve field use capacity and coordination to ensure proper use of and access to sports fields.

Tentative Schedule:

Design: June 2022 – June 2023

Construction: July 2023 – August 2026

Written Justification

This project is the first in a three-facility master plan that will reconstruct all three aging youth sports facilities in Unincorporated Seminole. The master plan was selected as the preferred option in large part because it is the most cost-effective way of improving access to youth sports today, and into the future. Two of the three facilities, including Cross Bayou, are located on County owned property and all three were originally constructed prior to the County's updated Stormwater requirements being adopted. The facilities are in dire need of significant capital improvements which will require extensive stormwater mitigation, resulting in a loss of playing fields once reconstructed. In order to upgrade the facilities while still maintaining the maximum number of playing fields, this master plan approach was recommended as the path forward.

Alternatively, if the County made capital improvements to each individual facility on an as needed basis, the result would be a decrease in overall playing fields, reduced access to youth recreational opportunities, and would not meet the projected future needs of the community.

Finally, the County could maintain the status quo. The County currently subsidizes the operation, maintenance, and capital improvements of these facilities through the General Fund. This has led to a deterioration of the facilities and potential safety hazards overtime as capital improvements have been deferred.

PID #006033A: Safe Routes to Schools

Estimated Funding Amount: \$5,680,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

Status: Preliminary Research and Survey Started

Project Overview:

Install sidewalk and drainage improvements at various locations in underserved neighborhoods where there is limited or no existing pedestrian infrastructure. This project prioritizes new sidewalk segments based on factors such as population density, ability to complete gaps that improve overall network connection and proximity to connections like bus stops, parks, and schools. This project will also equip all the County's school zone flashers and speed feedback signs with modules that will move the County closer to real-time connected vehicle capability.

Project Outputs and Outcomes:

Outputs:

- Installation of sidewalks and drainage infrastructure to close gaps in the locations above
- Installation of traffic speed feedback signage

Outcomes:

- Increased pedestrian, bicycle, and traffic safety
- More children walking and cycling to school
- Reduced traffic speed in school zones

Assistance to Nonprofit Organizations

PID # 006008A: Nonprofit Capital Projects

Funding Amount: \$19,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted nonprofit Organizations

Status: Not Started

Project Overview:

The County is offering funding to nonprofit organizations that have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic for capital needs. The program will fund purchases of vehicles, hardware, software, equipment, buildings, and land, as well as refurbishment of the same. Any active, operating Pinellas County nonprofit that has suffered a financial hardship as a result of the pandemic is eligible to apply, except for those in service areas that have dedicated ARPA funding.

Tentative Timeline:

Launch: August 2022

Project outputs and outcomes

Outputs:

- Number of nonprofits with capital projects

Outcomes:

- Increased nonprofit capacity

EC 3: Public Health – Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity

PID #: 006011A: CAD and GIS Data and Integration

Tentative Funding Amount: \$900,000

Project Expenditure Category: 3.4 Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Status: Not Started

Project Overview:

This project will improve the new Consolidated Computer-Aided Dispatch System with up-to-date geospatial data and routes to optimize emergency response times.

Staff are currently in the discovery phase to determine the best delivery mechanism for this project.

Project Outputs and Outcomes:

Outputs:

- Improved spatial data in the areas of addressing, street centerlines, and routing rules/restrictions.
- Process for the new CAD system to leverage the improved spatial data
- Realtime routing solutions
- Consolidation/mitigation of duplicate spatial data.
- Established data authority for address and street data

Outcomes:

- Better routing solutions for Pinellas County first responders
- Better spatial data collaboration between all PRIME stakeholders

PID #006003A: Human Service Software Modernization

Tentative Funding Amount: \$5,700,000

Project Expenditure Category: 3.4 Public Sector Capacity: Effective Public Service Delivery

Status: RFI Presentation and Demonstrations ongoing

Tentative Schedule:

RFP by September 2022

Project Overview:

Modernization of the Human Services software systems including E-App (public portal), CareScope (case management), NexGen (EMR), CHEDAS Accounting as well as contracts and grants management software. These aging systems are on outdated infrastructure and software platforms and in need of a system overhaul. This system modernization would improve efficiencies of Human Services staff members, partners such as Department of Health, and contracted vendors the County relies on to provide services to citizens. Along with operational efficiencies, the County and clients would also benefit from drastically improved self-service reporting capabilities, automation, integration capabilities, and cybersecurity improvements. Because these systems house sensitive information subject to HIPAA, an improvement to the security of these information systems is warranted.

