

Lee County Government 2024 American Rescue Plan Act Recovery & Resilience Plan

STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS



Annual Report 4

Period Covered: July 1, 2023– June 30, 2024

Due: July 31, 2024

Lee County, Florida
Board of County Commissioners
P.O. Box 398
Fort Myers, FL 33902
239-533-2221
www.leegov.com/ARPA



[PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]

American Rescue Plan Act Lee County, Florida 2024 ARPA Recovery & Resilience Plan

Report Date: July 31, 2024

Contents

I. General Overview	4
A. Executive Summary	4
B. Uses of Funds	5
C. Promoting Equitable Outcomes	6
D. Community Engagement	9
1. Engaging Community-based Service Partners, Nonprofits and Small Businesses	9
2. Public Survey—Impacts of COVID-19 on Households, Businesses and Non-Profit Agencies	10
3. Public Meetings	12
4. Selection of Subrecipients	12
5. Information Sharing	12
6. Project Specific Examples of Community Engagement	19
E. Labor Practices	21
F. Use of Evidence	21
II. Performance Report	27
A. ARPA Program Management Summary (June 30, 2024)	28
B. Expenditure Summary	35
III. Project Inventory	36
1. Public Health	36
Assistance to Households	36
1.1 Lee Health, formerly Lee Memorial Health System, Mobile Vaccine	36
1.4 Emergency Operations Center Expansion Project	39
1.7 Lee County Sheriff Traffic Detail at Covid Testing Site and Monoclonal Antibody Site	40
1.11 Justice for Families (United Way’s Project Subrecipient)	41
Behavioral Health	45
1.12A Behavioral Health Staffing Recruiting and Retention	45
1.12 AIDS Healthcare Foundation Mental Health Services (United Way’s Project Subrecipient)	53

1.12 Creating a Dementia Informed Community (United Way’s Project Subrecipient)	56
1.12 Chrysalis Community Mental Health Impact (United Way’s Project Subrecipient)	60
1.12 Renaissance Manor of Lee County (United Way’s Project Subrecipient)	63
1.12 Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) Service Enhancement (United Way’s Project Subrecipient)	66
1.12 Crisis Intervention Team Expansion (United Way’s Project Subrecipient).....	69
1.12 Pyramid Model for Development and Mental Health (United Way’s Project Subrecipient)	71
1.12 More Hope (United Way’s Project Subrecipient).....	74
1.12 Psychosocial Rehabilitation Program (United Way’s Project Subrecipient)	76
1.13 Opiate Prevention Through Proper Disposal (United Way’s Project Subrecipient).....	78
1.13 Peer Overdose Prevention Initiative (United Way’s Project Subrecipient).....	80
2 Negative Economic Impacts.....	83
Assistance to Households	83
2.01 Food Distribution Organizations to Address Food Insecurity	83
2.01 Food Distributions (United Way’s Project Beneficiary).....	86
2.01 Mobile Food Pantries (United Way’s Project Beneficiary).....	87
2.01 Family Food Boxes (United Way’s Project Beneficiary)	88
2.10 Workforce Training and Certification Grant (Micro and Rapid Credentialing)	89
2.10 Better Families and Better Jobs (United Way’s Project Subrecipient).....	111
2.10 Mobile Boutique and Career Center (United Way’s Project Subrecipient).....	115
2.10 Opportunity Accelerator (OA) Job Training and Employment Support (United Way’s Project Subrecipient)	118
2.11 Support Non-Profit Childcare Providers to Increase Capacity.....	121
2.15 Affordable Housing Grants to Nonprofits.....	128
2.16 Increase Street Outreach and Case Worker Staff to Address Housing Stability Needs.....	134
2.16 Shelter Operations.....	146
2.16 Rapid Re-Housing (United Way’s Project Subrecipient).....	149
2.16 The Empowerment Center (United Way’s Project Subrecipient)	151
2.16 Housing Outreach and Treatment (HOT) Teams/Peer Coordination (United Way’s Project Subrecipient)	153
2.16 Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons (United Way’s Project Subrecipient).....	157
2.16 Homeless Resource Day Center (United Way’s Project Subrecipient).....	159
2.16 Rapid Rehousing and Safer Emergency Housing (United Way’s Project Subrecipient)	161
2.19 Patient Enrollment, Re-enrollment Assistance (United Way’s Project Subrecipient).....	164
2.19 Autism Continuum of Care (United Way’s Project Subrecipient)	167

2.19 Free Eye Care Services to Prevent Blindness (United Way’s Project Subrecipient).....	171
2.19 Neighborhood Community Centers (United Way’s Project Subrecipient).....	175
2.19 Health Improvement with Care (United Way’s Project Subrecipient).....	177
2.19 Free Dental Care for Low-Income (United Way’s Project Subrecipient).....	180
2.19 Integrated Primary Care Behavioral Health (United Way’s Project Subrecipient).....	182
2.19 Expanding Clinic Hours (United Way’s Project Subrecipient).....	185
2.25 Support Non-Profit, Extended Learning and After-School Programs that Address Educational Disparities.....	188
2.25 EDUCATE! Being Smart is Great (United Way’s Project Subrecipient).....	212
2.25 Park Meadows Boys & Girls Club (United Way’s Project Subrecipient).....	215
2.25 Help is on the Way (United Way’s Project Subrecipient).....	219
2.25 Earn to Learn FL Youth Services (United Way’s Project Subrecipient).....	221
2.25 I WILL Mentorship Foundation Youth Services (United Way’s Project Subrecipient).....	224
2.25 Summer and After-School Programs (United Way’s Project Subrecipient).....	227
2.25 Super Kids Club, Tice (United Way’s Project Subrecipient).....	230
2.25 Girls Coordinating Council and Reach Program (United Way’s Project Subrecipient).....	233
2.25 Arts, Character and Education or "ACE" (United Way’s Project Subrecipient).....	237
2.25 Youth Success (United Way’s Project Subrecipient).....	241
2.26 Counseling Project (United Way’s Project Subrecipient).....	244
Assistance to Small Businesses.....	246
2.29 Small Business Resiliency Assistance.....	246
2.30 Small Business Technical Assistance.....	249
Assistance to Nonprofits.....	261
2.34 Nonprofit Human Services Grant and Capacity Building.....	261
2.34 Have a Heart Pets (United Way’s Project Subrecipient).....	269
2.34 Deaf and Hard of Hearing Project (United Way’s Project Subrecipient).....	272
2.34 Senior Companion Program (United Way’s Project Subrecipient).....	276
2.34 Diaper Bank (United Way’s Project Beneficiary).....	280
2.34 Busing for Veterans (United Way’s Project Subrecipient).....	281
2.34 Speed Servin’ Angels (United Way’s Project Subrecipient).....	283
2.34 Early Intervention Services (United Way’s Project Subrecipient).....	286
2.34 Serving Our Community (United Way’s Project Subrecipient).....	288
2.34 Comprehensive Housing Counseling (United Way’s Project Subrecipient).....	290
2.34 The Friendly Visitor Program for Seniors (United Way’s Project Subrecipient).....	294
2.34 Immigration Services (United Way’s Project Subrecipient).....	296

2.34 Vision Rehabilitation and Support Services (United Way’s Project Subrecipient)	299
2.34 Transitional Group Home for Young Mothers (United Way’s Project Subrecipient)	303
2.34 Creating a Strong Healthy Community through Food Assistance Project (United Way’s Project Subrecipient)	306
2.34 Center for Integrated Health and Wellness (United Way’s Project Subrecipient)	309
2.34 Mental Health Program (United Way’s Project Subrecipient)	312
2.34 Senior Crisis Intervention Program (United Way’s Project Subrecipient)	316
2.34 Special Equestrians Therapeutic Horsemanship Program (United Way’s Project Subrecipient)	318
2.34 Recovery: Food and Tutoring Service (United Way’s Project Subrecipient)	321
2.34 Child Grief Support Services (United Way’s Project Subrecipient)	323
Aid to Impacted Industries	326
2.35 Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality	326
3 Public Sector Capacity	328
General Provisions	328
3.1 Emergency Medical Staff (21)	328
3.1 Paramedics and EMT Workforce – Pandemic Engaged Staff	329
4 Infrastructure	330
Broadband	330
5.21 Broadband Gap Analysis	330
Revenue Replacement	331
6.1 Big Carlos Pass Bridge Project	331
6. Administrative	332
7.1 Consulting Services for Oversight and Compliance of American Rescue Plan Funds	332
7.1 Administrative Expenses – Human Services	333

I. General Overview

A. Executive Summary

The American Rescue Plan Act, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provided Lee County with \$149,675,549 to respond to the negative economic and health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our communities, residents, and businesses. U.S. Treasury, the awarding agency, has given counties substantial discretion, yet defined eligible and restricted uses of the funds, to determine how to allocate the grant to best suit the needs of the county's constituents. Treasury requires funds be grouped by specific categories; those are summarized in the Lee County Approved Allocations by Expense Categories Table below. In addition, the initial, quarterly, and annual project reports are submitted to Treasury and published online at www.leegov.com/arpa to account for the use of the funds.

The *Lee County's American Rescue Plan Act Recovery & Resilience Plan* is the third annual required report. The Plan summarizes Lee County's allocation and expenditure of ARPA funds through June 30, 2024. The Lee Board of County Commissioners' process to determine how funds would be used involved a broad array of information gathering, discussions, and planning. Participants in the process included County departments, small business and public interest groups, non-profit organizations, public health entities, education providers, and the public. The resulting priorities were discussed and finalized through the Board's public meeting process, which reflects "government in the sunshine principles.". As required, the Board was careful to approach each project design, implementation, and execution with equity in mind especially for underserved communities—with equal access to funding opportunities for projects and equal eligible access to services provided by the funds.

The Plan shows Lee County Government's community-focused response to pandemic recovery. It also shows the County's level of engagement to help respond to the crisis, which has resulted in formal agreements with many community collaborators including the public health system, the Sheriff's Office, three public universities, the local School Board, and over seventy nonprofit organizations. Herein each project is summarized to describe its owner, services, demographic reach, equitable approach, use of evidence, and performance objectives.

Table 1. Lee County Approved Allocations by Expense Categories Table

Expense Categories	Allocated Funding	Percent of Funding
Public Health	\$28,555,648	19%
Negative Economic Impacts	\$41,754,786	28%
Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity	\$30,250,793	20%
Infrastructure	\$99,199	0.1%
Revenue Replacement	\$48,241,146	32%
Administrative	\$773,977	0.5%
American Rescue Plan Funds	\$149,675,549	100%

B. Uses of Funds

Lee County recognizes ARPA funding as an unprecedented opportunity to support robust and equitable investments that address immediate recovery needs – especially in the most disproportionately impacted communities – and long-term resiliency building.

The list below shows Lee County’s allocations by expense category and broadly identifies our planned projects and outcomes.



Public Health (EC 1): \$28,555,648 for public health and pandemic response to address needs, including:

- \$16.5 million for the emergency operations expansion project
 - \$9 million for mental health funding to address staffing needs for youth and adult behavioral health services
 - \$111,123 for pediatric mobile vaccine unit targeting children and families with transportation challenges
 - \$58,607 for sheriff traffic and security detail at testing sites
 - \$2.9 million for nonprofit public health/human service United Way grants to increase or ensure the continuation and expansion of direct services to the community
-



Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2): \$41,754,786 to respond to negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency, including to households and small businesses:

- \$14 million for nonprofit human services grants to increase or ensure the continuation and expansion of direct services to the community
 - \$7.5 million for affordable housing projects to increase housing availability
 - \$4.5 million for food distribution service organizations
 - \$3 million for workforce training and certifications to improve employment opportunities and financial security
 - \$2 million to support nonprofit childcare providers to increase childcare unit availability
 - \$3 million for nonprofit capacity building (United Way)
 - \$3 million for homelessness prevention and assistance
 - \$2 million for small business resiliency grants to provide economic relief from the negative economic impact of the pandemic
 - \$1.6 million for extended learning and afterschool programs for youth to address academic, social, and emotional needs
 - \$475,000 to provide small business and nonprofit technical assistance to address the negative economic impact of COVID-19
 - \$200,000 to aid tourism and hospitality businesses
-



Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity (EC 3): \$30,250,793 to provide public health capacity in the public sector, including:

- \$4.2 million for Lee County Public Safety – Emergency Medical Services to address staffing shortages and deficiencies
 - \$26 million for pandemic engaged Paramedics and EMTs
-



Premium Pay (EC 4): Premium pay programs prioritizing low-income workers.

- No Premium pay projects
-



Water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure (EC 5): \$99,199 to pursue projects, including:

- \$99,199 for a Broadband Gap Analysis to identify broadband need with emphasis on unserved and underserved communities
-



Revenue Replacement (EC 6): \$48,241,146 – Calculated Revenue Replacement to account for loss revenue due to the COVID-19 public health emergency funds. For government services only.

- \$48.2 million toward the Big Carlos Pass Bridge Project
-



Administrative (EC 7): \$773,977 million for ARPA administrative expenses (4% of total Lee County ARPA allocation)

- \$127,221 Lee County, through a competitive solicitation, secured a management consultant to assist with administration of the ARPA funding received
 - \$646,756 million Lee County added Grant Management positions
-

C. Promoting Equitable Outcomes

Lee County Government values diversity and welcomes input from all interested parties, regardless of cultural identity, background, or income level. Moreover, Lee County believes that the best programs and services result from careful consideration of the needs, and input from, its various communities involved in transportation, public transportation, human services, and other government services.¹

Lee County does not tolerate discrimination in any of its programs, services, or activities. Pursuant to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and other federal and state authorities, the County will not exclude anyone from participation, deny benefits, or discriminate against anyone on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, income, or family status.²

Lee County embraced an equity-focused mindset to address the COVID-19 pandemic. The County sought to ensure that historically underserved communities and disproportionately impacted individuals and classes were informed of the funding opportunities and had a chance for input into the design of the ARPA projects. These potential equity impacts guided our community engagement, funding availability notifications, project selection, and design.

As the County engaged the community, categories of need emerged. Need-specific projects were designed to address the overarching categorical service goals. Lee County integrated an equity focus at the categorical and project level. The County's overarching categorical equity plans are listed below. Each

¹ "Civil Rights Act, Title VI." *Lee County Southwest Florida*, 5 Aug. 2021, www.leegov.com/civilrights.

² "Civil Rights Act, Title VI." 2021.

project's equity focus can also be seen as we report equity design, goals and target, awareness, access and distribution, and outcomes.

Lee County's ARPA program chose to engage the community's nonprofit organizations, educational providers, behavioral health provider, and small business technical assistants as subrecipients to deliver projects that address public health, workforce training needs, small business assistance and negative economic impacts. These organizations presented an evaluation of their constituent's needs based on their assessment of community's pandemic impacts and they designed projects to support recovery and long-term resiliency. Those that were awarded subrecipient agreements for their projects will demonstrate how they were designed and delivered with equity in mind.

All ARPA subrecipient projects have agreements (currently more than 80) which require that each project demonstrate how it will "promote equitable outcomes" using ARPA's equity-based requirements (goals, awareness, access/distribution, and outcomes). Additionally, all projects are encouraged to collect demographic data to assess their effectiveness. All negative economic impact projects are required to report demographic data to validate its equity efforts. Project owners are encouraged to disaggregate data by race, ethnicity, gender, income, and other relevant factors.

Lee County plans to review disaggregated data understand inequities and to guide future decision making. Our project selection and subrecipient risk assessment processes evaluated the history and capacity to gather and report disaggregated performance data. As specified by Treasury, we have requested that project owners, to the extent possible, show disaggregation by geographic area, age, race, ethnicity, gender, income level, etc.

Lee County Service Category Equity Plans

Within Section III. Project Inventory will provide highlights for each specific project's equity plan.

Public Health Services will ensure safe and efficient access to vaccines with emphasis on removing barriers for underserved communities.

Behavioral Health Services will ensure that attainable behavioral and mental health services are available for Lee County citizens, particularly those in underserved communities, through adequate staff recruiting, training, retention efforts, community education, and outreach, and operational innovation and support.

Food Distribution Services will minimize food insecurity for low- and moderate-income and underserved communities through a network of food distribution providers, community food banks, community kitchens, and delivery services.

Workforce Training and Credentialing Services will provide training and credentialing opportunities to individuals who want and are available for work, including those who are unemployed or underemployed, or who are employed but seeking a position with greater opportunities for economic advancement, especially those in underserved communities.

Childcare Quality and Access Services will provide funding to improve the availability, quality, and parental access to childcare by providers who are resourced with technical assistance, training, certification, and equipment required to service communities in areas underserved or with high-needs for childcare and low-and mod-income households specifically.

Affordable Housing Services will increase the stock of affordable long-term housing for qualifying individuals and families through the development properties that will become affordable, high-quality, safe housing units.

Services of Unhoused Persons will increase outreach and supportive services needed to help the unhoused persons and households and provide support for shelter operations.

Youth Extended Learning will increase access and quality of extended learning and afterschool programs that provide informed advocacy, guidance, support, resources, referrals, and tools needed to overcome economic and social barriers and achieve academic, career, and life success for low- and medium income youth and their families and for underserved community youth.

Small Business and Nonprofit Technical and Economic Resiliency Assistance will provide small businesses and nonprofits in qualified Census Tracts or Low-to-Moderate income designated areas or who were negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic with technical assistance to improve their business planning and execution and provide one-time financial aid to address COVID-related negative economic impacts.

Nonprofit Human Services Direct Service Delivery and Capacity Building will ensure the adequate availability of need-driven community-based direct human services while building organizational resiliency through targeted projects that assist low- to moderate-income and aid for operational enhancements.

D. Community Engagement

Lee County ARPA Project Collaborators

70+ Nonprofits

Three Universities &
The School Board (Adult Ed)

The Public Health System | The Sheriffs Office

1. Engaging Community-based Service Partners, Nonprofits and Small Businesses

Throughout the response to the pandemic, Lee County engaged community-based service delivery partners, economic development organizations and local businesses organizations to remain aware of the effect and to identify needs that arose from the pandemic.

The examples below illustrate how the County departments and senior leadership solicited and gathered feedback regarding pandemic-related needs. These communication channels seeded ARPA ideas that were discussed in public meetings on October 19, 2021, March 1, 2022, and June 21, 2022, wherein the Board selected projects and allocated funds.

Human and Veteran Services Community Engagement

- Survey of nonprofits' partners;
- Consultation with various community-based organizations including Lee Health, Salus Care, Salvation Army, CASL, United Way, Early Learning Coalition, Collaboratory, Central Florida Behavioral Health Network, and Midwest Food Bank; and
- Survey of Partnering for Result youth services providers.

Economic Development Community Engagement

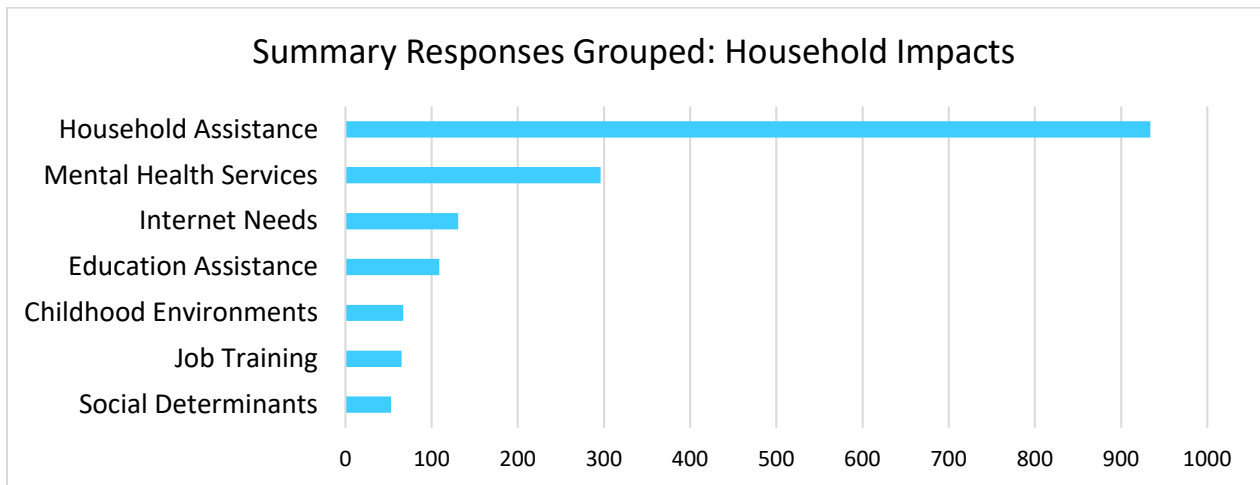
- Monthly Real Estate Research Institute surveys assessing pandemic impact on business activity;
- Regular consultation with all chambers of commerce;
- COVID -19 related regular information sharing with the Southwest Florida Economic Development Alliance, Small Business Development Centers, and U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA);
- Scheduled regular two-way information sharing with industry partners on the Lee Cares program and not-for-profit sectors regarding pandemic impact on culture, housing, and human services;
- Weekly meetings with retail representatives regarding operation constraints;
- Weekly supply chain meetings with Lee Health;
- Weekly calls with hospitality industry partners to provide the latest information and assess local business conditions;
- Regular calls to workforce training partners including Career Source;
- Visitor and Convention Bureau Community Engagement;
- Weekly information sharing and gathering calls with industry partners; and
- Conducted periodic "willingness to travel" consumer sentiment research in key markets.

2. Public Survey—Impacts of COVID-19 on Households, Businesses and Non-Profit Agencies

- Lee County’s Community Impact survey was available in multiple languages (e.g., English, Spanish and Haitian Creole).
- Survey collected data on pandemic impacts to households and workplaces, and feedback on potential project categories.
- Survey was shared through County social media, flyers to community distribution partners and lists, flyers displayed in County public lobbies (Parks, Animal Services, Transit, Community Development, Library, Public Safety, and Solid Waste), shared in multiple newsletters from County, local municipalities, and community groups.

Survey Data Highlights

Question: How has the COVID-19 pandemic personally impacted you or your household? Select all that apply:



NOTES: Household Assistance: Paying for rent, utilities, food, other bills; reduced work hours or unemployment.

Mental Health Services: Household member struggled with mental or emotional health or substance abuse/use

Internet Needs: Internet problems made work or school from home difficult

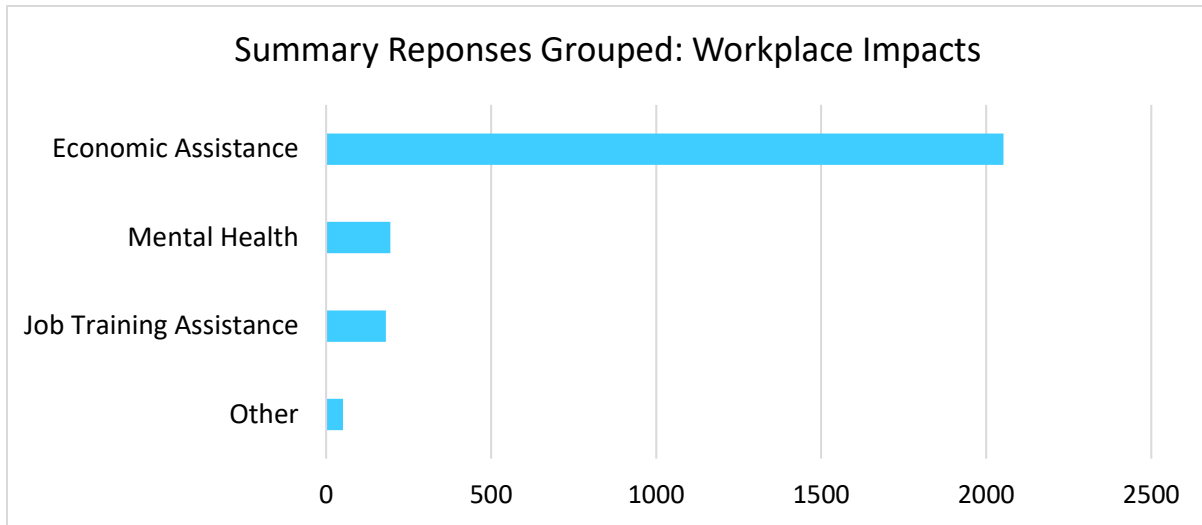
Education Assistance: Children in household had problems with learning progress or social development

Childhood Environments: Problems finding or paying for childcare

Job Training: Adult experienced interruption in education or training or trouble getting educational or work assistance

Social Determinants: Problem finding support needed from social services/nonprofits

Question: How has the pandemic impacted your workplace? Select all that apply:

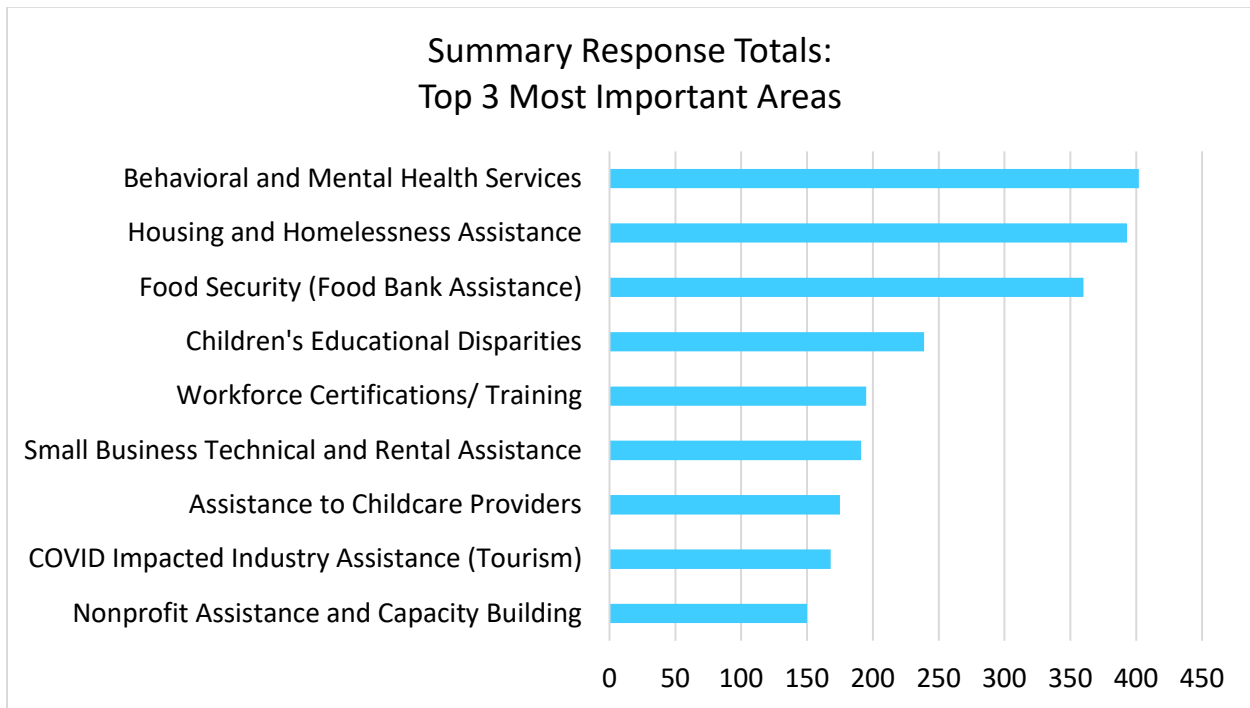


NOTES: Economic Assistance: Problems paying commercial rent/mortgage, suppliers, vendors, or workers. Problems hiring and retaining workers, decreases in sales and overall financial position negatively affected, additional expenses due to COVID.

Mental Health: Someone in the workplace struggled with mental or emotional health.

Job Training Assistance: Problems finding qualified workers.

Question: From the list of project categories below select your top 3 (three) most important areas.



3. Public Meetings

The Lee County American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) project allocations are always published on regular Lee Board of County Commissioners meeting agendas, with opportunity for public comments. Meeting agendas are published online ahead of the meeting. To date there have been twelve board meetings to approve ARPA project allocations and obligations and one board workshop. The Lee County ARPA website contains a log of those meeting agenda items and backup. [Meetings & Documents \(leegov.com\)](#)

The Lee Board of County Commissioners held an ARPA planning workshop in September 2021 to identify Phase One projects. At the regular board meeting on October 19, 2021, following public discussion the Board approved the Phase One projects. Phase Two projects were approved following discussion in a public meeting on March 1, 2022. On June 21, 2022, May 26, 2023, and March 5, 2024 the board updated its allocations in the various expenditure categories.

4. Selection of Subrecipients

Subrecipients were selected based on their unique capacities and know of their communities and demographic to engage underserved communities. Each project subrecipient has equity-based requirements to design project with equity minded goals, awareness, service access and distribution, that engage the individuals that their services can assist and delivers targeted outcomes.

5. Information Sharing

Lee County communicates the ARPA funding allocations in through (a) web site; (b) press releases; (c) social media; and (d) earned media.

(a) Website [American Rescue Plan Act \(ARPA\) \(leegov.com\)](#)

The ARPA home page summarizes funding allocations and project expenditures. The site also summarizes the project program on the infographic below. The report to US Treasury is also published. Additional pages contain information such as: meetings and documents, workforce and technical assistance program contact information, and references for the subrecipients. [Allocations \(leegov.com\)](#)



ARPA FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

ARPA Allocations

The charts below provide a high-level overview of funding allocations and spending in the various categories. The data will be updated quarterly. The Allocations and Expenditures below reflect activity through December 31, 2023.

<p>Infrastructure Allocated: \$99,199 Spent: \$99,199</p>	<p>Negative Economic Impacts Allocated: \$41,754,786 Spent: \$30,987,668</p>
<p>Public Health Allocated: \$28,555,648 Spent: \$9,473,294.62</p>	<p>Public Sector Capacity Allocated: \$30,250,793 Spent: \$30,250,793</p>
<p>Revenue Replacement Allocated: \$48,241,146 Spent: \$18,009,728</p>	

ARPA Expenditure Dashboard

Lee County's American Rescue Plan Act, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund expenditures are reflected in the dashboard linked below. The projects are grouped by the US Treasury's expenditure categories.

\$149.7M ARPA Grant Funding

[ARPA Expenditure Dashboard](#)

REPORTS DUE TO U.S. TREASURY

The United States Treasury prepared [Compliance and Reporting Responsibilities](#) for agencies that receive funds to require compliance and reporting responsibilities that support transparency, responsibility, and equity in use of these vital resources. The required reports will be added to the fields below as they are prepared.

- [Interim Report \(One Time\)](#)
- [Project & Expenditure Reports \(Quarterly\)](#)
- [Recovery Plan Performance Report \(Annual\)](#)

INFORMATION & RESOURCES

US Treasury: Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

National Association of Counties (NACo): State and Local Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Funds Information

United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades and Okeechobee Counties

\$149,675,549 ARPA FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA

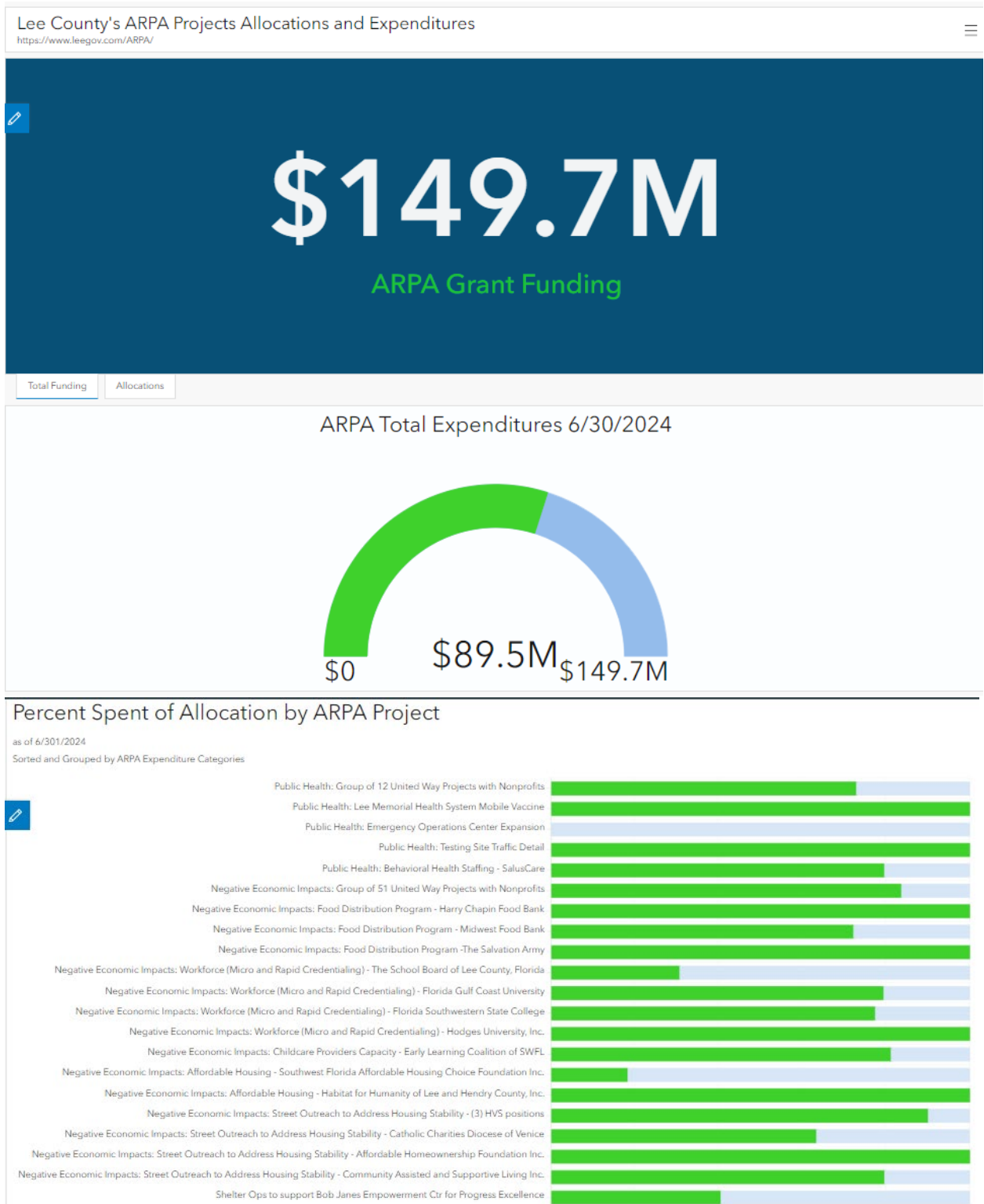
\$48,410,000 NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS

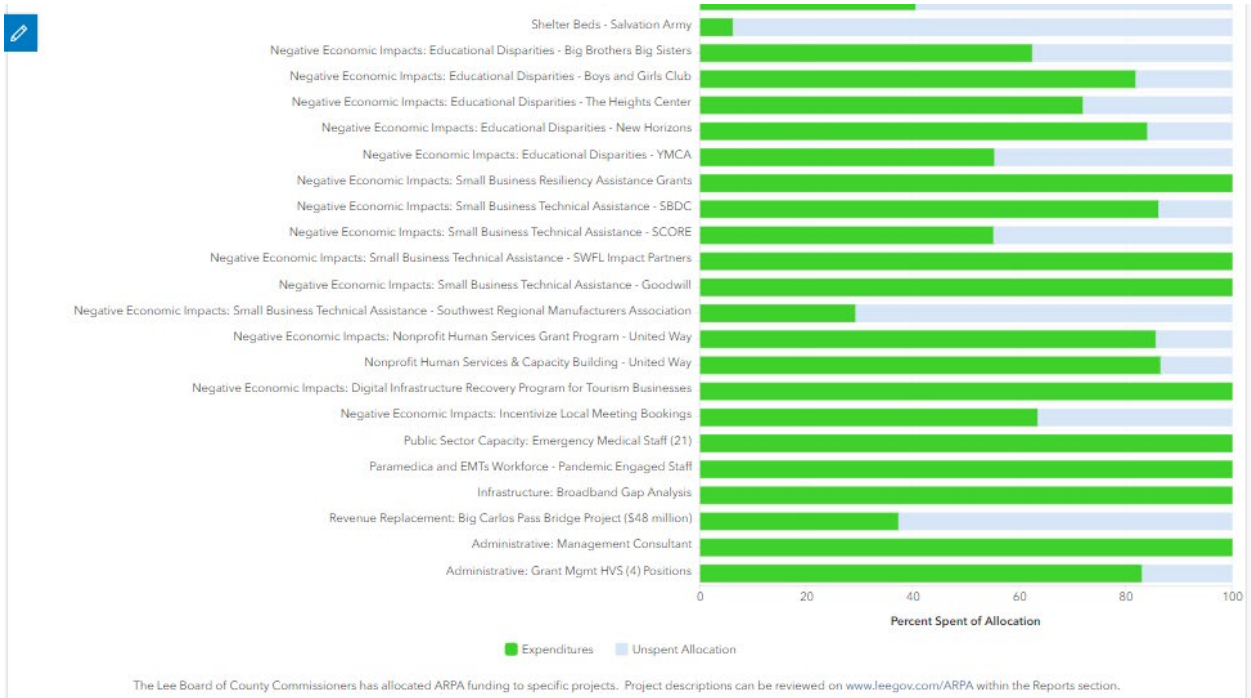
<h4>ASSISTANCE TO HOUSEHOLDS</h4> <p>\$4,535,000 Food Distribution Program Addressing Food Insecurity for Impacted Households</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Midweek Food Bank Happy Clean Food Bank The Salvation Army 	<h4>ASSISTANCE TO NON-PROFITS</h4> <p>\$17,000,000 Human Services Grant Program</p> <p>\$3,000,000 United Way Administer Grants to Nonprofits</p>
<h4>Affordable Housing</h4> <p>\$7,500,000 Long-term Housing Security Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SWFL Affordable Housing Choice Foundation & Habitat for Humanity 	<h4>ASSISTANCE TO SMALL BUSINESSES</h4> <p>\$475,000 Technical Assistance, Counseling, or Business Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Go2Net, Incubator of SWFL Florida Small Business Development Center, SWFL Impact Partners, SWFL and Southwest Regional Manufacturers Association
<h4>Long-term Housing Security Services for Unhoused Persons</h4> <p>\$1,800,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase Shelter Outreach & Case Worker Staff 	<h4>FINANCIAL HARDSHIP & RESILIENCY GRANT PROGRAM</h4> <p>\$4,000,000 Small Business Resiliency Assistance</p>
<h4>HEALTHY CHILDHOOD ENVIRONMENTS</h4> <p>\$1,600,000 Educational Assistance Support Non-Profit, Extended Learning & After-School Programs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Big Brothers Big Sisters Dee & Sara Child The Lights Center Next Initiative YMCA 	<h4>AID TO IMPACTED INDUSTRIES</h4> <p>\$2,500,000 Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital Infrastructure Recovery Program for Tourism Businesses
<h4>HEALTHY CHILDHOOD ENVIRONMENTS</h4> <p>\$3,000,000 Support Childcare Providers to Increase Capacity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early Learning Coalition of SWFL 	
<h4>UNEMPLOYED/UNDEREMPLOYED WORKERS ASSISTANCE</h4> <p>\$3,000,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workforce Training & Certification Grant Micro & Rapid Credentialing Florida Gulf Coast University, Florida Southwestern State College, Hocking University, Lee County School Board 	

<h3>\$30,776,525</h3> <h4>PUBLIC HEALTH</h4> <p>Mental Health Services \$9,000,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Behavioral Health Staffing, Recruiting & Retention, Staffing <p>\$5,000,000 Behavioral Health Coordinated Care System Development</p> <p>COVID-19 Mitigation & Prevention \$250,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID-19 Vaccination, Lee Memorial Health System Mobile Vaccines <p>\$16,457,918 Prevention in Congregate Settings (Infrastructure): Emergency Operations Center Expansion Project</p> <p>\$58,607 Other Expenses: Lee County Sheriff's Office and treatment sites</p>	<h3>\$48,241,146</h3> <h4>REVENUE REPLACEMENT (INFRASTRUCTURE)</h4> <p>Provision of Government Services Dig Carlos Pass Bridge</p> <p>\$5,580,981 PUBLIC HEALTH - NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT: PUBLIC SECTOR CAPACITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Provisions Prevention in Congregate Settings (Infrastructure): Public Safety or Human Services Workers Emergency Management Staff <p>\$5,987,022 Administrative Expenses</p>	<h3>\$10,689,875</h3> <h4>INFRASTRUCTURE</h4> <p>Water & Sewer \$2,100,000</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drinking water, Water Infrastructure Cyber Security Risk Assessment & Hardware Software Improvements <p>\$8,489,875 Clean Water: Centralized Wastewater Treatment Plant Myers Beach WRF Major Improvements</p> <p>Broadband: Other Projects</p> <p>\$100,000 Broadband Gap Analysis</p>
--	---	--

ARPA
Lee County
AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

(b) Expenditure Dashboard



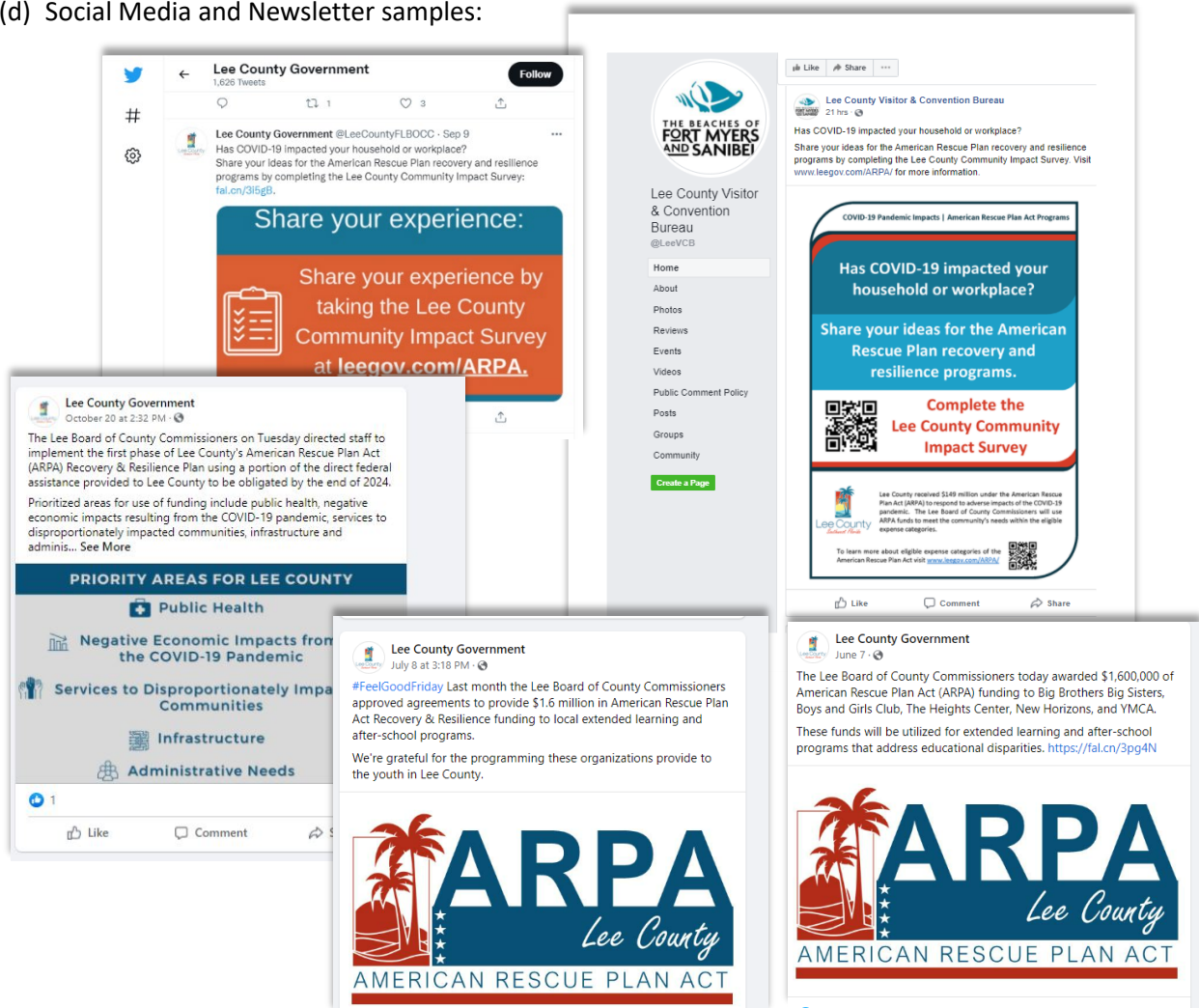


(c) Press releases can be reviewed within the Meetings and Documentation section of the Lee County ARPA webs site. [Meetings & Documents \(leegov.com\)](http://www.leegov.com/Meetings%20and%20Documents)

Samples:

- March 21, 2022: *Nonprofits can apply now for Lee County American Rescue Plan Act funding*
- April 27, 2022: *Lee County Economic Development and community partners offer workforce and technical assistance programs*
- June 7, 2022: *Lee Commissioners approve agreements for ARPA extended learning and after-school programs*
- June 21, 2022, r1: *Lee Commissioners allocate \$7.5 million to affordable housing developments*
- June 21, 2022, r2: *Lee Commissioners approve ARPA funding for human service projects recommended by United Way*
- May 24, 2023: *County announces additional, special commission meeting*
- September 5, 2023: *Lee Commissioners award contract for Emergency Operations Center expansion*
- October 5, 2023: *Groundbreaking set for Lee County Public Safety Center Expansion of EOC to take about 19 months*

(d) Social Media and Newsletter samples:



PRIORITY AREAS FOR LEE COUNTY

- Public Health
- Negative Economic Impacts from the COVID-19 Pandemic
- Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities
- Infrastructure
- Administrative Needs

American Rescue Plan

The Lee Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday directed staff to implement the first phase of Lee County's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Recovery & Resilience Plan using a portion of the direct federal assistance provided to Lee County to be obligated by the end of 2024.

Prioritized areas for use of funding include public health, negative economic impacts resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, services to disproportionately impacted communities, infrastructure and administrative needs.



American Rescue Plan Act

On Tuesday, the Lee Board of County Commissioners authorized a combined total of \$23.5 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to local nonprofits in Lee County.

Projects funded include two agreements for affordable housing and a variety of projects recommended by United Way to deliver direct human services including mental health, homelessness recovery, healthcare, youth programs, food security, workforce training, violence prevention and others.


[Learn More](#)




ARPA Plans

Click [here](#) to view details of upcoming workforce training and small business technical assistance programs for Lee County's American Rescue Plan Act initiatives, and click [here](#) to view

each of the business partners collaborating in these efforts. The Lee County Board of County Commissioners continue to work diligently with the Economic Development Office (EDO) to develop ARPA programs to assist the community that continues to be impacted by COVID-19.



Lee County wants to know how COVID-19 impacted your household or workplace



Lee County received \$149 million under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to respond to adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.


The Lee Board of County Commissioners will use ARPA funds to meet the community's needs within the eligible expense categories.

[Complete this survey to share your pandemic impacts](#) and feedback for ARPA recovery and resilience planning.

Visit leegov.com/ARPA for more information.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
City of Sanibel News Release

Sanibel, Florida
September 23, 2021
Contact: City Manager's Office
(239) 471-3700





Lee County Announces COVID Community Impact Survey - Access Survey Below
Sanibel Residents Invited to Share Input & Ideas

The City of Sanibel has received notice Lee County has announced a Community Impact Survey to determine the impacts of Covid-19 on Lee County households and businesses.

Sanibel residents who are interested in sharing their input about the impacts of Covid-19, and ideas for the American Rescue Plan recovery and resilience programs in Lee County may participate in the survey by clicking this link:

-END-


Lee County COVID-19 Community Impact Survey

The Lee County Economic Development Office would like to make you aware of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Lee County has been allocated over \$149 million dollars through ARPA to combat the public health and economic severities of COVID-19. In order to sufficiently assist the public with funds, the county has created a Community Impact Survey which will collect data to effectively distribute funds to the areas in which people have suffered most. The feedback received will allow for the county to assess which issues need highest priority.

Information about ARPA and the decisions Lee County plans to make can be found at <https://www.leegov.com/ARPA>

Impacts of COVID-19 on Households, Businesses and Non-profit Agencies Complete the survey below to share your pandemic impacts and feedback for ARPA recovery and resilience planning. <https://survey123.azopie.com/>

Lee County would like to hear from you. The County received \$149 million under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to respond to adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Lee Board of County Commissioners will use ARPA funds to meet the community's needs within the eligible expense categories, and is looking for community input on how COVID-19 affects households, businesses, and non-profit agencies. Complete the County survey to share your pandemic impacts and feedback for ARPA recovery and resilience planning.



(e) Earned Media Samples:

November 2, 2023 – WGPU

Going up! Lee County breaks ground for addition to EOC

October 5, 2023 – WGPU

Expansion groundbreaking set for Lee County Public Safety Center

August 18, 2023 – WGPU

Moore About Business: SW Florida Impact Partners provides ARPA funds and training

July 31, 2023 – WGPU

Moore About Business: How Goodwill used ARPA funds in SWFL

July 10, 2023 – WGPU

Moore About Business: Where was the \$149 million ARPA funding distributed in Lee County?

Feb 23, 2023 – NBC-2

Habitat for Humanity receives \$2.5 million in funding for Lee County homes

Feb 14, 2023 – US Department of Treasury

FACT SHEET: State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Helping Communities Recover from the Pandemic

Feb 3, 2023 – WGPU

Moore About Business: SCORE works to help small businesses with resiliency grants

July 7, 2022 0 WGPU

June 23, 2022 – NBC-2

Upgrades and additional affordable housing coming to Lee County

April 28, 2022 – ABC7

Local universities add additional courses after money donated by Lee County

April 28, 2022 – WINK news

Lee County grant funds 'micro-credential' classes at FGCU, FSW, and Hodges

April 27, 2022 – Fox4 news

Workforce training and certification program to aid Lee County residents affected by COVID-19

April 27, 2022 – ABC7

Local universities add additional courses after money donated by Lee County

March 19, 2022 – News-Press

Lee to fund homeless services, workforce training

March 2, 2022 – News-Press

American Rescue Plan to pay big chunk of new Big Carlos Pass bridge

September 21, 2021 – NBC-2

Lee County residents asked to share their COVID-19 experience in new survey

6. Project Specific Examples of Community Engagement

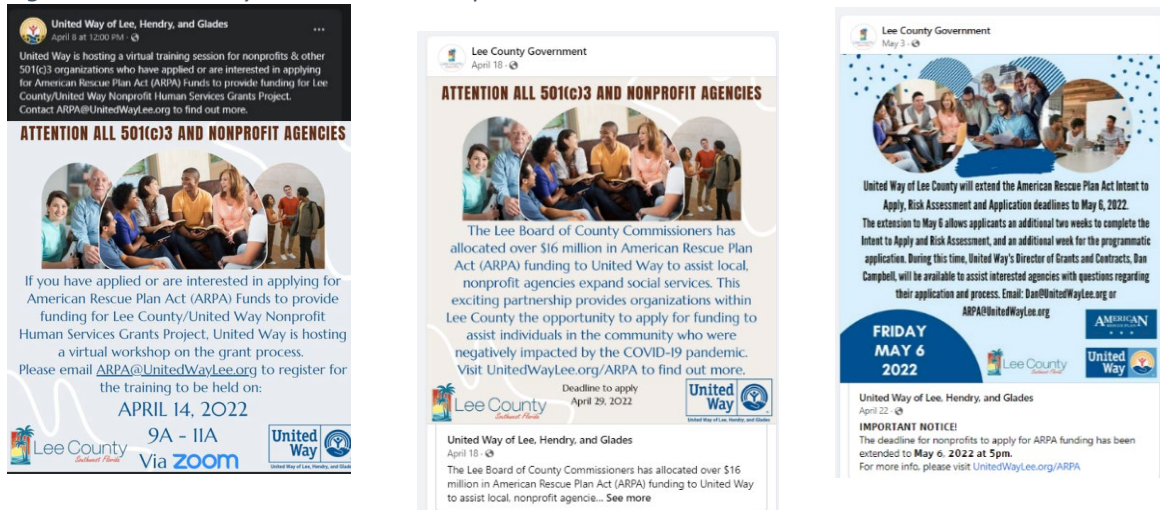
Community Engagement Sample - United Way Project

As required by ARPA, the County specified that equity and community engagement should drive the strategy of identifying solutions that could respond to the broadest and most vulnerable who were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, throughout its Human Service Grant project United Way and the County staff evaluated their equity and community engagement strategy.

United Way developed a communication plan to help ensure that all eligible nonprofits were invited to participate in funding opportunities for projects that address the needs of the communities and groups they serve. United Way issued a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) using four main outlets (1) notice was emailed to United Way partner network of agencies and through the Human Services Information Network of agencies; (2) United Way collaborated with Board Communication staff to provide press releases regarding funding availability to all Lee County media outlets; (3) the NOFA was promoted on the United Way social media channels and published online at unitedwaylee.org/arpa/; and, (4) a notice was published through the News-Press.

United Way Nonprofit Human Services Grant webpage included the application deadline details, the Notice of Funding Available document, applicant eligibility, timeline with key dates and the application link.

Figure 1. United Way Social Media Samples



Community Engagement Samples - Workforce Training and Certification

FGCU Board of Trustees program awareness and outreach efforts include social media marketing (platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter), audio advertisements (platforms such as Spotify and YouTube), video advertisements (platforms such as YouTube and Hulu), and through proactive community recruitment activities. FGCU faculty and participants in the IBM Skills Academy pilot course were featured in a WINK News story and FGCU has published one Op-ed article within The News-Press local media outlet and received mention in local publication, Gulfshore Life. FGCU partners with FutureMakers Coalition in the community to promote short-term credentialing options to underserved communities through community-based recruitment events. Community navigators

promote enrollment through career fairs, local recruitment events at non-profit organizations, and through their social media channels.

Figure 2. News Clip Workforce Training



Community Engagement Samples - Small Business Technical Assistance and Small Business Resiliency Assistance Grants

SWFL Impact Partners hosted a community engagement open house event. There were 239 certified MBE/DBE were invited and more than 30 attended the event. Speakers discussed the opportunities available for ARPA funded technical assistance and resiliency assistance grants.

Figure 3. Photos from the Meet and Greet Open House at the SWFL Enterprise Center Foundation





Community Engagement Samples - Aid to Tourism, Travel or Hospitality

The Lee County Visitor and Convention Bureau communicated the digital optimization project through eblasts and their newsletter to industry partners; the audience was tourism related businesses including local accommodations, attractions, restaurants, chambers, transportation companies and ancillary businesses tied to tourism. The meeting bookings project was communicated through Trade shows, conferences, hosted client events, and sales calls, their primary audience was meeting planners.

E. Labor Practices

All Lee County Government ARPA capital projects will follow procurement processes conforming to the Lee Board of County Commissioners Procurement Ordinance and federal grant requirements. This ordinance is a high-level policy that regarding the County's procurement regulations, including organizational controls and accountability for procurement of goods and services. In addition, the Procurement department and internal project-owner departments will monitor all ARPA-funded projects for compliance with federal grant and federal labor standards. After these projects have started the details will be reported.

The proposed Lee County ARPA projects that will promote and be monitored for strong labor standards are below.

Table 2. Labor Practices Project Table

Expenditure Categories (ARPA)	Project Title
1.4 Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, Childcare facilities, etc.)	Emergency Operations Center Expansion Project

F. Use of Evidence

As required for the specified expense categories, Lee County will ensure that those ARPA projects are either evidence-based or designed with a research agenda to study their effectiveness. Learning agendas will be developed for all evidence-producing projects.

Below is a list of Lee County’s projects that have funds allocated to evidence-based or evidence-producing practices.

Table 3. Evidence Plans for Lee County Subrecipients

Project Name	Evidence Plan
1.12 Mental Health Services*^	
Behavioral Health Staffing Recruiting and Retention - SalusCare	Evidence-producing project with learning agenda
2.10 Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers (e.g., job training, subsidized employment, employment supports or incentives)*^	
Workforce Training and Certification Grant (Micro and Rapid Credentialing) - The School Board of Lee County, Florida	Evidence-producing project with learning agenda
Workforce Training and Certification Grant (Micro and Rapid Credentialing) - Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees	Evidence-producing project with learning agenda
Workforce Training and Certification Grant (Micro and Rapid Credentialing) - Florida Southwestern State College	Evidence-producing project with learning agenda
Workforce Training and Certification Grant (Micro and Rapid Credentialing) - Hodges University, Inc.	Evidence-producing project with learning agenda
2.11 Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care*^	
Support Childcare Providers to Increase Capacity - Early Learning Coalition of SWFL	Evidence-producing project with learning agenda
2.15 Long-term Housing Security: Affordable Housing *^	
Affordable Housing Grants to Nonprofits - Southwest Florida Affordable Housing Choice Foundation Inc.	Evidence-producing project with learning agenda
Affordable Housing Grants to Nonprofits - Habitat for Humanity of Lee and Hendry County, Inc.	Evidence-based program. HUD’s guidelines of affordable housing at 30% of household’s gross monthly income.
2.16 Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons*^	
Increase Street Outreach and Case Worker Staff to Address Housing Stability Needs - (3) HVS positions	Evidence-based: Housing First Model
Increase Street Outreach and Case Worker Staff to Address Housing Stability Needs - Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice	Evidence-based: Housing First Model; Rapid Rehousing; Critical Time Intervention (CTI), SOAR (SSI/SSDI outreach, access, and recovery) trained case managers
Increase Street Outreach and Case Worker Staff to Address Housing Stability Needs - Affordable Homeownership Foundation Inc.	Evidence-based: Housing First Model
Increase Street Outreach and Case Worker Staff to Address Housing Stability Needs - Community Assisted and Supportive Living Inc.	Evidence-based: Designated as a Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) provider organization; Housing First Approach; Uses Functional Assessment Rating Scale (FARs) Assessments; Case Management; Peer Support; and Trauma Informed Care

Project Name	Evidence Plan
Shelter Operations to support Bob Janes Empowerment Center - Center for Progress and Excellence	Evidence-based program: Jail Diversion EBPs.
Shelter Beds – The Salvation Army	Evidence-based program: Housing First
2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services*^	
Support Non-Profit, Extended Learning and After-School Programs that Address Educational Disparities - Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast, Inc	Evidence-based: Big Brothers Big Sisters' One to One Mentoring Program is an evidence based program is found here: Making a Difference in Schools
Support Non-Profit, Extended Learning and After-School Programs that Address Educational Disparities - Boys and Girls Club of Lee County, Inc	Evidence-based: Project Learn; Summer Brain Gain; Triple Play; SMART Leaders, and Passport to Manhood
Support Non-Profit, Extended Learning and After-School Programs that Address Educational Disparities - The Heights Center	Evidence-based: Peer Tutoring and Response Groups; Instructional Conversations and Literature Logs; Leveled Literacy Intervention; PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies)
Support Non-Profit, Extended Learning and After-School Programs that Address Educational Disparities - New Horizons of SWFL	Evidence-based: Continuing Education for staff who support - Super Kids and Teen Clubs – strategies for effective tutoring
Support Non-Profit, Extended Learning and After-School Programs that Address Educational Disparities – YMCA of Southwest Florida	Evidence-based: BellXcel Power Scholars program; Afterschool Programming Evidence Base; Summer Learning Loss and Benefits of Summer Learning Evidence Base
2.30 Technical Assistance, Counseling, or Business Planning*^	
Small Business Technical Assistance - SBDC	Evidence-producing project with learning agenda
Small Business Technical Assistance - SCORE	Evidence-producing project with learning agenda
Small Business Technical Assistance - SWFL Impact Partners	Evidence-producing project with learning agenda
Small Business Technical Assistance - Goodwill	Evidence-producing project with learning agenda
Small Business Technical Assistance - Southwest Regional Manufacturers Association	Evidence-producing project with learning agenda

Lee County has a subrecipient agreement with United Way for them to administer grant assistance to impacted nonprofits. Below is a status summary of those project's evidence plans.



**United Way
of Lee County**

Table 4. Evidence Plans for United Way Subrecipients

Project Name	Evidence Plan
1.11 Community Violence Interventions*^	
Justice for Families - Abuse Counseling and Treatment (ACT)	Evidence-producing project with learning agenda
1.12 Mental Health Services*^	
AIDS Healthcare Foundation Mental Health Services - AIDS Healthcare Foundation	Evidence-based practices: Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Motivational Interviewing
Chrysallis Community Mental Health Impact - Chrysallis Wellness Center	Evidence-based practices: Prioritizing skills and practices to conform with actual needs
Renaissance Manor of Lee County - Community Assisted and Supported Living (CASL)	Evidence-producing project with learning agenda
Creating a Dementia Informed Community - Dubin Center	Evidence-based practices: Savvy Caregiver training and support groups
Pyramid Model for Development and Mental Health - Health Planning Council of SW Florida	Evidence-based practices: Pyramid Model for Supporting Social Emotional Competence in Infants and Young Children
More Hope - Hope Clubhouse of Southwest Florida	Evidence-based practices: Clubhouse International
Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly PACE Service Enhancement - Hope Healthcare	Evidence-based practices: Level IV, "The Effect of the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) on Quality."
Psychosocial Rehabilitation Program - LARC	Evidence-based practices: PSR model - Psychological Rehabilitation
Crisis Intervention Team Expansion - NAMI Lee County Inc	Evidence-based practices: Crisis Intervention Teams
1.13 Substance Use Services*^	
Opiate Prevention Through Proper Disposal - Lee County Coalition for a Drug Free SWFL	Evidence-based practices: Deterra System
Peer Overdose Prevention Initiative - McGregor Clinic	Evidence-based practices: Harm reduction philosophy
2.10 Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers (e.g., job training, subsidized employment, employment supports or incentives)*^	
Better Families and Better Jobs - Better Together	Evidence-producing project with learning agenda
Mobile Boutique and Career Center - Dress for Success SW Florida	Evidence-based practices: Formal clothing is associated with advanced abstract processing
Opportunity Accelerator OA Job Training and Employment Support - Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida	Evidence-based practices: Incorporates the importance of digital navigation into job training

Project Name	Evidence Plan
2.16 Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons*^	
Rapid Re-Housing - Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice	Evidence-based practices: Housing First and Rapid Rehousing
The Empowerment Center - Center for Progress and Excellence	Evidence-based practices: Case management is a proven intervention for the homeless population
Housing Outreach and Treatment HOT Teams/Peer Coordination - CenterStone	Evidence-based practices: Housing First, Motivational Interviewing (MI), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), and others
Long-term Housing Security Services for Unhoused Persons - Hearts & Homes for Veterans	Evidence-producing project with learning agenda
Homeless Resource Day Center - Salvation Army	Evidence-producing project with learning agenda
Rapid Rehousing and Safer Emergency Housing - St. Vincent de Paul	Evidence-based practices: Rapid Rehousing
2.19 Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators*^	
Patient Enrollment Re-enrollment Assistance - Family Health Centers	Evidence-based practices: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) certified application counselor model.
Autism Continuum of Care - Family Initiative	Evidence-based practices: the utilization of Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI), as well as Applied Behavioral Analysis, Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy.
Free Eye Care Services to Prevent Blindness - Florida Lions Eye Clinic	Evidence-based practices: Vital Signs study.
Neighborhood Community Centers - Multiple Sclerosis Center of Southwest Florida	Evidence-producing project with learning agenda
Health Improvement with Care - Premier Mobile Health Services	Evidence-based practices: Health Improvement with Care (HIWC)
Free Dental Care for Low-Income - Project Dentists Care	Evidence-based practices: Dental Hygiene
Integrated Primary Care Behavioral Health - Samaritan Health & Wellness Center, Inc. Dr. Susan Hook	Evidence-based practices: Integrated Primary Care Behavioral Health
Expanding Clinic Hours - Southwest Florida Free Pain Clinic	Evidence-producing project with learning agenda
2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services*^	
EDUCATE! Being Smart is Great - Basic Learning Skills Learning Center	Evidence-based practices: Utilization of MobyMax.
Park Meadows Boys & Girls Club - Boys and Girls Clubs of Lee County	Evidence-based practices: Project Learn; Summer Brain Gain; Triple Play; SMART Leaders, and Passport to Manhood

Project Name	Evidence Plan
Help is on the Way - Children's Network of Southwest Florida	Evidence-producing project with learning agenda
Earn to Learn FL Youth Services - Earn to Learn	Evidence-based practices: Higher learning readiness adapted modeled after Earn to Learn Arizona and adapted from College Possible.
I WILL Mentorship Foundation Youth Services - I WILL Mentorship Foundation	Evidence-based practices: ESTEM and 21 st Century Workforce skills
Summer and After-School Programs - Junior Achievement Southwest Florida	Evidence-based practices: Aligns with National Career Development Guidelines, 21 st Century Student Outcomes, and others.
Super Kids Club Tice - New Horizons of Southwest Florida	Evidence-based practices: Dept of Education - High-quality strategies for effective tutoring, National Reading Panel - Five Essential Components of Reading, IXL online math curriculum
Girls Coordinating Council and Reach Program – Lee PACE Center for Girls	Evidence-based practices: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Motivational Therapy
Arts Character and Education or ACE - Quality Life Center of Southwest Florida	Evidence-based practices: Four evidence-based curricula, and one evidence-based Dyslexia screening instrument
Youth Success - YMCA Fort Myers	Evidence-based practices: BellXcel Power Scholars program; Afterschool Programming Evidence Base; Summer Learning Loss and Benefits of Summer Learning Evidence Base
2.26 Addressing Educational Disparities: Mental Health Services*^	
Counseling Project - Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice	Evidence-based practices: Comprehensive School Mental Health System. This evidenced based model is recognized by SAMHSA.
2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)^	
Have a Heart for Pets - Cape Coral Animal Shelter	Evidence-producing project with learning agenda
Deaf and Hard of Hearing Project - Deaf & Hard of Hearing Center	Evidence-based practices: Studies on pandemic impact for those with hearing impairments
Senior Companion Program - Dr. Piper Center for Social Services	Evidence-based practices: Senior Companion Program model from AmeriCorps Seniors
Bussing for Veterans - Hearts & Homes for Veterans	Evidence-producing project with learning agenda
Speed Servin Angels - Hermanos Unidos Catolicos Brothers and Sisters United	Evidence-producing project with learning agenda
Early Intervention Services - IMPACT for Developmental Education	Evidence-producing project with learning agenda
Serving Our Community - Interfaith Charities of South Lee	Evidence-producing project with learning agenda
Comprehensive Housing Counseling - Lee County Housing Development	Evidence-based practices: HUD's Housing Counseling Program

Project Name	Evidence Plan
The Friendly Visitor Program for Seniors - Lee County Jewish Federation	Evidence-producing project with learning agenda
Immigration Services - Lee County Legal Aid Society	Evidence-producing project with learning agenda
Vision Rehabilitation and Support Services - Lighthouse of SWFL	Evidence-based practice: Vision Rehabilitation best practices (from AER) and instructional curricula (from ACVREP)
Transitional Group Home for Young Mothers - Our Mother's Home of Southwest Florida	Evidence-producing project with learning agenda
Creating a Strong Healthy Community through Food Assistance Project - Pine Manor Improvement Association	Evidence-based practice: Food pantry interventions and Healthy behaviors of community garden participants
Center for Integrated Health and Wellness - Providence Family Life Center	Evidence-based practice: supported by the research of Social Determinants of Health
Mental Health Program - Quality Life Center of Southwest Florida	Evidence-based practice: Therapy will include cognitive behavioral therapy and other forms
Senior Crisis Intervention Program - Senior Friendship Centers	Evidence-based practice: The National Council on Aging, benefits of receiving public benefits.
Special Equestrians Therapeutic Horsemanship Program - Special Equestrians, Inc.	Evidence-producing project with learning agenda
Recovery Food and Tutoring Service - St. Martin de Porres Outreach Community Ministries	Evidence-producing project with learning agenda
Child Grief Support Services - Valerie's House	Evidence-based practices: Modeled after Dougy Center for Grieving Children and Families

II. Performance Report

Performance tracking and reporting for each project is the responsibility of the project owner (organization). Performance data will be reported quarterly by the Lee County staff. All subrecipient agreements include performance reporting requirements. Internal projects may have performance requirement outlined in the project summaries. Lee County Budget Services will provide official expenditure data and collaborate with Strategic Resources and Government Affairs to merge the data for official reporting. The report will be reviewed and approved by County Administration staff. County Administration will approve the submittal U.S. Treasury.

Lee County's overarching goals for ARPA funds will be measured through the success of individual projects and expenditure categories. The broad overall objective for ARPA funding includes:

- All APRA-CSLFRF funds will be obligated to BOCC identified projects by December 31, 2024
- All projects will respond to compliance monitoring
- All projects will be audit-ready and without findings
- Increased capacity within the Lee Community for successful federal grant awards and management
- Increased community resiliency in the case of downturns, disasters, or public health emergencies

Below is a schedule of the phase for each allocated project.

A. ARPA Program Management Summary (June 30, 2024)

Table 5. ARPA Project Phases

Expenditure Categories (ARPA)	Project Title	Project Concept Impact Evaluation & Eligibility	Board Approved Allocation	Definition & Project Planning	Launch & Execution	Performance & Monitoring	Project Close
1: Public Health							
COVID-19 Mitigation & Prevention							
1.1	Lee Health, formerly Lee Memorial Health System, Mobile Vaccine – Lee Health	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1.4	Emergency Operations Center Expansion Project	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
1.7	Lee County Sheriff traffic detail at Covid testing site (CenturyLink) and monoclonal antibody site (Old Bonita Library)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Behavioral Health							
1.12	Behavioral Health Staffing Recruiting and Retention – SalusCare	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2: Negative Economic Impacts							
Assistance to Households							
2.1	Food Distribution Program Enhancement to Address Food Insecurity - Harry Chapin Food Bank	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2.1	Food Distribution Program Enhancement to Address Food Insecurity - Midwest Food Bank	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.1	Food Distribution Program Enhancement to Address Food Insecurity - The Salvation Army	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2.10	Workforce Training and Certification Grant (Micro and Rapid Credentialing) - The School Board of Lee County, Florida	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.10	Workforce Training and Certification Grant (Micro and Rapid Credentialing) - Florida Gulf Coast University	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.10	Workforce Training and Certification Grant (Micro and Rapid Credentialing) - Florida Southwestern State College	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.10	Workforce Training and Certification Grant (Micro and Rapid Credentialing) - Hodges University, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2.11	Support Childcare Providers to Increase Capacity – Early Learning Coalition of SWFL	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2.15	Affordable Housing Grants to Nonprofits - SWFL Affordable Housing Choice Foundation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.15	Affordable Housing Grants to Nonprofits - Habitat for Humanity	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Expenditure Categories (ARPA)	Project Title	Project Concept Impact Evaluation & Eligibility	Board Approved Allocation	Definition & Project Planning	Launch & Execution	Performance & Monitoring	Project Close
2.16	Increase Street Outreach and Case Worker Staff to Address Housing Stability Needs - (3) HVS positions	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.16	Increase Street Outreach and Case Worker Staff to Address Housing Stability Needs - Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.16	Increase Street Outreach and Case Worker Staff to Address Housing Stability Needs - Affordable Homeownership Foundation Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2.16	Increase Street Outreach and Case Worker Staff to Address Housing Stability Needs - Community Assisted and Supportive Living Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.16	Shelter Operations to support Bob Janes Empowerment Center. Center for Progress and Excellence	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2.16	Shelter Beds – Salvation Amry	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.25	Support Non-Profit, Extended Learning and After-School Programs that Address Educational Disparities - Big Brothers Big Sisters	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.25	Support Non-Profit, Extended Learning and After-School Programs that Address Educational Disparities - Boys and Girls Club	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.25	Support Non-Profit, Extended Learning and After-School Programs that Address Educational Disparities - The Heights Center	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.25	Support Non-Profit, Extended Learning and After-School Programs that Address Educational Disparities - New Horizons	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.25	Support Non-Profit, Extended Learning and After-School Programs that Address Educational Disparities - YMCA	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Assistance to Small Businesses							
2.29	Small Business Resiliency Assistance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2.30	Small Business Technical Assistance - SBDC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2.30	Small Business Technical Assistance - SCORE	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.30	Small Business Technical Assistance - SWFL Impact Partners	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2.30	Small Business Technical Assistance - Goodwill	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2.30	Small Business Technical Assistance - Southwest Regional Manufacturers Association	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Expenditure Categories (ARPA)	Project Title	Project Concept Impact Evaluation & Eligibility	Board Approved Allocation	Definition & Project Planning	Launch & Execution	Performance & Monitoring	Project Close
Assistance to Non-Profits							
2.34	Nonprofit Human Services Grant Program - United Way	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.34	Nonprofit Human Services & Capacity Building - United Way	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Aid to Impacted Industries							
2.35	Digital Infrastructure Recovery Program for Tourism Businesses Experiencing Negative Economic Impact	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2.35	Reimbursement Grant to Incentivize Local Meeting Bookings to Rebound from Negative Economic Impact to the Tourism Industry	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
3: Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity							
General Provisions							
3.1	Emergency Medical Staff (21)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
3.1	Paramedics and EMT Workforce - Pandemic Engaged Staff	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5: Infrastructure 5: Infrastructure							
Broadband							
5.21	Broadband Gap Analysis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6: Revenue Replacement							
6.1	Big Carlos Pass Bridge Project	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
7: Administrative							
7.1	Management Consultant	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
7.1	Grant Mgmt. HVS (4) Positions	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Lee County has a subrecipient agreement with United Way for them to administer grant assistance to impacted nonprofits. Below is a status summary of those 63 projects.



Table 6. ARPA Project Phases for United Way Subrecipients

Expenditure Categories (ARPA)	Subrecipients of United Way - Project Title	Project Concept Impact Evaluation & Eligibility	Board Approved Allocation	Definition & Project Planning	Launch & Execution	Performance & Monitoring	Project Close
1: Public Health							
Community Violence Interventions							
1.11	Justice for Families - Abuse Counseling and Treatment (ACT)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Behavioral Health							
1.12	AIDS Healthcare Foundation Mental Health Services - AIDS Healthcare Foundation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
1.12	Chrysalis Community Mental Health Impact - Chrysalis Wellness Center	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
1.12	Renaissance Manor of Lee County - Community Assisted and Supported Living (CASL)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
1.12	Creating a Dementia Informed Community - Dubin Center	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
1.12	Pyramid Model for Development and Mental Health - Health Planning Council of SW Florida	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
1.12	More Hope - Hope Clubhouse of Southwest Florida	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
1.12	Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly PACE Service Enhancement - Hope Healthcare	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1.12	Psychosocial Rehabilitation Program - LARC	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1.12	Crisis Intervention Team Expansion - NAMI Lee County Inc	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
1.13	Opiate Prevention Through Proper Disposal - Lee County Coalition for a Drug Free SWFL	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
1.13	Peer Overdose Prevention Initiative - McGregor Clinic	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2: Negative Economic Impacts							
Assistance to Households							
2.01	Food Distributions - Harry Chapin Food Bank of Southwest Florida	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2.01	Mobile Food Pantries - Meals of Hope	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2.01	Family Food Boxes - Midwest Food Bank	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

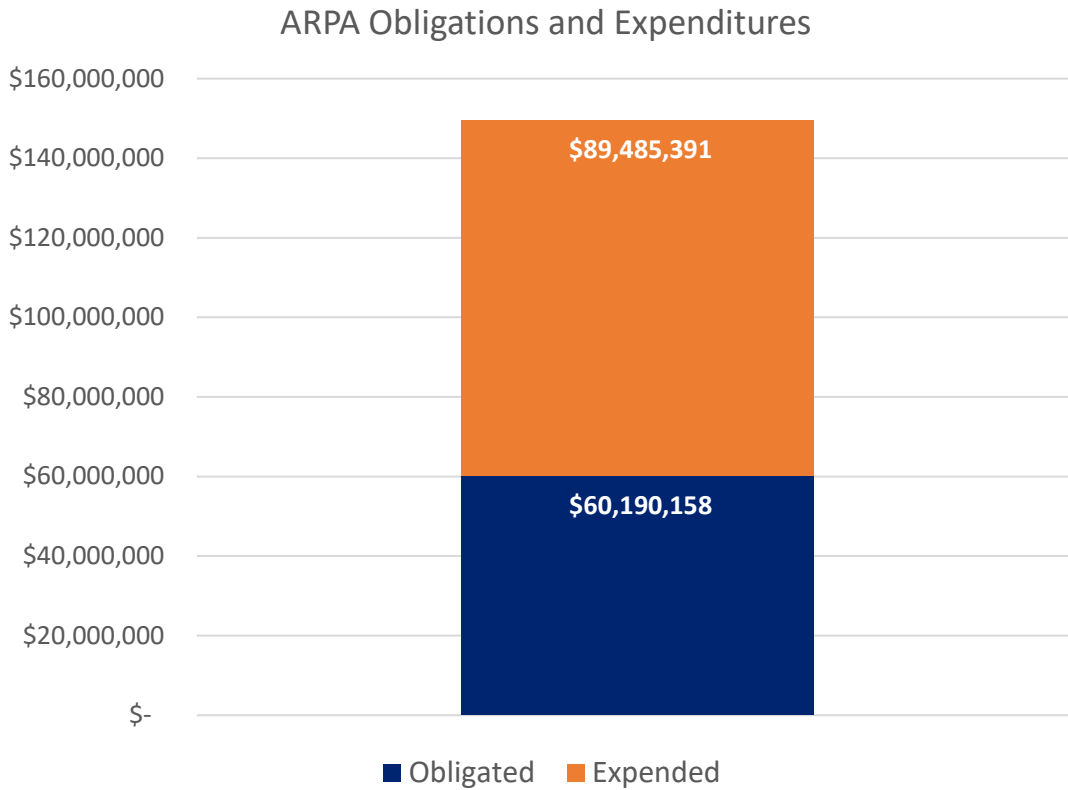
Expenditure Categories (ARPA)	Subrecipients of United Way - Project Title	Project Concept Impact Evaluation & Eligibility	Board Approved Allocation	Definition & Project Planning	Launch & Execution	Performance & Monitoring	Project Close
2.10	Better Families and Better Jobs - Better Together	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2.10	Mobile Boutique and Career Center - Dress for Success SW Florida	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.10	Opportunity Accelerator OA Job Training and Employment Support - Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.16	Rapid Re-Housing - Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.16	The Empowerment Center - Center for Progress and Excellence	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2.16	Housing Outreach and Treatment HOT Teams/Peer Coordination - CenterStone	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.16	Long-term Housing Security Services for Unhoused Persons - Hearts & Homes for Veterans	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.16	Homeless Resource Day Center - Salvation Army	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2.16	Rapid Rehousing and Safer Emergency Housing - St. Vincent de Paul	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.19	Patient Enrollment Re-enrollment Assistance - Family Health Centers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.19	Autism Continuum of Care - Family Initiative	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2.19	Free Eye Care Services to Prevent Blindness - Florida Lions Eye Clinic	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2.19	Neighborhood Community Centers - Multiple Sclerosis Center of Southwest Florida	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.19	Health Improvement with Care - Premier Mobile Health Services	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2.19	Free Dental Care for Low-Income - Project Dentists Care	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2.19	Integrated Primary Care Behavioral Health - Samaritan Health & Wellness Center, Inc. Dr. Susan Hook	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2.19	Expanding Clinic Hours - Southwest Florida Free Pain Clinic	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.25	EDUCATE! Being Smart is Great - Basic Learning Skills Learning Center	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.25	Park Meadows Boys & Girls Club - Boys and Girls Clubs of Lee County	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Expenditure Categories (ARPA)	Subrecipients of United Way - Project Title	Project Concept Impact Evaluation & Eligibility	Board Approved Allocation	Definition & Project Planning	Launch & Execution	Performance & Monitoring	Project Close
2.25	Help is on the Way - Children's Network of Southwest Florida	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.25	Earn to Learn FL Youth Services - Earn to Learn	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2.25	I WILL Mentorship Foundation Youth Services - I WILL Mentorship Foundation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2.25	Summer and After-School Programs - Junior Achievement Southwest Florida	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.25	Super Kids Club Tice - New Horizons of Southwest Florida	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.25	Girls Coordinating Council and Reach Program - PACE Center for Girls, Lee	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.25	Arts Character and Education or ACE - Quality Life Center of Southwest Florida	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.25	Youth Success - YMCA Fort Myers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.26	Counseling Project - Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Assistance to Non-Profits							
2.34	Have a Heart for Pets - Cape Coral Animal Shelter	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2.34	Deaf and Hard of Hearing Project - Deaf & Hard of Hearing Center	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.34	Senior Companion Program - Dr. Piper Center for Social Services	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.34	Diaper Bank - Healthy Start Coalition of Southwest Florida	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.34	Bussing for Veterans - Hearts & Homes for Veterans	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.34	Speed Servin Angels - Hermanos Unidos Catolicos Brothers and Sisters United	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2.34	Early Intervention Services - IMPACT for Developmental Education	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2.34	Serving Our Community - Interfaith Charities of South Lee	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.34	Comprehensive Housing Counseling - Lee County Housing Development	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.34	The Friendly Visitor Program for Seniors - Lee County Jewish Federation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.34	Immigration Services - Lee County Legal Aid Society	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

Expenditure Categories (ARPA)	Subrecipients of United Way - Project Title	Project Concept Impact Evaluation & Eligibility	Board Approved Allocation	Definition & Project Planning	Launch & Execution	Performance & Monitoring	Project Close
2.34	Vision Rehabilitation and Support Services - Lighthouse of SWFL	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.34	Transitional Group Home for Young Mothers - Our Mother's Home of Southwest Florida	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.34	Creating a Strong Healthy Community through Food Assistance Project - Pine Manor Improvement Association	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.34	Center for Integrated Health and Wellness - Providence Family Life Center	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2.34	Mental Health Program - Quality Life Center of Southwest Florida	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.34	Senior Crisis Intervention Program - Senior Friendship Centers	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.34	Special Equestrians Therapeutic Horsemanship Program - Special Equestrians, Inc.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
2.34	Recovery Food and Tutoring Service - St. Martin de Porres Outreach Community Ministries	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2.34	Child Grief Support Services - Valerie's House	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

B. Expenditure Summary

Figure 4. Lee County ARPA Expenditure Summary



Expense Categories	Allocated Funding	Expenditures
Public Health	\$28,555,648	\$9,473,295
Negative Economic Impacts	\$41,754,786	\$30,987,668
Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity	\$30,250,793	\$30,250,793
Infrastructure	\$99,199	\$99,199
Revenue Replacement	\$48,241,146	\$18,009,728
Administrative	\$773,977	\$664,708
American Rescue Plan Funds	\$149,675,549	\$89,485,391

III. Project Inventory

As of June 30, 2024, the Lee County Board of County Commissioners has allocated 100% of its the American Rescue Plan Act – Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to projects as listed below.

1. Public Health

Assistance to Households

1.1 Lee Health, formerly Lee Memorial Health System, Mobile Vaccine

Project ID: ARPA-PH011A
Funding Amount: \$111,123
Status of Completion: Complete
Total Project Expenses: \$111,123
Project Duration: April 1, 2021 – September 20, 2022
Project Expenditure Category: 1.1 COVID-19 Vaccination

Project Overview:



Lee Health will provide mobile vaccination units for vaccines to the pediatric population in Lee County including school sites but also sites in underserved communities. The mobile vaccination unit will consist of a pediatric ambulance to act as a mobile COVID-19 vaccination site and a team of healthcare professionals to include: one (1) Emergency Medical Technician, one (1) Customer Service Representative, one (1) Pharmacist (or one (1) Pharmacy Technician) and two (2) Registered Nurses to administer COVID-19 vaccinations to the pediatric population, ages 5 and up. Lee Health will also provide all necessary equipment and supplies to operate the mobile COVID-19 vaccination site including but not limited to: COVID-19 vaccinations, necessary forms and waivers, tables, chairs, and writing instruments.

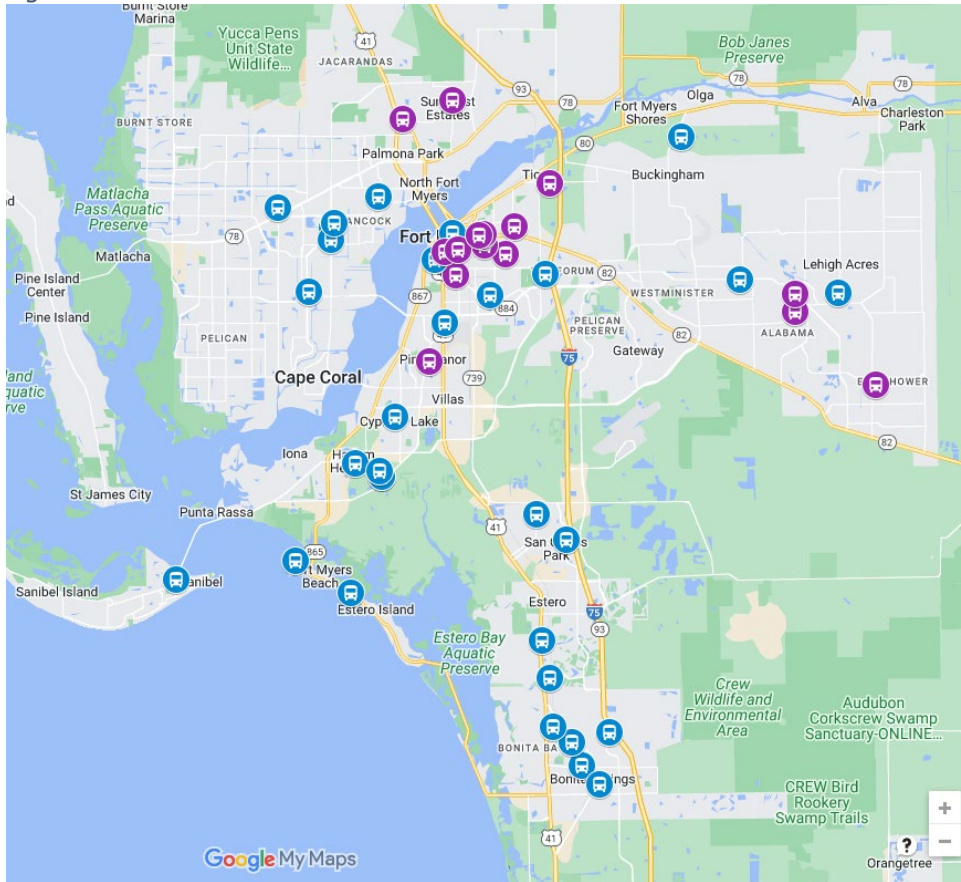


Project Demographic Distribution:

All Vaccine Doses			
Ages 5-11	Ages 12-17	Age 18+	Total
1,791	1,119	1,098	4,008

Lee County Location Summary

Figure 5. Lee Health Mobile Vaccine Unit Locations



 Mobile Vaccine Location;
  Mobile Vaccine Location in a QCT

Promoting Equitable Outcomes: The goal was to reach children and families that may not otherwise be



able to receive a vaccination for COVID-19 due to transportation or other factors. Everyone was welcome and there was no cost for the vaccine. The mobile vaccine clinic was walk-up only and traveled throughout Lee County to Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs) and other underserved communities. Lee Health partnered with the School District of Lee County to bring the unit to middle and high schools in case parents wanted to get their children vaccinated at those locations.

Use of Evidence: This section is not applicable to this project per Treasury Reporting Guidance.

Performance Measured to Date:

Days the Mobile Vaccination Unit was Active	Vaccination Events (Using the Pediatric Mobile Vaccine Unit) Lee County Locations	Mobile Vaccine Unit Visits (some locations had multiple visits)
137	47	110
Total Vaccines Provided in Lee County (1,2 and 3 Doses)	Number of Doses to Children by Mobile Unit	Number of Doses to Adults by Mobile Unit
4,008	2,910	1,098

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Increase access to vaccination sites.

This project succeeded in organizing 110 visits to 47 different sites where 4,008 doses of COVID-19 vaccine were given.

Success Comments:

At almost every location, there were people who said they would not have been vaccinated if it were not for these services. This included recipients who are homeless and minorities in disadvantaged communities. Having professional pediatric specialized staff gave an extra layer of comfort to families and children as they have extensive experience with the population. Staff would often sing to the children, play games, blow bubbles, and provide distraction to facilitate the process - one child told her mother she would only go back if the one nurse who was there that sang to her would sing again. Many families appreciated being able to provide the experience together, adult and children together getting vaccinated.

1.4 Emergency Operations Center Expansion Project

Project ID: ARPA-PH014A

Funding Amount: \$16,457,918

Status of Completion: Completed less than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$0

Project Duration: November 2, 2023 – December 31, 2026

Project Expenditure Category: 1.4 Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, Childcare facilities, etc.)*^

Project Overview:

The existing Emergency Operations Center is located at 2675 Ortiz Avenue, Fort Myers, FL. 33905. The expansion of this location addresses the inadequacies of the existing facility and reduces risks toward accomplishing the outcome of strong, coordinated leadership for all future community emergency responses in all phases of activation. Enhancements to this facility will (a) Double the square footage from 29,000 to 66,000 to accommodate essential County; key local, state and federal agencies; and representatives of nonprofit and citizen groups as they coordinate emergency response activities; (b) Install advanced technologies to optimize situational awareness and ensure that communications remain operational throughout an activation; and (c) Create synergistic daily operations through co-location of countywide emergency call-taking services and the Lee County Department of Transportation's traffic operations.

The EOC expansion will especially benefit agencies that prevent the loss of lives and property and the organizations that help victims of a disaster, including the Lee County Sheriff's Office Dispatch, Lee County EMS and Fire Control, and Lee County Department of Transportation operations. The co-location of dispatch and operations will reduce emergency call processing times, while also streamlining operations during normal operations and activations.

Project Demographic Distribution: Not applicable for this project; it will support county-wide emergency management operations.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes: County-wide emergency management operations will be supported.

Use of Evidence: This section is not applicable to this project per Treasury Reporting Guidance.

Performance: KPIs for this project are being developed and will be reporting in future performance reports.

- Project status as a % complete.
 - **State Funds will be utilized followed by ARPA funding**
- Projected/actual construction start date:
 - **Projected Start Fall 2023.**
- Projected/actual initiation of operations date (month/year)
 - **November 2, 2023 Groundbreaking**
- Location
 - **2675 Ortiz Ave, Fort Myers, FL 33905**

1.7 Lee County Sheriff Traffic Detail at Covid Testing Site and Monoclonal Antibody Site

Project ID: ARPA-PH017A, Lee County Sheriff

Funding Amount: \$58,607

Status of Completion: Complete

Total Project Expenses: \$58,607

Project Duration: October 1, 2021 – December 1, 2021

Project Expenditure Category: 1.7 Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)^

Project Overview:

The Sheriff Traffic Detail Monoclonal Antibody Test Site project is a new government service to provide security and public safety services to medical personnel and the public at the Century Link Stadium and Bonita Springs Monoclonal Antibody Covid-19 test sites. The project is fully funded through ARPA-SLFRF.

The project activities include the County Sheriff providing security and public safety for two COVID-19 test sites. Sworn uniformed officers' staff the Sheriff's security teams. The teams provide pre-and during-operation security assessments, guide traffic, and respond to disruptive traffic and other security threats. The project provides a contingency for additional officers and equipment as the circumstance require.

Project Demographic Distribution: Not Applicable for traffic detail. Testing and Antibody Sites were open to all.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes: Traffic detail ensures the safety and security of all workers and visitors at the testing and antibody sites.

Use of Evidence: This section is not applicable to this project per Treasury Reporting Guidance.

Performance Outcome: Effectively provided traffic detail at the testing and antibody sites, during high-volume period of October 2021 and November 2021.

1.11 Justice for Families (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW111A

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Abuse Counseling and Treatment (ACT)

Funding Amount: \$400,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$288,649.41

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 1.11 Community Violence Intervention

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The



Abuse Counseling & Treatment, Inc.

Justice for Families project a partially ARPA-funded expansion of an existing program that will provide training to improve the community's response to domestic violence, increase and improve resources for domestic violence victims and survivors, and increase safety for

survivors and their families. The main activities of the project include (a) providing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and victimization training to Patrol Officers, courts, judicial personnel, and volunteer; (b) providing funding for operational staff salaries; and (c) collaborating with Clerk of Courts and other judicial system to provide after hours and weekend.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals:

- 1) Improve the community's response to domestic violence.
- 2) Increase and improve resources for domestic violence victims and survivors.
- 3) Increase safety for survivors of domestic violence and their families.

b) Awareness: Marketing of this project is very important to the success of it. We would start with announcement to all media, both print, social media and broadcasting. We would continue providing the community with press releases on the progress and the partnerships and continue utilizing social media for successes and reminders of what we are doing.

c) Access and Distribution: There are no administrative requirements that result in disparities in ability to complete the work or meet eligibility criteria. Some victims/survivors may call law enforcement first or they may call our 24-hour hotline. They may also go to the emergency room for treatment where they are provided information about our services. All emergency rooms have this process already in place to assist victims. They may also, see one of our other partners for other services and may find out about us. We hope we can provide literature on services and their partnership that can be distributed to all of the partners and those who may not yet be our partners allowing them to provide our brochures and information to their clients.

d) Outcomes: All intended outcomes are focused on closing gaps, reaching universal levels of service. All services will be provided free of charge and Abuse Counseling and Treatment, Inc. will not discriminate against any individual because of race, color or creed, religion, ancestry, national origin, sex, sexual

orientation, gender identity, affectional preference, disability, age (40-over), pregnancy, marital status, military status, genetic information or status with regard to public assistance.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-producing project with learning agenda –

ACT has a 44-year history of providing services to victims of domestic violence and their children and survivors of sexual assault and human trafficking in Lee County. Some of the services provided are evidence based but some of the services we will be providing will produce information that will be used as evidence producing.

Community Engagement:

Since the last annual report:

- Grant partners held multiple successful meetings of the Justice for Families Taskforce.
- Partners have met and corresponded over email to discuss activities and assess progress throughout the quarter. Grant partners shared information about the project with the community through email, digital fliers, and speaking engagements. FMPD and the Clerk of Courts grant partners have increased community engagement through online flyers, webinars, email networks, and in-person communication. 400+ ACT brochures have been distributed to professionals and civilians.
- ACT team’s outreach and awareness activities reached vulnerable members of the community with information about the JFF project, ACT services, and other safety services.
 - Q3 2023 reached 383
 - Q4 2023 reached 836
 - Q1 2024 reached 260
 - Q2 2023 reached 370
- Professional trainings to multiple social service agencies, mental health professionals, government agencies, etc.
 - Q4 2023 19 sessions
 - Q1 2024 18 sessions (334 individuals)
- Detective David Wood has reached participants with project information through phone calls and letters to victims.
 - Q3 2023 230 phone calls and 10 letters to victims.
 - Q4 2023 115 phone calls to victims and 18 letters, responded to 15 locations, and had 3 arrests
- ACT and FMPD are collaborating to plan a press conference to share information about the Justice for Families Project, and at least two television news outlets are expected to attend. ACT and FMPD are also collaborating on a social media awareness campaign to spotlight the project and reach a broader audience online. ACT did one interview live on Wink TV and several community events such as one at the Salvation Army Red Shield Lodge, VA Health Clinic and several at the Alternative Learning Schools.
- ACT hired MSW who will increase community engagement through outreach and by facilitating counseling and case management off-site in public spaces.
- Our victim advocate was able to speak to individuals who were listed on reports conducted by Fort Myers Police Department.
 - Q1 2024 24 individuals; the victims ranged in age from 25 to 70 years of age.

- Q2 2024 80 individuals identified in law enforcement reports, spanning ages 19 to 64.
- Met with the Clerk of Courts, Court Administration and local law enforcement agencies, again, to discuss expanding the emergency Injunctions for Protection process at night and weekends.
- Part of ACT’s strategy this year aside from holding our quarterly Justice for Families Domestic Violence Task Force was to start a Fatality Review committee as part of this task force. In June, we held our second meeting and had the State Attorney’s Office present a closed domestic violence murder case for process review.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Increase crisis intervention, safety planning and/or counseling resources for domestic violence victims and their families.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	Two (2) training sessions per year (6 total) provided for designated Clerk of Courts staff member(s) to provide on-call assistance related to Injunction for Protection orders outside of regular business hours.	Project Target	8
		Achieved to Date	8
		Percentage	100%
2)	100 victims of domestic violence and/or related crimes will file for Injunction for Protection orders remotely from the secure ACT location using the e-Notarization system by the end of the grant.	Project Target	100
		Achieved to Date	72
		Percentage	72%
3)	200 clients will receive crisis intervention, safety planning, and/or counseling services by the end of the grant.	Project Target	200
		Achieved to Date	200
		Percentage	100%

Outcome Statement 2:		Increase victim of domestic violence utilization of available safety services.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	Complete 16 specialized domestic violence training sessions with law enforcement and judicial personnel by the end of the grant cycle	Project Target	16
		Achieved to Date	35
		Percentage	218.8%
2)	8 meetings will be held for the Justice for Families taskforce by December 31st, 2024.	Project Target	8
		Achieved to Date	6
		Percentage	75%

Success Comments:

2023 As the first year of the Justice for Families Project concludes, Erica has done a fantastic job in the intervention work for survivors of domestic violence and all other crime-related violence. Erica has encounter victims of stalking, human trafficking, domestic violence, sexual violence, dating violence, homicides, and other crime related. As well as support those in need of other services in the role of an advocate and social worker. Erica has established seven outreach agencies to meet with victims, share ACT services, and build community relations. Erica has provided awareness activities for domestic violence, human trafficking, and stalking in this last quarter and more to come in 2024, alongside other advocates, ACT staff, and community partners. Erica hopes for 2024 to develop new outreach locations as well.