Project Outputs and Outcomes:

Outputs:

- Procurement and implementation of new software that streamlines Human Services delivery of programs and services and provides more essential mission capabilities than existing systems.

Outcomes:

- More efficient and effective program and service delivery
- Better communication between stakeholders and service providers
- Enhanced cybersecurity protection for sensitive client information

PID #006004A: Coordinated Access Model

Tentative Funding Amount: \$1,000,000 (FY23)

Project Expenditure Category: EC 3.4, Public Health – Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

Status: Not Started

Tentative Schedule:

The Coordinated Access Model is anticipated to go live in the Spring of 2023. Currently, Human Services is in the contracting phase with the selected vendor.

Project Overview:

The Pinellas County Coordinated Access Model is a client-centered and centralized intake system which is intended to streamline access to care for persons experiencing behavioral health issues and other associated conditions using appropriate processes, skillsets, and technology.

This new service delivery model is the implementation of recommendations resulting from a thorough review of Human Services' Adult Behavioral Health System of Care to identify high-level gaps and inform vision and roadmap for action, considering both County and State-funded providers and programs.

The review recommended a robust Coordinated Access Model (CAM) that allows for increased transparency in how clients, families, caregivers, and professionals can access the right services within the behavioral health system. This requires various enabling elements including a 1-800 number; standardized screening, triage and scheduling practices; and an evaluation of the current systems in place by providers to ensure interoperability and exchange of information to allow for a consolidated view of consumer demand, level of need, available capacity, and access to care.

Funding is for the first \$1 million of the service delivery model, which will operate beyond the period of performance and will thereafter be funded via the County's General Fund.

The program is the result of a thorough analysis of the current delivery mechanisms employed to provide services to behavioral health clients. The analysis found that crisis care settings, such as a jail or emergency department, were the primary entry into the behavioral health system. It revealed that the behavioral health system functions more as a set of programs delivered by separate service providers than a coordinated system. It uncovered a lack of data-driven transparency and accountability on how well behavioral health providers and services were performing collectively and that funding structures and reporting requirements were siloed, causing a lack of flexibility and transparency required to follow patients through the system of care. Finally, it found that the County's geography and population density limit the practicality of one central receiving facility to effectively serve the population.

The CAM includes the development of key performance metrics that will reflect CAM operations as well as access to care within the system. Three sets of metrics have been designed that will evaluate consumer outcomes, process metrics and implementation metrics

Key Performance Metrics for the Coordinated Access Model are:

Outcome Metrics:

- Consumer Matching: Proportion of consumers admitted to appropriate services
- No Show Rate for first appointment scheduled by the CAM
- Drop Out Rate: Consumer drop-out rates from treatment referrals
- Satisfaction Rate with CAM services by provider, consumer, family, and caregiver

Process Metrics:

- Total contacts received (e.g., calls, live chats that may not result in a referral/self-referral)
- Total number of referrals received
- Total number of consumers screened/assessed
- Total consumers receiving services after referral by the CAM
- Response Rates:
 - Live response/answer rate
 - Time from e-referral to screening (e.g., response time within 24 hours)

- Percentage of screening that resulted in e-scheduling at the time of screening (target 100%)
- Percentage of dropped calls
- Total number of consumers re-contacting the CAM to be referred to a different service provider within a certain time frame (e.g., 3 months)
- Total number of referral sources on behalf of the consumer re-contacting the CAM to be referred to a different service provider within a certain time frame (e.g. 3 months)
- Follow-up Rate: Total number of consumers who receive follow up by the CAM after initial contact
- Total number of referral sources contacting the CAM for the same consumer