During the holidays, the Violence Intervention Advocate helped organize Christmas gifts for three families. Two of those families were past participants of ACT. During Thanksgiving, Erica participated in a turkey drive at a local church in our Dunbar community. During this time, Erica and fellow ACT staff provided information on services to community members. In conjunction with volunteering to give holiday food, ACT advocate has enjoyed connecting with other agencies in the community and being out in the field. Erica provided activities during the holidays for awareness of how the holidays may impact survivors.

While working alongside FMPD, Erica has continued to work with FMPD advocates and build relationships with officers. By this, Erica is strengthening the coordinated community response between ACT and law enforcement officers. To combat policies put in place to protect victims but also cause difficulties to service victims and streamline services, Erica created Justice for Families referral forms to increase the likelihood of victims receiving safety services. The forms provide a system for community agencies to refer victims to ACT and other needs. The Violence Intervention Advocate continuously joins training and subscriptions to stay on top of new information, resources, and education to be a helping hand to all. She is a part of the JFF Taskforce, SART meetings, Fatality Review Team, and Invest initiative meetings. The advocacy work that Erica builds rapport with the SAO advocates and other initiatives such as rural/underserved, child welfare, FRT, economic justice, and prevention.

Direct advocacy is part of Erica's role. In the fourth quarter of the project, Erica assisted with placing six women into a safe shelter. They have faced challenges/barriers of housing, economics, returning to unhealthy relationships, moving in with family, or still utilizing services during their journey. Erica received fifteen or more direct referrals from law enforcement or other agencies. Erica works to contact victims based on received police reports and has referred several to ACT services. This past quarter has also assisted with two sexual assault reports and filing for an injunction for protection. Erica continues to work in shelters to provide advocacy and anywhere she is needed to support survivors, staff, and her community.

Behavioral Health

1.12A Behavioral Health Staffing Recruiting and Retention

Project ID: ARPA-PH112A, SalusCare

Funding Amount: \$9,000,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$7,167,311.34

Project Duration: November 1, 2021 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 1.12 Mental Health Services*^

Project Overview:



The Behavioral Health Staffing, Recruiting, and Retention project enhances an existing service provided by SalusCare, a Lee County Government Human Services partner and contractor for Central Florida Behavioral Health Network. SalusCare has four 24-hour service centers offering crisis stabilization services, Baker Act Services, Transitional Living services, detox services, and residential substance abuse treatment for children. The major activities for this project include enhancing staff recruitment and training by providing eligible workers incentives and salary supplementation for hard-to-fill positions. Additionally, the project will fund workspace public and patient safety enhancements, technology equipment, and supplies.





Project Demographic Distribution:

Gender – Client Demographic			
Timeframe	Male	Female	Not Reported
Q1 2022	3310	4272	
Q2 2022	3125	3507	39
Q3 2022	3137	3437	19
Q4 2022	3030	3426	11
Q1 2023	3171	3573	9
Q2 2023	3204	3616	22
Q3 2023	3454	3692	3
Q4 2023	3274	3490	4
Q1 2024	3343	3534	3
Q2 2024	3521	3767	8

Age – Client Demographic			
Timeframe	0-17	18-59	60+
Q1 2022	1757	5216	1157
Q2 2022	1435	4222	1018
Q3 2022	1388	4199	1006
Q4 2022	1209	4180	1078
Q1 2023	1205	4340	1208
Q2 2023	1424	4258	1159
Q3 2023	1387	4598	1164
Q4 2023	1398	4261	1109
Q1 2024	1472	4314	1094
Q2 2024	1434	4728	1134

Race/Ethnicity - Client Demographic	Q1 22	Q2 22	Q3 22	Q4 22	Q1 23	Q2 23	Q3 23	Q4 23	Q1 24	Q2 24
Alaskan Native/American Indian/Other/White	1	0		1			1	1		
Alaskan Native/White	2	1	1		1	1		1		
American Indian	8	10	7	5	4	7	8	7	5	8
American Indian/Black/African American						1				
American Indian/Black/African American/Unknown	1	0		1	1	1	1	1		1
American Indian/Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander							1	1	1	
American Indian/Multi-racial	1	1								
American Indian/Black/African American	1	1	1							
American Indian/Unknown	5	3	5	5	4	5	4	2	3	3
American Indian/Unknown/White	1	0	1		1		1	1	1	1
American Indian/White	6	5	3	3	4	2	2	1	1	
Asian	19	17	13	11	10	24	14	12	14	15
Asian/Black/African American			1	1	2	1				1
Asian/Multi-racial	3	3	2	2	1	1	2	1	2	2
Asian/Other single race	4	4	4	3	4	3	4	4	4	2
Asian/Unknown	7	5	2	2	4	2	12	2	1	3
Asian/Vietnamese					1					
Asian/White	9	8	6	7	6	6	3	2	4	3
Black/African American	780	639	699	669	587	683	734	744	737	827
Black or African American					39	15	13	9	2	1
Black or African American/Black/African American					9	8	3	4		4
Black/African American/Multi-racial	14	13	13	12	12	10	13	11	15	19
Black/African American/Multi-racial/White				1			1			
Black/African American/Multi-racial/Other single race/White	1	0	1			1	1	1		1
Black/African American/Multi-racial/Other single race						1				7
Black/African American/Multi-racial/Other single race							1	1	1	
Black/African American/Multi-racial/Unknown	1	0	1		1		1	1	1	
Black/African American/Multi-racial/White	2	2	1		2	2	1	1	2	
Black/African American/Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1	1	9	1	1	1			7	
Black or African American/Other single race					1	1	6			
Black/African American/Other single race	12	11		6	8	9		8		
Black/African American/Other single race/White	1	0	1		1		3			
Black/African American/Other single race/Unknown	0	1	77	1	2	80			1	
Black/African American/Unknown	109	84	67	77	96		73	79	81	92
Black/African American/Unknown/White			184	2	1	1		1	2	5
Black or African American/Unknown					2					
Black/African American/White	79	66	9	59	66	61	58	58	56	60
Multi-racial	232	183	1	148	140	172	217	199	237	214
Multi-racial/Other (Specify)/White					1	1	1	1	1	1
Multi-racial/Other single race	7	7		10	11	11	6	8	9	8

Race/Ethnicity - Client Demographic	Q1 22	Q2 22	Q3 22	Q4 22	Q1 23	Q2 23	Q3 23	Q4 23	Q1 24	Q2 24
Multi-racial/Other single race/White	1	1	49	2	1	2	1	2	3	2
Multi-racial/Other single race/Unknown	1	1	5	1	1	41	1	2	1	2
Multi-racial/Unknown	74	49	139	49	62		46	51	48	43
Multi-racial/Unknown/White	5	4	8	3	4	5	6	7	10	9
Multi-racial/White	161	145		145	144	122	119	129	124	135
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	4	7	1	6	6	6	4	4	4	8
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander/Other single race	0	1	64		1	3	1			
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander/Unknown					1					
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander/White	4	1	10	1	2				3	2
Other (Specify)/White					3	1				1
Other single race	89	59	4	49	44	60	76	89	57	58
Other single race/Unknown	13	12	79	10	12	11	12	13	12	7
Other single race/Unknown/White	6	3	455	1	1	1	4	5	3	5
Other single race/White	102	87	661	82	99	94	85	83	83	79
Unknown	768	501	397 4	507	600	674	570	558	626	660
Unknown/White	814	686		691	696	590	591	560	529	517
Vietnamese					1					
Vietnamese/White					1					
White	478 1	404 4		387 3	403 5	408 1	444 4	409 1	416 7	446 9
Not Reported	20	11	35	20	16	37	14		8	17

Promoting Equitable Outcomes (Highlights):

- SalusCare prides itself in recognizing that each individual has the right to seek and receive behavioral healthcare treatment. Priority populations for our organization are pregnant and post-partum women, IV drug users and persons living with HIV.
- SalusCare does not deny treatment based on an individual’s inability to pay.
- It is also our goal to have a board and staff that is reflective of the patient population. Recruiting efforts have been expanded to reach populations we have not previously engaged with. Increased participation ins job fairs and community events is one strategy we are engaging in.
- SalusCare has increased its participation in community events and attends most events it is invited to attend from churches, community groups and community partners. While digital resources are also used, SalusCare recognizes that in person contact allows for the building of rapport and increased engagement.
 - Partnered with Family Health Centers effective June 1, 2022 to have services co-located in their Lehigh office.
 - SalusCare is also the host agency for the Cape Coral United Way House which houses other social service organizations.
- SalusCare ensures that positions, that are being actively recruited, are accessible through our online application portal.
 - In addition to this, we do have options for applicants to fill out a paper application if need be. We market our online application portal to online job boards.

- We partner with CareerSource of Southwest Florida to participate in job fairs.
- As part of our Recruitment Plan with the funds, we will be partnering with local colleges/tech schools to create internships. We will also partner with area High Schools to start talking about the Behavioral Health field and the types of positions that are available, from entry level positions up through positions that require certifications/degrees.

Use of Evidence (Highlights):

Evidence-Producing Learning Agenda - Hypothesis/Action Statement: SalusCare will reduce staffing shortages and increase support capacity for youth and adult treatment services by implementing a recruitment and retention strategy. The recruitment strategy will include online advertising, utilization of placement firms, participation in job fairs/hiring events, improvements to application technology, new hire incentives and referral payments. The retention strategy will include special pay, a recognition program and improvements to cameras and monitoring technology.

Results: To address the hypothesis/action statement, SalusCare will use data that is gathered both quarterly and annually and compare this data to the staffing base line data to see how funds are impacting the program intent to reduce staffing shortages and increase support for youth and adult treatment services.

Conclusion: SalusCare at the end of the contract term, will compile all data and formulate a conclusion based on the results to the determine how much if any, that funds contributed to reduction of staffing shortages and increased support for youth and adult treatment services.

Performance Measured to Date:

Quarterly Data:

Permanent Staff count

Timeframe	Permanent Staff Count
Baseline (Start)	329
Q1 2022	338
Q2 2022	337
Q3 2022	335
Q4 2022	332
Q1 2023	326
Q2 2023	321
Q3 2023	325
Q4 2023	321
Q1 2024	351
Q2 2024	334

Contractor count

Timeframe	Contractor Count
Baseline (Start)	19
Q1 2022	16
Q2 2022	14

Q3 2022	12
Q4 2022	2
Q1 2023	1
Q2 2023	7
Q3 2023	8
Q4 2023	8
Q1 2024	11
Q2 2024	9

Vacancy

Timeframe	Vacancy
Baseline (Start)	21.46%
Q1 2022	22.38%
Q2 2022	21.47%
Q3 2022	10%
Q4 2022	8%
Q1 2023	15.6%
Q2 2023	17.97%
Q3 2023	11%
Q4 2023	11.75%
Q1 2024	12.56%
Q2 2024	9.6%

Average length of vacancies

Timeframe	Length of Vacancy
Baseline (Start)	180
Q1 2022	180
Q2 2022	180
Q3 2022	170
Q4 2022	160
Q1 2023	100
Q2 2023	150
Q3 2023	120
Q4 2023	135
Q1 2024	90
Q2 2024	75

Number of individual adults and youth served by Treatment Service

Timeframe	Adults	Youth
Baseline FY 2020	15,320	4,166
Baseline FY 2021	14,960	4,353
Q1 2022	7,384	2,258
Q2 2022	6,203	1,847
Q3 2022	5,844	1,672
Q4 2022	-	-
Q1 2023	5,815	1,249

Q2 2023	6,044	1,581
Q3 2023	6,577	1,692
Q4 2023	6,179	1,697
Q1 2024	6,218	1,766
Q2 2024	6,728	1,706

Baker Acts

Timeframe	Adults	Youth
Baseline FY 2020	1,585	582
Baseline FY 2021	1,780	758
Q1 2022	708	348
Q2 2022	514	232
Q3 2022	391	201
Q4 2022	-	-
Q1 2023	-	-
Q2 2023	113	265
Q3 2023	547	254
Q4 2023	529	238
Q1 2024	438	204
Q2 2024	515	250

Annual Data to be Measured:

- Bed Capacity
- Turnover Rate (Permanent Staff)
- Employee Feedback
- Community Services for those released from Baker Acts

Additional Data:

Bed Capacity

Year	Bed Capacity
2020 Baseline	29 adult detox until 3/25/2020 20 adult detox beginning 3/25/2020 16 children’s CSU 30 adult CSU
2021 Baseline	20 adult detox 16 children’s CSU, reduced to 10 from 4/29/21-6/21/2021; 12/11/2021 – present 30 adult CSU, reduced to 20 from 4/29/21-6/21/2021; 12/11/2021 - present
2024	20 adult detox (licensed) 39 total 16 children’s CSU 30 adult CSU

Turnover Rate (Permanent Staff)

FY	Turnover Rate
2020 Baseline	28.50%
2021 Baseline	30.71%
FY 2024	28.97%

Performance Outcomes to be Measured:

- Maintain staffing levels that meet the need of the system (reduce turnover)
- Reduce staffing shortages (number of vacancies)
- Increase staff to expand treatment services (Youth/ Adults)
- Reduce the number of Baker Acts (Pediatric and Adult)
- Increase community-based services to those released from Baker Acts
- Maintain 100% bed capacity to meet demand

1.12 AIDS Healthcare Foundation Mental Health Services (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW112A

United Way's Project Subrecipient: AIDS Healthcare Foundation, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$104,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$77,430.50

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 1.12 Mental Health Services

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The AIDS Healthcare Foundation ARPA Health Service Project is a fully ARPA-funded new program that will assist HIV infected individuals or individuals on HIV prevention regimens to access Mental Health Services and other community resources to maintain health and to reach their quality-of-life goals. The funding will pay for a full-time Licensed Clinical Social Worker to provide individual and group counseling to community clients.



Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: AHF's support services are designed to improve access to life-saving treatment for PLWH who are underserved and disenfranchised. The services AHF is proposing to provide as part of this opportunity are designed to impact the service delivery system and break down financial, systemic and psychological barriers to accessing medical care, while increasing access for PLWH who need mental health care services. AHF targets traditionally underserved populations who rely on public benefits because they live at or near the poverty line and are not eligible for other kinds of insurance. Trends that have emerged during the last three years include increasingly disproportionately high rates of HIV among Black/African Americans, Hispanic/Latino populations, and Men who have sex with Men (MSM) ("Target Population"). Many individuals from this target population fill jobs in industries such as retail, restaurant, and hospitality fields which experienced disproportionately negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and causing a loss of income, insurance benefits and more. As a result, significant recent shifts affecting the need for mental health care to AHF's clients are directly related to the fall-out from the COVID-19 pandemic. There is a prevalent need for funding for MHS to assist PLWH to cope with the lack of stable housing, transportation, lack of insurance, lack of food, substance abuse, and other mental health barriers preventing this target population from seeking medical care and achieving and/or maintaining viral suppression.

b) Awareness: AHF will market this project utilizing the above-mentioned sources regardless of race, sex, ethnicity or economic status.

- AHF will promote the program through the United Way 211-Helpline.
- Flyers will be made available in AHF's HCC, pharmacy as well as with other community providers describing the Mental Health Services available under this program.
- AHF will utilize the local advisory board to share the availability of MHS. AHF's primary care provider and case managers will provide outreach to AHF's clients and community regarding the MHS, including the Group Grief/loss counseling program.

- AHF will also patients in clinic meet and greet with the LCSW, as well as provide MHS outreach text messages to those clients who have signed up to receive them. Individual counseling services will be open to all current and new AHF clients.
- Group counseling will be open to all eligible Lee County residents. Culture shapes beliefs with respect to health and illness, and language and cultural beliefs can be overwhelming barriers to accessing healthcare services. Further, some populations may deal with illness and disease differently than Clients with an Anglo/Western medical belief system.

To address these issues, AHF employs culturally diverse staff reflective of the client populations served, helping to address challenges of cultural difference. These staff have the ability to implement and assess the provision of care for clients with diverse values, beliefs, and behaviors, including tailoring services to meet clients' social, cultural, and linguistic preferences and needs. AHF staff have a deep understanding of the socio-cultural background of clients and the structural racism that affects their lives and the environments in which they live, and staff provide services in a non-judgmental and open manner. Services are welcoming and accessible to all Clients, including those with limited English proficiency, limited reading skills or hearing capacity and persons with physical disabilities. AHF follows five core values: Patient Centered, Value Employees, Respective for Diversity, Nimble and Fight for What's Right in order to be successful in its mission.

c) Access and Distribution: There are no differences in levels of access to benefits and services across groups. AHF provides services to all races, ethnicities, genders, regardless of socioeconomic background. There are no administrative requirements that result in disparities in ability to complete applications or meet eligibility criteria. Eligibility to receive MHS under this project are solely based on the requirements identified by Lee County United Way and the U.S. Treasury Department outlined in this opportunity.

d) Outcomes: Outcomes identified focus on closing gaps, reaching universal levels of service. All current and newly diagnosed clients residing in Lee County receiving care at AHF are eligible to participate in Individual and Group Counseling services. Eligible Lee County residents regardless of HIV status who meet eligibility requirements outlined in this project are eligible to participate in Grief/Loss Group Counseling. AHF does not limit services provided by race, ethnicity, and other equity dimensions relevant for the project. AHF considers disparities by race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, geography, socioeconomic status, disability status, primary language, health literacy, and other relevant dimensions affecting this project.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Motivational Interviewing

Community Engagement:

- Notified United Way 211 of weekly support group and sent out fliers through HSIN email blast.
- Signage around our campus and all staff are aware of services available and referring clients.
- All new clients are made aware of available mental health services. LCCSW initiated a bi-weekly online support group, with the first meeting occurring on 4/25/24. Clients are made aware of this group via electronic reminders received via text or email.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Increase mental health services for HIV positive individuals and HIV negative individuals on HIV prevention regimens.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	32 unduplicated individuals will receive services	Project Target	32
		Achieved to Date	57
		Percentage	178%
2)	90% of patients participating in individual counseling will receive bio-psychosocial assessment and care plan	Project Target	29
		Achieved to Date	19
		Percentage	65.5%
3)	80% of clients participating in individual counseling will complete at least three counseling sessions	Project Target	26
		Achieved to Date	71
		Percentage	273%

Outcome Statement 2:		HIV positive clients participating in individual mental health counseling will have improved health outcomes.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	85% of HIV positive clients participating in mental health counseling will have an undetectable HIV viral load	Project Target	27
		Achieved to Date	89
		Percentage	329.6%
2)	85% of HIV positive clients participating in individual counseling will continue to receive needed medical care as defined by completing at least 2 encounters with the HIV medical provider in a 12-month period	Project Target	27
		Achieved to Date	31
		Percentage	114.8%

1.12 Creating a Dementia Informed Community (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW112D

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Alvin A Dubin Alzheimer's Resource Center

Funding Amount: \$286,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$240,417.67

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 1.12 Mental Health Services

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Creating a Dementia Informed Community project is a fully ARPA-funded existing program to increase the education, support and resources available to the those caring for or concerned for someone with dementia. The project main activities include providing (a) educational training (Dealing with Dementia/Savvy Caregiver) Decrease family caregiver distress, burden, and depression, while increasing caregivers' sense of competence and confidence in their care role; (b) a menu of caregiver support services benefits: Increase access to resources and services to support families living with a dementia related disorder, help families enroll in safety program through ReUnite and offer one on one coaching for caregivers; (c) Tablets and technical assistance training to increase access to technology and the related utilization of social communication tools (zoom, Facetime); (d) case management including memory Screening will improve awareness and provide education related to the signs and symptoms of dementia; and (e) funding for operational staff salaries, assistive technology equipment, computer equipment, operational software, operation program materials, and professional subscription.



Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals:

The program is intentionally designed to reach Black and Hispanic Americans who are disproportionately or likely to have dementia and more like to have missed diagnosis than older White Americans. Racial and ethnic disparities in health and health care, such as those observed during the pandemic, extend to dementia care. Stigma, cultural differences, awareness and understanding, and the ability to obtain a diagnosis, manage the disease, and access care and support services for dementia vary widely depending on race, ethnicity, geography and socioeconomic status. Caregiving for individuals with Alzheimer's or other dementias differs between racial and ethnic groups too. These differences include the availability of support services, the time spent on caregiving, cultural perceptions of the burden of caregiving, whether social networks provide support, and the psychological well-being of the caregiver. Among non-White caregivers, half or more say they have faced discrimination when navigating health care settings for their care recipient, with the top concern being that providers or staff do not listen to what they are saying because of their race, color or ethnicity. This concern was especially high among Black caregivers (42%), followed by Native American (31%), Asian American (30%) and Hispanic (28%) caregivers. Fewer than 1 in 5 White caregivers (17%) expressed this view.

source: <https://www.alz.org/media/Documents/alzheimers-facts-and-figures-special-report-2021.pdf>

b) Awareness: The Dubin Center reaches diverse populations through various mediums of marketing and engagement. The Center utilizes digital marketing platforms such as Facebook posts and social service email listservs to advertise upcoming events, programs, and services using flyers. Additionally, the Center hosts presentations at various community organizations such as churches, senior centers, and other social service agencies to present our services to various members of the SWFL community. These presentations are also offered using hybrid models, making the content available for those who have Internet access and are homebound. Lastly, the Dubin Center publishes a quarterly newsletter that is distributed to all clients, volunteers, and community partners via mail. The newsletter serves as a print medium for updating the community on upcoming support groups, educational classes, speaking events, and memory cafes.

c) Access and Distribution: The levels of service are equal across groups and there is no eligibility for the program with exception to the tablet distribution program. To be eligible for a tablet, the community member must reside in a HUD recognized low-income tract within Lee County and attend two individual in-person technical assistance appointments with a DCS. Otherwise, anyone living in Lee County who is living with or impacted by someone living with a dementia related disorder or concern is eligible for assistance.

d) Outcomes: The intended outcomes are focused on closing gaps.

Use of Evidence:

Evidence-based practices: Dialogues in Clinical Neuroscience reports that "family caregivers of people with dementia caregiving is fundamentally a high-stress situation, the unmediated outcome of which is likely to produce negative psychological and emotional consequences. Savvy Caregiver training appears to have had a positive impact on the short- and longer-term emotional and psychological well-being of caregivers in the active intervention group. The Tele-Savvy intervention also produced significant reductions in caregiver reactions to the behavioral and psychological symptoms in dementia that are so detrimental to the well-being of caregivers, despite the fact that the behaviors themselves did not diminish. Finally, and of particular importance, Savvy produced an enhancement in caregivers' sense of mastery for effectively carrying out the role."

Support Group Evidence: According to a research article in the Journal of Aging and Health, "The improvement in dementia caregivers' depression levels shows that the support group was effective for reducing caregivers' depression although not effective for relieving their burden of care."

Memory Cafe Evidence: According to research by GMC Geriatrics, "Cafés provide a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere where carers can go where they feel supported and accepted. Café attendance often brought a sense of normality to these carers' lives. Carers and those they care for look forward to going and often enjoy both the activities provided and socializing with others. Other highlighted benefits included peer support from other carers, information provision and support from the volunteer café coordinators." According to a study published by Nursing Clinics of North America, has shown that African American patients seek dementia care if a clinic is conveniently located and families are educated about the distinction between normal aging and signs of disease. The trust that was built in the community through collaboration with African American churches has allowed patients and their families to receive help with memory problems

and to feel comfortable in seeking help for other medical problems. By embedding services within a trusted partner in the community, the project will be positioned to reach the target population.

Community Engagement:

- We have now established partnership sites to offer services (Memory Café and Savvy Caregiver) at 3 low-income housing sites. These activities started June 2023. We create flyers that are posted at these sites, send out weekly eblasts and post on our website. To create overall awareness, we have tv commercials aired on MeTV where older movies are played.
- We increased the number of attendees at low income housing sites by offering raffle prizes for attendees, translating flyers and activity related materials into Spanish.
- We now hold support group after hours for working caregivers.

connections

MAKING MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS

A huge threat to our well-being and cognitive health is loneliness and social isolation. Being around other people and engaging in conversation is essential to combating the negative effects of isolation. As a caregiver, there are so many challenges that are being faced daily and having fun and making time to be around other people may get put aside to focus on other things.

Being a caregiver and living with cognitive decline does not mean that engaging with others should come to a halt, it becomes even more important.

MEMORY CAFÉ gives caregivers and individuals living with dementia an opportunity to do something fun in a safe, stigma-free environment. For our clients, it may be overwhelming to be in a group setting where no one understands the challenges of living with this disease or being a caregiver. At Memory Cafés, we focus on connection with others in a dementia-friendly environment that is inclusive to all.

A favorite for everyone is "Name that Tune", a guessing game to spark memories which leads to storytelling. A recent theme was jingles from old commercials.

Can you fill in the rest? "I am stuck on _____ cuz _____ stuck on me."



Recently at the Dublin Center and at the Bonita Springs Senior Center, we partnered with United Way's Beesley's Paw Prints program to bring joy and comfort to our participants with a visit from a certified therapy dog, in Bonita Springs, Grace the golden retriever spent an hour with us and brought smiles to all our faces! At the Dublin Center, we received a visit from Princess the boxer, and her playful energy had us laughing all morning! We thoroughly enjoyed getting to know these special dogs as we shared our own stories of the pets we grew up with.

Relationships have been found to be associated with a broad range of health functions related to cardiovascular, endocrine and the immune systems. There's also plenty of science to back up the fact that we need social connection to thrive, especially when it comes to brain health.

(Keep Sharp, 2021 Sanjay Gupta M.D.)



Combating Social Isolation

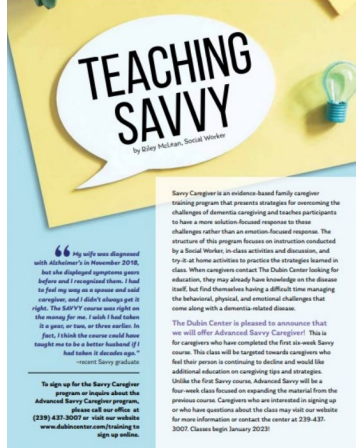
In continuing efforts to reduce caregiver isolation and meet the needs of low-income seniors in the community, the Dublin Center was awarded funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The funding comes from ARPA's Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund and was recently awarded to eligible nonprofits through Lee County and the Central Fla. of an Elderly and Disabled Citizens' Plan hurricane fund. This initiative will be even more impactful.

The Dublin Center has begun outreach efforts in several low-income areas throughout Lee County by partnering with United Way agencies, churches, community social service agencies, and senior housing facilities. Social workers from the Dublin Center are actively working with these community partners to bring support groups, memory screenings, resource referrals, and education to caregivers who are facing isolation and economic challenges. Further, the Dublin Center is also offering tablets to seniors residing in these communities in order to reduce isolation and increase technological literacy amongst seniors. Dublin staff will be available to assist seniors with learning how to use technology for access to services in the community and remain connected with their friends and family. These tablets allow caregivers to access communication platforms such as Zoom and WhatsApp, as well as other health programs like Brain IQ and Luminosity. Using these apps, caregivers can build cognitive resilience, strengthen memory, and sharpen attention span. Likewise, these apps will allow caregivers who may be homebound to still access services virtually.

Ultimately, the ARPA grant will allow the Dublin Center to continue the mission of ensuring that no one will face dementia alone. While many seniors throughout Lee County still face isolation and lack access to technological resources such as computers, tablets, and internet, ARPA funding will allow the Dublin Center to mitigate these barriers and make services more accessible to anyone facing the challenges of dementia.

The Dublin Center is still looking for sites or need that donations in order to support the efforts of reducing isolation in seniors. If you or someone you know would like to donate a used iPad and support this mission, please contact the center at (239) 437-3007 details.

© 2023 Dublin Center



TEACHING SAVVY

by Delya Mclennan, Social Worker

Savvy Caregiver is an evidence-based family caregiver training program that presents strategies for assessing the challenges of dementia caregiving and teaches participants to have a more solution-focused response to these challenges rather than an emotion-focused response. The structure of this program focuses on instruction conducted by a Social Worker, in-class activities and discussion, and try-it-at-home activities to practice the strategies learned in class. When caregivers contact The Dublin Center looking for education, they may already have knowledge on the disease itself. But find themselves facing a difficult time managing the behavioral, physical, and emotional challenges that come along with dementia-related disease.

The Dublin Center is pleased to announce that we will offer Advanced Savvy Caregiver! This is for caregivers who have completed the first six-week Savvy course. This class will be targeted towards caregivers who feel their person is continuing to decline and would like additional education on caregiving tips and strategies. Unlike the first Savvy course, Advanced Savvy will be a four-week class focused on expanding the material from the previous course. Caregivers who are interested in signing up or who have questions about the class may visit our website for more information or contact the center at 239-437-3007. Classes begin January 2024.

"I was very shy when I signed up with Alzheimer's in November 2018, but the delightful caregivers gave me confidence and I recognized them. I had to find my way as a spouse and social caregiver, and I didn't always get it right. The SAVVY course was right on the money for me. I wish I had taken it a year, or two, or three earlier. In fact, I think the course could have taught me to be a better husband if I had taken it decades ago."

— recent Savvy graduate

To sign up for the Savvy Caregiver program or inquire about the Advanced Savvy Caregiver program, please call our office at (239) 437-3007 or visit our website www.dublincenter.com/teaching-to-sign-up-online.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:	Create a dementia informed community through education, support, and resources.		
Goals and Output Measures:		Total	
1)	90% (36/40) of participants that report they are more skilled in their role as a care partner after taking the course	Project Target	36
		Achieved to Date	87
		Percentage	241.7%
2)	90% (36/40) of participants that report that they would recommend the course to another caregiver	Project Target	36
		Achieved to Date	86
		Percentage	238.9%

Outcome Statement 2:	Caregivers seeking and in need of a home visit support will be provided with home visits to provide emotional support, coaching, education, and resource referrals.		
Goals and Output Measures:		Total	
1)		Project Target	65

	90% (65/72) of caregivers will be seen by a Dubin Center team member in their home	Achieved to Date	167
		Percentage	256.9%
2)	90% (65/72) of caregivers will receive a referral to a community resource	Project Target	65
		Achieved to Date	196
		Percentage	301.5%

Success Comments:

A primary goal of the ARPA project is to reduce social isolation among dementia caregivers and create a dementia informed community. COVID left many seniors in our community alone which is known to cause depression and cognitive decline. Being around other people and engaging in conversation is essential to combatting the negative effects of isolation. As a caregiver there are so many challenges that are being faced daily and having fun and making time to be around other people may get put aside to focus on other things.

1.12 Chrysalis Community Mental Health Impact (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW112B

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Chrysalis Wellness Center Inc

Funding Amount: \$400,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$396,547

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 1.12 Mental Health Services

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Chrysalis Community Mental Health Impact Project is a partially ARPA-funded existing program that will improve access to community mental health services and thereby improve the quality of life for clients. The main activities of the project include providing (a) case management, psychiatric assessment, treatment planning, counseling and psychiatric services to clients seeking mental health assistance; and (b) funding operational staff salaries, facility rental, and supplies.



Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals:

The principal goal of this project is to provide behavioral healthcare to individuals and families that have traditionally been underserved and or marginalized. The targeted individuals and families include minorities, single-parent households, low-income individuals and families (at 100% of the poverty level), and individuals whose English is not their first language. At the end of 2021, Lee County had a population of 802,791. According to Data USA, 17.6% are Hispanics, 3.86% are Asians, and 8.19% are blacks. The US Census Bureau (July 2021) claims that 10.5% of the Lee County population is in poverty. The Census also shows that the percentage in poverty is higher (14.7%) for children under 18 years of age.

b) Awareness: To effectively reach our target populations, project staff will take a grassroots approach to outreach. We will print informative materials (brochures and flyers) in English and Spanish. The printed materials will be provided to these populations' agencies and businesses, such as the Macgregor clinic, WIC, DCF, Food Pantries, and community clinics. Furthermore, information will be made available in the schools where our agency already provides services.

c) Access and Distribution: There are no different levels of access to services in this project.

d) Outcomes: The outcomes of this project are intended to achieve universal levels of service. By ensuring that individuals and families have access to quality behavioral healthcare, our project seeks to ensure that regardless of race, socioeconomic status, gender, etc., residents of Lee County can all have comprehensive care without gaps or delays in services.

Use of Evidence:

Evidence-based practices have been associated with higher quality care and better outcomes (Wallen,2010). According to Chiu et al. (2022), the best way to run an Evidence-based program (EBP) is by defining and integrating the EBP to fit well with existing programs. Prioritizing skills and practices to

conform with actual needs is critical. Above all, it is essential to instill interest and impart skill among existing staff.

Community Engagement:

- A second outreach campaign was launched in May of 2023. The case manager revisited different community-based agencies, including primary care offices in Lee County. The campaign focuses on the accessibility to mental health services in the county, particularly emphasizing Chrysalis Wellness Center's partnership with United Way and the availability of services for low-income households. One significant aspect of the campaign is the introduction of mental health services as a gateway to healthier living and lifestyle.
- Scarlett Olivares has been contributing articles addressing different mental health issues brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and disproportionately affecting the disadvantaged population in Lee County. The pieces have been published in El Mensajero, a monthly Spanish publication. Chrysalis Wellness Center also uses M & M Multimedia to promote the available mental health services and the partnership with United Way.
- Continued the comprehensive outreach campaign. Local health clinics were revisited in Lehigh Acres, Ft Myers, Cape Coral, and Bonita Springs. Informational leaflets, brochures, and business cards were distributed to new sites. The online campaign will be active for 12 months. We are working on expanding our services to the homeless veterans. We are currently working with Veterans Services, which has been referring clients to us for our services, and Lutheran Services

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		To maximize the participation of traditionally marginalized individuals in accessing Behavioral Healthcare Services in person or via telehealth at no cost.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	Enroll 194 individuals in counseling services during the grant cycle	Project Target	194
		Achieved to Date	197
		Percentage	101.5%
2)	100% of enrolled individuals will have a psychiatric assessment within the grant period	Project Target	194
		Achieved to Date	201
		Percentage	103.6%
3)	75% of the enrolled individuals will complete the twelve counseling sessions within the period	Project Target	146
		Achieved to Date	167
		Percentage	114.4%
4)	75% of the enrolled individuals will complete the twelve counseling sessions within the period	Project Target	146
		Achieved to Date	168
		Percentage	115.1%

Success Comments:

#1 Patient X was employed as a drive-through cashier. She had worked there for many years when the COVID-19 Pandemic began. She remained at work for a few weeks but began to have anxiety attacks and became afraid of people. She had to quit her job because she was scared of handing things to people. After leaving her job, she locked herself in the house and feared going anywhere, including grocery shopping. After about a year and a half behind closed doors, fearful of speaking to anyone, her husband called Chrysallis and asked for a Spanish speaker counselor to talk to her. She was evaluated by the Psychiatrist and began therapy immediately. She has been taking medication which has proven to minimize her symptoms. She has reported that though she is still afraid of talking to strangers, she is more able to manage her daily life and has decided to apply for citizenship because now she feels that she would not be terrified in public places. She also reported that she has resumed grocery shopping and can talk to people other than her immediate family, her psychiatrist, and her therapist.

#2 The patient complained of having trouble staying focused and failing to complete work assignments and manage family dynamics. Through the psychiatric assessment, the patient was diagnosed with CPTSD and ADHD symptoms. The patient received medication management to monitor the medication regimen and to address emerging challenges, such as staying focused. The patient developed strategies for managing work-related deadlines and family dynamics through therapeutic counseling. Presently, the patient is demonstrating significant improvements in emotional well-being and is working on starting a business that has already been registered.

1.12 Renaissance Manor of Lee County (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW112C

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Community Assisted and Supported Living (CASL)

Funding Amount: \$400,000

Status of Completion: Completed less than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$124,901.46

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 1.12 Mental Health Services

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Renaissance Manor of Lee County (RMLC) is a partially ARPA-funded new program that will provide 24/7 mental health assisted living facilities and services to individuals who are homeless or at-risk of becoming homeless and who suffer mental health needs. The program objective is to improve client's capacity to self-manage mental illnesses, substance use disorders, physical disabilities and/or loneliness; decrease in rates of residents utilizing acute care services, entering jail, and re-entering homelessness; and increase the Residents long term stable housing placements.

The main activities of the project include providing (a) a bio-psychosocial assessment to identify client's areas needing to be addressed through a Service, placement, physical health and mental health services plan; (b) case management, plan execution and follow-up services; and (c) funding for operational project staff salaries, professional services fees, supplies, communication technology, postage, equipment rentals, maintenance, printing/publication, client transportation, and conferences/trainings.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: Upon intake, every client is asked about financial information by CASL staff. This information is collected to aid in supporting clients in accessing important benefits, such as SSDI, Medicaid, or Long-Term Care. CASL uses a Tenant Income Certification form, along with any relevant supporting documents from Social Security or bank statements, to certify the information. Historically, clients at Renaissance Manor (the original ALF for CASL) are often single individuals for whom FPL is \$25,520 a year. Clients do not have support from other sources, such as spouses or parents, and do not have jobs. Incomes are certified annually for each client. The majority of residents are anticipated to be under 100% of federal poverty guidelines.

b) Awareness:

Most potential clients will access RMLC program via a health care practitioner, including SalusCare, Park Royal, Centerstone, Lee County Jail, City/County Homeless Outreach Teams and Lee Health. Along with the Salvation Army commands, Hope Clubhouse and 211 service also provide access to this program. Word of mouth from family members and friends associated with current residents are a steady and ongoing resource for potential residents to gain access to needed services. Vacancies are historically filled within 48-72 hours. If a resident graduates from our RMLC program, he/she can transition into our independent living program. It is our mission to offer this opportunity for a higher level of independence to residents who are ready and able to take advantage of this opportunity.

c) Access and Distribution: RMLC helps clients by providing supportive services consistently to all clients that result in housing stability through case management, dietary, housekeeping, assistance with Activities of Daily Living, telemedicine, transportation to appointments, activities and life skills. Whether the resident stays at the Manor long-term, or they improve their condition and choose to move to permanent supportive housing or independent living options. For clients who choose to move out, CASL staff provide support services to assist them with housing search and placement, case management, transportation, supported living and link them to resources that will aid them in their independence. In addition to this, CASL's case management staff provide SOAR support to assist the clients who enter the facility without any benefits. By doing this, a comprehensive system is in place to remove the barriers to housing and keeping housing that would otherwise be absent. The direct benefit of this is more time spent in the community versus an institution such as jail, hospitals and potentially the State Mental Health Hospital. Additionally, CASL case managers in the field will utilize SOAR to assist residents that enter care with acquiring SSI/SSDI, to become a potential funding source.

d) Outcomes: Overall outcomes are to support individuals with severe and persistent mental illness (SPMI) with being able to remain in the community through the support afforded them through the assisted living facility. Given the majority of the residents will be entering care out of homelessness, it is anticipated that all will have incomes under 100% of Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Use of Evidence:

Evidence-producing project with learning agenda: Individuals who become residents of RMLC present with severe and persistent mental illness and as a result, often have multiple crisis admissions, interactions with law enforcement, untreated health conditions, and often present as at risk of or are homeless prior to entry. In fact, most of the issues listed above are why the individuals enter for care, many of which remain for many years.

The cost savings is reflected in decreased numbers of crisis admissions at average cost of \$1,065 per, almost no interactions with law enforcement and no jail placements (savings of \$3,320 per event), and remaining stably housed with no engagement with homeless outreach teams, ordinance violations, emergency room visits with no way to pay for health care, etc. Florida's Council on Homelessness estimates the cost for one homeless individual is approximately \$31,000 in local resources.

Based on this data, CASL believes it will produce evidence of cost savings over time. We believe that this project will produce evidence that demonstrates community cost savings while also showing improved health outcomes.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Increase housing stability for individuals with mental health disorders and histories with homelessness.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	79% will show an increase housing stability for individuals with mental health disorders and histories with homelessness.	Project Target	11
		Achieved to Date	0
		Percentage	0.0%

Outcome Statement 1:		Increase housing stability for individuals with mental health disorders and histories with homelessness.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
2)	79% will show a decrease in the rate of acute care service utilization (Detox, CSU, ED, Jail) for individuals with mental health disorders	Project Target	11
		Achieved to Date	0
		Percentage	0.0%

1.12 Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) Service Enhancement (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW112G

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Hope Hospice and Community Services, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$225,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$225,000

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 1.12 Mental Health Services

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The PACE Service Enhancement for Lee County is a partially funded existing program that will provide case managed services to frail seniors who are at risk of nursing home placement. The main activities of the project include providing (a) need assessment and care planning for dementia care; (b) assistance to enroll in Medicaid; and (c) funding for operational staff salaries.



Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: The population served by this project are Medicaid-eligible older adults, 55 years old and older who are designated as "frail". The response to the COVID-19 pandemic revealed the extent to which this population is adversely affected, marginalized, and underserved. As evidence of this Selassie, et al. (2021) point to "the crisis standards of care - rationing guidance for healthcare systems and providers" that "routinely allowed providers to discriminate on the basis of age and disability." Additionally, legislation enacted at the federal level (Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act) recognizes "the pernicious effects of ageism and age-based discrimination."

b) Awareness: Hope's PACE program is marketed throughout Lee County through its partnerships with hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, behavioral health and social service providers, the Area Agency on Aging and other organizations that serve older adults. PACE's hundreds of partnerships encompassing many types of services in many locations ensure that it is reaching diverse groups of eligible participants where they are in the community.

c) Access and Distribution: There are not differing levels of access, benefits, or services across groups in Hope PACE's program. PACE is governed by the regulations of Medicaid and Medicare that prohibit discrimination across groups. All of Hope PACE's participants are served in line with the Hope PACE Enrollment Agreement. This agreement outlines what is provided in the program, how participants access the benefits and services PACE affords, the entitlements of PACE participants, their rights and responsibilities, and Hope PACE's responsibilities. The following excerpt from the Enrollment Agreement demonstrates Hope PACE's commitment to ensuring that administrative requirements do not result in disparities among protected groups, and that access, benefits, and services are available equally. You have a right to protection against discrimination. Discrimination is against the law. Every company or agency

that works with Medicare and Medicaid must obey the law. They cannot discriminate against you because of your: race/ethnic origin, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, mental or physical ability, or source of payment for your health care (for example, Medicare or Medicaid). You have the right to get accurate, easy-to-understand information and to have someone help you make informed health care decisions. Specifically, you have the right: To have someone help you if you have a language or communication barrier so you can understand all information given to you. To have Hope PACE interpret the information into your preferred language in a culturally competent manner, if your first language is not English and you can't speak English well enough to understand the information being given to you. To get marketing materials and Participant Rights in English and in any other frequently used language in your community. You can also get these materials in Braille, if necessary. Specifically, you have the right: To have all treatment options explained to you in a language you understand, to be fully informed of your health status and how well you are doing, and to make health care decisions. This includes the right not to get treatment or take medications. If you choose not to get treatment, you must be told how this will affect your health.

d) Outcomes: There are recognized outcome disparities relative to health care and other measures between low-income older adults who are CIS white and those who are people of color, part of minority ethnic groups, and/or area part of the LGBTQ+ community (Selassie, et al., 2021). The intended outcomes of this project are for all participants, and as such make inroads into reducing disparity among the groups and individuals served by Hope PACE. The most recent racial and ethnic demographics from Hope's PACE (April 2022) show that on average 76% participants in Lee County are White, 6% are Black, less than 1% are categorized as Other, and 17% are Hispanic. The racial demographics of Lee County as a whole according to the 2021 Profile of Older Floridians are 94% White, 4% Black, 1% categorized as Other.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: Level IV
 Beauchamp, Jody, Valerie Cheh, Robert Schmitz, Peter Kemper, and John Hall. "The Effect of the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) on Quality." Report submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Princeton, NJ: Mathematica Policy Research, February 12, 2008.

Community Engagement:
 PACE has a dedicated marketing liaison who is charged with community engagement. This person goes into the community (churches, veterans associations, community groups promoting elder health, community foundations, etc.). The PACE program is highlighted on Hope's website.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Improve the lives of frail seniors so they may stay in their homes as long as possible to avoid early nursing home placement.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	85% Participants will show progress toward meeting one or more identified goals from their comprehensive assessment	Project Target	107
		Achieved to Date	107
		Percentage	100%

Outcome Statement 1:		Improve the lives of frail seniors so they may stay in their homes as long as possible to avoid early nursing home placement.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
2)	85% Participants will show improvement in 1 or more identified problems for their Participant Health Questionnaire	Project Target	107
		Achieved to Date	92
		Percentage	86%
3)	85% Participants will have received advanced care planning and directive assessment	Project Target	107
		Achieved to Date	92
		Percentage	86%

Success Comments

The Hope Pace program has been so helpful for my family.

When looking for assistance with my mother who had some health issues, Hope Pace offered her the ability to be independent but provided the assistance I needed to ensure her care. The process of enrolling helped us to discover useful tools and services that I may have not known were available to her. As a working adult, the program helps me in managing my mother’s health needs including transportation to her appointments, so I don’t miss work. I can still remain involved in all aspects of her care but it has been such a relief in having the help from the caring folks of Pace. She also attends a day per week at their care center near her home. She has made friends, has access to additional care services, participates in arts, and crafts and it gives my father some time to get some things done. The service is one call away day or night with access to medical personnel and that has been a sense of security for my family.

I am so happy we have found the Pace program. I would recommend it to anyone who needs that extra help in caring for their loved ones as they age.

This testimonial was recently provided by a family member, whose mother has been a PACE participant for just over a year.

1.12 Crisis Intervention Team Expansion (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW112I
United Way's Project Subrecipient: NAMI Lee County Inc
Funding Amount: \$60,000
Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%
Total Project Expenses: \$45,000
Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024
Project Expenditure Category: 1.12 Mental Health Services

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Lee County Crisis Intervention Team Expansion project is a partially ARPA-funded enhancement/expansion of an existing program whose objective is to provide a training resource to crisis intervention officers to increase in knowledge and understanding and empathy about mental illness, addiction, autism, and Alzheimer's; to reduce arrests, increase jail diversions and lower incidents of use of force, unnecessary or unwarranted Baker Acts. The main activities of the project include (a) offering classes, class materials, training and continuing education for certification to CIT officers; (b) providing subject matter experts to provide trainings; and (c) providing volunteers, as well as scenario actors and evaluators to support the training.



Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

- a) Goals: The individuals that the police encounter, or are called to assist, most often suffer from severe mental illness. In many cases these individuals are homeless, the most marginalized sector of the community. Mental illness does not discriminate; it can affect anyone from every walk of life.

- b) Awareness: Our CIT Training is marketed to law enforcement through the Southwest Florida Public Service Academy. They have the ability to reach all the law enforcement agencies within the entire region. We also contact the training coordinators for the State Attorney's Office, Public Defenders Office and Probation and Pre-Trial Services so that court security and others who work regularly with mentally ill individuals can participate.

- c) Access and Distribution: There are no differences in levels of access to services. There are no administrative requirements that would result in disparities in ability to complete applications or meet eligibility criteria.

- d) Outcomes: The intended outcomes would be fewer injuries to individuals and police officers and diversion of those in a mental health crisis from jail to treatment for behaviors caused by their illness. Everyone deserves help.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: Crisis Intervention Team, CIT Program, based on the "Memphis Model," has been spreading across the U.S. and abroad since 1988. A sound CIT program is

based on the Best Practice Guide from CIT International in cooperation with leading national organizations that have partnered projects included in the guide: NAMI, the National Council for Behavioral Health and Policy Research Associates, Inc. In addition, more than twenty current and former board members of CIT International weighed in, along with dozens of advocates, mental health professionals and law enforcement from local programs, ensuring the guide reflects best practices from experienced CIT leaders and programs across the US.