Implementation Metrics:

- Total percentage of private clinicians/clinics who have been onboarded to the CAM (for child & adolescent, adults, seniors)
- Total percentage of providers sharing information electronically via the CAM
- Number of complaints received by service providers, consumers, families, and caregivers
- Number of Outcome and Process metrics that are not meeting target (once they are set)

EC 5: Infrastructure – Water, Sewer and Broadband

PID #s 002166A and 003408A: South Cross Bayou Dewatering and Denitrification Improvements

Tentative Funding Amount: \$20,450,000

Project Expenditure Category: 5.1 Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Treatment

Status: Not Started

Project Overview:

Two projects to replace and upgrade the dewatering polymer system that has ended its useful lifecycle and rehabilitate the denitrification filter. The project comprises three main improvements:

1. Protect the electrical panels from flooding.
2. Replace the polymer that attracts the solids and build a storage facility to store it in a manner where it is protected from humidity to increase its efficacy.
3. Rehabilitate the nitrogen and total suspended solids filters.

Project outcomes:

The result will be improved reclaimed water quality coming from the facility.

Justice40 Initiative Applicability

These projects contribute to the Justice40 Initiative by reducing the nutrient load in Joe's Creek, an impaired waterbody that runs through Lealman, an underserved community. The process improvements paid for by this project will reduce the accumulation of legacy pollution in Joe's Creek and increase the availability of clean water.

PID #006052A: Septic to Sewer

Tentative Funding Amount: \$10,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 5.2 Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Collection and Conveyance

Status: Not Started

Project Overview:

Leaky septic systems are a major threat to quality of the surrounding waterbodies and wildlife habitat. Excess nutrients in the water exacerbate red tide events, which affect quality of life, public health, and tourism.

This project would convert and connect residential onsite wastewater treatment systems (septic systems) in unincorporated Pinellas County to Pinellas County Utilities' wastewater collection systems.

This project will prioritize properties in the 100-year floodplain with septic systems outside of 100 feet of existing service in areas of strategic importance and vulnerability, such as those areas with high total maximum daily loads of nutrients. An ordinance (not currently enforced) was passed about 10 years ago that required property owners within 100 feet of service to run a line to the sewer system. This program would target those properties outside the 100-foot radius that are within the Pinellas County service area with a focus on sensitive areas.

The County will look at best practices in other jurisdictions to determine the best manner to carry out this program. The \$10 million price tag will be startup funds as the program is expected to carry on for many years. There are State environmental protection grants that may be pursued once the delivery mechanism is defined.

Project outputs:

- More residential sewer customers
- Fewer residential septic tanks in the county

Project outcomes:

- Lower risk of septic leaks during flood events.

Justice 40 Initiative Applicability

This program will focus on neighborhoods where communities lag their neighbors in terms of job opportunities and low value land uses. It will also focus on areas at higher risk of flooding.

Reducing the influx of sewage into the surrounding water bodies during flood events will increase property values and attract investment.

PID #002434A: South Myrtle Avenue Drainage Improvements

Tentative Funding Amount: \$2,900,000

Project Expenditure Category: 5.6 Clean Water: Stormwater

Status: Not Started

Tentative Schedule:

Construction: November 2022 – January 2024

Project Overview:

This project includes roadway, drainage, and sidewalk improvements along S. Myrtle Avenue from Seneca Street to Belleair Road. A new stormwater system will reduce street and intersection flooding and a continuous sidewalk will be added, with upgrades to underground utilities. This project creates connectivity between residential and commercial corridors for safe pedestrian access.

Project Outcomes:

- Fewer flooding events
- Improved walkability score
- Improved connectivity score

Justice40 Initiative Application

This project is located in two Qualified Census Tracts – 255.05 and 258.00 – and therefore serves low-income communities by reducing their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change by making them less susceptible to flooding events and improving health and safety for all modes of transportation.