Community Engagement:

We have used social media, agency meetings, emails and public speaking engagements. We also partnered with the SWFL Public Service Academy to utilize their statewide network of law enforcement agencies, dispatchers and first responders. We also leveraged our relationship with the Lee County School District to communicate availability of our School Resource Officer CIT classes.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Enhance police officer knowledge of mental illnesses, de-escalation techniques and where to find available local resources to improve the outcomes when encountering people with mental illnesses in crisis.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	Increase the number of training classes from 2 to 4 per year	Project Target	8
		Achieved to Date	6
		Percentage	75%
2)	Train 80 professional individuals per year	Project Target	160
		Achieved to Date	173
		Percentage	108%
3)	90% (72/80) of trainees will demonstrate increased knowledge as evidenced through pre- and post-testing	Project Target	144
		Achieved to Date	173
		Percentage	120%

1.12 Pyramid Model for Development and Mental Health (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW112E

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Health Planning Council of SW Florida

Funding Amount: \$404,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$304,068.10

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 1.12 Mental Health Services

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. Pyramid Model Supporting Development & Mental Health is a fully ARPA-funded expansion of an existing program to improve 90% of classroom performance through the teaching pyramid infant toddler observation scale (TPITOS) and improve 90% of children served with tier 2 and 3 individualized interventions. The main activities of the project include providing (a) consultation and coaching delivered to participating childcare center staff at a tier 1 universal strategies to support infant mental health and development; (b) assessment and referral services for children with developmental delays or mental health challenges to additional medical or mental health services; (c) interventions for children and parents in a playgroup setting to promote social skill development and alleviate the impact of isolation; and (d) funding for operational staff salaries, playgroup supplies, and technology needs.



Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: The Community Health Needs Assessment of 2020 for Lee County indicates 23.4% of children in Lee County live in poverty, and 10.7% had difficulty getting health care for their child. These children are less likely to be identified early with developmental delays and infant mental health disorders. With this coordinated expansion we are able to increase identification of children who need more intensive support and deliver services to those who may have faced barriers due to insurance, travel or lack of qualified providers.

b) Awareness: We plan to use our existing network with community partners, social media and direct outreach into the community. Most children receive an annual healthcare check-up from a pediatrician, so awareness of our expanded capacity will be key to increasing awareness. Our childcare consultation model in collaboration with the Early Learning Coalition increases identification of children earlier and educates personnel on how to make a referral for children we previously could not serve in existing programs.

c) Access and Distribution: We strive to equalize access to all our services. We provide interpretation for families whose native language is not English. We will make home visits to make contact with families that we can't reach by telephone, and we deliver services with a family and culturally respectful approach.

d) Outcomes: The outcomes of the project focus on improving the developmental trajectories of children with delays in development and mental health and behavior challenges. The aim is for these children to catch up to their peers to the point where further intervention is not required.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: The Pyramid Model for Supporting Social Emotional Competence in Infants and Young Children provides a tiered intervention framework of evidence-based interventions for promoting the social, emotional, and behavioral development of young children (Fox et al.,2003; Hemmeter, Ostrosky, & Fox,2006). More Information about this evidence-based early childhood intervention model can be found here on an easy-to-read fact sheet.https://challengingbehavior.cbcs.usf.edu/docs/pyramid_model_fact_sheet.pdf

The Pyramid model uses three tiers to address the needs of infants and young children. The universal tier provides education to childcare centers to improve the quality of the childcare setting, prevent the development of behavioral challenges and identify the children with more significant needs. The secondary tier is focused on those children who are at risk for more severe challenges and with the involuntary isolation of children due to the pandemic we are seeing more children with delays in social development. The tertiary tier provides direct intervention for children with persistent behavioral challenges. This intervention meets the criteria for research based early childhood home visiting on Homvee.

Community Engagement:

HPCSWF ordered marketing materials and supplies. Playgroup designed 6 different flyers and made available on social media and disseminated to our active early intervention providers. Secured a banner to be put out at playgroup, distributed flyers in public locations during playgroup. Infant Mental Health in partnership with Early Learning coalition (ELCSWFL) have done communication and outreach to all preschools in Lee County under ELCSWFL.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Improve classroom performance in social emotional/infant mental health strategies by teaching the Pyramid Model for Promoting Social Emotional Competence in Infants and Young Children.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	60 classrooms will participate in the Pyramid Model Supporting Developmental & Mental Health program	Project Target	60
		Achieved to Date	101
		Percentage	168.3%
2)	90% (54/60) of preschool educators will improve their ability to support social emotional/infant mental health needs using the Pyramid Model program on TPITOS scores from pre-test to post-test	Project Target	54
		Achieved to Date	101
		Percentage	187%

Outcome Statement 2:		150 Children served with tier 2 and 3 individualized interventions will show improvement in the three child outcome categories measured after a minimum of 6 months of intervention.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	90% (135/150) of families provided Tier 2 and 3 interventions will report that the interventions have helped their child develop and learn	Project Target	135
		Achieved to Date	72
		Percentage	53.3%
2)	90% (135/150) of families will report the Pyramid Model interventions and strategies provided at playgroup supported their child's development	Project Target	135
		Achieved to Date	115
		Percentage	85.2%

Success Comments:

Health Planning Council of Southwest Florida (HPCSWF) in partnership with Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida (ELCSWFL) started a Preschool Infant Mental Health Consultation program in Feb 2022. Every 5-6 months a new group of preschools is selected to receive Infant Mental Health (IMH) supports. August 2022-Dec 2022 the 2nd group of preschool providers participated. We know that the pandemic has put significant strain on the early childhood care system. Additionally, children's mental health including infant and early childhood social emotional development and infant mental health has been impacted due multiple factors from the pandemic like family stressors and isolation. Preschools are a support and resource for infant and early childhood development for students and families.

In this group of preschool providers that ended in Dec., 97% of providers showed improvement on TIPITOS observation from pre to post. Additionally, at the end of each 5–6-month group, providers complete a satisfaction survey. Results are still being submitted from Aug-Dec group. As of today, the providers report 21 students receiving increased supports and/or referrals for developmental and social emotional resources.

At a preschool one student in the 2yo room was hitting adults and children daily. Consultant worked with classroom provider to complete assessment and create targeted strategies for student. Provider implemented strategies. After 4 weeks student improved to hitting 1x weekly. By the end of Dec, the student was no longer hitting and the educator shared resources and tips with family that were working in the classroom to use at home. Provider was very pleased with progress reporting it improved the overall well-being of the class. Class safety, class regulation, educator well-being, and class lessons all improved with the positive changes in the child and lack of class disruptions.

1.12 More Hope (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW112F

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Hope Clubhouse of Southwest Florida, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$400,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$345,507.89

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 1.12 Mental Health Services

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. More Hope is a partially ARPA-funded expansion of an existing program that will improve mental health resource and community resources that support a decrease in emergent or urgent care services and recidivism. The main activities of the project include providing (a) need assessments, individualized comprehensive care planning, service referrals, and reassessments and additional planning as needed; (b) funding for computer and communication equipment; (c) funding for milage reimbursement; and (d) funding for operational staff salaries.



Project Demographic Distribution:

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: Our mission is specifically dedicated to serving adults living with a mental illness. This population is heavily stigmatized and historically underserved. Not just locally but worldwide.

b) Awareness: Our 2022 Faces of Hope Event on March 10th had nearly 200 people in attendance and received more publicity than many of our previous events. We were featured in print stories as well as on local news channels. Yet, even after 13 years in the community, it is common for us to encounter a handful of individuals who have never heard of Hope Clubhouse every time we are out. The "best-kept secret" concept is one we are diligently working to overcome. However, it is exceedingly difficult when we are already serving over 700 members with six full-time and one part-time staff. We all wear multiple hats all the time.

c) Access and Distribution: No, one of the specific statements in our member's Rights says, "I have the right to participate in an appropriate program of quality education and straining services, within available resources, regardless of chronological age or degree of disability."

d) Outcomes: Put succinctly, it's on closing gaps both at the local systems and individual levels. Each member is seen as an individual first, one who we believe, with consistent dignified support, can recover and achieve their full human potential.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: Clubhouse International

Community Engagement: Hope Clubhouse has created flyers, social media, and website content targeting accessibility for individuals. A brand new website design is being launched. We have hosted over 45 tours/community presentations since May of 2023.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Improve community awareness of Clubhouse Services and increase individuals' access opportunities to Clubhouse Services in Lee County.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	Contact 100 new community contacts	Project Target	100
		Achieved to Date	886
		Percentage	886.0%
2)	25% of new community contacts will become community partnerships	Project Target	25
		Achieved to Date	109
		Percentage	436%
3)	Add 75 new Clubhouse members (clients)	Project Target	75
		Achieved to Date	73
		Percentage	97.3%

Success Comments:

- Hope Clubhouse has received several new members in Q3 and Q4 of 2022 that are considered frequent fliers in Lee County acute mental health care services. One new member who joined the first week of July 2022 was cycling through the crisis stabilization unit (CSU) with multiple hospitalizations monthly. He had been extremely isolated for the past several years due to COVID-19 and was without any external resources. In his first few weeks he was sullen, very quiet, and hard to engage. His hospitalizations have decreased to only (2) in the last 6 months. He now attends Clubhouse almost every day. He has learned to use the Passport transportation services. He is funny, kind, helpful, and very handy assembling things as well as with organization. Over the holidays he got his first job ever. While it was a seasonal position, he learned a lot about what he is capable of. We are proud of the extent of his progress and the leaps we have seen in his confidence and the reduction of his acute symptoms. This is the power of Healing, Opportunity, Purpose, and Empowerment (HOPE).
- Membership has been on the rise at Hope Clubhouse this quarter, with 14 new members joining since April 1st. In particular, a young man started with us in late April 2024 and has been thriving. With the addition of our new Employment Manager, many members are getting engaged in employment opportunities and this young man has now applied to Goodwill with a very promising response. He was here last week on his birthday and shared that last year on his birthday he was in group therapy, and this year he is spending it at Hope Clubhouse. He even brought his grandparents in to show how proud he is to be a member and how much our agency has helped him.

1.12 Psychosocial Rehabilitation Program (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW112H

United Way's Project Subrecipient: LARC

Funding Amount: \$141,000

Status of Completion: Not Started; *Due to unforeseen circumstances as a result of Hurricane Ian, the agency was unable to launch the project.*

Total Project Expenses: \$0

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 1.12 Mental Health Services

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The LARC Psychosocial Rehabilitation project is a partially ARPA-funded new program to support operational startup until the program is approved by Agency for Healthcare Administration (ACHA) which will make them eligible for Medicaid



reimbursement. The new project will create one or more new service models to address key areas of need and enhance existing services with the use of psychosocial rehabilitation. The main activities of the project include providing (a) funding for supplies and equipment to set-up the PSR Program; and (b) funding for operation staff salaries.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: Persons having intellectual and developmental disorders are often underserved regarding health, and particularly mental health services. "Some people with developmental disabilities may have difficulties assessing information, understanding or practicing preventative measures and communicating symptoms of illness". (ref: CDC, "What do people with developmental disabilities need to know about COVID-19?")

b) Awareness: We will notify our current IDD clients and their families and care givers. We also plan on notifying local Lee County health care providers that we are offering mental health services for persons having IDD as well as Waiver Support Coordinators and Agency for Persons with Disabilities.

c) Access and Distribution: No difference in levels of access.

d) Outcomes: The only requirement for the program is to be an IDD person demonstrating a clinical necessity for the service arising from mental, behavioral, or emotional illness that results in significant functional impairments in major life activities.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices:

"The evaluation of periodic review (PSR) as a practice leadership tool in services for people with intellectual disabilities and challenging behavior."(ref:Tizard Learning Disability Review, 8/16/2010)

"Psychosocial Rehabilitation: Approach of choice for those with serious mental illness." (ref: Journal rehabilitation Research & Development", Nov 6, 2007)

"Supported Education for Adults with Psychiatric Disabilities: An Innovation for Social Work and Psychosocial Rehabilitation Practice". Social Work, January, 2005.

Our PSR program will serve persons with co-occurring disorders, IDD and mental illness. The PSR service model is considered to be very effective for persons demonstrating mental, behavioral, or emotional illness that results in significant functional impairments in major life activities. Persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are also experiencing mental health disorders are not excluded from PSR services. We are taking a holistic approach to caring for our clients. The PSR program model is our preferred method to achieve that end.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Improve access to mental health services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities so they can live and work in their community as independently as possible.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	8 new admissions to New Psychosocial Rehabilitation (PSR) Program every year for the next three years to reach expected program capacity. (24 total)	Project Target	8
		Achieved to Date	0
		Percentage	0.0%
2)	Empower 90% (7/8) of all unduplicated persons admitted to our Psychosocial Rehabilitation (PSR) program to complete the program within 18-24 months	Project Target	8
		Achieved to Date	0
		Percentage	0.0%

1.13 Opiate Prevention Through Proper Disposal (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW113A

United Way's Project Subrecipient: The Lee County Coalition for a Drug Free SWFL

Funding Amount: \$27,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$27,000

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 1.13 Substance Use Services

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. Opiate Prevention Through Proper Disposal project is a partially ARPA-funded expansion of an existing program that will ensure the proper disposal of medications and drugs. The main activities of the project include providing (a) Deterra bags to participating community partners including United Way Houses, Sheriff's Substations and Community Outreach Centers, Police Department sites, Lee Health Community Centers and Hope Clubhouse and others; and (b) funding for operational supplies.



Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals:

1. Groups in underserved communities who are not able to drive, not able to utilize lock boxes because of work schedules or other challenges
2. Groups uncomfortable with entering law enforcement locations

b) Awareness:

Agencies providing Deterra Bags will be provided with signage promoting the program and use of bags. The Operation Medicine Cabinet and United Way logo will be included.

c) Access and Distribution: N/A

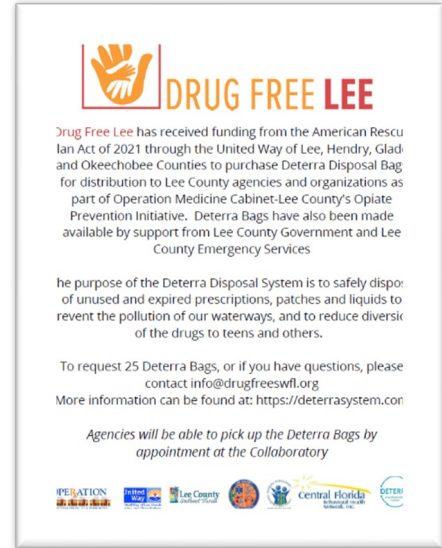
d) Outcomes: The Universal Level of Service that would be ideal is the use of Deterra Bags, Drug Take Back Events, or Lock Boxes to dispose of all expired and unused prescription drugs in Lee County. This would prevent diversion and use by others. The diversion of opiates is especially a danger at this time and having safe and effective disposal systems would help prevent opiate diversion and addiction.

Use of Evidence:

Evidence-based practices: The National Institute for Drug Abuse (NIDA) included this information on their summary of use of Deterra Bags: When consumers became aware of the Deterra System, they were enthusiastic and used the product almost immediately. 91% of all respondents were motivated by concern for the environment, with 45% citing concern about drug abuse or diversion, and 37% citing concern about accidental poisoning. Providers of Deterra were similarly enthusiastic about the System, and indicated high concern for the environment, though a significantly higher percentage of them also cited concern for abuse/diversion and/or accidental poisoning. The activated carbon system was highly effective in

adsorbing and deactivating all of the drugs tested, with an average of 89% of API adsorbed within the first 8 hours, and 99.6% deactivated at 28 days. Activated carbon was highly effective for all formulations, and all chemical classes of drugs tested, and data from stability studies predict >10 years stability at room temperature. The adsorbed pharmaceuticals were resistant to leaching by water, with only trace amounts detectable after an extensive washout. The adsorbed pharmaceuticals were resistant to leaching by a washout procedure with 30% ethanol, with few exceptions. This demonstrated that the activated carbon was effective in rendering adsorbed pharmaceuticals unrecoverable by simple means. No product complaints or adverse events were reported.

Community Engagement: Drug Free Lee has communicated the goals of the Deterra System Disposal Opiate Prevention Program with a combination of personal contact, participation in community health and outreach events, social media outreach, printed flyers and presentations at organizations and community meetings.



Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Improve the availability throughout Lee County for proper disposal of medications and drugs.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	Distribute 2,000 throughout Lee County by end of grant	Project Target	2999
		Achieved to Date	5868
		Percentage	195.7%
2)	Secure 23 agencies to participate in the Opiate Prevention Through Proper Disposal Program	Project Target	35
		Achieved to Date	137
		Percentage	391.4%

Success Comments:

#1 At a presentation at Seven Lakes Golf and Tennis Club, one of the members presented me with a large bag of medications that had been needed by her husband, who had an organ transplant. Not knowing what to do with them, she had been keeping them. It took an hour, and all 40 Deterra Bags that I had with me, but those medications and patches were safely disposed of with no damage to the environment. Following the presentation, I provided Seven Lakes with 25 more Deterra Disposal System Bags, and most recently, provided them with a case of 200 more. Seven Lakes is truly a prevention partner in our community!

#2 With the support of Mayor Kevin Anderson, City of Fort Myers; and Chief Fields and the Fort Myers Police Department, a Deterra Bag Drive Through Giveaway is planned at the Fort Myers Police Department on October 28 (DEA Take Back Day) from 10:00 a.m. to Noon. Deterra bags have helped to decrease the number of prescription drugs flushed into our water and reduced access to those without a prescription.

1.13 Peer Overdose Prevention Initiative (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW113B
United Way's Project Subrecipient: The McGregor Clinic
Funding Amount: \$81,000
Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%
Total Project Expenses: \$61,731.02
Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024
Project Expenditure Category: 1.13 Substance Use Services

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. New service- Peer Overdose Prevention Initiative (POPI) project is a fully ARPA-funded program to Decrease opioid deaths and to be community resource education and drug treatment options. The main activities of the project include providing (a) capacity training and skills building to target populations, (b) peer navigation and referrals connecting to care/services, (c) Funding for operational staff, and (d) program marketing.



Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: From the inception of this program, LGBTQIA, People who use Drugs, racialized communities' disparities will be considered in different aspects of this program. In the hiring process we will seek diverse candidates from a range of race, sexual orientation, gender identities etc. As previously mentioned peers will undergo a comprehensive anti-oppression training that explores the social determinants of health and the impact race, sexual orientation, gender and gender identities may play on health outcomes and access to services. Data related to gender will also be collected when individuals are receiving naloxone training. When accessing naloxone training, individuals will be asked to identify their gender with several affirming options that connect with their identities. This information will be analyzed during the annual review for emerging trends that may indicate barriers to services for specific genders. Utilizing this information, we will adjust or make changes to services if concerns arise. When peers are connecting with individuals around safer injection/inhalation questions, peers will share information and resources specific to women and harm reduction practices (i.e., As women often use a second needle after someone else when injecting, encourage the use of new needle).

b) Awareness: A press release will be sent out to media outlets. A communication strategy will include an e-blast to service providers who serve similar populations, and to employers of trades introducing the program. McGregor will provide on-going education information on all our social media channels.

c) Access and Distribution: N/A

Ad) Outcomes: The intended outcomes are on closing the gaps to increase access to evidence informed information on substance use, overdose prevention, health promotion and treatment referrals to some of the most vulnerable, marginalized, and hidden populations.

Use of Evidence:

Evidence-based practices: As was highlighted by the bipartisan Commission on Combating Synthetic Opioid Trafficking, harm reduction programs not only offer protection from elevated risks posed by today's drug supply, but often serve as points of entry for long-term treatment. Harm reduction programs build trust and engagement between outreach workers, including peers with lived experience, and People Who Use Drugs (PWUD).

These individuals, including people experiencing unstable housing or homelessness, are at high risk of overdose and of contracting or transmitting infectious diseases, such as hepatitis B, hepatitis C or HIV, and can benefit from harm reduction services to improve their health, build linkages to physical and mental health services, and provide low-threshold, flexible opportunities to initiate substance use disorder treatment. Research also shows that the distribution of naloxone to counter the effects of an opioid overdose not only saves lives but also produces a significant return on investment. Expanded opportunities to initiate low-threshold treatment without preconditions of any kind will save lives, improve health, and likely have a favorable economic benefit to society.

This project is based on implementing a harm reduction philosophy throughout the initiative. We intend to engage with people who use drugs to enhance their capacity, provide education and empowerment opportunities for them to share the messages, resources, referrals and connection to care, treatment and deliver naloxone and naloxone training in the communities where people who use drugs may congregate.

Sources: Commission on Combating Synthetic Opioid Trafficking Final Report, February 2022. Accessed on April, 4 2022. <https://www.rand.org/hsrd/hsoac/commission-combating-synthetic-opioid-trafficking.html>

Mahip Acharya, Divyan Chopra, Corey J. Hayes, Benjamin Teeter, Bradley C. Martin, Cost-Effectiveness of Intranasal Naloxone Distribution to High-Risk Prescription Opioid Users, Value in Health, Volume 23, Issue 4, 2020, Pages 451-460, ISSN 1098-3015, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jval.2019.12.002>. (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1098301519352192>)

Community Outreach:



We added Narcan kit availability to our agency brochure; we distribute Narcan at every tabling event, outreach activity and Mobile Unit event in the community; we have incorporated opioid overdose prevention education into all education sessions; we have signs in the waiting rooms at both physical locations.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Reduce the number of opioid overdoses in Lee County through education and linkage to community resources.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	250 Persons who use drugs will receive 1 on 1 opioid overdose prevention training	Project Target	250
		Achieved to Date	667
		Percentage	266%
2)	100 Persons who use drugs will be referred to community resources	Project Target	102
		Achieved to Date	109
		Percentage	106.9%
3)	340 Naloxone kits will be distributed to persons at risk for opioid overdose**	Project Target	340
		Achieved to Date	935
		Percentage	275%

Outcome Statement 2:		Reduce the number of HIV acquisitions among persons who use drugs.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	12 Community partners who serve persons who use drugs and those at risk for opioid overdose will receive HIV/STI/Substance Misuse educational sessions	Project Target	12
		Achieved to Date	18
		Percentage	150%
2)	30 Persons who use drugs will receive HIV tests, be informed of their status, and referred to appropriate services along the care continuum	Project Target	30
		Achieved to Date	57
		Percentage	190%

2 Negative Economic Impacts

Assistance to Households

2.01 Food Distribution Organizations to Address Food Insecurity

Project ID: ARPA-BNE021A1, Harry Chapin Food Bank

Funding Amount: \$2,750,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$2,750,000



Harry Chapin Food Bank
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA



Figure 6. Food Distribution

Project ID: ARPA-BNE021A2, Midwest Food Bank

Funding Amount: \$1,320,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$953,980.85



Midwest
FOOD BANK®

Project ID: ARPA-BNE021A4, The Salvation Army

Funding Amount: \$465,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$465,000



Project Duration: December 1, 2021 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.1 Household Assistance: Food Programs

Project Overview:

The COVID-19 pandemic and the economic crisis, including unprecedented increases in inflation, directly impacted food distribution programs. The pandemic impacted distribution models and methods, which impacted operating budgets. The economic and health impact of COVID-19 in our area has been enormous. Southwest Florida became an epicenter for the pandemic, with inflation rates that both exceeded other parts of Florida and the national average. The economic impact of the pandemic was the primary driver behind increased food insecurity and demand for food.

Harry Chapin Food Bank of Southwest Florida, Inc., Midwest Food Bank, and the Salvation Army will use the funds to recover from the economic impact their food distribution program(s) suffered during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their program(s) address food insecurity for low income, minority, and other households in Lee County that were impacted by Covid-19. Funds may be used to purchase food, and supplies, as well as to fund operational expenses to continue assisting Lee County residents.

The subaward for these projects was executed through a beneficiary agreement. The payments to the subrecipient will be made on a reimbursement basis. The anticipated and eligible expenses include food distribution, supplies, and operational costs.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes: These beneficiary organizations will use the funds to cover the negative economic impact their food distribution program(s) suffered during the COVID-19 pandemic. Their program(s) address food insecurity for low income, minority, and other households in Lee County.

Success Story:

HARRY CHAPIN - In Cape Coral, the largest city in Southwest Florida, hunger is a big problem for many of its residents. The Harry Chapin Food Bank hosts weekly mobile food distributions at Ocean Church, meets this challenge head-on. With this food distribution site, they've created a lifeline for the community, making a real difference for people like Erica Smith and William Gill.

Each Friday, it is clear how much this help was needed, with cars lined up as far as the eye could see. Erica, who's been fighting cancer, said the food she receives at Ocean Church is why she's been able to eat

during these hard times. "It helps me because I'm going through a hard time," she explained, showing how crucial this support is when life throws curveballs.

William, living on his own with everything getting more expensive, shared how the food bank is helping him stretch his fixed income. "If it wasn't for this, I would have a really difficult time," he said, pointing out the harsh reality of making ends meet on a limited budget.

That day, volunteers handed out chicken, corn, and fruit from 9 a.m. until everything was gone by 11 a.m. This effort showed how big of an issue hunger is in Cape Coral and how the partnership between Ocean Church and Harry Chapin Food Bank is making a difference.

Volunteer Robin Rollinger, who's been with the program for a year, noticed more seniors coming for help. She sees how fixed incomes don't keep up with rising bills, forcing tough choices between food and other essentials like electricity. Robin had a powerful message for anyone feeling too embarrassed to ask for help: "Get rid of that stigma. You should not be ashamed when you come to get food; you should be ashamed if you don't get food and you need it."

Thanks to the support from this grant, the food bank and Ocean Church have shown what's possible when communities come together to support each other. Erica and William's stories are just two examples of the many lives touched by this initiative. This partnership doesn't just provide food; it brings hope, showing that in the face of hardship, nobody in our community has to go hungry.

2.01 Food Distributions (United Way’s Project Beneficiary)

Project ID: ARPA-BUW021A

United Way’s Project Beneficiary: Harry Chapin Food Bank of Southwest Florida

Funding Amount: \$225,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$225,000

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category:

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a beneficiary agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. Lee County ARPA Food Distributions project is



Harry Chapin Food Bank
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

a partially ARPA-funded expansion of an existing program that will reduce food insecurity by providing food goods to citizens and to various foodbanks. The main activities of the project include providing (a) funding for operational staff salaries, operational and food supplies; (b) operation of a mobile pantry program for food distribution; and (c) operation of a monthly distribution of through the In-school pantry program.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

This beneficiary organization will use the funds to cover the negative economic impact their food distribution program(s) suffered during the COVID-19 pandemic. The program addresses food insecurity for low income, minority, and other households in Lee County.

2.01 Mobile Food Pantries (United Way's Project Beneficiary)

Project ID: ARPA-BUW021B

United Way's Project Beneficiary: Meals of Hope

Funding Amount: \$400,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$400,000

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.1 Household Assistance: Food Programs

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a beneficiary agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Mobile Food Pantries project is a partially ARPA-funding existing project to decrease food insecurities. The main activities of the project include providing (a) a mobile food pantry including food supplies, storage, and transportation cost; and (b) funding for operational staff salaries.



Promoting Equitable Outcomes: This beneficiary organization will use the funds to cover the negative economic impact their food distribution program(s) suffered during the COVID-19 pandemic. The program addresses food insecurity for low income, minority, and other households in Lee County.

Success Comments:

Meals of Hope's ARPA project continues to address high levels of food insecurity as a result of COVID-19 and how it continues to have a negative economic impact on thousands of households in Lee County. Families continue to make difficult decisions between feeding their children and paying their inflating rent, grocery bills and utilities. Meals of Hope served over 35,000 adults, children and seniors through its three Lee County mobile food pantries in 2022. Locations include: First United Methodist Church, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, and Iglesia Pentecostal Peniel Church. Food insecure families depend on our weekly pantries where they receive fresh, frozen and dry food items retail valued at over \$100 each visit.

One family that was served through one of our mobile pantries this year was a mother and her three children, (9 years), (7 years), and (2 years). She was late for her first pantry visit and our staff and volunteers were closing the pantry. She was still in her Publix work shirt and explained that she tried to be on time, but it took her longer than expected to pick her children up at school. Regardless, our staff and volunteers still gave her emergency food. She thanked us with a huge smile but didn't stop there. She noticed staff and volunteers were cleaning up, so she parked her car and got out with her three children. She instructed them, "Ok kids, let's help them clean, alright?" The children didn't hesitate and picked up boxes and trash from the ground while their mother was helping to clean and fold some tables. She expressed how grateful she was for the groceries and that she works at Publix. She can't claim food stamp benefits, but she is in need of the assistance to feed her family each week. Our team loaded the fresh vegetables, frozen meats and other food items into her car. Her children never complained about helping to clean and they were most grateful for the items they received. On another weekly visit, she explained that she changed her work schedule, so she could arrive at our pantry on time. Since it was Mother's Day week, we received some flower donations to distribute in addition to food items. Our staff handed her a bouquet of flowers and a cake. She was shocked and replied, "Oh my goodness, thank you so much. Nobody brought me flowers before, but you!"

2.01 Family Food Boxes (United Way’s Project Beneficiary)

Project ID: ARPA-BUW021C

United Way’s Project Beneficiary: Midwest Food Bank, NFP

Funding Amount: 400,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$400,000

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.1 Household Assistance: Food Programs

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a beneficiary agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. Family Food Boxes project is a partially ARPA-funding new project to decrease food insecurities. The main activities of the project include providing (a) the supplies and equipment to expand a food boxes program to distribute food each month; (b) funding for operational staff salaries; and (c) leasing additional warehouse space.



Promoting Equitable Outcomes: This beneficiary organization will use the funds to cover the negative economic impact their food distribution program(s) suffered during the COVID-19 pandemic. The program addresses food insecurity for low income, minority, and other households in Lee County.

2.10 Workforce Training and Certification Grant (Micro and Rapid Credentialing)

Project ID: ARPA-NE210A1, School Board of Lee County (Adult Learning)

Funding Amount: \$750,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$230,408.01

Project Duration: January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.10 Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers (e.g. job training, subsidized employment, employment supports or incentives)*^

Project Overview:



The Workforce Training and Certification (Micro and Rapid Credentialing) Grants – School Board of Lee County project is a new adult learning program. The project is fully funded through CSLFRF and responds to the COVID-19 exacerbated education disparities and improves opportunities for economic advancement.

Training will be provided in programs that offer soft skills micro-credentialing with each requiring twelve hours of instruction. The offering includes 8 micro-credentials in: Collaboration, Creative Problem-Solving, Critical Thinking, Empathy, Initiative, Intercultural Fluency, Oral Communication and Resilience.

Project Demographic Distribution:

Gender

Timeframe	Female	Male
Q4 2022	8	0
Q1 2023	11	3
Q2 2023	27	5
Q3 2023	1	0
Q4 2023	9	0
Q1 2024	68	46
Q2 2024	54	36

Highest Level of Education

Timeframe	High School Diploma or GED	Associate degree	Bachelor’s Degree	Professional Degree	Graduate Degree
Q4 2022	5		2		1
Q1 2023	5	1	3		5
Q2 2023	13		9	5	5
Q3 2023			1		
Q4 2023	3	4	1	1	
Q1 2024	63	7	16	1	7
Q2 2024	44	9	26	5	7

Income Range

Timeframe	< 15,000	15,000-25,000	25,000-35,000	35,000-45,000	45,000-55,000	55,000-65,000	65,000-75,000	>75,000
Q4 2022			1	1	1			5
Q1 2023			2	1	1	3	2	5
Q2 2023	2	5	6	3	6	1	3	6
Q3 2023								1
Q4 2023		1	2	1			4	1
Q1 2024	42	15	7	17	9	7	6	11
Q2 2024	29	10	13	11	5	6	3	14

Promoting Equitable Outcomes: This project will focus on providing training and certifications to participants looking to improve their job prospects or financial security. Additional information will be reported when available.

- The School District of Lee County intends to serve all residents of Lee County with no limitations based on race, sex, gender identity, age, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, pregnancy, sexual orientation, marital status, genetic information, or veteran status.
- No Lee County resident shall be turned away from receiving funds based on their race, sex, gender identity, age, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, pregnancy, sexual orientation, marital status, genetic information, or veteran status.
- All Lee County residents are eligible for the grant funds because The School District of Lee County intends to serve all residents of Lee County with no limitations based on their race, sex, gender identity, age, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, disability, pregnancy, sexual orientation, marital status, genetic information, or veteran status.
- The School District of Lee County has gone to several community events and passed out flyers and business cards while networking and spreading knowledge of the course through word of mouth. We have also utilized the District’s internal email lists and will be furthering this with emails to the public.

Website: [Upskill Village Home](#)

UPSKILL VILLAGE
An Adult Education Micro-Credentialing Program at the School District of Lee County

Through funding provided by the American Rescue Act Plan, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, Lee County residents may be eligible for tuition costs associated with soft skills micro-credentialing programs in Adult Education at the School District of Lee County. Tuition coverage is dependent on individual assistance eligibility.

Which Soft Skills Micro-Credentials are Being Offered?

Adult Education at the School District of Lee County is offering a soft skill micro-credential program using Education Design Lab's "21st Century Skills". These 8 micro-credentials are currently being offered by 800 higher education institutions and 125 K-12 school districts.

- Collaboration
- Creative Problem Solving
- Critical Thinking
- Empathy
- Initiative
- Intercultural Fluency
- Oral Communication
- Resiliency

According to Education Design Lab, these 21st century skills micro-credentials are "credentials that signal the completion of a rigorous and intentional learning experience for a core 21st century skill—we sometimes call these power skills, mobility skills, or soft skills—like collaboration, critical thinking, and creative problem-solving." <https://eddesignlab.us/whomicrocredentialing/>

Achieving one or more of these micro-credentials can increase your ability to secure an interview, a new job, or a new opportunity at your current place of employment. Each achieved micro-credential will be issued a digital badge that is shareable and searchable.

Upskill Your Soft Skills at the School District of Lee County*

- 1 Collaboration**
Collaboration in the 21st century includes the capacity to work productively with different individuals and groups toward a common goal.
- 2 Creative Problem Solving**
Creative problem-solving in the 21st century workplace includes the capacity to solve problems in new ways.
- 3 Critical Thinking**
Critical thinking in the 21st century includes the capacity to reason logically and rigorously.
- 4 Empathy**
Empathy in the 21st century includes the capacity to understand others' perspectives and feelings and to use this understanding to improve the quality of personal and professional relationships, behaviors, team cohesion, and performance.
- 5 Initiative**
Initiative in the 21st century includes self-efficacy and the capacity to identify needs and respond proactively.
- 6 Intercultural Fluency**
Intercultural fluency in the 21st century includes the capacity to operate and communicate in different cultural contexts.
- 7 Oral Communication**
Oral communication in the 21st century includes the capacity to speak with clarity and precision and understand and recognize nonverbal cues.
- 8 Resiliency**
Resiliency in the 21st century includes the capacity to learn from experience and the capacity to adapt.

According to Education Design Lab, these 21st century skills micro-credentials are "credentials that signal the completion of a rigorous and intentional learning experience for a core 21st century skill—we sometimes call these power skills, mobility skills, or soft skills—like collaboration, critical thinking, and creative problem-solving." <https://eddesignlab.us/whomicrocredentialing/>

Achieving one or more of these micro-credentials can increase your ability to secure an interview, a new job, or a new opportunity at your current place of employment. Each achieved micro-credential will be issued a digital badge that is shareable and searchable.

When are the Soft Skills Micro-Credentials Being Offered?

The first class begins August 31st

- 20 seats available
- 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM every Wednesday (8/31 - 9/21)
- In-person at the Lee County Public Education Center (EAST Entrance) 2855 Colonial Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL 33966

Pre-registration is required and will be open beginning July 5th

Additional classes will be offered (in-person and Online) beginning in October

How Do I Register for a Soft Skills Micro-Credential Class?

1. Complete the registration form at: [LINK WILL BE ADDED]
2. A team member from Adult Education will contact you with additional details after you register
 - Adult students must be Lee County residents in order to take the class for free

Do you have additional questions? Please email UpskillVillage@LeeSchools.net.

Performance Measured to Date:

Number of programs available under Workforce Training and Certification Grant (Micro and Rapid Credentialing)
8

Timeframe	Number of students applying for program/class tuition	Number of students receiving program/class tuition
Q4 2022	8	8
Q1 2023	14	14
Q2 2023	32	32
Q3 2023	1	1
Q4 2023	9	9
Q1 2024	114	114
Q2 2024	142	142

ARPA Measure: Number of Workers Enrolled in Sectoral Job Training Programs	ARPA Measure: Number of Workers Completing Sectoral Job Training Programs
278	87

Performance Outcomes to be Measured:

- Participants completing course by program.
- Participants who improve their jobs or increased financial security.

Project ID: ARPA-NE210A2, Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) Board of Trustees

Funding Amount: \$1,000,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$794,830

Project Duration: January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.10 Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers (e.g., job training, subsidized employment, employment supports or incentives)*^

Project Overview:



The Workforce Training and Certification (Micro and Rapid Credentialing) Grants - Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) project is a new public university program. The project is fully funded through CSLFRF and responds to the COVID-19 exacerbated education disparities and improves opportunities for economic advancement.

The major activities include recruiting and job training assistance in-demand career opportunities. Training will be provided in programs that offer micro and rapid credentialing and digital badges including IBM Skills Academy (information technology literacy), Senior Care and case management, emergency preparedness and management (first-responder, healthcare, and social support), medical device fundamentals, professional sales, digital marketing, and professional construction management.



Project Demographic Distribution:

Gender

Timeframe	Female	Male
Cumulative	56%	44%

Race

Race	Cumulative
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.17%
Asian or Pacific Islander	1.73%
Asian or Pacific Islander White/Caucasian	0.52%
Asian or Pacific Islander White/Caucasian	0.35%
Asian or Pacific Islander White/Caucasian Two or more races	0.17%
Black/African American	16.41%
Black/African American Two or more races	0.17%
Black/African American White/Caucasian	0.17%
Other (Not Listed)	7.25%
Other- not listed	0.35%
Two or more races	3.45%
White/Caucasian	55.27%
White/Caucasian Two or more races Other (Not Listed)	0.17%
White/Caucasian Two or more races	0.35%

Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Cumulative
Hispanic or Latinx	34%
Not Hispanic or Latinx	66%

Household Income

Income Range	Cumulative
\$0-\$24,999	11%
\$25,000-\$49,999	28%
\$50,000-\$74,999	29%
\$75,000-\$99,000	16%
\$100,000-\$124,999	9%
\$125,000-\$149,000	2%
\$150,000-\$174,999	3%
\$175,000 or above	3%

Promoting Equitable Outcomes: This project will focus on providing training and certifications to participants living in Lee County, especially underserved communities, looking to improve their job prospects or financial security.

Program enrollment has diversified as more programs became available under ARPA funds and enrollment growth in approved programs has demonstrated that additional sectors are engaging with the talent pipeline. FGCU has also aligned funding in other counties to support participants from outside Lee County, further contributing to expanding participants who live in one county but may work in another county, strengthening the regional workforce and enhancing workforce participation in additional and adjacent sectors.

Additionally, of 78 the participants enrolled in programs during Q2. 2024, 60% of them had no affiliation with the university indicating the impact of the broader outreach strategies beyond the scope of current students and staff members.

Website: [Funding for Lee County Residents \(fgcu.edu\)](https://fgcu.edu); Social Media

Career-Readiness Programs for Lee County Residents

FGCU strives to make education more affordable for our community members who live and work in Lee County. We are happy to announce that the Lee County Economic Development Office is funding select Micro-credentials/Digital Badges for residents of Lee County.

15 Acceptable Programs | **787K** Lee County Residents | **1** Valid Lee County ID | **Vast** Opportunities

Explore "The Power of And" at FGCU:
Enhance your resume AND...

APPLY TODAY!
MUST PROVIDE A LEE COUNTY ADDRESS ON VALID ID

Continuing Education & Skills Academy Micro-credentials/Digital Badges:

Micro-credentials/Badges provided through FGCU Continuing Education & Skills Academy focus on upskilling and reskilling for professionals and students. Our micro-credentials/digital badges increase workers' readiness to fill key industry roles, and build candidates' confidence and job market success by making their skills visible to employers.

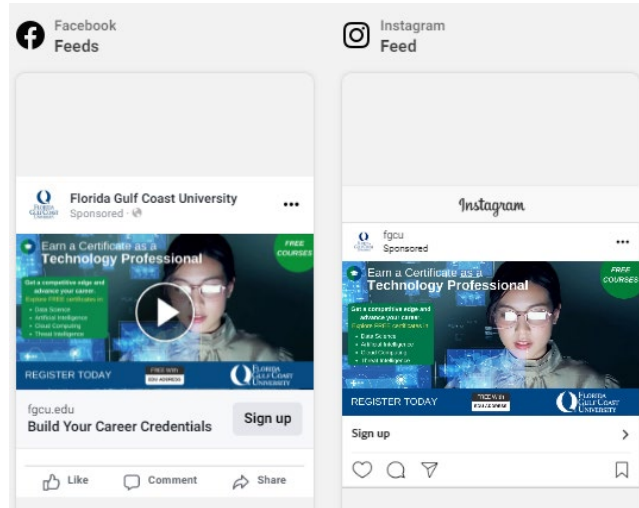
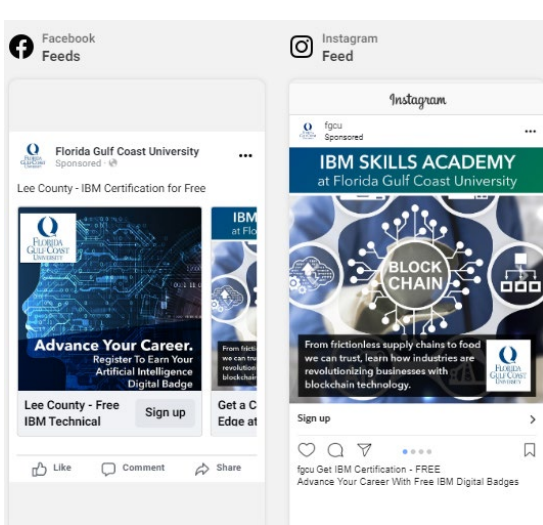
- IBM Skills Academy:** Students and professionals within the community may enhance their technical knowledge, skills, and abilities to remain current and earn a digital badge issued by IBM.
- Turf Grass Management:** Individuals will learn about various aspects of turf grass from management to horticulture. Professionals will have the opportunity to sit for the examination to qualify for the Florida Pesticide Application license.
- Construction Management:** This course is geared to those who are looking to advance their knowledge and understanding of the basic elements and skill sets required by a Professional Construction Manager.
- Coming Soon: Senior Care Partner:** Learn how to assess a client's needs and to develop a care plan using clinical services, community-based services, and technology.

Industry-specific Micro-credentials/Digital Badges:

The micro-credentials/digital badges below, created in partnership with leading industry partners, support student development of in-demand skills and competencies. These skill micro-credentials/digital badges are incorporated into existing academic courses within FGCU colleges and schools.

- Fundamentals of Medical Device Industry:** Students are taken out of the classroom and connected directly to the health industry through a partnership FGCU has with another.
- Essentials of Professional Sales:** Gain insight and build upon Professional Selling material, while better preparing for excellence in an entry-level professional selling position.
- Coming Soon: Emergency Preparedness and Management:** Learn the competencies and skills desired for emerging professionals in first-responder, healthcare, and social support roles.

APPLY TODAY!
MUST PROVIDE A LEE COUNTY ADDRESS ON VALID ID



Community Outreach and Engagement

- In addition to increasing the representation across various programs, this quarter's engagement strategy focused primarily on the recruitment of corporate cohorts within the healthcare systems and within aligned industries to the construction management program.
- Next steps for program include continued identification of Lee Health cohorts for programs in Senior Care Partner and the Certified Clinical Medical Assistance program. We have also requested additional members of the Lee Health workforce to record their experiences for use in future cohorts with a special emphasis on ensuring the individuals featured represent the diversity within the organization.
- Additional outreach strategies to ensure equitable access to these programs include leveraging the support of Lee Health representatives to assist with introductions to others within the Healthcare sector outside the organization, and expansion of strategic recruitment efforts within the organization. These discussions allow Florida Gulf Coast University to increase awareness of these programs that may not otherwise be engaged in professional development initiatives.



Chief Nursing and Operations Executive at Lee Health, Terry Mainous, is featured recording content used in FGCU's Workforce Readiness in Healthcare micro-credential.

- Staff hosted discussions with both businesses and not-for profit partners in Charlotte County, Lee County and Collier County, noting that many individuals may work or move to an adjacent county for work opportunities but live in a different county.
- Staff within the Office of Continuing Education and Skills Academy have also presented to various stakeholder groups to increase awareness of these programs, encourage professional development of current employees, and increase awareness of these programs with human resources and hiring staff.
 - Specifically, staff met with IBEW (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers) and have successfully integrated the use of Construction Management Micro-credential to be included as a part of their current apprentice training in a pilot launch which we anticipate launching in Q3.
 - Staff have also met with LeeSar Human Resources personnel to share the workforce readiness in healthcare micro-credential and digital badge program model and to offer customized programming for current and future workers.
 - Staff spoke with CVS Health leadership at the national level regarding their alignment with the pharmacy tech training and the local externship manager for the region to discuss the timeline to employment and location needs. These actions gave employers greater confidence and notice of potential workforce-ready participants and increased their confidence in supporting participation in workforce-ready aligned programs as well.
- Florida Gulf Coast University has also increased the visibility of these programs through extensive marketing efforts by including the pop-up banners shown below on all of our websites. We have also included billboards in our outreach strategy to increase awareness among the workforce of Lee County by targeting industrial and heavy traffic areas where daily commuters would be exposed to the program opportunities available to them.



- FGCU is confident that this strategy will engage diverse audiences and removes barriers of engagement for our existing workforce as well as those individuals who are seeking employment opportunities.

Instagram

FGCU fgcu Sponsored

FREE* for SWFL Residents

APPLY NOW

Experience the **Power of AND.**

*Applies to select programs. Check your eligibility based on residency.

Learn more

fgcu Explore 30+ Programs
Looking for a job upon graduation? FGCU's car... more

FGCU Florida Gulf Coast University
68,692 followers
Promoted

Upskill and reskill to land a new job or promotion with FGCU's career-accelerator programs. 100% online and self-paced. Free for SWFL residents.

How do you get a better job or higher pay?

Florida Gulf Coast University
DIGITAL BADGES

Your work experience AND ... one of FGCU's 30+ career-accelerator programs

Transform Your Career with FGCU

AND...

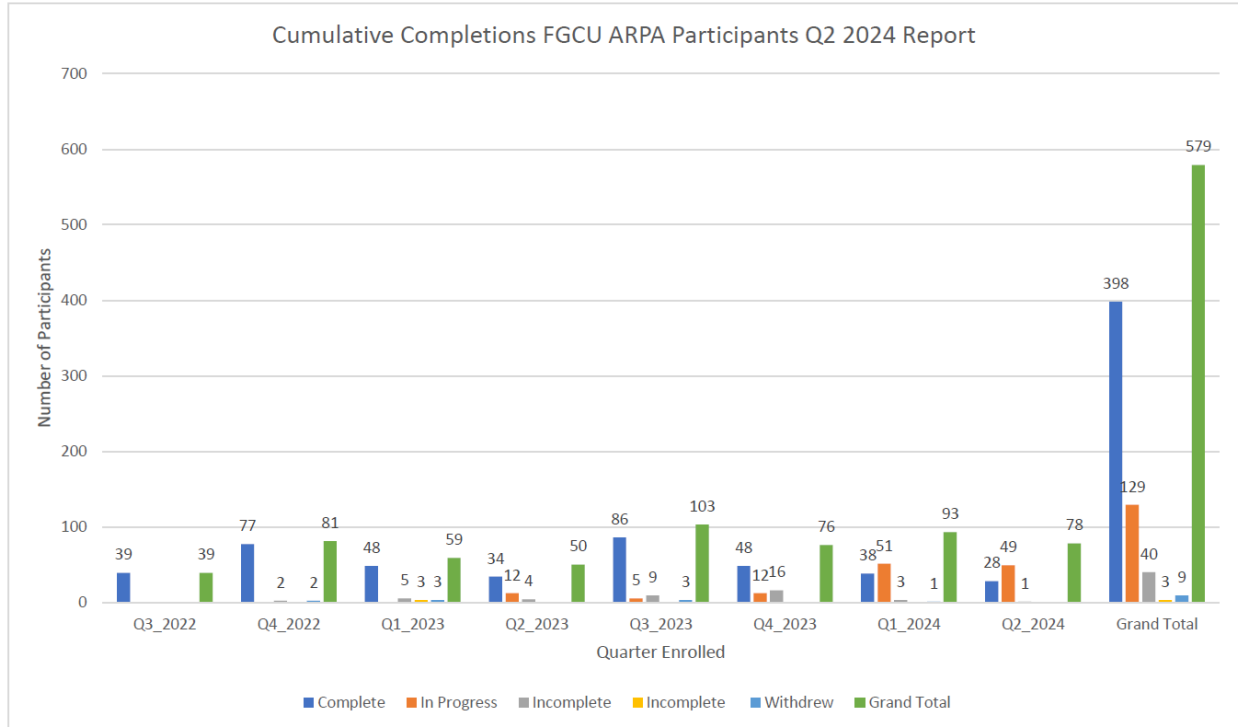
70%
of employer groups equate alternative credentials with two years of work experience

Designed with You in Mind

Use of Evidence: Evidence-producing; learning agenda. ARPA workforce training and certification (rapid and micro-credentialing) grantees will have improved employment opportunities.

The program anticipates high completion rates within the supported programs and that nearly all participants who receive grant-funding will complete their program.

A post-completion survey will be conducted to determine if there were any changes to participant employment, salary and satisfaction.



Performance Measured to Date:

Number of programs available under Workforce Training and Certification Grant (Micro and Rapid Credentialing)	Number of students applying for program/class tuition	Number of students receiving program/class tuition	Tuition amount and total participants awarded by program
30	579	579	TBD

Program	Completed	In Progress	Incomplete/Withdraw	TOTAL Enrolled
BS in Supply Chain Management	3	5		8
Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA)	54	47	11	112
Child Development Associate Certification	2	2		4
CompTIA™ Certification Training: A+, Network+, Security+		4		4
CompTIA™ Certification Training: A+, Network+, Security+/CompTIA Pro		4		4
CompTIA™ Certification Training: ITF+, A+, Network+, Security+		8		8
Construction Management Micro-credential	133	1	21	155
Construction Management Micro-credential (IBEW)	14	21	11	46

Program	Completed	In Progress	Incomplete/ Withdraw	TOTAL Enrolled
CPIM Learning System + Exam + 2nd Chance Exam with Membership		6		6
EKG Technician		2		2
ESOL Endorsement for Current Teachers	9			9
HVAC/R Technician		5		5
IBM Skills Academy Advanced Level Certification (follows completion of Intermediate Level Certification)	15		1	16
IBM Skills Academy Advanced Level Certification (follows completion of Introductory Level Certification)	1			1
IBM Skills Academy Intermediate Level Certification (follows completion of Foundational Level Certification)	18		1	19
IBM Skills Academy Intermediate Level Certification (follows completion of Introductory Level Certification)	10			10
IBM Skills Academy Practitioner Certification (choose from 8 technical skills. These programs are 75-80 hours in length)	10			10
IBM SkillsBuild Practitioner Certification (choose from 8 technical skills. (These programs are 75-80 hours in length)	11	1		12
IBM SkillsBuild: Artificial Intelligence Practitioner		1		1
Lean Six Sigma (Green Belt)	4			4
Lean Six Sigma (Yellow Belt)	11			11
Medical Billing and Coding		5		5
Medical Device Industry Micro-credential	3	2		5
Paralegal Certificate Course	1	2	2	5
Pharmacy Technician		2		2
Phlebotomy Technician		2		2
Professional Sales	1	1		2
Residential Electrician	1	2		3
Senior Care Partner Micro-credential	35	3	1	39
Spanish for Medical Professionals	2		1	3
Turfgrass Management Micro-credential	29			29
Veterinarian Technician		3		3
Workforce Readiness for Healthcare Professionals	31		3	3
Grand Total	398	129	52	579

Performance Outcomes to be Measured:

- Participants completing course by program.
- Participants who improve their jobs or improve financial security.

Project ID: ARPA-NE210A3, Florida Southwestern State College

Funding Amount: \$1,000,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$774,453

Project Duration: January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.10 Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers (e.g., job training, subsidized employment, employment supports or incentives)*^

Project Overview:



The Workforce Training and Certification Grant (Micro and Rapid Credentialing) will provide student grants for in-demand career training programs through Florida Southwestern State College (FSW). This project is a new public university program that is fully funded through CSLFRF. The project responds to the negative economic impacts of the public health emergency by assisting individuals who want to work and are available for work, including those who are unemployed, have looked for work sometime in the past 12 months, who are employed part-time but who want and are available for full-time work, or who are employed but seeking a position with greater opportunities for economic advancement.

The project's major activities include providing outreach and recruitment of potential trainees, assessing their training needs, and providing tuition-free training classes that lead to certification in in-demand careers.

Project Demographic Distribution:

Gender

Timeframe	Female	Male	Prefer Not to Say
Cumulative	67%	40%	1%

Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	Cumulative Percent
American Indian or Alaskan Native	1%
Asian	1%
Black/ African American	22%
White	31%
Hispanic or Latino	33%
Not Provided	12%

Income Range

Income Range	Cumulative Percent
0 - \$15,000	29%
\$15,000 - \$25,000	19%
\$25,000 - \$35,000	22%
\$35,000 - \$45,000	10%
\$45,000 - \$55,000	8%
\$55,000 - \$65,000	4%
\$65,000 - \$75,000	4%
\$75,000 +	5%


Age	Cumulative Percent
18-22	29%
23-27	24%
28-34	19%
35-45	16%
45+	12%

Promoting Equitable Outcomes: This project will focus on providing training and certifications to participants living in Lee County, especially underserved communities, looking to improve their job prospects or financial security. The course programs included were selected to meet the needs of Lee County employers and employees in need of reskilling and upskilling.

Florida SouthWestern State College's Thomas Edison/Lee Campus in Fort Myers, Florida, is within the Qualified Census Tract. FSW is the public open access higher education provider in southwest Florida and supports residents in gaining skills and credentials leading to high-wage and in-demand jobs in the region. FSW has over 60 academic programs ranging from 12 weeks to four years and additionally offers rapid credentialing through the Office of Corporate and Community Education. The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding at FSW has supported over 370 students, and the majority of those students earn less than 60% of the median income in our region.

Website: [American Rescue Plan \(fsw.edu\)](https://www.fsw.edu)

American Rescue Plan



AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021

FSW is happy to announce that the Lee County Economic Development Office is providing funding for certain Micro-Credentials offered at FSW. Lee County residents who enroll into select programs listed below may be eligible for funding to cover in-state tuition and fees.

Eligibility Requirements

- Resident of Lee County, Florida
- Declared program of study in one of the eligible programs listed below
- Commitment to complete selected program of study by December of 2023
- Available to work in Lee County, Florida

College Credit Programs

As an FSW student, you'll have the opportunity to choose how you want to take your classes. Our three hybrid models, along with online and traditional (in-person) classes, allow you to choose your level of interaction with professors as well as when you want to be in class.

CCC stands for College Credit Certificates
CCC programs are designed to offer quick training and paths to employment. CCC programs can be completed quickly, and all credit hours earned in a CCC program can be applied to accompanying Associate in Science (A.S.) degree programs.

School of Business and Technology

- Accounting Technology Management, CCC
- Computer Programmer, CCC
- Financial Services Management, CCC
- Information Technology Support Specialist, CCC
- Network Security, CCC
- Real Estate Paralegal, CCC
- Risk Management & Insurance Management, CCC
- Small Business Management, CCC
- Business Analytics, AS
- Computer Programming and Analysis, AS

Scholarship Application for College Credit Programs

Opportunity@fsw.edu

School of Health Professions

- Emergency Medical Technician, CCC



Micro-Credentials

The Continuing Education Department offers many career-ready certificates that are online and self-paced for your needs as well as many business development classes for your team!

- QuickBooks Certified Users Program
- FSW Leadership Academy
- FSW Customer Service Academy
- Microsoft Office IMOS
- Waste Water Operators Certification
- Drinking Water Operators Certification
- Project Management Professional (PMP)
- Phlebotomy
- Nurse Remedial/Refresher Course

Online Programs

- Insurance Customer Service Agent Certification
- Insurance Accredited Claims Adjuster
- Real Estate Pre-licensing
- Property Management
- Coding Boot Camp
- Hazmat Train the Trainer

Scholarship Application for Micro-Credentials

Contact Us
Corporate.Training@fsw.edu
(239) 432-7313

Community Engagement

- FSW has worked to inform the community about the ARPA grant via email campaigns, announcements at various community meetings, inclusion in community presentations, and through FSW's Workforce Education newsletter.
- We have shared this information with community partners, including Lee Health, Lee County School District, and the Dunbar Business Advisory group. We have included information about this grant in an FSW publication that reached upwards of 15,000 individuals.
- FSW developed a communication targeted at high school seniors in areas with a lower socioeconomic standing to promote that through the ARPA grant, graduates in Lee County can continue their education in select ARPA-eligible programs at no cost to the student. We presented certificates containing this information at Dunbar High Schools Academy Awards event two years in a row.
- Since this grant, FSW established a Division of Workforce Education and hired (hard dollar funded) positions to support Workforce Education recruitment and scholarships at FSW. We have grown pathways and partnerships since receiving this funding and FSW will continue the work even after the ARPA funding is complete in December of 2024.
- This grant has and will continue to allow residents of Lee County access educational opportunities to gain knowledge and skills needed to advance their career and change their trajectory.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-producing; learning agenda. ARPA workforce training and certification (rapid and micro-credentialing) grantees will have improved employment opportunities.

- 100% of survey respondents noted that they had gained knowledge or skills that will help their career progression since receiving the ARPA funding.
- 87.5% of survey respondents noted that they have improved their job prospects or financial security since receiving the grant.
- A quarter of survey respondents noted that they have earned a position and expanded their position duties since receiving the ARPA grant.

Performance Measured to Date:

Number of programs available under Workforce Training and Certification Grant (Micro and Rapid Credentialing)	Number of students applying for program/class tuition (Enrolled)	Number of students receiving program/class tuition
21	378	378

	Programs	Registered
FSW Credit Programs	Accounting Technology Management, CCC	8
FSW Credit Programs	Audio Technology, CCC	3
FSW Credit Programs	Business Analytics, AS	5
FSW Credit Programs	Business Development and Entrepreneurship, CCC	8
FSW Credit Programs	Computer Programming and Analysis, AS	23
FSW Credit Programs	Computer Programmer, CCC	7
FSW Credit Programs	Digital Media/Multimedia Production, CCC	1
FSW Credit Programs	Emergency Medical Technician, CCC	32
FSW Credit Programs	Financial Services Management, CCC	1
FSW Credit Programs	Information Technology Support Specialist, CCC	10
FSW Credit Programs	Network Security, CCC	2
FSW Credit Programs	Medical Information Coder-Biller, CCC	3
FSW Credit Programs	QuickBooks Badge	0
FSW Credit Programs	Real Estate Paralegal, CCC	6
FSW Credit Programs	Risk Management & Insurance Management, CCC	5
FSW Credit Programs	Risk Management & Insurance Management, Badge	0
FSW Credit Programs	Small Business Management, CCC	12
FSW Non-Credit Programs	Accredited Claims Adjuster	1
FSW Non-Credit Programs	AutoCad	1
FSW Non-Credit Programs	Back End Coding Bootcamp	29
FSW Non-Credit Programs	CompTIA A+	2
FSW Non-Credit Programs	Front End Coding	39
FSW Non-Credit Programs	Nurse Refresher/Remedial (direct cost vary based on student enrollment)	58
FSW Non-Credit Programs	Phlebotomy (direct cost vary based on student enrollment)	111
FSW Non-Credit Programs	Project Management Professional (PMP)	14
FSW Non-Credit Programs	QuickBooks	12

FSW Non-Credit Programs	Real Estate Pre-Licensing Course	14
FSW Non-Credit Programs	Six Sigma Green Belt	2

ARPA Measure: Number of Workers Enrolled in Sectoral Job Training Programs	ARPA Measure: Number of Workers Completing Sectoral Job Training Programs
378	206

Performance Outcomes to be Measured:

Participants completing course by program
 Participants who improve their jobs or financial security.

Success Comments:

The ARPA-funded programs at our institution have led to numerous success stories, demonstrating the power of stackable credential pathways. While protecting individual privacy, we can share some inspiring outcomes:

A participant who wanted to transition careers completed the coding boot camp and gained the skill and knowledge to be hired as an Instructional Designer at an educational institution supporting the students and community members of SWFL.

A father with a household of 5 is receiving the ARPA grant to earn his Information Technology Support, CCC at FSW, and shared that "this funding has made it possible for me to get an education and better my and my children's lives. Without this funding, I could not financially cover my tuition and thus unable to go to school."

One student started with the Small Business Management certificate. Motivated by this initial success, Alex then completed the Business Development and Entrepreneurship certificate. Building on this foundation, they went on to earn a non-ARPA funded Associate of Science degree in Business Administration and Management. This progression showcases how students can leverage initial support to achieve even greater educational goals.

Additionally, ARPA funded students went on to complete other non-ARPA funded programs: Scientific Workplace Preparation, CCC, Paralegal Studies, AS, Science and Engineering Technology, and the Associate in Arts degree. These examples, among many others, highlight how ARPA-funded programs have not only helped students earn credentials but also inspired them to pursue further education. The ability to stack credentials has empowered students to build on their initial successes, often leading to higher-level degrees and expanded career opportunities.

Project ID: ARPA-NE210A4, Hodges University

Funding Amount: \$250,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$250,000

Project Duration: January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.10 Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers (e.g., job training, subsidized employment, employment supports or incentives)*^

Project Overview:



The Workforce Training and Certification (Micro and Rapid Credentialing) Grants – Hodges University project is a new public university program. The project is fully funded through CSLFRF and responds to the COVID-19 exacerbated education disparities and improves opportunities for economic advancement.

The project will offer eligible adult learners the opportunity for paid tuition for the eligible classes. Hodges will manage the requests for tuition by participants, approval of the funding (based on budget availability), and the payments for the participants classes. The major activities include in-demand career training opportunities for Emergency Medical Technicians and Dental Assisting.

Community Engagement:

The overall minority students and ethnic diversity rate for Hodges University is 62%, and Hodges University is a Hispanic Serving Institution. <https://www.hodges.edu/diversity>

54% of Hodges University ARPA Grant recipients in 2023 are minorities. The Hodges Marketing Team has supported efforts to promote the EMT and Dental Assisting Programs and the ARPA Grant opportunities for Lee County applicants on the University Website, pinning ceremony video recording and student testimonials are used on the Hodges Social Media Accounts (Media links and Photos provided in separate document).

Hodges University was a major sponsor of the City of Fort Myers first annual DiverCITY Event right before hurricane IAN in the Fall of 2022 <https://diversecityftmyers.com/> where we had a table to share information about the ARPA Grant opportunities for EMT and Dental Assisting to Lee County Residents attending the event. **We had one student enroll in the January 2023 EMT cohort who we met at the DiverCITY Event.**

Hodges works closely with Goodwill Industries SWFL and we distributed informational flyers at Career and Resource Fairs. We also have a strong presence at their Community Resource Centers in Lehigh Acres and Bonita Springs <https://goodwillswfl.org/CRCLocations> where we share ARPA Grant opportunities with potential students. The Hodges Admissions Team connected with Algee Johnson from Urban Strategies Algee.Johnson@urbanstrategiesinc.org who continued to direct several students to our Dental Assisting

program in 2023. The FutureMakers Coalition Navigators also help promote Hodges programs to potential students in Lee County.

Project Demographic Distribution:

Gender

Female	Male
58%	42%

Race

Race	Cumulative
African American/Black	37%
African American/Alaska Native	1%
African American/Black White/Caucasian	1%
Asian	1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	1%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	4%
White/Caucasian	53%

Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Cumulative
Hispanic or Latino	33%
Not Hispanic or Latino	67%

Educational Attainment

Highest Education Level	Cumulative
Not Graduated	17%
High School	77%
Associate degree	1%
Bachelor’s Degree	4%

Promoting Equitable Outcomes: This project will focus on providing training and certifications to participants living in Lee County, especially underserved communities, looking to improve their job prospects or financial security.

All Lee County residents are eligible for ARPA grant funds because Hodges University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, age, or disability in the provision of educational opportunities.

Use of Evidence: Hodges University’s mission is to prepare students to leverage higher learning in their personal, professional and civic endeavors. The objectives of this project are to help Lee County students achieve the education necessary to begin a career as an Emergency Medical Technician or Dental Assistant, and to help employers in Lee County by providing well trained individuals to fill the job openings in these high demand occupations.

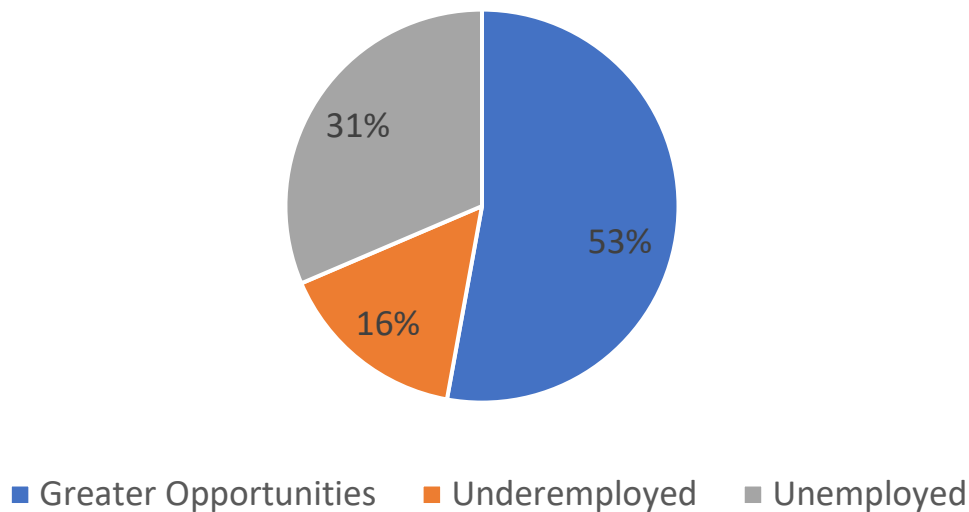
Hodge’s will work closely with Lee County EMS, Brewster Ambulance Service, Ambitrans Ambulance, local dentists and dental clinics to provide employment opportunities to students.

Analysis:

When the program began participants noted their employment status as follows:

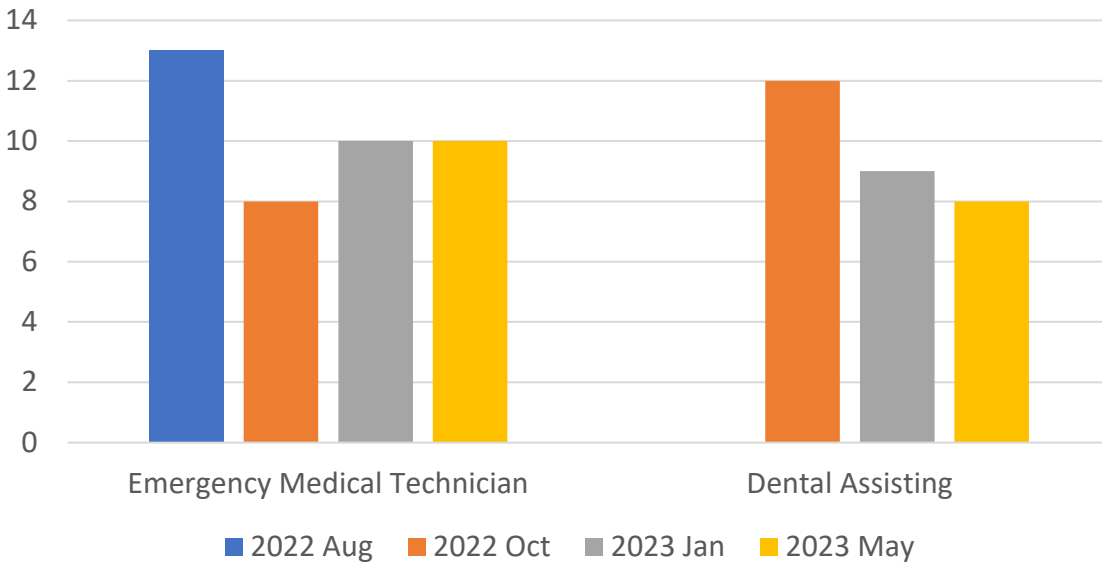
- 37 participants selected: I am employed but seeking a position with greater opportunities for economic advancement
- 22 participants selected: I am unemployed
- 11 participants selected: I am employed part time but want and am available for full-time work

Employment Status



Using ARPA funding for scholarships Hodge’s University graduated 70 students from the Emergency Medical Technician Program (41) and the Foundations of Dental Assisting (29).

Graduating from Programs by Cohort



Conclusion:

This program strongly supports the mission of Hodges University as it relates to the workforce. These rapid programs demand a significant amount of time commitment from the students, and they really have to focus on learning quickly. The ARPA program allows individuals who otherwise could not afford the rapid program an opportunity to be trained for their dream career.

The students trained by Hodges University in the EMT or Dental Assistant programs, supported by the ARPA grant, have expanded their knowledge base in these subjects and have gained a high level of skills which are in great demand in the community. Many were offered jobs before the end of the training. The graduates from these programs will be more marketable in their profession and are likely to achieve greater job responsibility and this will increase their chances of professional advancement, give higher compensation and provide a more rewarding career.

Hodge’s University is officially closing in Fort Myers. Additional survey data is not available to support the evaluation of participants post-completion improvements for job and financial security. However, it can be derived that the participants are better prepared for future employment opportunities because of these training opportunities.

Performance Measured to Date:

Number of programs available under Workforce Training and Certification Grant (Micro and Rapid Credentialing)	Number of students applying for program/class tuition	Number of students receiving program/class tuition	Tuition amount and total participants awarded by program
2	70	70	\$250,000

ARPA Measure: Number of Workers Enrolled in Sectoral Job Training Programs	ARPA Measure: Number of Workers Completing Sectoral Job Training Programs
70	70

Performance Outcomes to be Measured:

Participants completing course by program
 Participants who improve their job or financial security.

Success Comments:

EMT student from the 23JAN Cohort successfully completed the program on March 1, 2023. Within one month he passed the NREMT exam and secured a part time job as a driver for Brewster Ambulance. April 1, 2023 we learned he has already moved up to a full-time position as an EMT at Brewster's.

2.10 Better Families and Better Jobs (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW210A

United Way's Project Subrecipient: FlourishNow, Inc. dba/ Better Together

Funding Amount: \$200,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$200,000

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.10 Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers (e.g., job training, subsidized employment, employment supports or incentives)

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Better Families and Better Jobs project is a partially ARPA-funded existing program that will increase the number of temporary host families for children whose family are at risk of being divided due to a lack of parenting resource, improve of the number of families who successfully complete the employment and family skill development program and reunited their family. The main activities of the project include (a) providing a family mentors and job coaches to counsel parents in crisis to connect them with resources, job opportunities, and support to provide a sustainable and healthy lifestyle; and (b) funding operational staff positions, home studies, training, CRM, software and technology.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: We serve individuals of all racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds who are looking for the chance to find work and create a better life for their families. Many have criminal backgrounds, a population suffering from unemployment six times higher than the rest of the state. Of those job seekers attending our job fairs, 77% are millennials. Over 70% are non-college-educated; 25% are on food stamps. The average household income is below \$25,000. We conduct parent educational luncheons and Parents' Night Out events in areas that families are most at-risk.



b) Awareness: We engage in a strategic outreach plan to increase community awareness of our programs through earned media, targeted marketing, and direct outreach to key partners, including first responders, DCF, the sheriff's department, hospitals, churches, and schools in Lee County. We conduct flyer walks for our events and programs to reach residents who might not have much access to media or other outlets.

c) Access and Distribution: Better Families Program Requirements: The only requirement we have to serve families is that they are motivated and willing to take immediate action to seek services and resources that will strengthen their families. Better Jobs Requirements: We will serve anyone in the community that is in need of employment.

d) Outcomes: Our program outcomes were developed and are determined to remove barriers and help support anyone in our community, regardless of their education, race, gender, and social and economic

background. If they need relational support and employment, our team and volunteers are eager to help them be successful in their efforts.

Use of Evidence:

Evidence-producing project with learning agenda: Better Together currently does not have any evidence-based research to support our model. We will create a project evaluation in lieu of carrying out evidence-based interventions.

The aim of the evaluation is to measure Better Together effectiveness in preserving children in the legal custody of their parents by developing a plan that ensures a child's safety while parents address their crisis situation.

The evaluation will be implemented within Better Together with the support of the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and Florida Gulf Coast University.

The plan will be based on a safety assessment conducted by DCF which evaluates whether children are at serious risk of harm and need an immediate change to ensure their safety. The evaluation framework that we will use will be evidence-building and information gathering through five phases to full dissemination.

- Phase One: Identification and exploration phase defines the scope and nature of the problem and outlines the change which is implemented for the desired modification.
- Phase Two: Develop and Test phase confirms the program's effectiveness during implementation and conducts an evaluation that tests whether the program outputs are trending in the desired direction. The evaluation will be compiled of the total number of children and families that will be served.
- Phase Three: Compare and Learn phase involves implementation of the evaluation to assess whether the intervention created improvements that are attributable to the intervention. The evaluation will include the families served with phase two. This data will be tracked and compared to child welfare outcomes using publicly available data.
- Phase Four: Replicate and Adapt phase assesses whether similar outcomes and be reproduced by the supported interventions to different populations and across various settings.
- Phase Five: Apply and Improve phase measures sustainable positive results and adaptation to changing circumstances through quality improvement and quality service reviews. Phases four and five will be completed in on-going replication of Better Together.

We will ask the following questions:

Question 1: Would children involved in an investigation formal treatment be less likely to be taken into protective custody or later moved into foster care if involved in the Better Together intervention groups compared to families who received child protective services as usual?

Question 2: Are children receiving services provided by Better Together more likely to experience a recurrence of mistreatment than children receiving child protective services as usual?

Question 3: Will children involved in a child maltreatment investigation be more likely to stay in the custody of their parents or return to their custody within one year if allocated to the Better Together group rather than the child protective services as usual comparison group?

Learnings:

We use a secure database to measure success, which maintains records of volunteers, families, case notes, demographic data, and permanency outcomes. We track reunification rates with the state by monitoring family interactions with DCF at 6, 12, 18, and 24 months after completing services. At

each milestone, we send a list of names to DCF to determine if families have any open cases, verified findings of abuse or neglect, or children in the system through the Florida Safe Families Network (FSFN). Our programs are designed to help families pinpoint the underlying causes of their problems and offer tailored solutions. It draws on the expertise of professional services and support but is fueled by local volunteers who provide children with safe and nurturing homes, while mentoring parents to unlock their full potential and find jobs. This approach equips families with the necessary tools and support to stay united. Studies have shown that caregivers who receive support from family, friends, neighbors, and communities are more likely to provide their children with safe and healthy homes. Conversely, when caregivers lack support or feel isolated, they may be more susceptible to making poor decisions that can result in neglect or abuse (Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect, 2018, childwelfare.gov).

Community Engagement: We use targeted advertising on social media, flyers, news media, press releases, and door-to-door outreach to make sure participants in the community are aware of our programs.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Improve the resources available to prevent the breakdown of families before Foster Care is necessary.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	Recruit 100 Volunteers to serve children and families through hosting or mentoring by the end of the grant cycle.	Project Target	100
		Achieved to Date	118
		Percentage	118.0%
2)	Serve 500 children through hosting, mentoring, educational luncheons, outreach, or parents' night out to equip families with the coping tools.	Project Target	500
		Achieved to Date	2214
		Percentage	442.8%

Outcome Statement 2:		Increase employment opportunities through local job fairs that include job coaching and resume support.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	Connect 100 unduplicated job seekers to meaningful work.	Project Target	100
		Achieved to Date	258
		Percentage	258.0%
2)	50% (50/100) job seekers will receive a job within 6 weeks of the job fair.	Project Target	50
		Achieved to Date	54
		Percentage	108.0%
3)	Recruit 50 unduplicated volunteers to help job seekers with resumes and interview skills before they meet employers at the job fair.	Project Target	50
		Achieved to Date	85
		Percentage	170.0%

Success Comments:

We received a referral for a mother who had 3 children. She had endured a history of domestic violence and after being evicted from her home when times were tough during COVID-19, she spent a month living in her car with her children. Upon receiving this referral, we assigned her a family advocate. For the past several months, they met on a weekly basis and through the course of their mentorship, have become wonderful friends. Our family advocate tells us that since their relationship began, she has accomplished so much. She has been able to obtain a new job and a new car. After spending years facing transportation hurdles such as relying on the bus and paying for uber rides, this has been a huge step for her. She has secured a housing voucher and is constantly searching for a home. Her family was able to find shelter until they could secure a house of their own. The family advocate continues to be a source of support and is helping her navigate the system to achieve this goal. We are so proud of the accomplishments that she has made for herself and her children and thankful for the unwavering support her advocate has provided. Their friendship remains and the family advocate often attends her children's soccer games to cheer them on. She has found a support system and is on her way to reaching all of her goals to sustain a healthy home life for her family.

2.10 Mobile Boutique and Career Center (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW210B

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Dress for Success SW Florida, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$100,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$83,072.32

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.10 Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers (e.g., job training, subsidized employment, employment supports or incentives)

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Mobile Boutique and Career Center project is a fully ARPA-funded existing program will provide women seeking employment with mobile Career Center services, training for interviews, and job search assistance. The main activities of the project include providing (a) training regarding the role of appropriate and professional personal presentation in the workplace; (b) clothing resources to appropriately dress for the world of work; (c) interviewing and resume building skills to best represent their workplace experience, education, and talent; and (d) funding for operational staff salaries, van equipment, advertising, operational software, internet access, supplies, operational equipment.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: Our target is low-income, minority women. We are helping families regain their children, breaking the cycle of poverty by helping women secure and keep employment. Our partner and referral agencies treat those who suffer from drug addiction, mental health issues, homelessness, abuse, incarceration and human trafficking. We will focus on agency and organization locations that serve this population.

b) Awareness: We will target media options with a strong low-income and minority following. Because our partner agencies and referral partners are located throughout Lee County, we will have a broad reach into pockets of the community with the highest needs.



c) Access and Distribution: All services are provided equally. If participants find the intake form, resume development, or job search portions of the service too difficult, the Program Director or Program Coordinator will be available to provide assistance.

d) Outcomes:

Our services help all women obtain a job or move up into a higher-paying position. We will focus on meeting women where they are and helping them do better. As a result of our efforts, more low-income minority and underserved women will become more economically empowered.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: According to researchers, an appropriate appearance that conforms to employers' expectations is a primary criterion for successfully acquiring employment (Fiore and DeLong 1990, Kimle and Damhorst1997, Turner-Bowker 2001), and appearance has an influence on the perception of employee competency (e.g., Forsythe, Drake, and Cox 1985; Workman 1984). Opinions of business leaders are similar: for example, executives surveyed noted that employees who dress formally advance in their careers more easily than those who do not (USA Today Magazine 2003). The National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) surveyed 457 employers who recruit new college graduates and an overwhelming 92 percent believed a candidate's overall appearance influences their opinion about that candidate.

In Social Psychological and Personality Science's Cognitive Consequences of Formal Clothing (Slepian, Ferber, Gold and Rutchick, 2015), the authors drew from literature on construal theory and the psychological consequences of clothing, testing whether wearing formal clothing enhances abstract cognitive processing. "Five studies provided evidence supporting this hypothesis. Wearing more formal clothing was associated with higher action identification level (Study 1) and greater category inclusiveness (Study 2). Putting on formal clothing induced greater category inclusiveness (Study 3) and enhanced a global processing advantage (Study 4). The association between clothing formality and abstract processing was mediated by felt power (Study 5).

The findings demonstrate that the nature of everyday and ecologically valid experience, the clothing worn, influences cognition broadly, impacting the processing style that changes how objects, people, and events are construed. This body of research examined the influence of clothing upon a fundamental element of cognitive processing-whether it is abstract or concrete. Abstract processing, "Consists of superordinate, holistic, and broad mental representations, whereas concrete processing includes more subordinate and narrow representations."

The conclusion of the research is that wearing formal clothing was associated with enhanced abstract processing. This means that not only are people perceived as more professional by those that interact with them, but they also actually exhibit a higher more abstract processing level. They are more goal-oriented, have more attention to detail and feel more powerful. Research is a Level III. It is used to validate the primary activities of DFSSWFL, which is providing women with appropriate clothing and accessories to help them have successful interviews leading to jobs that will economically empower them to become self-sufficient.

Community Engagement:

Posts on social media.

Visits to existing partner agencies and making new partnerships in the community.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		To serve women that are actively job searching with interview and/or employment clothing through the mobile boutique.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	300 Unduplicated women will receive either interview preparation assistance or employment clothing from the mobile boutique	Project Target	300
		Achieved to Date	555
		Percentage	185%

Outcome Statement 1:		To serve women that are actively job searching with interview and/or employment clothing through the mobile boutique.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
2)	75% (225/300) Women will use the Career Center services (resume writing, job search and coaching) offered by the mobile boutique	Project Target	225
		Achieved to Date	248
		Percentage	110.2%

Success Comments:

#1 We had many setbacks from the start. We were not able to locate a new vehicle until September (lack of inventory due to chip shortages), the correct staff person with bi-lingual skills was difficult to find and finally Hurricane Ian set back everything. Fortunately, the new staff person was quick to recover and started reaching out as soon as we were back in the office, damages from the storm were repaired and we obtained the WOW Factor.

Once she started reaching out to partner agencies, we had an overwhelming response from everyone. The WOW Factor was requested by a local employer who had recently hired 6 new, young women and they were in dire need of professional clothing. We had the employer complete the style kit forms, we loaded up the WOW Factor and set out on our first maiden voyage. Not knowing what to expect from all involved, everyone was excited to see us arrive. After setting up 3 pop-up dressing rooms and rolling in 2 racks of clothing, bins of shoes, bras, jewelry and purses we got to work. 3 Personal Stylists worked with the new employees and were successful in dressing each woman with a 2-week wardrobe, head to toe. The experience was amazing, and we left knowing that the WOW Factor was indeed the right next step in the growth of Dress for Success SW Florida.

#2 I wanted to extend my heartfelt thanks to you and Dress for Success for your incredible participation in our recent EmpowerHer Wardrobe event. We received such great feedback from the attendees, and your contribution played a significant role in its success.

Given the positive response, we would love to continue this collaboration on a quarterly basis. We believe this will provide ongoing support and empowerment to the women we serve. With that in mind, we'd like to seek out a date for our third-quarter event.

Could we schedule a time to discuss potential dates and details? Your continued partnership would mean a lot to us and the community we support.

Thank you once again for your dedication and support.

- Family Mentor Coordinator

2.10 Opportunity Accelerator (OA) Job Training and Employment Support (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW210C

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida

Funding Amount: \$225,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$222,982.30

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.10 Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers (e.g., job training, subsidized employment, employment supports or incentives)

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Opportunity Accelerator project is a partially ARPA-funded expansion of an existing program that will increase in the availability of trained workforce and increase the job placement, promotion, and increase earnings potential. The main activities of the project include providing (a) funding for operational staff salaries, case management software, equipment, supplies, professional services fees, travel and occupancy cost; (b) client assessment and case management to develop a career plan to increase earnings; and (c) wrap-around services to remove barrier to training and personal development toward improved employment.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: Yes. Goodwill SWFL, like most Goodwill's across the country, provides services to marginalized communities and historically underserved, and otherwise adversely affected groups such as those of Hispanic ethnicity and immigrants. Bilingual coordinators are available at the CRCs to implement the OA and free English classes are offered to ensure clients are set up for success when seeking and utilizing services like digital skills training. Other equity dimensions are targeted including socio-economic levels related to household income which may include many populations, in particular, people with barriers or disadvantages, disabilities, low incomes and criminal backgrounds along with single parents, seniors and veterans.

b) Awareness: Goodwill will recruit participants through community partnerships, marketing collateral, word of mouth, digital and physical assets, etc. Goodwill SWFL has 28 retail and donation centers. Information will be distributed throughout all 28 stores, which will reach a diverse and equitable audience of donors and shoppers. In addition, the project will roll out radio campaigns in English and Spanish throughout the targeted services area to diverse populations. Flyers, rack cards, and post cards will be distributed to diverse businesses and locations with equity in mind, especially for those who are not connected to digital media.

c) Access and Distribution: No differences in levels of access.

d) Outcomes: Outcomes are focused on closing gaps at various levels including language, literacy, digital literacy and connectivity. Goodwill SWFL has four CRCs located in and near marginalized communities in

Lee County which addresses the need for this program geographically, reaching many vulnerable populations. This project further responds to the negative economic impacts of the pandemic on households by providing assistance that helps them secure internet access and/or by increasing their ability to use computers and the internet.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: In a March 11, 2022 address to the Federal Communications Commission, Maribel Martinez, Principal of Maribel Martinez Consulting, noted, "Particular populations find the process of subscribing to the internet more challenging, such as those with limited English proficiency, people with disabilities, seniors, and those with lower literacy and education levels...Digital Navigators are trained digital inclusion champions who are knowledgeable about broadband options, computing devices, and digital literacy training." Federal Communication Commission, Broadband Consumer Labels Virtual Public Hearing, March 11, 2022, <https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2022/03/broadband-consumer-labels-virtual-public-hearing>.

The Opportunity Accelerator incorporates digital navigation services as a primary component of services to respond to the economic effects of the pandemic.

Community Engagement:

- Marketing materials to the community through website, social media platforms, community partner offices and community spaces (e.g., United Way, Urban Strategies, and CareerSource).
- Mobile Coordinator takes materials to community events.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		ARPA Opportunity Accelerator (OA) participant will increase the number of work ready participants.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	90% (450/500) Participants that obtained gainful employment	Project Target	450
		Achieved to Date	479
		Percentage	106.4%
2)	95% (475/500) Individuals completing a resume AND mock interview	Project Target	500
		Achieved to Date	490
		Percentage	98%
3)	85% (425/500) Participants with an interview within three months of program completion	Project Target	425
		Achieved to Date	479
		Percentage	112.7%

Success Comments:

#1 Barriers faced: Client is not working; she is looking for job but she said she does not speak English. She wants an office job.

How did you help them?: She came for orientation about her resume that was too many pages and looking for job. I helped her to update her resume to two pages. I also gave her the jobs available. I explained to her about the Opportunity Accelerator, and she agreed with what I explained to her. So, she started with O*net assessment and she found interest in her results. She was so happy that she can update her resume. She is little afraid to speak English, that's why she would like to take an English Class.

How has this client's life improved? She will start Digital Skills Class to update her knowledge that she has of Digital Skills.

#2 At a final session of the Employability Workshops for USI (Dunbar) participants at the Tice Goodwill Community Resource Center location, one client was terribly shy and did not wish to engage in the mock interview. However, the next day, she reported to her caseworker that: she saw a help wanted sign at a convenience store. She went in and asked to apply. The manager asked her if she was available for an interview right then. She was. She reported to the caseworker that, indeed, the same questions were asked of her that were in the workshop's session. She felt completely prepared from having attended. This client landed the job.

2.11 Support Non-Profit Childcare Providers to Increase Capacity

Project ID: ARPA-NE211A, Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida

Funding Amount: \$3,000,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$1,624,357.30

Project Duration: January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.11 Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care*^

Project Overview:



The Support Childcare Providers to Increase Capacity project is an existing service of Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida (ELC) which Lee County Human Services partially fund. Through the project, ELC will recruit childcare providers to participate in a capacity-building and learning-focused initiative to create new or expand and enhance existing school readiness services.

The project activities include a pilot grant program based on needs assessments of participating childcare provided. Grant will be provided to fund capacity building, technical assistance, and other eligible resources. The program will be evaluated to identify and implement opportunities for improvement. Additional grant cycles will be run with a similar learning agenda to continue refining the program and building a body of knowledge regarding supporting childcare providers to increase capacity.

Additional activities include project administration, technical assistance, training, grants awards for equipment, Gold Seal accreditation, business training, early learning professional's certification, and equipment purchases.

BEFORE PHOTOS OF A CHILDCARE PROVIDER BENEFICIARY – *Creative Early Steps*.



AFTER PHOTOS OF A CHILDCARE PROVIDER BENEFICIARY – Creative Early Steps.



BEFORE PHOTO OF A CHILDCARE PROVIDER BENEFICIARY – Babyland Christian Academy LLC.



AFTER PHOTO OF A CHILDCARE PROVIDER BENEFICIARY – Babyland Christian Academy LLC.



Demographic Distribution:

Providers Approved for Grant	Providers Located within a Qualified Census Tract (QCT)	Percent of Providers Approved for Grant within QCT
61	32	52%

Promoting Equitable Outcomes: ELC has created a Notice of Solicitation of Applications for the Lee County School Readiness Capacity Building Grant. Criteria being considered on the application include: provider has a current School Readiness (SR) contract for upcoming school year, the location of provider high-need areas as defined by the Florida Index of Child Care Access (FLICCA 4.1) interactive map, the percent of SR program children current served by the provider, good standing and years contracted with SR, in good standing with Dept of Children and Families (no class 1 violations in the last year), poverty of zip code, services provided to a Qualified Census Tract (QCT), CLASS score, Gold Seal status, and potential increase in slots count.

- Announcement to all Lee County providers. Announcements were made during Provider Town Hall meetings: April 2023, May 2023, and June 2023
- Orientation meetings are offered to providers interested in receiving the grant.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-Producing

Learning Agenda - Hypothesis/Action Statement: Lee County families need access to high quality childcare. The Early Learning Coalition of SWFL will award eligible childcare providers grant funds for capacity building needs, supplies, business training and technology training. The grants will help to assist providers to expand capacity and will be focused on building a high-quality infrastructure where childcare providers have stronger business practices and demonstrate higher quality competencies (i.e., Gold Seal Accreditation and increased CLASS Scores). Strategies for recruitment and retention will be a part of the infrastructure improvement plan for each provider. The infusion of resources will create greater childcare capacity in high-quality programs.

Methodology

Data Collection: The research team utilized a mixed-methods approach, including surveys, interviews, and data analysis, to gather information from participating early childhood learning centers. We conducted baseline assessments in the second and third quarters of 2023 to measure progress.

Participants: All participant beneficiaries were selected for inclusion in this report based on their receipt of the Lee County BOCC ARPA grant funds. At study’s end, a total of 64 early childhood learning centers in Southwest Florida participated in the first three participant pools, or “batches” of the study. At the end of the third quarter, saturation was reached, with no provider applications being received.

Key Metrics: The study focused on various key metrics, including capacity expansion, staff development, program enhancements, and increasing access to affordable, high-quality childcare.

Staff Development

Professional Development: Grant beneficiaries also participated in the ELCs World Class Workforce grant, designed to provide professional development opportunities for directors and teachers. This initiative led to an improvement in the quality of childcare services offered. During FY 2022-2023, the ELC's Quality Department has provided 2,316 early childhood educators 168 different training and professional development opportunities, both in person and virtual, designed to provide strategies on educational topics including the importance of attachment and the developing brain, making the most of classroom interactions, building resiliency, preventing discipline problems as well as a host of health-related topics.

Recruitment and Retention: Centers reported improved recruitment and retention rates for qualified staff, contributing to the overall quality of early childhood education. Several center directors utilized grant funds for signing and retention bonuses as well as paying for required background tests and licensure fees.

Facilities Enhancements

Facilities Enhancement: Centers used grant funds to update and enhance their facilities to allow for increased square footage, thereby providing increased capacity in terms of number of students eligible to serve. Funds were used for playground facilities as well as non-capital furniture, fixtures, and equipment needed to support an increase in enrollments. Grant funds were predominantly used to improve facilities, outdoor learning areas/playgrounds, or create additional classrooms, allowing centers to accommodate more children safely.

Access to Affordable Childcare

Affordability: Grant-funded centers were able to maintain competitive pricing by increasing access to children and families eligible for the School Readiness program, making childcare more affordable for families in the region.

Findings and Conclusion

The Childcare Capacity Building Evidence-Producing Study funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) through the Lee County Board of County Commissioners \$2m grant has made significant strides in enhancing early childhood learning centers' capacity in Lee County, Florida. This evidence producing study relied on a mixed-methods approach that included surveys, interviews, and data analysis of provider capacity. The study has provided valuable insights into the impact of grant funds on improving childcare accessibility and quality within the region.

This study hypothesized that Lee County families need access to high quality childcare. The Early Learning Coalition of SWFL will award eligible childcare providers grant funds for capacity building needs, supplies, business training and technology training. The grants would help to assist providers to expand capacity and will be focused on building a high-quality infrastructure where childcare providers have stronger business practices and demonstrate higher quality

competencies (i.e., Gold Seal Accreditation and increased CLASS Scores). Strategies for recruitment and retention will be a part of the infrastructure improvement plan for each provider. The infusion of resources will create greater childcare capacity in high-quality programs.

Key findings from the study reveal positive outcomes in various areas, including capacity expansion, staff development, facilities enhancements, and increased access to affordable childcare. Early childhood learning centers that received ARPA grant funds demonstrated an increase in capacity, improvement in staff development opportunities, and enhancements to facilities, ultimately leading to a more robust and inclusive childcare environment. Overall, participating providers had the capacity to serve 2217 children ages birth to 5 resulting in an increase in number of seats by 94.

Key findings also indicate that the professional development and technical assistance providers received positively impacted CLASS ratings. Florida Statute and Florida State Board Rule established and governs early education provider metrics. All 64 participating providers scored at the highly effective range as required to remain contracted with the Coalition.

However, challenges such as potential reduced enrollment due to changes in the Lee County School Board transportation policies, the need for sustainable financial business models, and changes needed in state and federal eligibility guidelines are contributing factors beyond the control of this study and beyond the grant period have been identified. Addressing these challenges will require ongoing monitoring, strategic planning, and a commitment to equity to ensure that all communities, especially those traditionally underserved, benefit from the capacity-building efforts.

Moving forward, the Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida is dedicated to continued data collection and analysis to monitor the long-term impact of capacity-building initiatives. Efforts will also focus on maintaining high-quality learning environments through initiatives such as conducting CLASS assessments and augmenting professional development funding.

Overall, the evidence-based outcomes of the ARPA-funded school readiness programs in Southwest Florida demonstrate the effectiveness of strategic investments in early childhood education. By leveraging these insights, policymakers and stakeholders can make informed decisions to further enhance childcare services and support the holistic development of children in the region.

Performance to be Measured:

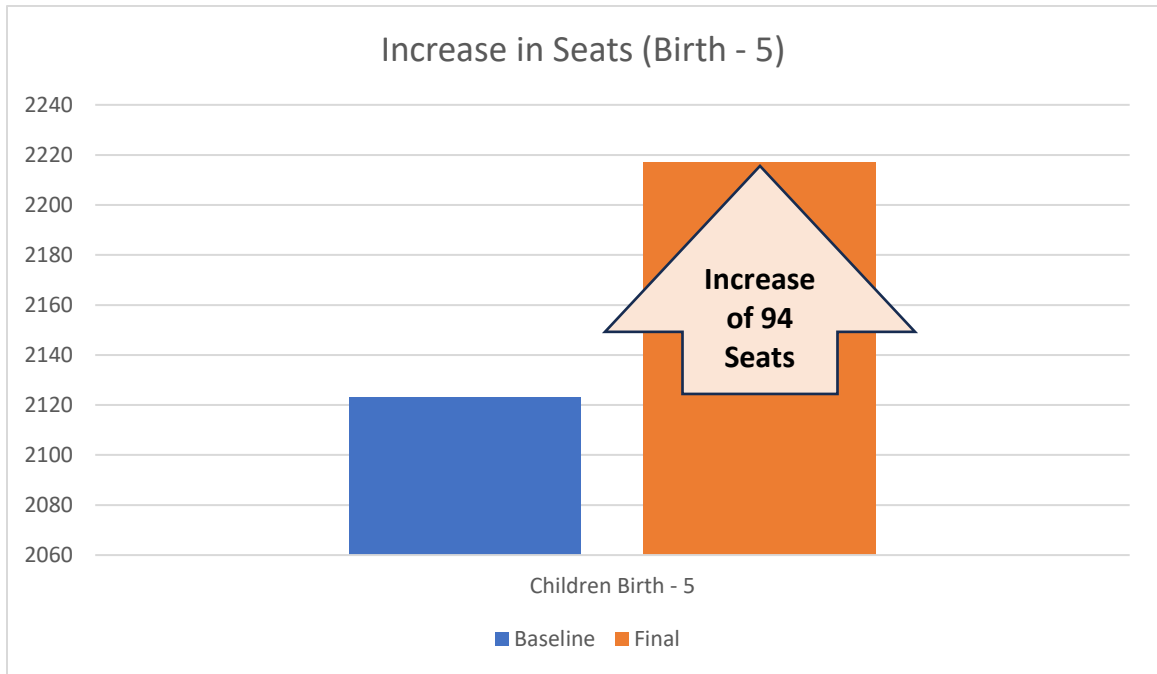
Measures:

- Number of childcare providers assisted by project
 - 80
- Number of childcare seats added in high-need areas

- 94
- Turnaround time for families who receive School Readiness funding (greater availability)
 - **No current waitlist for School Readiness child enrollment**
- ARPA required measure: Number of children served by childcare and early learning (Pre-school/Pre-K, ages 3-5)
 - **1903**

Performance Outcomes to be Measured:

- Increased availability of childcare



- School Readiness families have options for childcare when they are called from ELC waiting list and can enroll their child(ren) immediately.
- School Readiness providers are high quality as evidenced by increased CLASS scores and accreditation (Gold Seal)
 - *Professional development and technical assistance providers received positively impacted CLASS ratings. Florida Statute and Florida State Board Rule established and governs early education provider metrics. All 64 participating providers scored at the highly effective range as required to remain contracted with the Coalition.*

Success Comments

A preschool academy stated that the grant was essential in aiding the preschool to recover after COVID-19. Thanks to the generous grant they received, they were able to purchase new playground equipment for the children, technology for the Preschool classrooms, and further education for staff members. Employees have obtained their Child Development Associates (CDA) credentials which will enable the facility to accept more students and provide quality learning experiences.