PID #004243A: Regional Stormwater System – Palm Harbor

Tentative Funding Amount: \$3,600,000

Project Expenditure Category: 5.6 Clean Water: Stormwater

Status: In Design

Project Overview:

The objective of this project is to retrofit the existing Palm Harbor Regional Stormwater Management Facility and associated stormwater infrastructure. Recommendations include retrofitting the existing Palm Harbor Regional Stormwater Management Facility and associated stormwater infrastructure. Improves stormwater runoff.

Project Location:

Downtown Palm Harbor and surrounding area

Tentative Schedule:

Design: March 2022 – March 2024

Construction: April 2024 – September 2025

Project Outcome:

Fewer flood events.

PID #003435A: Baypointe Regional Stormwater

Tentative Funding Amount: \$4,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 5.6 Clean Water: Stormwater

Status: Not Started

Project Overview:

This project includes conversion of the former Baypointe Golf Course into a regional stormwater conservation area. The goals of the project are to provide increased flood protection to adjacent communities, improve the quality of stormwater runoff being discharged to the Intracoastal Waterway, enhance habitat, and provide passive recreation amenities.

Project Location:

9399 Commodore Drive Seminole

Tentative Schedule:

Design: Winter 2022 – Fall 2023

Construction: Spring 2024 – Fall 2025

Outcomes:

- Fewer flooding events

PID #003894A: Mullet Creek Channel B Bank Stabilization

Tentative Funding Amount: \$1,900,000

Project Expenditure Category: 5.6 Clean Water: Stormwater

Status: Not Started

Project Overview:

This project will stabilize the creek bottom and banks to prevent erosion and provide additional floodplain storage of stormwater. The new floodplain storage area will improve water quality and restore wildlife habitat.

Project Location:

Mullet Creek, east of McMullen Booth Road and south of Cypress Trace Drive

Tentative Schedule:

Construction: February 2023 – September 2023

Project Outcome:

- Fewer flooding events

PID #003900A: Stormwater Starkey Facility M10 Modification

Tentative Funding Amount: \$2,600,000

Project Expenditure Category: 5.6 Clean Water: Stormwater

Status: Not Started

Project Overview:

This project will optimize the existing Starkey M10 Floodplain Mitigation Area to provide additional storage capacity and residence time by converting it to a wet detention system for enhanced water quality treatment. A stormwater pond for future improvements to Starkey Road will also be constructed.

Project Location:

West and east of Starkey Road, north of 126th Avenue N.

Tentative Schedule:

Construction: February 2023-May 2024

Project Outcomes:

- Fewer flooding events

PID #002123A: Roosevelt Creek Channel 5 Restoration

Tentative Funding Amount: \$4,100,000

Project Expenditure Category: 5.6 Clean Water: Stormwater

Status: Not Started

Project Overview:

Project addresses existing flooding to roads and structures and identifies water quality improvement alternatives for the Roosevelt Creek Channel 5 basin.

This project will lower a salinity weir to provide a more natural hydrologic connection between Roosevelt Creek and Old Tampa Bay. This will improve flood stages north of Ulmerton Road, improve habitat, reduce algae issues in the channel and improve movement of fish and other marine life.

Location:

Ulmerton Road to Old Tampa Bay, east of St. Petersburg-Clearwater Airport

Tentative Schedule:

Construction: January 2023 – April 2024

Outcomes:

- Fewer flooding events

PID #005015D: Manufactured Home Communities Potable Water System Improvements

Tentative Funding Amount: \$13,900,000

Project Expenditure Category: 5.11 Drinking Water: Transmission and Distribution

Status: Not Started

Project Overview:

A new project that will replace the water distribution system for the MHC at the same time the sewage collection systems will be replaced. This is efficient for construction since the sewage collection systems will be replaced at the same time, minimizing overall disruption to the communities. The project will result in more equitable billing because the MHCs are currently commercial customers, so all residents pay the same amount, regardless of usage. The project will enable billing per residence, which will encourage conservation.

Project Outputs:

- Construction of water distribution systems for 13 manufactured home communities

Project Outcomes:

- Improved water conservation