2.15 Affordable Housing Grants to Nonprofits

Project ID: ARPA-NE215A, Southwest Florida Affordable Housing Choice Foundation, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$5,000,000

Status of Completion: Completed Less than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$915,601.53

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – September 30, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.15 Long-term Housing Security: Affordable Housing*^

Project Overview:



Southwest Florida Affordable Housing Choice Foundation, Inc. created the Greater Dunbar Initiative built around Housing, Neighborhood, and People strategies consisting of four phases. For Housing and Neighborhood strategies, Southward Village within the Dunbar community and an off-site parcel (Cleveland Avenue) will be redeveloped into affordable, high-quality, safe, sustainable, well-managed mixed-income, mixed-use, multi-generational communities totaling 462 housing units. All housing is supported with new infrastructure and complemented with amenities (clubhouse, fitness room, business center, etc.). The neighborhood will also include a large central park with retention pond. The People strategies will work to meet resident needs and facilitate education and employment. Strategies include comprehensive case management, enhancing access to healthcare providers, structured use of amenities to facilitate healthy lifestyles, connections to proven workforce development programs, and extensive series of educational programs supporting children. This funding award will focus on Phase 2 of this overall project outline. Activities for Phase 2 include (a) beginning on the northern side of the Southward Village site, there will be multifamily townhomes and garden apartments totaling to 145 units; and (b) a 7,500 sq. ft. community center and central park stormwater retention pond will be constructed during this phase.

Project Demographic Distribution: Data will be reported when available.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes: Focus is on providing long-term affordable housing units for an underserved community.

Use of Evidence: Evidence Producing Learning Agenda - Hypothesis/Action Statement: Funding awarded to Southwest Florida Affordable Housing Choice Foundation will be used to construct 151 mixed income units. 55% will be PBV/LIHTC replacement, 4% will be LIHTC/workforce, 42% will be market, and the last 49% will be PBV-only replacement. Additionally, a 7,500 sq. ft. community center and central park stormwater retention pond will be constructed during this phase. Lee County is experiencing a rapidly growing population where the typical household would have to pay 3.89 times their annual income to purchase the median home and any household earning less than \$46,160 would have difficulty paying rent for the median rental home with 23.9% of renters in Lee County being seen as “severely cost burdened” (based on the NACO Housing Diagnostic Tool). This project aims to produce greater affordable housing that will benefit Lee County and its residents.

Performance to be Measured:

- Project status as a % complete.
 - 20%

- Number of units that are completed and approved for occupancy.
- Number of units occupied by beneficiaries meeting the eligibility criteria.
- Projected/actual construction start date
 - **Projected April 2023**
- Projected/actual initiation of operations date (month/year)
 - **May 2024 - Demolition**
- Location
 - **Southward Village, 2990 Edison Avenue, Fort Myers, FL 33916**
- Number of affordable housing units preserved or developed

Performance Outcome to be Measured: Goal = 145 redeveloped units of affordable housing available.



Figure 7. Demolition photo

Project ID: ARPA-NE215B, Habitat for Humanity of Lee and Hendry County, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$2,500,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$2,500,000

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – September 30, 2024

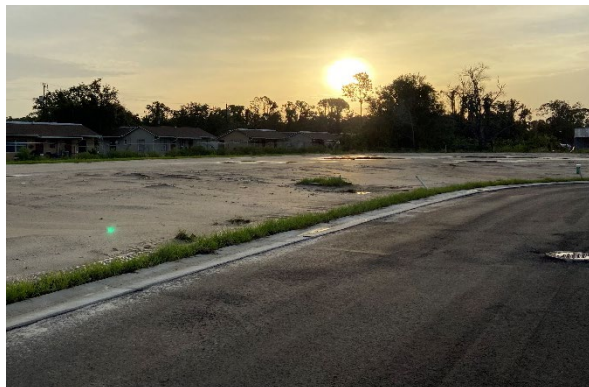
Project Expenditure Category: 2.15 Long-term Housing Security: Affordable Housing*^

Project Overview:



Habit for Humanity of Lee and Hendry County, Inc. will be utilizing ARPA funds to address the issue of affordable housing in Lee County that has both predated and been exacerbated by the Covid-19 crisis with many low-income families disproportionately affected. The main activities of this project will be to utilize the McNeil parcel, a 10.34-acre neighborhood, Habitat for Humanity of Lee and Hendry

County, Inc. will develop the infrastructure of which 36 lots to construct single-family affordable homes for families making between 30-80% of area median income will be created.





McNeill Village

McNeill Village is a 10-acre planned HOA community situated between Pondella Road and McNeill Road along the border of Cape Coral.

Planned for 38 single-family homes, the three- and four-bedroom designs range from 1,300 to 1,400 square feet.

Dick's Pond

Tango Circle

McNeill Road

Palm Park

Single-Family Home

Project Demographic Distribution: As home buyers are approved they will meet Habitat for Humanity's guidelines for low-income families.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes: Focus is on providing long-term affordable housing units for an underserved community.

Habitat is a well-known, trusted brand. We have a dedicated public relations/marketing team who seek diverse partnerships and continually strive to connect with new audiences through printed, audio, visual material, to ensure the entire community is aware of our services.

17 families have already been pre-qualified to purchase the first 17 homes that we will build. Our Housing Advisors are working with hundreds of families to help them qualify for Habitat's homeownership program.

Habitat is a HUD-approved housing counseling agency with staff trained to recognize and address an individual's challenges in accessing homebuyer services. We create individualized action plans for each family based on their personal circumstances. We have bi-lingual staff and diverse methods of communication. We serve families in person, by mail, and by telephone and video conferencing. We hold varying appointment times to accommodate non-traditional work schedules.

The 36 lots that this project has provided, will allow Habitat to build 36 homes for use in our affordable homeownership program, thus increasing the supply of affordable homes. Our program helps to close the gap of inequity in housing by increasing access to down payment assistance and affordable credit thereby making homeownership attainable for families who would otherwise not have the opportunity to own their own homes.

Use of Evidence: Evidenced-based practice, HUD's guidelines of affordable housing at 30% of household's gross monthly income.

Performance to be Measured:

- Project status as a % complete
 - **100%**
- Number of lots where project infrastructure development site work has commenced.
 - **36**
- Number of lots where project infrastructure development site work is complete.
 - **36**
- Number of lots ready for housing construction.
 - **36; 17 homes will have walls up in early 2024.**
- Projected/actual construction start date
 - **Actual: Site clearing 7/25/2022**
- Projected/actual initiation of operations date (month/year)
 - **12/31/2023**
- Location
 - **McNeil Parcel, 1268 McNeil Road, North Fort Myers, FL 33903**
- Number of affordable housing units preserved or developed = 0

Performance Outcome to be Measured:

Goal = Completed infrastructure development site work for all 36 lots within the subdivision.

Success Comments:

The \$2,500,000 awarded to Habitat through the County's ARPA Grant allows us to begin building affordable homes in our McNeill Village neighborhood a year ahead of schedule, providing housing for 36 partner families. These funds went toward the installation of vital infrastructure and utilities to

make the neighborhood a livable and decent community for its residents. McNeill Village will serve a specific affordable housing need in this part of Lee County. The greatest demand for Habitat affordable housing from the community is in the Cape Coral and North Fort Myers area, and it's evident with 17 wall raisings for 17 selected families already tentative to happen in early 2024. McNeill Village is a convenient location for these future homebuyers as it's close to schools, businesses, LeeTran bus stops and offers easy access to the no-toll North Fort Myers and Edison bridges.

2.16 Increase Street Outreach and Case Worker Staff to Address Housing Stability Needs

Project ID: ARPA-NE216A, Human and Veteran Services positions (3)

Funding Amount: \$583,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$484,760.16

Project Duration: January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.16 Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons*^

Project Overview:



The Lee County Human and Veteran Services Increase Street Outreach and Case Worker Staff to Address Housing Stability Needs project is an enhancement to an existing government service that SLFRF fully funds. The project seeks to aid the homeless and eligible individuals seeking permanent housing to locate, obtain and maintain permanent housing.

The major activities of the project include hiring three outreach coordinators to engage with persons experiencing homelessness and connect them to housing and supportive services.



Project Demographic Distribution:

Gender

Male	Female
42%	58%

Age

Under 18	18-35	36-55	55+
40%	24%	21%	15%

Race

White	Black or African American	More than one race	Other
43%	54%	2%	1%

Ethnicity

Hispanic or Latino	Non-Hispanic or Non-Latino
13%	87%

Income Level

Extremely low-income households	Very low-income households	Low-income households	Over 80% Median income households
70%	16%	11%	3%

Promoting Equitable Outcomes (*Highlights*):

- Focus is on providing outreach and coordinated support to persons experiencing homelessness. Outreach staff engage persons who are experiencing unsheltered homelessness in encampments, parks, and on the street throughout Lee County. Upon first engagement outreach assesses the client's immediate needs, including shelter, food, clothing, and hygiene items. Once the client's immediate condition stabilized, outreach staff completed a standardized assessment tool to assess any potential barriers to housing. The client is then prioritized for housing and connected to supportive services that will assist them to obtain and maintain stable, permanent housing.
- Outreach staff advise clients of where they can seek the supportive services needed to achieve success toward their goals. Outreach staff make warm handoff referrals for a variety of services, including, but not limited to: voc rehab, mental health services, substance use treatment services, career source, physical health care, and free prescription assistance.
- Staff have received motivational interviewing, mental health first aid, and trauma informed care training. To ensure that persons with limited English proficiency can access services in their own language, HVS has contracted with Martti, an on-demand translation service that provides interpreter services in a variety of languages. Additional training related to diversity, equity, and inclusion and providing culturally sensitive services is being planned during 2023.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: Housing First model which maintains that individuals should be housed first and connected to all services after being housed.

[Housing First | County Health Rankings & Roadmaps](#)

Evidence Rating = Scientifically Supported.

Strong evidence that Housing First programs reduce homelessness, increase housing stability, and reduce hospital utilization.

Performance Measures to Date:

Individuals Served	Households Served
431	220

Households Referred to a Housing Program	Households Referred to a Temporary Shelter
75	33

Project ID: ARPA-NE216B1, Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice
Funding Amount: \$386,371.86
Status of Completion: Completed 50% or more
Total Project Expenses: \$224,902.75
Project Duration: January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024
Project Expenditure Category: 2.16 Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons*^

Project Overview:



Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice (CCDOV) housing program is an existing intensive case management program partially funded by Lee County Government. The program helps clients secure permanent housing by increasing their income and developing or identifying community or governmental support systems.

The project's major activities include the addition of staff – two SOAR (SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery) caseworkers to help clients navigate government benefit programs. In addition, funds will help clients pay for the documentation required to obtain SSI/SSDI and identification. Funds will also help provide mental health counseling services through the outpatient mental health program and telehealth.



Project Demographic Distribution:

Gender

Female	Male
30	23

Ages

Under 18	Ages 18-30	31-65	65+
8	6	38	1

Race

White	Black or African American	Hispanic/Latina/e/o	Other Race
23	13	16	1

Ethnicity

Hispanic or Latino	Not Hispanic or Latino
16	37

Household Size

1	2	3	3+
49			4

Special Needs

Yes	No
46	7

Promoting Equitable Outcomes (*Highlights*):

- As a supportive service program, we have received referrals directly from Rapid Rehousing (RRH). This way, new renters can obtain assistance for a stable income through benefits from the Social Security Administration. Unfortunately, the homeless population lacks resources to work on these types of processes. Our program not only provides the assistance with an application, but the responsibility of receiving mail, faxes, and emails from different agencies to ensure a better outcome of the application.
- The Supportive Services Program addresses and prioritizes racial equity issues since the expected economic benefits will disproportionately impact African American and Hispanic residents of Lee County. Benefits will also impact disabled people of all races, who also have historically had lower than average incomes. We expect at least 60% of clients served through the proposed Supportive Services Program will be African American, Hispanic or people with disabilities.
- CC DOV' s staff is highly diverse, and representative of the community served. Over half of CCDOV staff is either African American or Hispanic. Almost all staff is bilingual in Spanish additional staff are bilingual in Haitian Creole, Mayan dialects, Ukrainian and Russian.

- The leadership and staff represent a diversity of backgrounds and many have themselves faced discrimination, poverty, and hardships. They have a deep empathy with the clients they are serving and serve all with dignity and respect.
- All services are offered free of charge.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: Housing First Model; Rapid Rehousing; Critical Time Intervention (CTI), SOAR (SSI/SSDI outreach, access, and recovery) trained case managers. Housing First model which maintains that individuals should be housed first and connected to all services after being housed.

[Housing First | County Health Rankings & Roadmaps](#)

Evidence Rating = Scientifically Supported.

Strong evidence that Housing First programs reduce homelessness, increase housing stability, and reduce hospital utilization.

Performance Measured to Date:

Timeframe	Case Management Clients	Service referrals by case manager
Cumulative	153	Various – the pantry, food stamps, mainstream vouchers.

Performance Outcomes to be Measured:

- Job and income growth
 - Percent of clients that will increase their earned income (goal 20%): 14%
 - Percent of clients that will increase their unearned income (goal 50%): 27%
 - Percent of clients that will maintain their earned and unearned income (goal 50%): 41%

Success Story:

At the time of entering the program <name removed> had an infant child. <name removed> has battled addictions and homelessness. As part of the FTC program, she was temporarily sheltered at the hotel through Lee County Human and Veterans Services. While in the hotel as part of the collaboration, <name removed> was connected with Centerstone, Healthy Start, as well as a Rapid Rehousing Case Manager. Through assistance with the Rapid Rehousing Program, <name removed> was able to secure a 2-bedroom unit for her and her infant child. Once <name removed> was in a 2-bedroom unit she was able to reunify with her 12-year-old son, whom she is now able to have joint custody of. <name removed> has remained sober in recovery, become gainfully employed and remained permanently housed. <name removed> is now working 2 jobs and working towards becoming fully self-sufficient.

Project ID: ARPA-NE216B2, Affordable Homeownership Foundation Inc.

Funding Amount: \$163,362

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$163,362

Project Duration: January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.16 Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons*^

Project Overview:



Affordable Homeownership Foundation, Inc.
Solving the Puzzle of Homeownership

The Affordable Homeownership Foundation— Increase Street Outreach and Case Worker Staff to Address Housing Stability Needs project is a community nonprofit's existing program to prevent homelessness. The program will be partially funded through ARPA. The program will use a HUD-established triage process to identify and work with clients to remove barriers that increase the risk of becoming homeless.



The project's major activities include assigning case managers to recruit and negotiate terms with landlords that will allow clients who are at risk of losing their housing to make changes that conform to the landlord's requirements.

Program case managers will work with clients to review their income, budgets, credit, and other circumstances to discover and resolve the reasons landlords often discontinue leases. The program will offer a "good renter" class that teaches clients how to communicate with the landlords, especially during difficulties that may jeopardize their housing. The project will also provide referrals to job retention training.

Project Demographic Distribution:

Gender

Female	Male
262	115

Ages

18-35	36-55	55+
147	120	110

Race

White	Black or African American	Hispanic/Latina/e/o	Asian	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	More than 2 Races
158	142	64	3	1	9

Ethnicity

Hispanic or Latino	Not Hispanic or Latino	Not Collected
73	303	1

Special Needs

Yes	No
3	374

Promoting Equitable Outcomes (*Highlights*):

- The program is designed and tailored to those populations that are the most vulnerable 30, 50 to 80% of AMI.
- We place a racial equity lens on solutions for equitable outcomes, such as source-of-income protections, equitable land use decisions, property tax law and eviction prevention.
- Engage each client and record their feedback during the whole process from intake to re-housing. When we start working with clients that are homeless, we ask the question "What caused you to become homeless?" Using documentation of past evictions and what caused those issues we can develop a record of the previous barriers to housing and how that can be addressed so it does not happen again.
- National Low Income Housing Coalition, that we are a member of, has a map of the areas in our county that show the highest rate of evictions and the areas that need the most help with preventing eviction and foreclosure so we would target our outreach campaigns to the local churches and community groups in those areas to be able start helping individuals outlined in their reports.
- Each of our impact areas, such as areas of high eviction and racial inequality our programs move us toward our goal of advancing racial equity by listening to and working together with our residents, employees, and partners, we are investing in the systemic changes we want to see in our country.
- All our housing is available to individuals and families that are homeless and have been homeless previously. We remove the stigma from homelessness treating every client the same but insuring they are referred to the proper resources to help them become rehoused.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: Housing First model which maintains that individuals should be housed first and connected to all services after being housed.

[Housing First | County Health Rankings & Roadmaps](#)

Evidence Rating = Scientifically Supported.

Strong evidence that Housing First programs reduce homelessness, increase housing stability, and reduce hospital utilization.

Performance Measured to Date:

Clients Enrolled in the Program Who Obtained Housing
425

Performance Outcomes to be Measured:

- Length of time persons remain homeless
 - Target: 30-90 days between project enrollment and placement into permanent housing

Quarter	Number of Clients	Percentage Housed within the 30-90 days desired outcome
2022 Q4	30	
2023 Q1	35	10%
2023 Q2	120	40%
2023 Q3	39	43%
2023 Q4	11	3%
2024 Q1	75	35%
2024 Q2	25	6%

- Extent to which persons who exit homelessness to permanent housing destinations return to homelessness

Quarter	75% of clients will remain housed after 6 months	80% of clients will remain housed after 12 months	85% of clients will remain housed after 24 months
2022 Q4	40%	50%	--
2023 Q1	60%	70%	--
2023 Q2	60%	50%	--
2023 Q3	58%	55%	--
2023 Q4	15.8%	11.28%	--
2024 Q1	95%	90%	60%
2024 Q2	20%	20%	23%

- Job and income growth

Quarter	Persons Housed this Quarter	90% of clients will increase their income	85% of clients will increase their unearned income	90% of clients will maintain their earned or unearned income
2022 Q3	45	50%	20%	70%
2022 Q4	50	70%	75%	80%
2023 Q1	30	75%	50%	85%
2023 Q2	65	60%	70%	75%
2023 Q3	17	56%	61%	68%
2023 Q4	11	20%	15%	75%
2024 Q1	75	50%	45%	50%
2024 Q2	15	20%	25%	75%

Success Comments

During the duration of the grant, we have helped to house many clients, but I think the success story must be what we developed with the Grant Funds to help these clients with. The Responsible Renters Class has taught clients tenant/landlord law, what is in a lease, how to inspect your apartment/home before and after moving in. Budgeting and credit and why they are important, how to avoid eviction and taught them things about being a responsible renter and why that is so important. Every client that takes the class now understands what they didn't before and continues to stay in touch and get more help on a regular basis, so the success story is what we have done changes lives even if it is a little at a time.

Project ID: ARPA-NE216B3, Community Assisted and Supportive Living Inc.

Funding Amount: \$357,645

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$285,010.03

Project Duration: January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.16 Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons*^

Project Overview:



Community Assisted and Supported Living Increase Street Outreach and Case Worker Staff to Address Housing Stability Needs project is an existing, partially ARPA-funded service of a community nonprofit.

The project will provide case management to help clients meet goals, resolve challenges, remove barriers and obstacles, and access outside resources. Additionally, assistance will be provided to improve literacy skills, job/volunteer search skills, accessing government benefits, budgeting skills, healthcare access, transportation, community services, crisis intervention, finding clothing resources, computer skills, nutrition, social skills, hygiene management, security management, safety management and housekeeping skills.

The major activities of the project include adding two case management staff, a peer specialist and fund a portion of a case management supervisor position to deliver the program enhancement. to serve clients residing within Lee County. There will be a total of 3.6 FTEs funded. Additionally, the program will provide case management to coordinate the services to assist clients in obtaining the program goals.



Project Demographic Distribution:

The majority of CASL PSH properties where clients are served fall within the following Qualified Census Tracts in Lee County: 208.00; 205.01; 3.02; 7.00; 11.01; 6.00; 11.02; 108.02.

Gender

Female	Male
59% (40)	41% (28)

Ages

Under 18	Ages 18-30	31-65	65+
0	4	57	7

Race

White	Black or African American	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Other Race
46	13	1			13

Ethnicity

Hispanic or Latino	Not Hispanic or Latino
8	60

Household Size

1	2	3	3+
66	2		

Special Needs

Yes	No
10	58

Promoting Equitable Outcomes (*Highlights*):

- The target population for this project is individuals with disabling conditions that are referred to CASL by the continuum of care (CoC) due to the individual's homelessness. This is a requirement to ensure we are working with disproportionately affected populations.
- All our programs have been developed and are designed to reduce barriers for housing entry and ensure racial equity among the clients we serve.
- Our case managers take the individuals needs into account, incorporating systems with accurate tracking of outcomes, and focus on underserved statistical areas, often due to the disparate impacts of mental illness, substance abuse, and other special needs for individuals within our community.
- In recent years CASL has placed a focus on hiring Peer Support Specialists, persons with lived experience and who are individuals who are in recovery from substance use or co-occurring mental health disorders.
- We continue to provide training to our staff to successfully navigate everyone's personal and cultural background to provide the supports they require to reach economic and social equity.
- CASL's primary population is individuals with disabling conditions, conditions that impair their ability to carry out basic Activities of Daily Living.
- The project is marketed to individuals coming through the Lee County Continuum of Care. These individuals rank high on the VI-SPDAT assessment as being persons who historically have been underserved. Additionally, CASL provides outreach through our service programs to assist individuals in accessing the CoC resources.
- Our organization specifically targets the disparities in access to mainstream benefits by our clients. We understand that different populations and racial groups often have differing experiences when it comes to receiving federal funding.
- CASL provides housing to its CoC clients who are persons with a disabling condition without placing pre-conditions or eligibility requirements, beyond HUD's eligibility requirements, in line with Housing First. CASL offers and encourages participation in supportive service activities, but there is not a time limit or requirement for participation.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: CASL is a provider of Permanent Supportive Housing, a strong evidence-based practice recognized by both SAMHSA and HUD defined as permanent housing in which housing assistance (e.g., long-term leasing or rental assistance) and supportive services are provided to assist households with at least one member (adult or child) with a disability in achieving housing stability. CASL is designated as a Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) provider organization; Housing First evidence-based model; Functional Assessment Rating Scale (FARs) Assessments; Case Management; Peer Support; and Trauma Informed Care.

Housing First model which maintains that individuals should be housed first and connected to all services after being housed.

[Housing First | County Health Rankings & Roadmaps](#)

Evidence Rating = Scientifically Supported.

Strong evidence that Housing First programs reduce homelessness, increase housing stability, and reduce hospital utilization.

Performance Measured to Date:

Number of people housed (3-year goal: 50)
46

Timeframe	Case Management	Service Referrals/Transportation to Partner Providers
Q2 2022	799	108
Q3 2022	687	111
Q4 2022	567	12
Q1 2023	402	44
Q2 2023	808	66
Q3 2023	1156	158
Q4 2023	597	12
Q1 2024	505	135
Q2 2024	638	106

Performance Outcomes to be Measured:

- Job and income growth
 - Percent of clients that remain housed after 6 months (goal 90%): 98%
 - Percent of clients that remain housed after 12 months (goal 85%): 87%
 - Percent of clients that remain housed after 24 months (goal 80%): --
 - Percent of clients that will increase their earned income (goal 15%): 98%
 - Percent of clients that will increase their unearned income (goal 80%): 87%
 - Percent of clients that will maintain their earned and unearned income (goal 100%): 98%

2.16 Shelter Operations

Project ID: ARPA-NE216C, Center for Progress and Excellence to support Bob Janes Empowerment

Center Funding Amount: \$1,000,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$405,636.71

Project Duration: January 1, 2023 – September 30, 2025

Project Expenditure Category: 2.16 Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons*^

Project Overview:



The Center for Progress and Excellence will contract with Lee County to support shelter operations at the Bob Janes Empowerment Center Shelter. The outcome of this project is to increase the financial stability of the shelter as the Center pursues additional funding opportunities and pursues the necessary licensing to be able to bill Medicaid for services provided. The major activities for this project include (a) salaries for the program staff including case managers, social workers, team leads, program managers and peer specialists (b) technology and equipment and (c) supplies.

Project Demographic Distribution:

Gender

Female	Male
31%	69%

Ages

18-20	21-30	31-40	41-50	51-60	61-70	71-80+
3.5%	18.5%	25%	20%	19%	10.6%	2.4%

Race/Ethnicity

White	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	More than 2 Races
46.5%	37%	15%	1%

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

Housing is provided for severely ill and the shelter has a psychiatrist on staff that can monitor and stabilize these groups of individuals. Outcomes are focused on closing gaps for individuals in the shelter. This means assigning a case manager to each individual and identifying barriers for these individuals that affect them living independently versus being homeless. Each individual works with their case manager to coordinate services in the community for everyone. Each barrier eliminated helps "close the gap" to recidivism.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: The shelter is based on Jail Diversion EBPs.

- SAMHSA Sequential Intercept Mapping – Intercept 3 Best Practices: <https://www.samhsa.gov/criminal-juvenile-justice/sim-overview/intercept-3>
- APA Article Supporting Diversion Models: <https://ps.psychiatryonline.org/doi/10.1176/ps.2009.60.6.766>
- Cureus, Case Report, Jail Diversion Program Implementation in a Homeless Patient with Schizophrenia: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9756573/>

Performance Measured to Date:

- Number of clients provided overnight shelter

Timeframe	Number of clients
January 2023 – March 2024	1,529

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

- Number of clients that will receive services

Timeframe	Number of clients
January 2023 – March 2024	1,449



7/31/2024

[CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE]

Project ID: ARPA-NE216D, Salvation Army

Funding Amount: \$893,520

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$893,520

Project Duration: March 1, 2024 – September 30, 2026

Project Expenditure Category: 2.16 Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons*^

Project Overview:

Due to health and safety concerns at a local shelter, Human and Veteran Services is urgently seeking additional shelter beds for individuals experiencing homelessness in Lee County. The Salvation Army has the ability to respond to this need and generate additional shelter beds.



The objective of the Life Navigation program is to respond to the unmet human services need of the community by providing 24 shelter beds per nights. The Salvation Army will use the funding to assist homeless individual adults through life navigation: leveraging services for coaching including nights of shelter and supportive services which can include: case management, meals, mental health services, education assessment, employment assistance, housing counseling services, life skills, and transportation.

Project Demographic Distribution:

Demographics will be reported in a future report.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

Equitable Outcomes will be reported in a future report.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: The shelter is based on Housing First.

Performance to be Measured:

- Number of clients provided overnight shelter
- Number of shelter beds available
- Number of shelter beds occupied
- Number of LifNav programs completions
- Number of referrals to Rapid Rehousing
- Number successfully place in housing
- Percent of shelter beds occupied per period

2.16 Rapid Re-Housing (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: APRA-UW216A

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice

Funding Amount: \$400,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$361,509.69

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.16 Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons



Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The CCDOV Rapid Re-housing Project fully ARPA-funded existing program that will increase the number of individuals and families that can attain and retain affordable housing.

The main activities of the project include providing (a) funding for operational staff salaries, computers, mileage, and client database; (b) services to locate and negotiate housing options for clients; and (c) case management including an initial assessment of clients housing and related needs, develop a transition plan, referrals for support services, and support to apply for other public funding.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: The proposed rapid re-housing program addresses and prioritizes equity issues since the expected economic benefits will disproportionately impact African American and Hispanic residents of Lee County. African American residents of Lee County have disproportionately high rates of homelessness. In a review of recent Lee County Point in Time (PIT) surveys of homeless populations, both sheltered and unsheltered, African Americans are overrepresented. While African Americans make up between 8 and 9% of the population in Lee County, they account for over 31% of the PIT census. In Catholic Charities' current Rapid Rehousing Program, over 50% of clients served are African American. Catholic Charities, in collaboration with the Lee County Continuum of Care (CoC), will work to ensure that members of the African American community are identified for housing supportive services and will work closely with other community agencies to provide needed supports. We expect at least 60% of clients served through the proposed program will be African American, Hispanic or people with disabilities. CCDOV's staff is highly diverse and representative of the community served.

b) Awareness: Individuals referred to the program are given instructions on the eligibility/referral process to qualify for Rapid Rehousing services. Clients visiting one of the Catholic Charities offices in Lee County for other services are referred to the program as appropriate. Pamphlets about the program are printed in English, Spanish and Haitian Creole. Over half of CCDOV staff is either African American or Hispanic. Almost all staff is bilingual in Spanish additional staff are bilingual in Haitian Creole, Mayan dialects, Ukrainian and Russian. The leadership and staff represent a diversity of backgrounds and many have themselves faced discrimination, poverty, and hardships. They have a deep empathy with the clients they are serving and serve all with dignity and respect.

c) Access and Distribution:

No, the process to access services is the same for everyone. The program referral process is uniform and coordinated through Lee County's Continuum of Care via the "Coordinated Entry" process. All clients requesting assistance are instructed to contact Lee County Coordinated Entry where they are registered in the County Homeless Management Information System and then referred to a Rapid Re-Housing Program with availability. Programs do not choose their clients; they are randomly assigned to agencies with availability which helps to eliminate potential discrimination.

d) Outcomes: The intended outcomes and impact of the rapid re-housing program addresses gaps in services and addresses economic and racial equity. The goal is to reach universal levels of service but to understand how programs are impacting specific populations but disaggregating outcome data by race and ethnicity in order to ensure that economic and equity goals are being met. The demographics of each participant in HMIS and ClientTrack.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: The program uses the Housing First and Rapid Rehousing evidenced based models.

Housing First: Provide rapid access to permanent housing and support (e.g., crisis intervention, needs assessment, case management), usually for chronically homeless individuals with persistent mental illness or substance abuse issues Evidence Rating: Scientifically Supported

Rapid Rehousing: Transition families and individuals experiencing homelessness into permanent housing quickly, often with supports such as short-term financial assistance, case management, landlord negotiations, etc. Evidence Rating: Some Evidence (Source: RWJF what works for health strategies).

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Increase housing stability (ability to retain one’s home as primary shelter) for 24 families who are at risk of homelessness.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	24 housing units secured for the program	Project Target	24
		Achieved to Date	50
		Percentage	208.3%
2)	24 families placed in secure housing	Project Target	24
		Achieved to Date	12
		Percentage	50%
3)	90% (21/24) of families demonstrating improved financial stability	Project Target	24
		Achieved to Date	8
		Percentage	33.3%

2.16 The Empowerment Center (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: APRA-UW216B

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Center for Progress and Excellence, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$225,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$153,972.36

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.16 Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Empowerment Center project is a fully ARPA-funded existing program that will increase the number of clients that find affordable housing and improve the number of clients that maintain stable income. The main activities of the project include providing (a) funding for furniture, supplies for the operations center, technology to assist staff in tracking and maintaining data, facilitating job and housing searches, and to improve security; and (b) case management service for the program clients to help them navigate public benefits, employment planning, identify affordable housing and other supportive services.



Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

- a) Goals: Due to the nature of this program, the Empowerment Center will be serving the homeless population. This includes both the chronically homeless, as well as those that may be experiencing homelessness for the first time as a result of the pandemic.
- b) Awareness: CPE's Executive Director, Heather Cross, sits on many community action Boards within Lee County. For example, she is a part of the Lee County Homeless Coalition, sits on the Board of Directors for the Coalition of Southwest Florida Drug Free Kids, and works alongside many other similar organizations. CPE is contracted through the Agency for Homeless Outreach to answer the coordinated entry phone line from 5pm to 8am daily, including weekends and holidays. This allows CPE staff to assist our community's homeless population without them yet stepping a foot within the Empowerment Center.
- c) Access and Distribution: To be eligible for services at the Empowerment Center, an individual must be homeless and willing to participate in case management, physical and psychological screenings, and must have the goal of securing a reliable source of income and maintaining housing.
- d) Outcomes: The intended outcome for this program is for individuals experiencing homelessness to make their re-entry as a functioning member of society. Through maintaining adequate income and affordable housing, they are in turn closing the homeless gap that plagues our community.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: As shown by a study conducted in 2020, case management is a proven intervention for the homeless population. The search identified that both standard case management and intensive case management decreased the use of substance use, as well as reduced the number of days spent in a homeless shelter. The study was conducted by researchers from the University of Ottawa, University of Roehampton, University of Toronto, University of Calgary, Wilfred Laurier University, and many more distinguished health science and research entities.

Community Engagement:

CPE (Empowerment Center) has participated in ongoing community meetings with EOC, American Red Cross, Lee County Human and Veteran Services, United Way, and Lee Health by offering shelter to those who are homeless, who are homeless/ displaced due to Hurricane Ian, or are homeless and have been diagnosed with COVID. Community events are attended as well with the focus of the shelter having Psychiatric/ mental health services available at no charge to each person entering the shelter.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Decrease the number of homeless individuals, such as those living on the streets, in the parks, or in their cars.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	50% (50/100) of the identified homeless individuals will enroll in the Empowerment Center	Project Target	50
		Achieved to Date	135
		Percentage	270%
2)	70% (57/82) of clients enrolled in the Empowerment Center will maintain a steady source of income while identifying an affordable housing option to best fit their needs	Project Target	57
		Achieved to Date	114
		Percentage	200%
3)	90% (63/70) of clients will receive case management services to identify barriers to work on to help with transitioning back into permanent housing	Project Target	63
		Achieved to Date	134
		Percentage	212.7%
4)	80% (80/100) of clients will receive a medical exam (physical and psychiatric) and will be referred to services or prescribed medication if recommended	Project Target	80
		Achieved to Date	186
		Percentage	232.5%

Success Comments:

The Empowerment Center housed a male who lost his home and job due to COVID. This individual ended up spending time in the hospital due to COVID, almost 90 days. This individual actually called the Coordinated Entry line stating his landlord was evicting him since he had not paid rent. Individual reported that he was off work due to COVID, hospitalized, and was not collecting a paycheck. He fell behind on rent and was unable to catch up on back rent. This individual was admitted into The Empowerment Center. He was assigned a case manager and the case manager worked with him on finding employment as well as eventually finding housing. This individual was able to obtain employment, save money and find an efficiency to rent. While at The Empowerment Center, he was able to access mental health services and medical services that were at no cost to him.

2.16 Housing Outreach and Treatment (HOT) Teams/Peer Coordination (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: APRA-UW216C

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Centerstone of Florida Inc.

Funding Amount: \$893,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$884,668.16

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.16 Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with



CENTERSTONE

United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Housing Outreach and Treatment (HOT) combined with Peer Coordinators project is a fully ARPA-funded existing program that will increase access or linkage to treatment/case management/recovery support services by 90%; help achieve 100% compliance with entry of client data in the HMIS system; assist 90% of individuals in need with recovery support services (e.g., employment, housing, service linkages, benefit applications); increase housing stability in 80% of clients served and improve permanent housing retention rate in 80% of clients served. The main activities of the project include providing (a) coordination with Lee HVS, CoC/CES, law enforcement, health, behavioral health, social service/housing providers to provide outreach to homeless individuals and families on streets, enclaves/encampments, public spaces, hotels, shelters & other venues wherever they congregate or are served; (b) case management services to clients including screening and assessment, treatment and service planning; (c) treatments assessment and planning including psychiatric medications, crisis intervention/de-escalation, therapy, Medication Administered Treatment (MAT) for opioid addictions, and relapse prevention/recovery supports; and (d) funding for operational staff salaries, supplies, computer equipment, and communication technology.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals:

Homeless individuals experience socioeconomic health disparities such as poverty (12%), unemployment(5.5%), educational attainment (13.5% no high school diploma), limited health care access (24% uninsured)and poor or fair health (26%). These disparities lead to increased mental illness, substance use and potential for drug overdose fatalities, and other health risks (RPRI, 2021). 100% of HOT Team clients served will be homeless, or at imminent risk of homelessness. Homeless individuals, especially those who experience a mental illness have historically been exposed to several factors that influence individual and structural inequities and marginalization. "Individuals experiencing homelessness are some of the most marginalized and disadvantaged people in our society" (National Alliance to end Homelessness, 2021). Lack of access to safe, decent, and affordable housing; employment paying a living wage; criminal justice involvement and concomitant discrimination by landlords; behavioral health challenges; and family stabilization all contribute to the disparities of homelessness" (Olivet, Wilkey, Richard, Dones, et al., 2021).100% of Centerstone's HOT Team clients and outreach contacts are homeless individuals and families, many who have been further stigmatized and marginalized by their mental illness

or substance use disorder. According to National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), the lack of safe and affordable housing is one of the most challenging barriers to recovery from mental illness...when this basic need is not met, people cycle in and out of homelessness and publicly funded crisis services such as jails, shelters, and hospitals (NAMI,2020).Racial disparities exist among homeless people, nationally, with Black/African American individuals being disproportionately represented. African Americans, who represent 13% of the general population nationally account for 39% of people experiencing homelessness (National Alliance to End Homelessness, 2020). Locally, Black/African American individuals needing homeless assistance were at 45.1% compared to the Lee County Black/African American general population of 8.6% (HMIS, 2019-2020). The number of Lee Hispanic/Latino individuals who sought homeless assistance were 13.4% compared to the Lee County population of 21.4% (HMIS 201-2020). Homeless individuals who were Other Races or Unknown had a higher percentage of exiting to a permanent housing destination (78.6%) compared with other racial groups. Black/African Americans had 66.5% of persons exiting to a permanent destination.

b) Awareness: The HOT Team provides outreach to all homeless people wherever they geographically emotionally, and physically, living on the street, in encampments, tent cities, street corners, under bridges, in emergency shelters, hotels, day programs, or public spaces, such as parks and libraries. HOT Team staff proactively seek out and engage homeless individuals face-to-face and repeatedly visit sites where they are known to congregate, hand out cards (English and Spanish) with contact information on how to reach the HOT Team, access CES and emergency shelter, rapid re-housing, or permanent housing. HOT offers low-barrier outreach and service engagement. Team members recognize that building a relationship is essential to successful connection and aim to create a safe, open, friendly, welcoming, and inclusive "space" regardless of setting. Marketing materials for the project are multi-lingual and inclusive of people from all races, ethnicities, genders, and ages.

c) Access and Distribution: The HOT Team provides outreach to all homeless people wherever they geographically emotionally, and physically, living on the street, in encampments, tent cities, street corners, under bridges, in emergency shelters, hotels, day programs, or public spaces, such as parks and libraries. HOT Team staff proactively seek out and engage homeless individuals face-to-face and repeatedly visit sites where they are known to congregate, hand out cards (English and Spanish) with contact information on how to reach the HOT Team, access CES and emergency shelter, rapid re-housing, or permanent housing. HOT offers low-barrier outreach and service engagement. Team members recognize that building a relationship is essential to successful connection and aim to create a safe, open, friendly, welcoming, and inclusive "space" regardless of setting. Marketing materials for the project are multi-lingual and inclusive of people from all races, ethnicities, genders, and ages.

d) Outcomes: There are no differences in levels of access to benefits and services across groups. Homeless services made available through the HOT Team and the Coordinated Entry System process are "low-barrier" and based on Housing First principles that value flexibility, individualized supports, client choice, autonomy, and person-centered that encourage people to select the services they want and need, tailored to their own unique situation. The Coordinated Entry System (CES) is the administrative process established to facilitate quick access to housing and services that meet the needs of homeless individuals and families living in Lee County. In recognition of the need to prioritize individuals and families with the greatest need, the CES ensures that people with the greatest service needs or vulnerabilities receive priority for housing and homeless assistance. Lee CES provides fair and equal access to services; uses a standardized screening tool(VI-SPDAT) containing indicators known to contribute to homelessness to

generate a score that prioritizes clients for various housing and service interventions; and is inclusive of all populations (HUD, 2015).

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices:

SAMSHA's Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP) 55: Behavioral Health Services for People Who Are Homeless is the research base for HOT Team outreach, engagement, treatment & recovery services. Evidence-based practices include: Housing First, Motivational Interviewing (MI), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT), and SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR). TIP 55 is a comprehensive, trauma-informed protocol addressing clinical and programmatic needs of individuals experiencing homelessness. It details effective interventions/strategies for treating mental illness and co-occurring substance use disorders in homeless population to improve health, mental health, sustained recovery, and housing stability.

Community Engagement:

- Centerstone’s HOT team receives their referrals from the Lee County Human and Veteran Services Coordinated Entry program when individuals are experiencing homelessness.
- Additionally, the team conducts outreach efforts to individuals experiencing homelessness in an effort to connect them with community resources.
- Centerstone also assists at the Salvation Army Resource Day Center three days per week to engage individuals in obtaining behavioral health and/or substance use treatment resources.
- Centerstone is a member of the Lee County Homeless Coalition, and both the CoC and Bob Janes Empowerment Center Governing Boards.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Improve availability of case management assistance to improve connection to mainstream benefits and community resources, behavioral health services and substance use treatment.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	Serve 400 participants by end of January 2024	Project Target	400
		Achieved to Date	857
		Percentage	214.3%
2)	90% (360/400) of participants who receive case management and recommended for program.	Project Target	360
		Achieved to Date	851
		Percentage	236.4%
3)	90 % (360/400) of participants receiving recovery support services.	Project Target	360
		Achieved to Date	768
		Percentage	213.3%
4)	80% (320/400) of participants who are matched to available services that will increase housing stability.	Project Target	320
		Achieved to Date	857
		Percentage	267.8%

Success Comments:

Centerstone received a referral from coordinated entry for a household that consisted of a pregnant woman with 3 children under 18, and 1 adult child who were experiencing homelessness. When the referral was received, the forecast was anticipating temperatures to drop to a colder degree that upcoming weekend which happened to include Christmas. Centerstone connected with the school district on the family's behalf to see if they would be able to put them up in a hotel. The school district was able to provide them with a hotel stay through the holiday weekend. Since a hotel stay was provided that allowed Centerstone to develop a birth plan with the mother & adult child since she was due to give birth in the upcoming weeks. The plan involved her adult child reserving a hotel stay for a couple days while she gave birth to watch the younger children. Unfortunately, she had some complications prior to giving birth and ended up in the hospital. During that hospital stay, her son reserved a hotel to take care of the children. Since he paid for a few hotel nights that meant he no longer had money saved up for the birth plan. Through advocacy and connecting with COC partners, Centerstone was able to connect the household with a shelter resource prior to her giving birth. Since giving birth, Centerstone has connected her with childcare resources, and necessary items. Centerstone provides therapy and case management services to the household and connecting her to resources in the community when necessary.

2.16 Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: APRA-UW216D

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Hearts & Homes for Veterans

Funding Amount: \$60,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$52,993.82

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.16 Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with



United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. Hearts & Homes for Veterans Emergency Services Project is a fully ARPA-funded expansion of an existing program to improve stable permanent housing and employment for veterans. The main activities of the project include providing (a) case management

services including assessments, improvement planning to provide temp housing or paying utility bills to prevent eviction or services being shut off, providing food and essentials, PPE, bikes, and gas cards; (b) funding for operational staff salary, computer and information technology, and inventory control; and (c) funding to pay for temporary housing, funds to stave off eviction or a cut-off of utility services; food, PPE, hygiene and cleaning supplies, fuel cards, gift cards to pay for diapers, paying for car repairs or providing bikes or bus passes to ensure our clients can stay gainfully employed.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: Low-income and homeless veterans and their families are already a disproportionately affected population. Additionally, veterans suffering from a mental illness/PTSD are often marginalized.

b) Awareness: This project is meant to serve a specific population of Lee County, a specific marginalized community. With that in mind, it is not meant to serve the masses. There is equity in helping a disproportionate population. We will advertise the service on our website, and representatives from HHV would attend & share information with local agencies during monthly meetings.

c) Access and Distribution: There are no differences in the levels of access.

d) Outcomes: We will be asking questions about race, gender, and other categories to add to the data.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-producing project with learning agenda - Hypothesis: Peer support that is more friend to friend and not case manager/client is more beneficial and will produce more supportive results.

Community Engagement: Reaching out to community organizations for financial support is a primary way to support Project 2. Organizations used to date to support Project 2 include: UW, Comm Collaborative, DAV, HUD-VASH, LCHVS, JFCS & SVDP-Cares.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Increase the emergency financial assistance resources available to veterans.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	150 unduplicated applicants will be reviewed for eligibility quarterly	Project Target	1350
		Achieved to Date	1878
		Percentage	139%
2)	33% (50/150) of the unduplicated veterans will enroll in the program to receive emergency financial support	Project Target	450
		Achieved to Date	839
		Percentage	186.4%

Success Comments:

Nov 2022 - Female Veteran, just lost her job. Client registered, requesting assistance with \$1800 for rent. HHV offered to contribute \$300, but client had to come up with balance. I contacted UW's Mission.

Manager stated that United Way would do the whole \$1800 for Veteran and HHV could assist with the water (\$76.06) and additional utility bill if needed. I sent her copy client's DD214, lease and Landlord's name as requested. The manager also stated they could also help with securing new place if needed. This is an example of the kind of collaborative efforts between HHV and other organizations that support Veterans and their families.

2.16 Homeless Resource Day Center (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: APRA-UW216E

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Salvation Army

Funding Amount: \$132,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$90,045.16

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.16 Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Salvation Army Homeless Resource Day Center project is a partially ARPA-funded existing homeless prevention and basic needs services for the homeless. The main activities of the project include (a) providing a menu of service including showers, laundry, meals and coordinated entry; (b) for those at-risk of homelessness, the project will provide assistance with utility, mortgage and rental assistance; (c) funding for operational staff salary; and (d) funding for program supplies.



Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: We intend to serve those experiencing homelessness as well as those who are experiencing a financial crisis.

b) Awareness: The project is marketed throughout the county through flyers, postcards and social media. It is very practical for residents and businesses to be aware of the services provided through our marketing and the marketing of our partners.

c) Access and Distribution: There are no differences in levels access to benefits and services. There are no administrative requirements that result in disparities in ability to complete applications or meet eligibility requirements.

d) Outcomes: It is our goal to offer services to all individuals experiencing a financial crisis as it relates to rental/mortgage assistance and utility assistance. We also are pleased to assist each person experiencing homelessness through providing practical services of food, shower and laundry, but also offering to assist them with entering and navigating our Continuum of Care and hopefully ending their homelessness.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-producing project with learning agenda - Hypothesis: There will be a reduction in homelessness when we have a central location for those to come that are experiencing homelessness or are on the verge of homelessness to receive services that pertain to their situation. This will remove the barrier of the need to visit multiple locations to have needs met that will help in preventing homelessness or ending it.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Increase the emergency financial assistance resources available to veterans.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	7000 Units of service will be provided to those experiencing homelessness. (Services include showers, laundry, meals, referrals to other community agencies and job search assistance).	Project Target	7000
		Achieved to Date	7725
		Percentage	110.4%

Success Comments:

A women arrived at the HRDC with her five children in need of a place to stay and food to eat. The family was able to complete coordinated entry there and was immediately able to enter into the Center of Hope Family Shelter Unit. She was able to complete Like Skills Classes and update her resume to begin searching for a job. She was able to secure a job at a local restaurant and was able to save up enough money to secure her own housing.

2.16 Rapid Rehousing and Safer Emergency Housing (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: APRA-UW216F

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Society of St. Vincent de Paul South Pinellas, LTD. Dba/ St. Vincent de Paul Cares

Funding Amount: \$900,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$512,141.14

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.16 Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. SVdP CARES Rapid Rehousing and Safer Emergency Housing Alternative project is a partially ARPA-funded existing program that will provide emergency non-congregate shelter, rapid rehousing services to the homeless. The main activities of the project include providing funding toward: (a) individualized services including case management and wrap around service to meet immediate housing needs; (b) funding for operational staff; (c) operating supplies and computer equipment; (d) employee security (SoloProtect remote worker security device); and (e) food assistance.



Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: It is the policy of SVdP CARES to maintain a written Cultural Competency, Diversity, and Inclusion Plan that describes how the linguistic and cultural needs of our recipients are met. It is our policy to effectively provide services to recipients of all cultures, age, races, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, languages, ethnic backgrounds, spiritual beliefs, and religions in a manner that recognizes values, affirms, and respects the worth of the individuals and protects and preserves the dignity of each person. SVdP CARES adheres to the equal employment opportunity policy and non-discrimination practices. It is one of SVdP CARES core beliefs to improve racial equity in programming and successful outcomes. Studies show that homelessness hits Communities of Color harder. A Stateline article from March 2019 described it as "A Pileup of Inequities" from "centuries of discrimination in housing, criminal justice, child welfare and education." SVdP CARES targets these communities with higher acuity. It is also known that Communities of Color are often insular and resist seeking out services for assistance. To battle this deepening inequity SVdP CARES' policies and procedures ensure cultural competency, diversity, and inclusion internally. Staffing and leadership reflect the diversity of the community because it is important for clients to see themselves in the organization. Racial demographic data is tracked and monitored to determine continual improvements in equity.

b) Awareness: Program participant demographic information is tracked when participants decide to share such information. SVdP CARES tracks this demographic information agency wide and specific to regions to assure that the organization is meeting the needs each community and our service demographics make-up matches the community being served.

c) Access and Distribution: All SVdP CARES programs are accessed through Coordinated Entry which is built to remove any barriers regardless of any protected class status.

d) Outcomes: SVdP CARES' goals are developed around racial justice are as follows: a) Recognize, value, affirm, and respect the worth of each individual recipient and family and protect and preserve the dignity of each. b) Utilize appropriate resources to ensure the linguistic needs of the recipient and family are met. c) Assess recipient and family acculturation to aid in matching families with appropriate community-based resources and provide appropriate health and rehabilitation education. d) Utilize culture-specific information provided in training and/or employee orientation to assist in identifying and determining the cause of culture-based issues and miscommunication and to resolve them. Progress of these goals is tracked and monitored by the Performance Quality Improvement process. A dedicated team representative of diverse backgrounds meets, tracks, reviews, and plans ongoing progress of goals as they relate to racial justice. Employee grievances or complaints as they pertain to DEI policies are directed to the Chief of Human Resources. Any employee acting in a manner contrary to the plan will be counseled and/or disciplined according to the disciplinary policy and procedures. Monitoring Annual Equal Opportunity Employer reports will be used to monitor the plan. This report analyzes the workforce by race, national origin, gender, and EEO category. Accomplishments and shortcomings will be noted, and corrective actions recommended to the CEO. Both the CEO and Human Resources Director monitor appeals and employee grievances throughout the year.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: The US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Policy Development and Research has created the Systematic Review of Rapid Rehousing Outcomes Literature under the title "Understanding Rapid Rehousing. This evaluates all the current research available on the program model to date as it was published on July 7, 2018. While the SEHA program model is new there is quite a bit of research to show that it is promising as a strategy for emergency shelter during the pandemic. The University of Washington published an article titled "Turning hotels into emergency shelter as part of COVID-19 response limited spread of coronavirus, improved health and stability" delves into the strengths of the program model throughout the pandemic.

Community Engagement:

SVdP CARES is an active part of the Coordinated Entry process for receiving referrals for this grant. We are providing outreach to all of our partners on the CoC and to the community by our involvement on the weekly/monthly CoC calls and meetings. SVdP CARES also provides this information to the community as the caseworkers are doing the street outreach with all of our other clients that we serve.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Increase the emergency financial assistance resources available to veterans.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	80% (10/12) of households experiencing homelessness served will exit to permanent housing	Project Target	10
		Achieved to Date	6
		Percentage	60%

Outcome Statement 1:		Increase the emergency financial assistance resources available to veterans.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
2)	30% (4/12) of participants will maintain or increase income by program exit	Project Target	4
		Achieved to Date	12
		Percentage	300%

Success Comments

<Name removed> has been housed with SVdP CARES for two years. The client has struggled with sustainability in the past. She has recently made a lot of progress in her housing stabilization plan. She was able to get caught up on her rental arrears. She spoke to the property manager, and they have agreed to renew her lease on July 31st, 2024. She has been actively working with a Veteran Service Officer to increase her service-connected disability to 100%. She has been proactive in the treatment of her mental health issues that have made her struggle in the past. She is currently being connected to a subsidized voucher with the VA. This connection will take the rent burden off of her. Once that process is complete, she will be able to go back to school and finish her nursing degree.

2.19 Patient Enrollment, Re-enrollment Assistance (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: APRA-UW219A

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Family Health Centers

Funding Amount: \$400,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$396,377.14

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.19 Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Patient Enrollment, Re-enrollment Assistance (PERA) project is a fully ARPA-funded expansion of an existing program that helps Medicaid patients/clients increase the use of federal, State, and local assistance programs. The main activities of the project include providing (a) case management and training to help clients navigate federal, state and local assistance programs including Medicaid and Medicare benefits; and (b) funding for operational staff salaries and professional services fees.



Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: Our goal is to improve patient outcomes by providing primary health care, preventative health care, disease management, and health-related educational services to everyone, including the medically underserved, migratory agricultural worker families, the homeless, and other special populations who require access to health care. Family Health Centers of Southwest Florida, Inc., will work with the various communities to identify, plan, and deliver a variety of health care services which will meet the needs of those communities. In 2021, more than 60% of our patients reported living in households at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines (FPG) and 81% lived in households at or below 200% of the FPG.

As a Federally Qualified Health Center, Family Health Centers is required to ask patients to self-identify racial and ethnic identity.

In 2021, our patients reported race as:

- 15% Black/African American
- 1.4% Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- 70.1% White
- 1.3% Asian
- 7.5% more than one race
- 4% unreported race
- .3% American Indian/Native Alaskan

Patients reported ethnicity as: 54.8% Hispanic/Latino; 43.4% Non-Hispanic/Latino; and 1.8% unreported.

In 2021, 32.2% of our patients were best served in a language other than English - this is a 30% increase from 2020. We maintain bilingual and trilingual staff (English/Spanish, English/Spanish/Haitian Creole). We have on-call translation services and are actively seeking a Portuguese speaking staff member. Staff use picto-grams for our patients that do not read and are implementing their use with our Portuguese speaking patients.

b) Awareness: Family Health Centers places advertisements in the local "free", paid and Spanish language newspapers, identifying our location, our medical and dental providers, and that we accept all patients regardless of ability to pay. In addition, patient word of mouth is a very strong referral system. And finally, the medical social services team attends outreach events and health fairs engaging in one-to-one education at faith-based venues, food pantries, and migrant agriculture camps and is active in local and regional coalitions letting other organizations know of our services.

c) Access and Distribution: No difference in access.

d) Outcomes: The outcomes are focused on closing gaps in insurance coverage, whether it be federal Medicare, state Medicare or private insurance products and providing access to additional federal, state and local resources.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: Family Health Centers adheres to the CMS certified application counselor model. CMS established certified application counselors as a type of assistance personnel available to provide information to consumers and to help facilitate consumer enrollment in QHPs and insurance affordability programs. (See 45 CFR 155.225.) Family Health Centers has been a Counselor Designated Organization providing certified application counselor services since the initiation of the Affordable Care Act Marketplace. In the Federally facilitated Marketplaces (FFMs), CDOs oversee certified application counselors (CACs) who are trained and able to help consumers seeking health insurance coverage options through an FFM. Organizations that wish to become CDOs designated by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to serve in an FFM must submit an online application and enter into an agreement with CMS. Additionally, Family Health Centers medical social work staff assist patients/clients with the Florida Department of Children and Families Medicaid application process.

Community Engagement:

Family Health Centers provides Medicaid and ACA enrollment and re-enrollment assistance year-round. Many of our enrollment clients are referred to Social Services by Family Health Centers' clinical support staff. The project supervisor assigns staff to clinical sites with the highest number of uninsured patients. The Community Health Workers then provide enrollment and re-enrollment services to patients before and after their medical appointments.

Staff distribute flyers to local housing sites, food markets, gas stations, health fairs, and community events. Community Health Workers and case managers contact patients directly and encourage patients to share the information with their family, friends, and community.

Family Health Center provides informational flyers to community-based organizations and agencies such as the Salvation Army, United Way, Café of Life, local churches, food pantries, and the Lee County School District. Staff also visit the agencies, send emails and attend coalition and networking meetings.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Improve health status of the community by lowering the financial barrier to health care through patient enrollment in Medicaid and CHIP.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	14,500 patients will receive ACA or Medicaid assists by December 31, 2023	Project Target	14,500
		Achieved to Date	90,589
		Percentage	624%
2)	5,000 Medicaid applications will be submitted by December 31, 2024	Project Target	5,000
		Achieved to Date	9,836
		Percentage	197%

Outcome Statement 2:		Improve health status of the community by lowering barriers to social services through patient enrollment and referrals to federal, state, and local assistance programs.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	2,400 Food stamp applications will be submitted by December 31, 2023	Project Target	2,400
		Achieved to Date	3720
		Percentage	155%
2)	235 ACA applications will be submitted by December 31, 2024	Project Target	654
		Achieved to Date	415
		Percentage	63.5%

Success Comments:

A mother to six children, lives in Fort Myers in a mobile home. The entire family are Family Health Centers patients. She came into the office to re-enroll her children in Medicaid.

A Family Health Centers Certified Application Counselor assisted Maria with re-enrolling her in Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits.

Additionally, Family Health Centers provided she and her family with donations for daily living- a bed, clothing, diapers, and food.

A Team Supervisor, provided her with information about food distribution sites and shared the United Way 2-1-1 number in case she needed additional services. A week later, Family Health Centers assisted her with faxing income documentation and checking her application status.

2.19 Autism Continuum of Care (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: APRA-UW219B

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Family Initiative

Funding Amount: \$900,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$900,000

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.19 Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County.



The Autism Continuum of Care project is a partially ARPA-funded expansion of an existing program that will provide education and other resource to families and individual effected by autism. The main activities of the project include providing (a) a menu of services including education, life skills, and vocational training; and (b) funding for operational staff salaries and professional services fees.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: Yes, all the families we serve have a child diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder who have a long history of being underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected in society. Multiple examples of this can be found in the media, news, and in our community. Further, over 75% of the families we serve are Medicaid or Medicaid eligible families, falling into the lowest income segment of our community.

b) Awareness: Awareness and acceptance are two of the pillars of what Family Initiative advocates for. Over the last five years, we have had multiple campaigns dedicated to this, with this year's campaign focusing exclusively on equity, inclusion, and acceptance. We will continue this path throughout the year, building off of the momentum we have started. Our campaigns include stories on local media, billboards, radio ads, newspaper ads, social media ads, and banners throughout the city.

c) Access and Distribution: No, the only eligibility criteria is that an individual must have a medical diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder to receive the medically necessary clinical services if they are seeking those services through their insurance. This is a requirement of their insurance company, not of Family Initiative.

d) Outcomes: The outcomes are focused on all the above-mentioned goals. The autism continuum of care will provide the supports and services to help individuals with autism to have the same opportunities and experiences as every other child, teen, and young adult. The educational and vocational services will provide tailored material to ensure it appropriate for each teen or young adult to fully understand and use.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: Family Initiative is identified as a best practice site by Texas Christian University in the utilization of Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI). TBRI is an evidenced-

based model designed to meet the unique needs of children with both a history of complex developmental trauma and on the autism spectrum. This approach is currently identified by the California Clearinghouse as a Promising Practice through the Families First Prevention Services Act and is identified as the gold standard in serving children. We also utilize Applied Behavior Analysis, Occupational Therapy, and Speech Therapy in our autism continuum of care. Each of these approaches are also evidence based and have a wealth of research and data demonstrating their efficacy. Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is the gold standard recommended approach for treatment for individuals with autism. This approach is recommended by the US Surgeon General and by the American Psychological Association and is effective with all ages and levels of functioning.

Learning:

The ARPA funding was instrumental in allowing Family Initiative expand access to services for autism families across our region. Due to this funding, the organization was able to add 4 more clinicians and serve almost 100 more families providing medically necessary clinical services. Further, the funding allowed the addition of community programs to create a full continuum of care serving infants through young adults across the region. These programs include a baby and me program, a young adult group, two parent groups, free monthly caregiver trainings, and a sibling group. The funds also allowed Family Initiative to launch a partnership with the Lee County Tax Collector, creating a jobs program for adults with autism. This partnership has expanded to other businesses, most recently including Lee County. Regarding lessons learned from the data collected, we identified parent training goals can be harder to master. As a direct result of this, we created the monthly caregiver trainings to supplement any direct clinical services. This has already yielded positive outcomes. In closing, Family Initiative would like to thank all those involved in the ARPA process. The funds were literally life changing for autism families here in Southwest Florida.

Community Engagement:

- Our agency has engaged a marketing firm to assist us with reaching more of our community and participants. Since the beginning of this project, we have purchased space on two billboards in high traffic areas in Lee County, have bought radio ads on local radio stations, have television spots on local tv and have continued our push through local stories.
- We launched a speaker series open to the public, with our most recent hosting Dr. Temple Grandin, internationally renowned Autism self-advocate and reached thousands locally and beyond in this one event.
- Family Initiative continues to utilize social media to reach our community and participants as well as participate in local media stories surrounding Autism.
- Our team participates in agency fairs, partners with our local university, and provides free training to agencies and organizations around our community about Autism.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:	Parents of children with autism will improve their ability to manage the problem behaviors (e.g., hitting, kicking, destroying objects) they have
-----------------------------	---

		identified for their child receiving clinical applied behavior analysis services. **Parent goals are measured by direct observation performed by the Board-Certified Behavior Analyst during in home sessions.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	15 families per quarter will receive ABA services	Project Target	105
		Achieved to Date	105
		Percentage	100%
2)	(14/15) of parents of children receiving ABA services will show an increase in their unique parent goals developed in their child's behavior plan to manage problem behaviors within 6 months of receiving services. **	Project Target	84
		Achieved to Date	84
		Percentage	100%
3)	(11/15) of parents of children receiving ABA services will show mastery of their unique parent goals developed in their child's behavior plan to manage problem behaviors within one year of receiving services. **	Project Target	66
		Achieved to Date	50
		Percentage	75.8%

Outcome Statement 2:		Children with Autism receiving clinical applied behavior analysis services will reduce instances of parent identified problem behavior. *Behavioral goals are measured by direct observation frequency data during all sessions	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	12 children per quarter will be enrolled to receive ABA services	Project Target	84
		Achieved to Date	87
		Percentage	103.6%
2)	50% (6/12) of children receiving ABA services will demonstrate a reduction of behaviors and improvement on their behavioral goals within 6 months of receiving services.	Project Target	36
		Achieved to Date	42
		Percentage	116.7%
3)	90% (11/12) of children receiving ABA services will demonstrate a reduction of behaviors and improvement on their behavior goals within one year of receiving services.	Project Target	66
		Achieved to Date	54
		Percentage	81.8%

Success Comments:

With the support of the funding, we were able to serve an additional 31 families over the last several months. One family came to us with significant need. Their son, was struggling significantly, teetering on the precipice of a difficult outcome. He was diagnosed with Autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, and Oppositional Defiance Disorder. His mom shared their family was struggling financially because she had to pick up her son almost daily from school due to his extreme behaviors, so was unable to work, relying on her husband, a first responder, as their only source of income.

When we first met him, his teacher reported he destroyed the classroom daily-throwing chairs, knocking over tables, destroying books, and became aggressive, hitting, and kicking both her daily. His mother reported these same concerns at home, and shared how it was impacting his younger brother to the point she did not feel safe in the home.

Our clinicians were able to complete a comprehensive assessment with the boy's family and develop a treatment plan to address the concerns the family and school shared. Through our collaborative efforts, we were able to work alongside his teacher in the classroom and educate her and the staff at school how to best address his behavior in a proactive and positive manner. Additionally, we worked with his parents to provide them strategies to set him up for success. Initially, the work with his parents was only done at our Autism Support Center. His parents were hesitant to allow anyone to enter their home due to the damage their son had inflicted. There was extensive damage within the home, including numerous holes in the walls and broken items. Through developing a trusting relationship, his parents allowed us to come into the home as well and provide support by coaching them through in the moment.

The change in their son has been transformational. He went from a "problem" child who others were afraid of, to the "helper" who always wants to find ways to be of service to others. He has learned strategies to identify when he is triggered and calm himself down before escalating to aggression, destruction, or elopement. This transformation has not only occurred for him, but also for his family. He is able to play appropriately with his brother without getting hurt, his parents are both able to work since he is able to remain in school, and the family's overall quality of life has improved. He has friends he sees every week at our Saturday Autism Social Skills group, his parents have a great relationship with both their sons, and the family has found an extended network of support in Family Initiative. Our team will continue to work with this family to ensure the success we have seen continues and that his parents feel confident in every aspect.

2.19 Free Eye Care Services to Prevent Blindness (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: APRA-UW219C

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Florida Lions Eye Clinic, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$95,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$95,000

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.19 Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Free



Eye Care Services to Prevent Blindness project is a partially ARPA-funded expansion of an existing program that will increase the availability of no cost blind prevention services and resources available to low-income residents. The main activities of the project include providing (a) funding for operational staff salaries, Electronic Medical Record Software, and professional services fees; (b) diagnostic test and examinations including comprehensive eye exams, visual acuity, refractions, intraocular pressure check, visual exams, diabetic exams, cornea evaluations, cataract evaluations, amblyopia evaluation & treatment, strabismus evaluation & treatment, macular disease evaluation, blood pressure; (c) therapy including pterygium surgery, chalazion, glaucoma management, conjunctivitis, general eye irritation; and (d) referrals to other medical services including cataracts, retina & macular disease, eye trauma, prescriptions for corrective lenses, and low cost eyeglasses.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: Unfortunately, the Clinic's patients often have more serious eye conditions because of their delayed eyecare due to a lack of accessibility and/or affordability. When patients arrive at the Clinic, most need medical eyecare beyond eyeglass prescriptions; often their conditions have progressed to a serious level and require advanced medical protocols. Such patients are often in need of Glaucoma treatments; others have a retina condition that requires eye injections; and, because many of the Clinic's patients are employed in outdoor jobs (i.e.: agriculture, landscaping, construction, etc.), many of the patients need basic pterygium surgeries to restore eyesight and maintain patients' employment. This surgery involves the removal of growths on the eye which are the result of prolonged exposure to wind, sunlight, smoke, dust, and pollen.

b) Awareness: The Florida Lions Eye Clinic recently hired a full-time Director of Marketing and Development. Though outreach efforts had been limited to zoom calls and email over the last few years due to the pandemic, our current outreach efforts have increased and expanded. Our effort include, but are not limited to: partnering with other agencies in order to educate the public; partnering with the local Lions clubs to attend community screenings to assist with screening events; continuing to collaborate with United Way partners and agencies; distribute Clinic brochures; publish monthly newsletters; attend events and man booths at community events; attend speaking engagements at clubs, churches and community organizations; attend networking events; write articles for local media outlets; appear on local

news stations; host community events at the clinic; update social media outlets via press releases; and give tours of the Clinic. The past year, we have hosted several tours of the clinic, attended and presented at speaking engagements, attended health fairs and wrote and had published several press releases, resulting in the Spanish News Station visiting, filming and announcing the services we provide to the Spanish Speaking population. In addition, we continue to collaborate with State offices, local non-profits and other organizations throughout southwest Florida to educate them about the services the Clinic provides.

c) Access and Distribution: The guideline we use is one that is supplied to the Clinic by the State of Florida Department of Health for free clinics. Our patients must reside in the State of Florida, they do not have health insurance and are at, or below, 200% of the Federal Poverty Guideline level in order to qualify for free services. The Clinic only sees patients that meet this qualification. The staff checks the prospective patients last paycheck stub or comparable revenue documents. To be clear about our qualifications, patients have a pre-screening meeting where this is discussed in detail. This allows them the time and opportunity to get assistance in completing the forms from a family member or friend. In the event the patient is in need of translation services or assistance in filling out paperwork, the clinic will assist the patient. Most of the employees and volunteers are multi-lingual.

d) Outcomes: The intended outcome is to provide a means to increase the number of patients seen at the clinic to ensure they do not experience vision loss and provide them with the services to improve vision lost to treatable conditions. Additionally, together with the dependability and expertise of additional doctors and clinic support staff on board, the Clinic's need to send patients out for referral surgery, at a cost significantly higher than the cost to provide services at the Clinic location, will continue to decrease. A person who has experienced an onset of visual impairment due to an eye condition, may experience depression and feelings of anxiety. Unfortunately, patients in need of surgery may need to wait weeks, or even months, to receive these sight saving services. Eye diseases also increase the likelihood of social withdrawal, isolation, falls, and mistakes in taking medications. Vision loss constitutes more than a physiological loss, as it can substantially impair day-to-day routines such as job performance and leisure time, especially in those with recent vision loss. Sight can make a difference between a life of poverty and social withdrawal and a life of opportunity and community involvement. The treats all patients who fit the eligibility requirements set by the Department of Health regardless of race, ethnicity or other equity dimensions.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: "Vital Signs" study ("Visual Impairment and Mental Health: unmet Needs and Treatment Options", US National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health, 12/03/20) many of the residence in Southwest Florida do not have insurance, many are not able to see a doctor due to the high cost, and the number of people in poverty over the last year has increased. The Clinic meets this need by being the only FREE eye clinic in the state of Florida providing health services to those who meet the qualifications services.

Learning: The outcome to provide a means to increase the number of patients seen at the clinic ensured that patients did not experience permanent vision loss if it was in fact avoidable with treatment. Together with the dependability and expertise of additional doctors and clinic support staff on board, the Clinic's need to send patients out for referral surgery, at a cost significantly higher than the cost to provide

services at the Clinic location, continued to decrease over the past year. The Clinic was able to provide services to an increased number of patients this past year due to the increase in paid doctor hours scheduled providing direct services to our patients. Though the Clinic was built on the premise of having volunteer doctors seeing and treating patients, we have learned that hiring doctors to work during the summer and when volunteers are unable, makes a significant impact in the number of patients seen.

Sight can make a difference between a life of poverty and social withdrawal and a life of opportunity and community involvement. Eye diseases also increase the likelihood of social withdrawal, isolation, falls, and mistakes in taking medications.

Community Engagement:

- In order to maximize awareness of the services FLLEC provides to the community, FLLEC has focused on strengthening and increasing the number of partnerships with other agencies in order to educate the public and individuals in need of our services through education and referrals to the clinic.
- FLLEC takes great pride in partnering with the local Lions Clubs to assist with screening events, collaborating with United Way partners and agencies via the attendance of interagency meetings and the Café of Life Interagency meetings in Bonita Springs, working closely and in collaboration with WeCare, Division of Blind Services, the Department of Health and the Florida Lions Foundation for the Blind.
- FLLEC distributes Clinic brochures, has made presentations to clubs and communities, has written press releases and has distributed them to the media at least once a month, published monthly newsletters, set up booths at community events (volunteer events and community awareness events), and by hosting a community awareness event at the clinic. In addition, the Clinic updates social media outlets (Facebook, Instagram, and indeed), posts videos on you tube, and gives tours of the Clinic on a regular basis.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Reduction in blindness through prevention and treatment of eye conditions.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	10% (5133 grant period 2022) Increase from staff hours dedicated to serving low-income residents	Project Target	5134
		Achieved to Date	6242
		Percentage	121.6%
2)	10% (1193 in 2022 grant period) Increase in patients served this current year (report quarterly and annually)	Project Target	1310
		Achieved to Date	1719
		Percentage	131.2%

Success Comments:

A patient suffers from proliferative diabetic retinopathy. During July of 2022 this patient had recently travelled abroad for a family emergency. She explained that she had to remain abroad more than she had initially expected. Due to the constant stress of the emergency and unavailability of food she unfortunately had a retinal hemorrhage that completely occluded her vision. She expressed that she went to the local emergency room and they could not tend to her specific need because of how overburdened the medical facility was due to a flare of Covid cases. She was told that she was going to have to wait to receive a phone call and that could take up to 3 months. She was very upset and felt helpless. She had no other choice but to travel home to resolve the issue. She self-quarantined for 10 days as a precaution then called FLLEC crying and explained that she has not been able to see for the last 2 weeks due to her condition. The patient coordinator took her call and she expedited a visit with our retinal specialist the following day. She underwent diagnostic testing, such as fundus photography and B-scan, to identify hemorrhaging. She received an Avastin injection into her vitreous chamber in both eyes, which decreases neo vascularization that leads to retinal hemorrhaging. She had a post op 2 weeks later and her Visual Acuity had improved by 3 lines. She was very grateful for how quick she was able to receive treatment and how lucky she is to be part of FLLEC.

2.19 Neighborhood Community Centers (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: APRA-UW219D

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Multiple Sclerosis Center of Southwest Florida

Funding Amount: \$194,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$175,170.08

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.19 Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with



United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Multiple Sclerosis Neighborhood Community Centers project is a partially ARPA-funded expansion of services into Cape Coral, Fort Myers, and Lehigh Acres to

provide mental health services and community training for individuals and families requiring Multiple Sclerosis services. The main activities of the project include (a) onsite mental health counseling; (b) providing social and support groups, mindful meditation, yoga; and art therapy; (c) providing subject matter experts to provide education session for the community; (d) funding for space rental; and (e) funding for operational staff salaries.

Project Demographic Distribution: Data is being collected

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: Locations will be selected in central areas, accessible to anyone who wants to attend, and has access to LeeTran Passport buses or personal transportation.

b) Awareness: We market to medical professionals and through TV and radio ads. We also connect with government agencies who serve people with disabilities.

c) Access and Distribution: No differences by groups to access services. However, our main services are located in Bonita Springs, which is inaccessible geographically for people living in Cape Coral, Fort Myers, and Lehigh Acres. There are no administrative restrictions by groups. Anyone with MS will be able to participate.

d) Outcomes: Outcomes are intended to address geographical restrictions to accessing our services by placing services in the neighborhoods where they live.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-producing project with learning agenda- Hypothesis: Participants mental health assessment scores will improve as a result of participation in MS Community Center services.

Community Engagement:

- We announced the establishment of our MS Neighborhood Community Centers through our email newsletter, postcard mailing, and social media posts.
- We continue to remind our clients of the ongoing program through the same methods.

- To spread the word to the MS Community we have notified medical professionals who have contact with MS patients, and have asked our clients to share with their contacts.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Individuals with MS will experience reduced isolation through social activities and group interaction.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	90% (144/160) of registered participants will participate in social and therapeutic activities each month	Project Target	144
		Achieved to Date	555
		Percentage	385%
2)	90% (144/160) of participants will gain improvement in MHI score after 6 months	Project Target	144
		Achieved to Date	148
		Percentage	102.8%
3)	90% (144/160) of participants will gain improvement in MHI score after 12 months	Project Target	144
		Achieved to Date	167
		Percentage	116%

Outcome Statement 2:		Individuals with MS learn improved coping skills through education and counseling.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	50% (80 /160) of registered participants will attend support group sessions or participate in individual counseling	Project Target	84
		Achieved to Date	480
		Percentage	571%
2)	80% (128/160) of registered participants will receive information on MS and disability related resources	Project Target	128
		Achieved to Date	342
		Percentage	267%

Success Comments:

We had our first week of “MS Neighborhood Community Centers” in Fort Myers. Our local members were very thankful to have activities that were close to home. Some can only drive a short distance from home, a few can get a ride as it is close and others are able to take the local bus services. One member spoke to me about how wonderful it was to be able to drive herself and feel independent again. Other feedback spoke to the services offered at the Community Center. They were thankful to get out and be around other like-minded people, to be able to feel heard and supported, to laughing for the first time in a long time while painting with other non-artistic people. Physical and mental stimulation has been shown to be comparable to some medications. This is all due to the funding for the MS Neighborhood Community Centers. Without this funding, our community of people with MS would not have the ability to get out, engage and learn from us and each other, and discover services that abound in Southwest Florida.
- MS Center client

2.19 Health Improvement with Care (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: APRA-UW219E

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Premier Mobile Health Services Corporation

Funding Amount: \$400,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$400,000

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.19 Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Health Improvement with Care project is a partially ARPA-funded existing program to identify and treat individuals who contracted COVID and are still battling residual effects/symptoms.



The main activities of the project include (a) funding for operational staff salary and training; (b) hire and train interdisciplinary team; (c) funding for operational supplies and materials; and (d) providing treatment services.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: Premier Mobile Health Services was designed to meet the needs of historically underserved, marginalized and adversely affected groups in Lee County. The Health Improvement with Care project will allow for a continuation of such with a stronger foundation.

b) Awareness: Premier Mobile Health Services will launch a robust marketing campaign to bring awareness to the Lee County community. This campaign will include promotion through print media (newspaper outlet), radio (African-American, Haitian and Hispanic radio), and television (Lee Pitts and Telemundo). In addition, our campaign will flow into all social media outlets as well. We will also present at local churches and community centers to ensure that the public is aware of the increased services that will be made available through this ARPA funding.

c) Access and Distribution: Premier Mobile was established to remove barriers and provide access to all underinsured and uninsured population in Lee County. We will construct a one-stop shop to ensure that no one meeting the eligibility criteria will be denied access to care. As this is why we exist. Quality health care management access will provide those in need of assistance with navigation through health care, specialty care, mental health care and social services. Due to that most medical facilities are short staffed as a result of the pandemic; Premier Mobile Health Services multi professional team will be the voice for those who are not able to communicate with specialty care and social service providers to make sure that no one of our patients get lost or overlooked as they navigate and transition through the healthcare system.

d) Outcomes: The overarching goal of this program is to close the gap in healthcare disparities amongst individuals living in marginalized communities affected by social and economic determinants of health.

For example, lack of transportation, cultural differences, education, and lack of access to services tailored to this environment. Premier Mobile Health Services is able to cover all these barriers through our qualified multi-lingual team, providing education on disease management tailored to ethnicity of the population served, medication adherence, preventative care, screening for mental health disorders especially covid related, care planning, linkage to specialty and subspecialty groups, transportation. Premier provides access to these marginalized communities through our mobile medical units creating tangible equity.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: Health Improvement with Care (HIWC) is a research and evidence-based project using care models that have proven to be successful with patients in marginalized communities who are living with chronic diseases, mental health, and substance abuse. Premier Mobile Health Services models its care delivery approach after evidence-based process which have been applied in different health care organizations that serve marginalized communities. Advanced research on this approach to care have been recognized as best practice by the American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association. National Institute of Health, Centers for Disease Control, American Medical Association utilizing Levels 1 and 2 of evidence-based research findings. The same approach is incorporated in our care management plan as outlined by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and employed by both public and private entities to conceptualized care.

Community Engagement:

- We had numerous flyers created and distributed in both English and Spanish.
- We advertised throughout the county, participated in many county events.
- Set up our mobile clinic in many different diverse areas.
- Advertised on Facebook and created videos describing our services.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Improve access to resources for people living with long-term COVID symptoms.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	50 individuals with long-term COVID will be seen at the mobile or walk-in clinic by the end of the grant cycle	Project Target	50
		Achieved to Date	63
		Percentage	126.0%
2)	90% (45/50) participants will be referred to community resources	Project Target	45
		Achieved to Date	62
		Percentage	137.8%

Outcome Statement 2:		Increase mental wellness through resources and case management of people living with long COVID symptoms.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	80% (40/50) Demonstrate improved mental wellness as measured by pre and post testing	Project Target	40
		Achieved to Date	23

Outcome Statement 2:		Increase mental wellness through resources and case management of people living with long COVID symptoms.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
		Percentage	57.5%
2)	80% (40/50) Individuals will be assigned to a mental health specialist for case management	Project Target	40
		Achieved to Date	19
		Percentage	47.5%

Success Comments:

#1 Since receiving our grant funds, staffing our clinic and obtaining the much-needed equipment to provide our service successfully, we are proud to boast that we have added a second mobile clinic and serve seven diverse communities. In this short six months, we have met our goal of reaching 50 new patients affected with long-term Covid. We have successfully met our goal of referring patients for mental health services when needed. Though we are still collecting solid feedback on the success rate of patients following up with mental health services, we are very optimistic that we are continuing to make a difference and provide proper care and resources. Through our partnership with United Way and Lee County, we have been able to serve a wide portion of our community with the care and dignity that they deserve. There is still much to learn about Covid and its long-term effects on its victims. We are proud to be warriors in the fight against it.

#2 The success story for the final submission is the success of the overall project and how much has been discovered about the effects of long-term COVID-19. During this time, the knowledge and education that has been experienced by patients and staff alike. So much was discovered that it could become its own study if staffing weren't an issue. Long-term illnesses that commonly presented themselves were not only depression from the loss of jobs or loved ones but also serious cardiac issues, diabetes, and respiratory illnesses. Though the quota of patients was met in the referral for mental health care, Premier staff were also able to save countless lives with cardiac care and referral, diabetic care and nutritional education well as respiratory treatments.

2.19 Free Dental Care for Low-Income (United Way’s Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: APRA-UW219F

United Way’s Project Subrecipient: Project Dentists Care of Southwest Florida, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$57,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$57,000

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.19 Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Free Dental Care for Low-Income project is a partially ARPA-funded expansion of an existing program to dental care to low-income individual and families. The main activities of the project include (a) funding for operational staff salary and training; and (b) funding for office supplies and equipment.



Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

- a) Goals: We will see all underserved, underprivileged, and homeless people no person is left out.
- b) Awareness: All social agencies in the county including Lee Health ER refer patients to us.
- c) Access and Distribution: No difference in levels of access or services.
- d) Outcomes: All outcomes are individually based.

Use of Evidence:

Evidence-based: Dental Hygiene

Community Engagement:

- Collaborations with United Way
- Speaking engagements with the Lee County Dental Society

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		To serve and educate the underserved population with proper oral care.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	100% (1200/1200) of patients that are seen in the clinic receive educational instruction written and demonstrated on proper oral care	Project Target	1200
		Achieved to Date	1072
		Percentage	89.3%
2)	100% (1200/1200) of patients seeking assistance are able to better care for their oral health	Project Target	1200
		Achieved to Date	1092
		Percentage	91%

Success Comments

Having received the ARPA grant has made it possible for the clinic to hire a part-time receptionist who helps with answering phone and schedules patients as well as verifying income qualification 4 days a week. She also checks patients in and out during clinic days and is able to spend more time explaining after care to the patients.

2.19 Integrated Primary Care Behavioral Health (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: APRA-UW219G

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Samaritan Health & Wellness Center, Inc. Dr. Susan Hook

Funding Amount: \$260,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$260,000

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.19 Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. Integrated Primary Care Behavioral Health project is a partially ARPA-funded existing program that will provide medical care for the Uninsured and underinsured individuals experiencing (a) education on lifestyle changes; (b) chronic disease evaluation and treatment; (c) mental health counseling; (d) addition of addiction services; (e) increased number of nurse practitioners and mental health counselors; and (f) increase support staff including certified medical assistants and office staff. The main activities of the project include (a) providing funding for operational staff salary; and (b) offering a menu of medical services including assessment and treatment for chronic disease, mental health, and additions.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:



a) Goals: The men, women, and children who come to Samaritan for health care and counseling are the medically underserved. These people cannot afford health insurance, nor can they afford to pay \$150 for an appointment in a for-profit medical practice; the under insured have high deductibles, so their out-of-pocket costs prohibit them from obtaining primary care. The men and women served at the Salvation Army Homeless Resource Day Center and the Corrections Re-entry Program are the most marginalized. The majority of them are not only homeless, they also have co-occurring severe mental illness and substance abuse and addiction.

b) Awareness: Samaritan Health and Wellness Center is on the 2-1-1 list. The emergency departments at the Lee Health hospitals have RN and social work case managers who know to send uninsured hospitalized patients to Samaritan for care. At the Salvation Army, the director of the Homeless Resource Day Center as well as the director of the Corrections Re-entry Program promote the services offered at the Samaritan satellite clinic to the clients. Local news channels, NBC-2 and FOX 4, have been champions for Samaritan by frequently airing news stories, filmed at the both the main office in Cape Coral as well as at the Salvation Army satellite clinic. Facebook and Samaritan's website, www.capesamaritan.com, are both avenues for promoting the services. The executive director presents the services offered at Samaritan at any church, local business group, and any organization that will allow her time to speak to the people involved in attendance at their services, events, or meetings.

c) Access and Distribution: All groups have access to all benefits and services offered at Samaritan's main office and at the Salvation Army HRDC. No disparities or differences exist which hinder people in need of services to access care. There are no eligibility requirements.

d) Outcomes: The intended outcomes for the programs and services offered at Samaritan include increasing medical and mental health care professionals in order to increase the capacity for more uninsured men, women, and children to access affordable care. With the satellite clinic at the Salvation Army HRDC, the focus is providing integrated primary care behavioral health services to homeless men and women who would otherwise use the emergency departments for non-emergent healthcare needs. The men and women in the Corrections-entry Program at the Salvation Army also have access to Samaritan's services and no longer go to the ER for care for non-emergent health problems.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: Integrated primary care behavioral health is evidence-based practice, and the outcomes associated with this model of care demonstrate improvement in overall patients' health and wellbeing when they have access to physical and mental health care with the medical providers and mental health counselors located in the same practice, collaborating on patient care as a team.

The American Academy of Family Physicians, Sarina Schrage, MD, MS, reported that "up to 75% of primary care visits include mental or behavioral health components...which includes behavioral factors related to chronic disease management, mental health issues, substance use, smoking or other tobacco use, and the impact of stress, diet, and exercise on health" (AAFP, May/June2021).

Research demonstrates that when patients have access to their primary care provider and their counselor in the same practice, their physical health as well as chronic depression (for example), improves (Balasubramanian BA, Cohen DJ, Jetelina KK, et al. Outcomes of integrated behavioral health with primary care. J Am Board Fam Med. 2017; 30(2):130-139). These patients' scores on mental health surveys, pre and post primary care integrated behavioral health, improve, and they are more likely to return for follow up care and counseling when their healthcare providers work together as a team in one facility.

In another research-based article from The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, the authors reported that "integrated models of primary care and behavioral health can improve normative and process integration; studies have shown that mental and behavioral health team integration produces better health outcomes and lower costs for adults (Archer et al., 2012; Gilbody et al., 2006; Huffman et al., 2014; Katon and Guico-Pabia, 2011; Katon et al., 2010; Reiss-Brennan et al., 2016; Unützer et al., 2013) and improved outcomes for children and adolescents" (Asarnow et al.,2015b; Platt et al., 2018).

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Provide medical care for the uninsured and underinsured individuals experiencing (a) education on lifestyle changes; (b) chronic disease evaluation and treatment; (c) mental health counseling; (d) addition of addiction services.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	600 new unduplicated uninsured/under insured patients served. Patients will have access to medical and mental healthcare	Project Target	600
		Achieved to Date	934
		Percentage	155.7%

Success Comments:

During the funding cycle of the year 2023, over 7,400 patient care visits, including primary care and mental health counseling, were logged. Samaritan Health and Wellness Center now operates two satellite clinics in underserved areas of Lee County: During the funding cycle of the year 2023, over 7,400 patient care visits, including primary care and mental health counseling, were logged. Samaritan Health and Wellness Center now operates two satellite clinics in underserved areas of Lee County: Pine Island and Dunbar communities. This was only possible in part, to the ARPA grant funds. Those who are uninsured and underinsured continue to receive professional, compassionate care from licensed and experienced nurse practitioners and mental health counselors. The number of unduplicated patients continues to grow as more and more people move to the area and find themselves without insurance and without healthcare.

Respectfully submitted, Sue Hook

2.19 Expanding Clinic Hours (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: APRA-UW219H

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Christian Medical Ministries Inc, dba/ SWFL Free-Pain Clinic

Funding Amount: \$225,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$155,704.98

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.19 Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Suncoast Community for Pain Recovery is a partially ARPA-funded existing program to expand operational hours to full-time, 5 days a week and contract with non-emergency medical transportation to bring patients to the clinic. The main activities of the project include (a) offering a menu of service to diagnosis and treat pain; (b) providing funding for operational staff salary; and (c) providing funding for transportation contract.



Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

- a) Goals: Yes, our patients have been historically underserved and marginalized due to their economic status and continue to be adversely affected to the lack of quality healthcare available to them. We answer that need for chronic pain/fibromyalgia and long haul COVID patients.
- b) Awareness: We will create an ongoing awareness campaign among our numerous partners in the community, many of whom already provide referrals to us since they work with this same population.
- c) Access and Distribution: We believe that having the funding to contract with a medical transport service will allow us to surmount the transportation hurdle our patients have encountered in the past. Our intake specialists are experts at assisting patients in completing the necessary eligibility paperwork.
- d) Outcomes: With our increased hours and new transportation services, we will not only be closing gaps with accessibility to our clinic, but we will also be able to increase the effectiveness of our treatment. We feel that we will be able to increase from 60% to 65% our long term pain relief statistic.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-producing project with learning agenda. The Southwest Florida Free Pain Clinic offers a unique treatment model for low-income, uninsured individuals, by utilizing medical and chiropractic care, massage and physical therapy, acupuncture, modalities, and nutrition, health, and exercise counseling to treat patients' pain at the source without the use of drugs. Patients are treated using a Functional Medicine model - treating the whole person: physical, emotional, spiritual and social. This model creates a path toward healing rather than a path toward prescription drug dependence.

Community Engagement:

- In 2023/Q2 community outreach to build awareness and increase engagement and patient service was a priority. CMM reached out to over 100 churches and launched new collaborations with seven (7) additional community-based nonprofit organizations.

- CMM also partnered with Florida Gulf Coast University and Rasmuson to provide students with internships and clinical experience.
- CMM is looking forward to building upon the new relationships to increase the number of patients served, the scope of patient services, to expand our presence in the community by opening new remote clinic sites.
- Community engagement activities have included enhanced social media use, United Way Partner agency collaboration with WeCare, 211, Partners for Breast Health, Lee Health Faith Community Nurses Organization, Lee Health Outpatient Clinics, Samaritan Health, Lee County Health and Human Services Division, the Collaboratory, Family Health Centers, and local Church organizations. Plans for next quarter include participation in Health Fairs as well as continuing to build community relationships.
- This quarter saw the ending of many projects previously mentioned. First, we are eager to announce our first remote clinic site that will be held at Grace Church in downtown Fort Myers. The official launch date will be announced in the next quarter. Additionally in this quarter, we successfully held our first Golf Tournament Fundraiser, raising over \$20,000 for our clinic. Funds raised went toward our Mobile Clinic Initiative. This was a testament to all the work that was put in by our development director and volunteers. Using what we learned, we are excited to pursue another scramble that will be held in 2025. We have continued to add new student volunteers and have a student intern joining us this summer and next semester as well. We have also added new staff members and volunteers that will aid in giving comprehensive treatment to our patients and will allow us to expand our services to our remote site. We have continued to engage with other non-profit organizations in the community as well.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Improve access to pain relief services for patients suffering with short-term and long-term chronic pain.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	800% (1732 hours) Increase patient contact hours by end of 2024	Project Target	1732
		Achieved to Date	1810
		Percentage	104.5%
2)	90% (70/78) Of the unduplicated patients will experience short-term pain relief	Project Target	70
		Achieved to Date	70
		Percentage	100%
3)	75% (59/78) Of the unduplicated patients will experience long-term pain relief	Project Target	59
		Achieved to Date	47
		Percentage	79.7%

Success Comments:

A 50-year-old patient and was unable to work due to pain in his neck and back. His energy level is poor, and he feels like his brain is in a fog most of the time. His apartment has had significant water damage from a leaking roof, but the landlord would not fix it or listen to his complaints of feeling poorly. He did screen tests that revealed a high likelihood of Biotoxin Illness. He started therapy for his pain, including

Physical and Massage Therapy, Acupuncture, and Chiropractic. He received lifestyle education to change his diet and help him deal with his stress. He completed basic blood tests for free through Lee Health and started on a comprehensive detoxification regimen, including medication and supplements, at no cost. He was able to have his mother help him do basic environmental testing on his apartment which revealed an abundance of indoor toxic molds. A letter was written to his landlord to get him out of his lease, and he moved in with his mother. He started to improve significantly. He continued therapy and Biotoxin treatment and soon all of his pain was gone. His energy improved and his brain cleared. He was able to return to work and is looking into building a tiny home so that he can control his environment. He is very grateful for our help.

2.25 Support Non-Profit, Extended Learning and After-School Programs that Address Educational Disparities

Project ID: ARPA-NE225A, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$227,413

Status of Completion: More than 50% complete

Total Project Expenses: \$142,043.77

Project Duration: June 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services*^

Project Overview:

The Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast, Extended Learning and After-School Project is an existing program that will contract with Lee County to build capacity and expand its services in Lee County through the Agency's One to One Mentoring Program. This One-to-One Mentoring Program project will serve local youth through afterschool and summer programming that addresses educational disparities by providing the informed advocacy, guidance, support, resources, referrals, and tools needed to overcome economic and racial barriers and achieve academic, career, and life success. The service results positive outcomes that help at-risk youth remain in school and make academic progress, avoid risky behaviors, overcome barriers to academic success, graduate high school, and achieve higher education. The major activities for this project include (a) mentors assisting students with their homework and studying, and they facilitate reading activities that support the emergence of a love of reading and an improvement in reading proficiency; and (b) developing a friendship based on trust and continuous support and guidance, mentors also address other key risk factors, such as poor academic performance and risky behaviors.





Project Demographic Distribution:

Gender

Timeframe	Female	Male
Q3 2022	99	109
Q4 2022	130	94
Q1 2023	129	137
Q2 2023	141	106
Q3 2023	123	140
Q4 2023	125	130
Q1 2024	140	131
Q2 2024	157	176

Age

Timeframe	Age 6-11	Age 12-17	18+
Q3 2022	69	119	20
Q4 2022	75	130	19
Q1 2023	96	145	25
Q2 2023	101	123	23
Q3 2023	97	114	52
Q4 2023	96	131	32
Q1 2024	116	129	34
Q2 2024	141	169	29

Race

Timeframe	African American	White or Caucasian	Hispanic	Other	Unknown
Q3 2022	54	67	49	33	5
Q4 2022	59	68	57	35	5
Q1 2023	71	84	69	36	6
Q2 2023	81	66	59	35	6
Q3 2023	92	85	71	4	11
Q4 2023	59	85	67	38	10
Q1 2024	67	100	68	34	10
Q2 2024	91	115	83	40	10

Eligible for Subsidized Lunch

Timeframe	Yes	No
Q3 2022	183	25
Q4 2022	201	23
Q1 2023	242	24
Q2 2023	224	23
Q3 2023	229	34
Q4 2023	217	42
Q1 2024	234	45
Q2 2024	3339	83

Incarcerated Parent or Sibling

Timeframe	Yes	No
Q1 2023	107	159
Q2 2023	102	165
Q3 2023	110	153
Q4 2023	97	162
Q1 2024	108	171
Q2 2024	145	194

Promoting Equitable Outcomes (*Highlights*):

- All youth served by BBBSSC face Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (DEi) and Access barriers-economic, racial, ethnic, LGBTQ, language, disability, educational, ACES, etc. BBBSSC has committed through its DEi Task Force to identify its challenge areas to clients achieving DEi and Access, and to develop and actualize a plan for clients to overcome DEi and Access barriers and forge a pathway to the self-sufficient, productive lives they deserve.
- There are no differences in levels of access to benefits and services across groups. All youth have full access to the services that will benefit them and meet their needs. There are no administrative requirements that result in disparities in ability to complete applications or meet eligibility criteria. All youth that want a mentor are eligible to enroll in the One to One Mentoring Program, and BBBSSC ensures that there are no hindrances to completing the application (i.e., the agency employs staff fluent in Spanish and all paperwork is available in Spanish; staff meet the youth and their family where it's most convenient for them; etc.)
- BBBSSC is committed to creating and cultivating a safe environment where all individuals feel respected and valued equally, utilizing a nondiscriminatory and anti-racist approach, and dismantling any inequities within its policies, systems, programs, and services.
- To meet the Agency's DEi strategic goals and help clients achieve equity, through this expansion project, BBBSSC will engage in ongoing expert-led, fully customized DEi Leadership Development training sessions and workshops for staff, board members, and mentors.
- BBBSSC is laser-focused on recruiting racially/ethnically diverse volunteers, training on trauma-informed care, child safety, socio-emotional needs, and growing as an agency in the areas of DEi and Access.
- The One-to-One Mentoring Program promotes educational success as the best path to close equity gaps, overcome equity barriers, and achieve a productive and financially secure life. In so doing, all One-to-One Mentoring Program services closely and fully adhere to the Big Brothers Big Sisters of America national organization's requirements and longstanding evidence-based model.
- Mentor Managers contact the mentor, youth, youth's parent/guardian, and/or relevant school personnel at least monthly to provide support, assess progress, and help overcome any obstacles to outcome achievement.
- Many mentees have learning disabilities that hindered their educational progress prior to connecting with BBBSSC. Mentors and Mentor Managers regularly attend teacher and IEP (Individualized Education Plan) meetings and advocate for clients' needs. Mentor Managers measure progress and the success of the youth client in meeting expected academic outcomes by utilizing the Youth Outcome Development Plan and academic grade and progress reports.

Community Engagement:

- BBBSSC provides informational presentations and flyers to teachers, guidance counselors, and administrative personnel, who then refer students in need of mentoring to the One to One Mentoring Program. Mentor Managers obtain parental consent for either community-based or site-based mentoring, and the youth are then interviewed and assessed to determine, address, and meet their unique needs. BBBSSC has a current and annually renewable Interagency Agreement with the Lee County School Board which makes it possible to provide client outreach to marginalized youth in Lee County.
- Staff also provide informational presentations to youth services organizations throughout the community. Additionally, they provide flyers to the YMCA and Boys and Girls Club afterschool programs for youth to bring home. Reaching at-risk, marginalized youth to meet their needs and

achieve equity for themselves and their families is a priority for the agency. BBBSSC works with other community agencies to ensure that the at-risk youth of Lee County have the necessary resources to succeed. As part of this coordinated effort, the Agency works with other organizations to gather referrals of youth who would benefit from one to one mentoring services.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: Big Brothers Big Sisters' One to One Mentoring Program is an evidence based program is found here: <https://search.issuelab.org/resource/making-a-difference-in-schools-the-big-brothers-big-sisters-school-based-mentoring-impact-study.html>

Performance to be Measured:

- ARPA Measure: Number of students participating in evidence-based tutoring programs.
 - Number of students served goal annually = 300

Tutoring

Timeframe	Quarterly	Annually
Q3 2022	208	
Q4 2022	224	
Q1 2023	266	
Q2 2023	247	333
Q3 2023	263	
Q4 2023	259	
Q1 2024	279	
Q2 2024	339	402

Performance Outcomes to be Measured:

- Number of participating students that achieved timely grade level promotion or high school graduation.
 - Report cumulative achievement number annually (end of school year)

Timeframe	Count
22-23 School Year	333
23-24 School Year	395

- At least 85% of the at-risk K-12th grade youth served will achieve timely grade level promotion or high school graduation. Report achievement/ participants annually (end of school year)

Timeframe	Percent
22-23 School Year	100%
23-24 School Year	98% (395 of 402)

Success Story:

A child came into the program at Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast when he was 10 years old. He lives with his sister and mother. While is growing up in a loving single-parent household, his Mom felt strongly something was missing - a strong male role model.

This child had starting counseling in 2nd grade because he expressed interest in suicide due to being bullied as a result of his low reading and math levels. This mother prayed he could have a Big Brother to have conversations about continuing to try, never giving up, and how a positive male role model handles difficult situations.

According to his Mom, the “big brother” has “filled a gap I was not able to fill...he is truly a genuine and caring person.”

Before being matched, the child dreamed of being an engineer, but he felt that was unattainable due to his learning disabilities. Since then, this “big brother” has introduced him to a new world of activities that ignited his curiosity, built his confidence, and fueled his desire to learn! From sports to working on cars to building a set of golf clubs to improving his academic grades, his “big brother” has come a consistent positive role model.

The big brother states that “having the opportunity to be his Big Brother which has helped him far greater than he had ever imagined”.

He is now in the 6th grade, he earns “As” in Reading and Math, and he is going to the State Championship Flag Football Game with his teammates/friends. I will be in the stands cheering them on. The child now has such confidence and drive that he will never give up on his dreams.

Project ID: ARPA-NE225B, Boys and Girls Club of Lee County

Funding Amount: \$260,000

Status of Completion: More than 50% Complete

Total Project Expenses: \$212,971.86

Project Duration: June 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services*^

Project Overview:



The Boys and Girls Club of Lee County, Extended Learning and After-School Project is an existing program that will contract with Lee County to provide high-quality after-school and summer programs, serving kids ages 6-18, designed to build skills and knowledge in the areas of education, health and wellness, sports & recreation, the arts, workforce development, and service & leadership. The project has targeted two Title 1 school locations (Varsity Lakes Middle and James Stephens Elementary) to expand our program, that are in need of afterschool and summer services in their area. The service results positive outcomes with members on track to achieve academic success, demonstrate good character & citizenship and live a healthy lifestyle. The major activities for this project include (a) focus on building skills in core subjects, through reading and STEM programs; and (b) providing mentors to guide youth through social and emotional development.

Project Demographic Distribution:

Gender

Timeframe	Female	Male
Q3 2022	77	95
Q4 2022	7	6
Q1 2023	11	8
Q2 2023	84	82
Q3 2023	99	101
Q4 2023	14	19
Q1 2024	36	36
Q2 2024	122	136

Race

Timeframe	Black/African American	White or Caucasian	Hispanic	Two or more races	Other
Q3 2022	71	24	42	11	11
Q4 2022	2	4	2	2	3
Q1 2023	5	4	1	2	0
Q2 2023	47	32	48	15	24
Q3 2023	75	37	46	12	31
Q4 2023	19	3	7		4
Q1 2024	35	6	20	3	8
Q2 2024	95	32	77	16	40

Income

Timeframe	< \$19,999	\$20,000-\$29,999	\$30,000-50,000	\$50,000+
Q3 2022	27	26	24	32
Q4 2022	2	1	4	6
Q1 2023	2	2	8	7
Q2 2023	27	31	53	57
Q3 2023	39	51	54	56
Q4 2023	22	11		
Q1 2024	30	19	15	6
Q2 2024	81	60	62	49

Promoting Equitable Outcomes (*Highlights*):

- Our mission and core beliefs drive our commitment to promoting safe, positive, and inclusive environments for all. BGCLC supports all youth and teens - of every race, ethnicity, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, ability, socio-economic status, and religion - in reaching their full potential.

- Varsity Lakes is a title 1 school, in a qualified census tract. which allows us to target an underserved population at these specific locations.
- We are committed to the overall emotional, cognitive, and social well-being of our youth. Our goal is to provide safer childhoods, life-enhancing programs, and caring mentors, who coach and guide children who need us the most.
- Our core programs are designed to assist with bridging the educational gap that exists between low-income youth in underserved areas, and their moderate and upper- income peers.
- We do not turn any child away if they are unable to pay, which is why we provide scholarships to low-income families who otherwise cannot afford to attend. Additionally, we address food insecurities by offering each child a hot meal or snack daily through our partnership with the Lee County School District and local food banks.
- Our program is important to the families of working and single parents. By providing a safe place for kids afterschool, parents can work and/ or seek employment to provide for their families.
- Our intended outcomes are focused on closing the gap so that all children, no matter their circumstances, achieving positive outcomes in our three priority areas of Academic Success, Good Character and Citizenship, and Healthy Lifestyles.
- We market through various digital channels, such as social media and email. We also market through school messenger systems to ensure parents have access to the information. Lastly, we create in person sign up events where we hand out flyers and assist families with registration.
- All youth receive the same programming and have access to equal opportunities. Our club access is on a first come, first serve basis. We charge a nominal fee and provide scholarships so that all families have can have their youth attend regardless of socio-economic status. There is limited access, during the school year at our school locations due to transportation / busing.

Use of Evidence (*Highlights*):

Research based programs.

Project Learn. Academic Support; Homework Help; Tutoring; Academic Enrichment;

Remedial Education.

Research Basis. Citation: Clark, Reginald. (2002) *Building Student Achievement: In-School and Out-of-School Factors*. Policy Issues, North Central Regional Educational Laboratory, Issue 13.

Research results. Citation: Schinke, Steven, et al. (2000) *Enhancing the Educational Achievement of At-Risk Youth*. Prevention Science, Volume 1, No. 1.

Summer Brain Gain. Academic Enrichment; Literacy; Math Education.

Research Basis.

Web Link: <https://www.metisassociates.com/case-studies/closing-opportunity-and-achievement-gaps-through-out-of-school-time-programs/>

Multiple-year evaluation of Summer Brain Gain is currently underway, using a study design that includes rigorously matched control groups.

Research Results. Citation: Unpublished; evaluation is underway.

Triple Play. Physical Fitness; Nutrition Education; Recreational Activities.

Research Results. Citation: Gambone, Michelle, et al. (2009) *Promoting Healthy Lifestyles: The Impact of Triple Play on Healthy Eating, Exercise Patterns, and Developmental Outcomes*. Youth Development Strategies, Inc.

Power Hour. Academic Support.

Web link:

https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwiSqeCXpZiAAxVKRDABHcu9BS8QFnoECCgQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.bgca.org%2F%2Fmedia%2FDocuments%2FCurriculum%2FPowerHour%2FPowerHour_ProgramGuide_ES.pdf&usg=AOvVaw1WberPvZ27GgBGn1Od4r0i&opi=89978449

SMART Leaders. Drug and violence prevention

Research Results. Citation: St. Pierre, Tena L., D. Lynne Kaltreider, Melvin M. Mark, and Kathryn J. Aikin. (1992) *Drug Prevention in a Community Setting: A Longitudinal Study of the Relative Effectiveness of a 3-Year Primary Prevention Program in Boys & Girls Clubs Across the Nation*. American Journal of Community Psychology, Vol. 20, Issue 6.

Passport to Manhood. Character Education

Research Basis. Citation: McLean, K., et al. (2010) Constructing the Self in Early, Middle and Late Adolescent Boys: Narrative Identity, Individuation, and We/I-Being. Journal of Research on Adolescence, Vol. 20.

Performance to be Measured:

- ARPA Measure: Number of students participating in evidence-based tutoring programs.

Timeframe	Quarterly
Q3 2022	172 (summer)
Q4 2022	13
Q1 2023	19
Q2 2023	166 (summer)
Q3 2023	201
Q4 2023	74
Q1 2024	72
Q2 2024	260

- Number of students participating in at least 30 minutes of physical fitness activity.

Timeframe	Quarterly
Q3 2022	172
Q4 2022	13
Q1 2023	19
Q2 2023	166
Q3 2023	201
Q4 2023	74
Q1 2024	72
Q2 2024	260

- Number of participating students that achieved a 2.0 "C" average or higher.
 - *Data will be compiled for the final report.*

Performance Outcomes to be Measured:

- 85% of youth who participate in at least 30 minutes of physical fitness activity will increase their physical fitness skills.
- 85% of measured students will achieve a 2.0 "C" average or higher.

Success Story:

The Flight Program at Varsity Lakes was our pilot STEM program focused on teaching our youth about flight through hands on, learning activities. Our kids started out with basic construction of planes out of foam boards. They learned about aerodynamics of flight with our volunteers Joe and Grayson, who both have various levels of experience with aviation. The kids were able to practice gliding their planes back and forth, and experiment with trajectory and velocity by placing weight on different parts of the plane to see how it would affect the flight. The kids were also shown a flight simulator so they could experience what it is like to fly. The next step was to build a motor that would allow the kids to fly the planes with a remote control. Overall, it was an exciting, interactive, learning experience that was focused on the science of flight and the career opportunities that exist in aviation. Based on the success of the pilot, the program is being rolled out to additional clubs.

Project ID: ARPA-NE225C, The Heights Center

Funding Amount: \$407,891

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$293,696.38

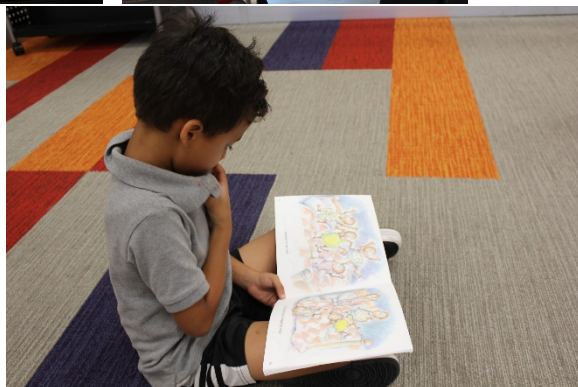
Project Duration: June 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services*^

Project Overview:



The Heights Center, Extended Learning and After-School Project is an existing program that will contract with Lee County to provide high-quality after-school and summer programs, serving kids in kindergarten -eighth grade, designed to provide of remedial and enrichment activities. The project has one location primarily serving the needs of the Harlem Heights community. The service results positive outcomes improved grades in reading/language arts/math; increases in grade levels equivalencies for independent reading passages; improved fluency rates and comprehension skills; improved accuracy in basic mathematical operations and math problem solving. The major activities for this project include (a) schoolwork assistance; (b) specialized programming in in the areas of fitness, science, art, character development, and technology multiple times each month; and (c) special clubs in such areas as music, art, coding, scientific inventions, and sports.



Project Demographic Distribution:

Gender

Timeframe	Female	Male
Q3 2022	65	139
Q4 2022	86	158
Q1 2023	87	158
Q2 2023	104	175
Q3 2023	134	207
Q4 2023	150	219
Q1 2024	43	118
Q2 2024	43	118

Ethnicity

Timeframe	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic
Q3 2022	149	55
Q4 2022	179	65
Q1 2023	180	65
Q2 2023	204	75
Q3 2023	251	90
Q4 2023	269	100
Q1 2024	118	43
Q2 2024	150	55

Race

Timeframe	Black/African American	White	Multi-Racial
Q3 2022	25	166	13
Q4 2022	30	191	23
Q1 2023	30	192	23
Q2 2023	40	212	27
Q3 2023	53	259	29
Q4 2023	58	269	37
Q1 2024	25	117	19
Q2 2024	34	149	22

Income

Timeframe	Extremely Low Income	Low Income
Q3 2022	198	5
Q4 2022	238	6
Q1 2023	238	7
Q2 2023	258	21
Q3 2023	320	21
Q4 2023	340	29

Q1 2024	148	13
Q2 2024	188	14

Promoting Equitable Outcomes (*Highlights*):

- Supporting School Success is designed specifically for the Harlem Heights Census Designated Area, and therefore is targeted toward providing experiences and opportunities to traditionally disenfranchised populations to address economic and racial inequities.
 - The Harlem Heights neighborhood, with a population of 2087 individuals, is a severely distressed community, with families living in poverty at a rate that is significantly higher than the rest of Lee County.
 - The neighborhood is characterized by a high percentage of single parent families (70.3%), families in which English is not spoken at home (72.8%), and limited engagement of residents in formal education.
 - Approximately 857 children and youth live in a mixture of single-family homes and multi-family apartments. Demographically, the population is approximately 81% Hispanic, 8% African American, and 11% Caucasian. With 37.7% of the children here below the federal poverty line, this neighborhood has a higher rate of childhood poverty than 80.9% of U.S. neighborhoods.
- The focus of Supporting School Success is on closing the achievement gaps typical to populations living in extreme poverty, and/or for whom English is not their home language.
- Strategies unique to the learning needs of children in these populations form the basis of the tutoring, remediation, acceleration, and enrichment activities experienced by participants. As a result, participants can make academic gains.
- To achieve more equitable outcomes for participants, Supporting School Success helps participants develop the academic skills needed for school success, as well as assisting participants in the growth of their communication, teamwork, problem solving and decision-making skills.

Use of Evidence (*Highlights*):

Peer Tutoring and Response Groups. Peer Tutoring and Response Groups works to improve the language and achievement of English Language Learners. The US Department of Education Institute of Education Sciences What Works Clearinghouse reviewed the research evidence and reports studies meeting WWC research design standards. [WWC | Peer Tutoring and Response Groups \(ed.gov\)](#)

Instructional Conversations and Literature Logs. The goal of Instructional Conversations and Literature Logs is to help English Language Learners develop reading comprehension along with English language proficiency. The US Department of Education Institute of Education Sciences What Works Clearinghouse reviewed the research evidence and reports studies meeting WWC research design standards. [WWC | Instructional Conversations and Literature Logs \(ed.gov\)](#)

Leveled Literacy Intervention. Leveled Literacy Instruction is a short-term, supplementary, small-group literacy intervention designed to help struggling readers achieve grade-level competency. The instructional approach allows teachers to match students with texts of progressing difficulty and deliver systematic lessons targeted to a student's reading ability. The US Department of Education Institute of Education Sciences What Works Clearinghouse reviewed the research

evidence and reports studies meeting WWC research design standards. [WWC | Leveled Literacy Intervention](#)

PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies). The PATHS Curriculum is a comprehensive program for promoting emotional and social competencies and reducing aggression and behavior problems in preschool through 8th grade students while simultaneously enhancing the educational process. Program effectiveness evaluated through research reviews: Blueprints Model Program, CASEL (Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning), Helping America's Youth Registry (Promising Program), OJJDP (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention) (Exemplary Program), and USDE's Safe, Disciplined and Drug Free Schools (Promising Program)

Performance to be Measured:

- ARPA Measure: Number of students participating in evidence-based tutoring programs.
 - Report quarterly participation.
 - Report the cumulative participation number annually.
- Number of participating students that show an increase in 21st century skills (communication, teamwork, social skills etc.).
 - Report quarterly improvement.
 - Report # of students with skill level increase annually.
- Number of students that show increase in skill level in reading, language arts, math, or science.
 - Report quarterly improvement.
 - Report# of students with skill level increase annually.

Tutoring

Timeframe	Quarterly	Annually
Q3 2022	204	
Q4 2022	151	244
Q1 2023	152	245
Q2 2023	185	279
Q3 2023	183	341
Q4 2023	159	369
Q1 2024	161	371
Q2 2024	205	393

Performance Outcomes to be Measured:

- 75% of youth who complete the program will show an increase in 21st century skills such as communication, teamwork, social skills, self-confidence, and analytical thinking.
- Increase in 21st Century Skills

Timeframe	Count	Percent
Q3 2022	118/131	88.5%
Q4 2022	134/151	88.7%
Q1 2023	141/152	92.7%

Q2 2023	149/152	98%
Q3 2023	122/149	81.8%
Q4 2023	132/159	83%
Q1 2024	132/161	82%
Q2 2024	176/205	85.8%

- Report base line student skill level in 21st century skills.
- Report rate of youth achievement annually.
- 70% of youth who complete the program will increase their skill level in reading, language arts, math, or science.
- Increase in skill level (reading, language arts, math, science)

Timeframe	Count	Percent
Q3 2022	100/131	76.3%
Q4 2022	135/151	89.4%
Q1 2023	138/152	90.8%
Q2 2023	141/152	92.8%
Q3 2023	131/149	87.8%
Q4 2023	131/159	82.4%
Q1 2024	131/161	81.4%
Q2 2024	175/205	85.4%

- Report base line student skill level in subject areas.
- Report rate of youth achievement annually.

Project ID: ARPA-NE225D, New Horizons of Southwest Florida

Funding Amount: \$213,786

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$179,816.27

Project Duration: June 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services*^

Project Overview:



New Horizons of SWFL provides high-quality mentoring and school tutoring to kids in grades K-12. The Extended Learning and After-School Project will contract with Lee County to fund a professional development program for organization leaders and to update technology for staff and students. The students served by New Horizons are from low-income households which the primary language spoken is not English and they are struggling academically at the time of enrollment. The service results positive outcomes to improve each

child's well-being academically, socially, emotionally, and physically. The major activities for this project include three professional development training programs for club-level and department leaders (a) Learning Differently & Teaching Better: Master Strategies for Improving Outcomes for Disadvantaged Students & Families; (b) Master Teacher Professional Development; and (c) Senior Leadership Training.



Project Demographic Distribution:

Gender

Timeframe	Female	Male
Q3 2022	230	204

Q4 2022	237	207
Q1 2023	239	211
Q2 2023	239	213
Q3 2023	223	181
Q4 2023	224	182
Q1 2024	230	186
Q2 2024	230	186

Age

Timeframe	0-6	6-13	13-17	17 and older
Q3 2022	8	316	97	16
Q4 2022	6	320	104	17
Q1 2023	4	315	111	22
Q2 2023	2	305	121	24
Q3 2023	8	295	85	17
Q4 2023	5	290	92	20
Q1 2024	4	290	99	23
Q2 2024	2	286	98	30

Ethnicity

Timeframe	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic
Q3 2022	415	22
Q4 2022	422	25
Q1 2023	427	25
Q2 2023	429	23
Q3 2023	392	13
Q4 2023	394	13
Q1 2024	402	14
Q2 2024	404	12

Race

Timeframe	Black/African American	White	Multi-Racial	Other
Q3 2022	18	406	1	9
Q4 2022	20	412	1	10
Q1 2023	21	415	1	11
Q2 2023	21	391	2	11
Q3 2023	7	377	1	19
Q4 2023	7	379	1	19
Q1 2024	7	384	1	24
Q2 2024	7	384	1	22

Income

Timeframe	Eligible 0-100%	101-130%	Over Income
Q3 2022	364	48	22
Q4 2022	372	50	22
Q1 2023	378	49	22
Q2 2023	378	49	22
Q3 2023	339	49	17
Q4 2023	308	50	17
Q1 2024	349	50	17
Q2 2024	349	50	17

Parental Status

Timeframe	1 Parent	2 Parents
Q3 2022	114	321
Q4 2022	115	330
Q1 2023	117	330
Q2 2023	117	335
Q3 2023	92	313
Q4 2023	93	308
Q1 2024	94	316
Q2 2024	94	316

Promoting Equitable Outcomes (Highlights):

- In the training "Learning Differently & Teaching Better: Master Strategies for Improving Outcomes for Disadvantaged Students & Families," 1 program staff will learn how to better serve students with a focus on four major vulnerable subgroups in K-12 education. The scope of the training series will focus on best practices in instruction and relationship building where it concerns:
 1. Students from major racial and ethnic groups (Hispanic & Haitian in southwest Florida)
 2. Economically disadvantaged students (Free and reduced lunch)
 3. Children with disabilities (Exceptional Student Education 1ESE1 & 504 plans)
 4. English learners (native and foreign-born ELL/ESL/ESOL/LEP)
- At the Super Kids and Teens Clubs, volunteers who come from diverse backgrounds build relationships with students by providing a safe space during their study sessions, which allows students to share about themselves and facilitates mentoring opportunities.
- The dropout rate for under-resourced students is higher than the general student population. New Horizons focuses on several academic outcomes intended to keep students on track to graduate from high school.
- New Horizons' overall objective is to close the learning gap for under-resourced students by providing tutoring, mentoring and character-building opportunities.



Photo: Graduating class

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: New Horizons follows an evidence-based model to effective tutoring as reported by the U.S. DOE ("Evidence that Tutoring Works, 2001) that includes: coordination of materials with the classroom, training of tutors and frequent structured tutoring sessions. This, along with our delivery model of small group instruction and computer-based instruction, allows us to address the educational disparities that exist in the population we serve. New Horizons trains tutors who then receive ongoing support from the staff. Tutoring sessions are well-structured and are held four days per week. The student to tutor ratio is low, generally 1:2 for elementary and 1:6 for middle/high school.

New Horizons focuses on the five essential components of reading as defined by the National Reading Panel: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary development and reading comprehension. Research Citation: Scammacca, Vaughn, Roberts, Wanzek, Torgensen "Extensive Reading Interventions in Grades 1-3," FCRR, 2007.

The computerized academic component of the New Horizons of SWFL model uses the IXL online curriculum for our students to achieve measurable outcomes in their reading, language arts, and even some math skills. IXL also gives our staff real time analytics to know where to go and how to help each student. Research Citation: Carlson, D., Borman, G.D., & Robinson, M. (2011). A multistate district-level cluster randomized trial of the impact of data-driven reform on reading and mathematics achievement. Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, 33, 378-398.

Performance to be Measured:

- ARPA Measure: Number of students participating in evidence-based tutoring programs.
- Number of students participating in the program.
 - Report Quarterly Participation.
 - Report Culminative Participation. Annually.

Timeline	Participants
Q3 2022	437
Q4 2022	447
Q1 2023	414
Q2 2023	425

Q3 2023	405
Q4 2023	407
Q1 2024	416
Q2 2024	416

- Number of students that graduate from high school with a plan to work or attend college
 - Report annually the number of students that graduate with the intent to enter the workforce or attend college
- Number of students that have increased their skill level in reading, language arts, math, or science
 - Report quarterly # of students improved.
 - Report # of students improved (end of program)

Timeline	K-5 Students Enrolled earning C or higher in language arts	Middle and Highschool Students Enrolled Meeting Goal GPA	High School Seniors Graduated with Plan to enter workforce or attend college
22-23 School year	163	68	11
23-24 School year	151 (<i>pending final metrics</i>)	58 (<i>pending final metrics</i>)	9 (100%)

- Number of students that have improved their soft skills (communication, critical thinking, life skills)
 - Survey results available next quarter.

Performance Outcomes to be Measured:

- 55% of students enrolled in the program will graduate from high school with a plan to work or attend college. *To be reported at project conclusion.*
- 70% of youth who complete the program will increase their skill level in reading, language arts, math, or science. *To be reported at project conclusion.*
- 80% of clients who complete the program will be able to improve soft skills (communication, critical thinking, life skills).
 - 100% of students have been practicing their soft skills through guest speakers, relationship building with volunteers and staff, daily character-building lessons and more. Assessments were conducted at the end of the school year to measure student improvement and results will be available in August 2024. Students work daily with volunteer tutors and mentors of diverse backgrounds. They also interact with each other in small groups both at the club and while being transported to and from club locations. Students build relationships with adult role models and learn from their behaviors, including friendliness, confidence and motivation.

Success Comments: A Super Kids Club student <name removed> has shown tremendous progress since he joined the program in kindergarten. In the 2022-23 school year, the child was a fourth-grade student.

He has struggled with behavioral issues and it was difficult for him to focus both in school and at the club, which reflected in low grades. Volunteer tutors and staff worked closely with the child to help him focus by exploring various ways to help him learn. This year, the child began to see the fruits of his labor, and his grades increased slowly from August through May. When interim grades were released at school, he would personally share his new grades with the staff with a smile on his face, something he had never done before. By the end of the year, he had earned all B's! His grades and focus improved so much that he was also able to join an athletic team at school. We are proud of his determination to succeed and look forward to seeing continued success in the 2023-24 school year.

Project ID: ARPA-NE225E, YMCA of SWFL

Funding Amount: \$ 490,910

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$271,809.46

Project Duration: June 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services*^

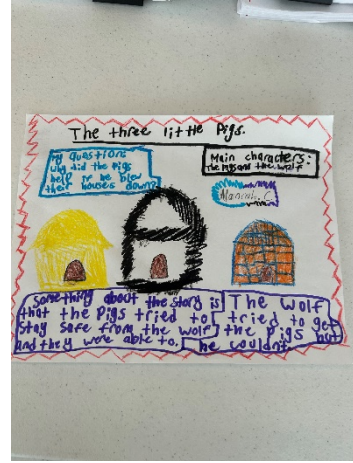
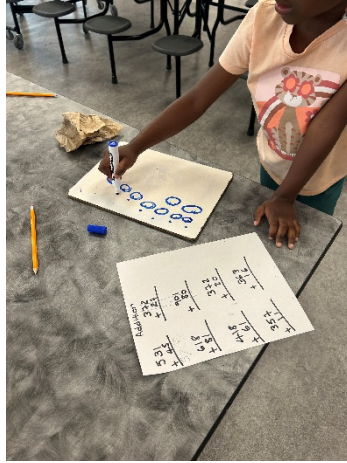
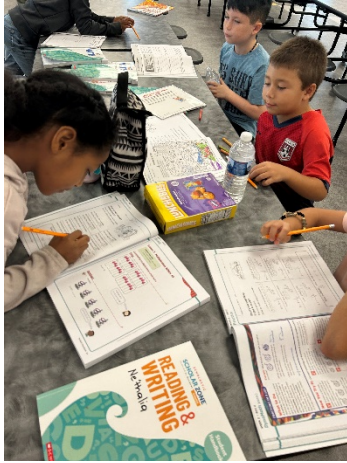
Project Overview:

The YMCA of SWFL will enhance and expand afterschool and summer programs in four targeted communities within Lee County to reduce educational disparities among elementary and middle school youth (ages five to 14). Y Youth Services (YYS) will enhance educational programming with Power Scholars, an evidence-based reading and math program with proven results. The youth served by the YMCA come from 36 schools and half of those schools are Title I. The service results positive outcomes to improve each child's well-being academically, socially, emotionally, and physically. The major activities for this project include (a) homework assistance (including the BellXcel Power Scholars program); (b) character development; (c) physical activities; and (d) indoor activities with music and art.



YMCA OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA





Project Demographic Distribution:

Gender

Timeframe	Female	Male	Unspecified
Q1 2023	47%	51%	2%
Q2 2023	42%	56%	2%
Q3 2023	42%	56%	2%
Q4 2023	42%	56%	2%
Q1 2024	47%	51%	2%
Q2 2024	47%	51%	2%

Participants City

Timeframe	Bonita Springs	Cape Coral	Estero	Fort Myers	Lehigh	N. Fort Myers	Other
Q1 2023	25%	5%	67%	67%	1%	2%	
Q2 2023	16%	11%	10%	47%	9%	1%	6%
Q3 2023	16%	11%	10%	47%	9%	1%	6%
Q4 2023	16%	11%	10%	47%	9%	1%	
Q1 2024	25%		5%	67%	1%	2%	
Q2 2024	25%		5%	67%	1%	2%	

Race

Timeframe	African American	Caucasian	Hispanic	Other	Unspecified
Q1 2023	14%	31%	11%	17%	27%
Q2 2023	10%	50%	13%	14%	13%
Q3 2023	10%	50%	13%	14%	13%
Q4 2023	10%	50%	13%	14%	13%
Q1 2024	14%	31%	11%	17%	27%
Q2 2024	14%	31%	11%	17%	27%

Promoting Equitable Outcomes (Highlights):

- YMCA of Southwest Florida’s “Y Youth Success” (YYS) is an afterschool and summer youth development program that has intentionally been designed to reach children, youth, and families from economically and racially/ethnically diverse communities in Lee County with evidence-based educational components to mitigate learning disparities.
- YYS has been structured to provide services to children, youth and their families who are attending racially and ethnically diverse elementary and middle school as well as a selection of Title I schools to ensure children and youth from all backgrounds and communities can participate in high-quality experiences.
- The YYS program is focused on closing educational gaps for all struggling students in the program with an emphasis of reaching low-to-moderate income families and/or families of color.
- The programs are marketed in English and in Spanish in the schools. Our staff will attend school open-houses and events to reach out to families with need. We will work with our trusted partners and school contacts to help identify students and families that will benefit from participation in the program.
- YMCA offer families that cannot afford our programming to apply for financial assistance that determines a program fee that is affordable based on each family’s unique situation. YMCA of Southwest Florida prides itself on never turning anyone away from our programs due to a proven inability to pay.
- The YMCA program expansion and enhancement are a direct response to the need of the targeted communities to address educational disparities among elementary and middle schools with an emphasis of reaching low-to-moderate income families and/or families of color. Research has documented that afterschool and summer programs have positive effects on educational outcomes and in social emotional growth.

Use of Evidence (*Highlights*): Evidence-based practices:

- BellXcel Power Scholars Evidence Base.
 - Research Citation: <https://www.bellxcel.org/education-research-and-insights/>
- Afterschool Programming Evidence Base
 - Research Citation: Neild, R.C., Wilson, S.J., & McClanahan, W. (2019). Afterschool programs: A review of evidence under Every Student Succeeds Act. Philadelphia: Research for Action.
<https://www.researchforaction.org/projects/afterschoolessa/>
- Summer Learning Loss and Benefits of Summer Learning Evidence Base
 - [Summer learning loss: What is it, and what can we do about it? \(brookings.edu\)](https://www.brookings.edu/research/school-learning-loss-what-is-it-and-what-can-we-do-about-it/)
 - Research Citation: Atteberry, Allison, and Andrew McEachin. (2019). School's Out: The Role of Summers in Understanding Achievement Disparities.
 - [Every Summer Counts: A Longitudinal Analysis of Outcomes from the National Summer Learning Project \(wallacefoundation.org\)](https://www.wallacefoundation.org/summertime-learning-loss/)

Performance to be Measured:

- Number of students participating in after-school programming.
 - Report quarterly participation.

- Report the cumulative participation number annually.
- Number of Students Served Goal Annually = 340

Timeline	Participants
Q1 2023	245
Q2 2023	217
Q3 2023	204
Q4 2023	244
Q1 2024	235
Q2 2024	260

- Number of students participating in summer programming.
 - Report quarterly participation.
 - Report the cumulative participation number annually.
 - Number of Students Served Goal Annually = 555

Timeline	Participants
Q1 2023	N/A
Q2 2023	858
Q3 2023	951
Q4 2023	N/A
Q1 2024	N/A
Q2 2024	1,064

Performance Outcomes to be Measured:

- The number of students participating in evidence-based tutoring programs
 - Maintain the goals set above for both after-school and summer programming. (Report annually)
- ARPA Measure: Number of students participating in evidence-based tutoring programs.

Timeline	After School	Summer Camp
Q1 2023	100	N/A
Q2 2023	83	248
Q3 2023	90	575
Q4 2023	90	N/A
Q1 2024	67	N/A
Q2 2024	N/A	1,164

Success Story:

“Another counselor and I have been working with a young lady pretty much every morning to help her with her homework. She is Haitian and her home language is Creole. She is fluent in Spanish but does not feel so confident in English. We help her understand her math lessons in Spanish. I have noticed that she doesn't know her times tables at all. We are working with her on the side, and she is making many improvements as it relates to her understanding of her math lessons.”

- Site Coordinator at local middle school.

2.25 EDUCATE! Being Smart is Great (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW225A

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Basic Learning Skills Learning Center, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$166,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$113,744.57

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services



Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The EDUCATE project is a partially ARPA-funded existing program that will improve student school attendance, increase achievement learning gains by at least 20%, increase promotions to the next

grade level, and help student to achieve or remain on grade level. The main activities of the project will include (a) developing Individualized Learning Plans to correct specific Reading or Math deficiencies; (b) administering Pre and Post Assessment to measure student gains; (c) providing after-school Tutoring for K-12; (d) collaborating with parents to develop a unified plan for student progress; and (e) funding for tutor salaries, Online Tutoring Management & Scheduling software from Oases Online database, and supplies.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: BLSLC's goal is to address economic disparities and underlying issues of poverty. Most of the students served are low to moderate income, with many earning less than 80% of the Area Median Income (AMI) in the Cape Coral-Fort Myers Metropolitan Area as determined by HUD. A majority of the families served are English Speakers of Other Languages who struggle to compete in mainstream classrooms. Others lack the necessary resources to participate fully in an academic setting and rely on BLSLC to fill in the gaps and unmet needs in this community.

b) Awareness: BLSLC has a diversified marketing plan which includes the use of social media, grassroots outreach, community involvement, etc. to reach target market; promotional giveaways, business card magnets, signage on gates of elementary and middle schools, participate in community fairs, host events (open houses, back-to-school fairs, host parenting classes, and give away school supplies, press releases, reach out to parents of current and past students to conduct surveys and request reviews, referrals and feedback, place brochures at libraries, social service offices, churches (advertise in church programs, on fans, sponsor church events), literacy centers, child care centers, pediatrician offices, museums, head start centers, and senior corps. BLSLC also plans to partner with potential referral agencies for events and do outreach to businesses geared to children.

c) Access and Distribution: Equal access granted to all who present for services.

d) Outcomes: Intended outcomes are focused on closing the learning gap between those who are struggling and who face barriers to education. all children can achieve great outcomes if they are provided with the tools and resources necessary to successfully achieve those outcomes.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: Research study has proven that students increase one full grade level with just 20 hours of work MobyMax. MobyMax's research gains the highest ESSA rating - Tier 1 for "Strong Evidence." In the first quarter of 2018, MobyMax conducted a large-scale experimental study with 4,000 students in 230 classrooms across the United States. The results that qualify as ESSA Tier 1 "Strong Evidence" conclusively demonstrate the benefit that comes from finding and fixing learning gaps with MobyMax. The study showed that MobyMax had an effect size of 0.875 for language, and 0.702 for math. Finding and fixing missing skills is a powerful intervention for all students with learning gaps, and BLSLC uses Moby Max to identify deficiencies, develop plans and provide targeted learning for low-income children with barriers to education.

Community Engagement:

Results, goals, and objectives are described as follows:

- 1) Begin an outreach plan developed to raise awareness of Basic Learning Skills Learning Center's (BLSLC) programs and services and to increase the capacity of students served.
- 2) Build brand and increase awareness of programs and services. Begin implementation of a diversified marketing plan (social media, grassroots outreach, community involvement, serving on committees, etc.) to reach a target market, promotional giveaways, give out promo codes for discounts, place signage on school gates of elementary and middle schools, business card magnets, brand your vehicle with car magnets, place ads in newspapers, posters, tv shows. Participate in community fairs, host events (open house, back-to-school fairs and give away school supplies, ice cream, etc., host parenting classes), sponsor events, write letters to the editor and guest editorials and blogs, press releases, become known as the expert in the field, attend conferences.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Provide tutorial services addressing deficiencies in Reading and Math available to children from very low, low, and moderate-income families in grades K through 12.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	154 unduplicated students will have individualized learning plans developed	Project Target	154
		Achieved to Date	247
		Percentage	160%
2)	Provide 25 hours of tutoring for each of the 154 students (3,850 total hours)	Project Target	3850
		Achieved to Date	2826
		Percentage	73%
3)	50% (77/154) of students completing 20 or more hours of tutoring will improve their scores by 20% (Pre-test and post-test measurements)	Project Target	77
		Achieved to Date	55
		Percentage	71%

Success Comments:

A student in 4th grade began at 55% and grade equivalent of 3.8. She completed the program at 80%, with a gain of 25 points and grade equivalent of 5.0.

A student in 2nd grade began at 27% and grade equivalent of low Kindergarten. He completed the program at 68% with a gain of 41 points and grade equivalent of 2.4.

Both of these students are English Language Learners.

2.25 Park Meadows Boys & Girls Club (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW225B

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Boys & Girls Clubs of Lee County, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$288,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$266,027.87

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Park Meadow Boys & Girls Club project partially ARPA-funded new program that will increase student academic achievement; improve social, emotional and physical well-being; improve college and career readiness; and improve graduation rates. The main activities of the project include (a) providing a menu of academic support services, youth development services, and workforce development service; and (b) funding for operational staff salaries, software and equipment, rent/lease and utility payments.



Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: This project aligns with local and national HUD objectives to provide resources that benefit low to moderate income areas. The Park Meadows club will be accessible to all youth in this community, through an open registration process. Our services are provided at a nominal fee and scholarships are made available to enable us to provide high quality, education programs to level the playing field in this underserved community. The estimated 2021 median income level of the 15.02 census tract is \$32,585, well below the low to moderate income level in Lee County. We believe that every young person, no matter where they come from, or the circumstances that surround them, should have equal access to youth services and resources that give them every opportunity in life.

b) Awareness: We have leveraged our partnerships with local organizations, businesses and agencies to market our programs and services. One of most effective communication channels is through the Lee County School District who has access to all youth and their families. Through our partnership we are able to leverage their communication tool (Peach jar), school social media and websites to communicate broadly across Lee County. We also send out press releases, and distribute flyers throughout the community, through our partnerships to broaden our reach. Lastly, we work with other agencies like the United Way, and community outreach centers to directly communicate with the families in underserved communities.

c) Access and Distribution: While most locations are open to everyone in the community, we do have specific clubs that have limited access in HUD communities. Yet, our benefits and levels of service are equal at each location. At BGCLC we pride ourselves on be accessible to all children at our 8 locations

throughout Lee County. We offer assistance to families to complete applications and apply for scholarships to ensure equal access to our clubs.

d) Outcomes: Our intended outcomes are purposeful and address critical gaps that exist for our youth due to the pandemic. The educational gap is lessened by access to tutors and education programs designed to improve academic achievement levels. Caring staff and mentors ensure our members' social and emotional needs are being met so they are prepared to learn. Physical fitness and health is improved through outdoor activities and proper nutrition. Many of these gaps are amplified in low-income areas, which is why our youth services can help fill those gaps and level the playfield in these communities.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: Boys & Girls Club of America has designed evidence-based programs that assist youth in reaching their full potential.

- Project Learn: Academic support, homework help, tutoring, academic enrichment, remedial education.
Citation: Clark, Reginald. 2020 Building Student Achievement: In School and Out of School Factors
- Summer Brain Gain: High-yield Project based learning activities designed to reduce summer learning loss
Citation: multiyear evaluation underway, with preliminary results showing improvement in math and reading.
- Triple Play: Physical fitness, nutrition education and recreational activities
Citation: Gambone, Michelle (2009) Promoting Healthy Lifestyles
- SMART Leaders: Drug and violence prevention
Citation: St. Pierre, Tena L.,D. Lynne Kaltreider, Melvin M. Mark and Kathryn J Aikin (1992)
- Drug prevention in a community setting Passport to Manhood: Character Education
Citation: McLean, K et al. (2010) Constructing the self in early middle and late adolescent boys

Community Outreach:

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Lee County opened our newest location for after school and summer programming in June 2022. Since this was a new facility, we used several marketing and communication tactics to inform families about our evidence-based programs designed to assist youth in reaching their full potential and close the educational gaps created by the Covid 19 pandemic.

We created a broad and specialized approach to our communities:

- The reach the broader audience, we leveraged the school messenger platform PeachJar to ensure all parents would receive communication about our new facility.
- We also created flyers that highlighted our programs and services that were distributed at surrounding schools.
- We utilized our PR agencies to highlight our mission and success stories, along with hosting several community events at our new club to build awareness.
- Our more targeted approach leveraged specific community groups, such as Pine Manor Community, and other agencies such as the YMCA, along with the network of agencies the United Way offers.
- Lastly, we used our digital platforms such as social media and our BGCLC website to communicate.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Increase the attendance and engagement of youth at new Park Meadows location to provide a safe environment for youth while they are out of school.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	650 youth enrolled in Park Meadows location program through end of Q3 '24	Project Target	650
		Achieved to Date	1137
		Percentage	174.9%
2)	85% (553/650) of youth will obtain and/or maintain a GPA of 2.0 or higher as proven by report cards	Project Target	553
		Achieved to Date	312
		Percentage	56.4%

Success Comments:

#1 We purchased our new Park Meadows facility in May 2022 and turned it around for summer programming, beginning on June 6. Each summer 3 out of 4 youth lack access to high quality summer programs, leaving them at risk for significant summer learning loss. We were thrilled to have 90 youth registered this summer at our new club, with an average daily attendance of 55 youth.

We also partnered with 17 organizations and businesses to bring unique and exciting experiences to our youth. One of our most exciting programs was our marine life study in partnership with the Sanibel Sea School. The curriculum included exploration of various seas life, dissecting a squid, surfing, and multiple trips to Sanibel beach. For many of our youth, this was the first time being on Sanibel Island, their first time at the beach and definitely their first-time surfing. Both parents and youth were thrilled with the experience, which typically costs families \$400 per week.

Other partnerships included Martial Arts classes, which teaches discipline and structure, FGCU basketball camp, which teaches basketball skills and teamwork, and the Sherriff’s Youth Academy, which exposed them to career opportunities while building their relationship with local law enforcement.

Our successful opening of our new club, centrally located in Fort Myers, has had a meaningful impact on our youth, their families, and the community. We look forward to continued growth to assist our youth in reaching their full potential and overcoming gaps created by the pandemic.

#2 Meet <name removed>, one of our Teen members at our Park Meadows location. She joined our club in 2022, as a very shy and reserved member. She is an extremely smart young lady, that enjoyed attending the club, but she struggled to find her voice and make meaningful connections. COVID lockdowns and virtual learning has created challenges with our youth's cognitive, social, and emotional development. Our clubs have focused on helping our youth re-build those skills. Through the club experience, she became more involved and was nominated to be a Junior Youth of the Year in 2023. Youth of the Year (YOY) is the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's premier youth recognition program, celebrating the achievements of club members and preparing them for their future. Our Junior Youth of the Year are being introduced to the program and are asked to give a short speech at our YOY event, about what the Boys & Girls Club has meant to them. Unfortunately, her nerves got the best of her, and she could not get through the speech. Although she was upset, the club staff encouraged her to continue the journey and helped her build her confidence. She challenged herself to step out of her comfort zone, work collaboratively and build her

leadership skills. This past year she took a leadership role in the club throughout the summer and became active in our Drama Matters and Odessey of the Mind programs. These programs tap into our youth's creativity, problem solving capabilities and presentation skills, through a highly interactive, collaborative process, which has helped build her confidence. The club has been an important part of her story. She is being raised by a wonderful mom; however, her younger brother has autism, so often his needs have to take a priority. The Boys & Girls Club has become a safe, positive place where she feels at home and has additional support and encouragement. Fast forward to this year and she was named our 2024 Lee County Youth of the Year. She has emerged as a vibrant, confident, articulate, young lady capable of accomplishing anything she sets her mind too.

2.25 Help is on the Way (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW225C

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Camelot Community Care, Inc. dba/ Children's Network of Southwest Florida, L.L.C.

Funding Amount: \$400,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$224,412.20

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County.



Help is on the Way project is a fully ARPA-funded existing program that will provide mentoring and trust relationships to the student and their family to help improve the child's school performance and grade matriculation. The project main activities include providing (a) case management including assessment and action planning to help clients locate and implement the appropriate activities for emotional and academic child development; and (b) funds for operational staff salaries, office furniture, computer and communication equipment, and program supplies.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: In the Treasury rule, they include child welfare as a whole considered for the grant. "Services to foster youth, including those aging out of the system, and child welfare-involved families may encompass a wide array of financial, educational, child development or health supports or other supports necessary, including supports for kinship care". Our proposal meets this criterion.

b) Awareness: In order to recruit mentors and opportunities for the children being mentored, it is important for residents and businesses to be aware of the availability of this program and how they can contribute to the opportunity for children being mentored to be successful in life as they grow and develop in the program. The program will be presented to Case Managers at staff meetings and supervisor meetings on a rotating basis so that new Case Managers will be aware of the program's existence and benefits. Directors' meetings will be another forum for internal presentations.

c) Access and Distribution: No, to both questions

d) Outcomes: The expected outcomes focus on building confidence, self-control and an ability to see a positive future by giving children in the project an experience in options available to them. Any child aged 5 - 17 in child welfare system can be evaluated for the program. Since it is intensive and individualized, the participants are limited to the mentor/client ratio of 1:5.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-producing project with learning agenda –

As beneficiaries get involved in the program, we would be able to see how they interact with the mentors, how they handle the experiences they are exposed to, and how they deal with conflict and issues in their placements. The outcome should be more placement stability. By reviewing monthly reports, we can develop an overview of the program and make any needed adjustments.

Community Engagement:

- Mass emails with our referral form and program description.
- The program will begin serving children involved in the independent living program.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Maintain placement stability for children in the foster care system.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	33 children will be served per quarter (264 by end of project)	Project Target	297
		Achieved to Date	130
		Percentage	43.8%
2)	70% of parents/caregivers will show an increased score from pre-test to post-test on the "perceived learning behaviors rating scale" upon the child's successful completion of the STAR Mentoring program.	Project Target	130
		Achieved to Date	26
		Percentage	20%
3)	70% of children will show an increased score from pre-test to post-test on the Rosenberg self-esteem rating scale upon successful completion of the S.T.A.R. mentoring program.	Target	130
		Achieved	29
		Percentage	22.3%
4)	70% of parents/caregivers will show an increased score from pre-test to post-test on the "perceived learning behaviors rating scale" upon the child's completion of the S.T.A.R. Mentoring program	Target	130
		Achieved	28
		Percentage	21.5%

Success Comments

A child was referred to our program due to being on the verge disrupting his current living situation with his foster parent due displaying serve problematic behaviors.

The child has been in our program for about 3 months. One of the goals that we were working on with him was his engagement with his peers and his responses to adults and authority figures. We also worked on cause-and-effect situations and problem-solving skills. As a result, we were able to see an improvement in school performance and behaviors at home with his foster parents.

He was since been reunified with his biological family and his mother reports he is doing well. The mentor does continue to check in with him as he adjusts to being back home with his biological family.

2.25 Earn to Learn FL Youth Services (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW225D

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Earn to Learn FL, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$200,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$96,328.24

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. Earn to



Learn FL provides quality Near Peer Coaching services to low-income, at-risk high school students and first-year, first generation college students.

Our near peer coaching model coupled with defined college readiness curriculum improves student's self-efficacy as it relates to personal, academic, and college readiness skills. Earn to Learn FL provides strategic interventions to assist students from all backgrounds to learn about financial planning for college. This financial literacy training assists in removing the perceived financial roadblocks and assists in making college accessible for underrepresented student populations. The main activities of the project include providing (a) Near Peer Coaches for disadvantaged, first generation, and/or minority high school student to serve; (b) postsecondary educational benefits and financial aid training and assistance opportunities; and (c) funding for operational staff salaries, supplies and material, professional services, and facility rent.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: To address diverse student participation, Earn to Learn FL will make every feasible effort to reach high need students most unlikely to achieve higher education or adult technical skills training and that represent the diversity of Florida's population. As national status and trends in the education of racial and ethnic groups are reported from credible resources such as the U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, and National Center for Education Statistics, that information will be compared to data collected specific to the Earn to Learn FL students' racial and ethnic composition for evaluation and program outreach improvements.

b) Awareness: We will assess how to market the project to Lee County residents with equity in mind.

c) Access and Distribution: No differences.

d) Outcomes: Our stated outcomes will focus on closing access gaps by addressing the following problems:

1. Public education has been underfunded for several years. Bridges to higher education access that are typically monitored by high school counselors are often left unattended due to plethora of other responsibilities.
2. First-generation, low-income minority students are the least likely to receive higher education access services.

3. Almost 14% of Florida residents live below the federal poverty line.
4. Income challenged students in Florida often face barriers that prevent them from breaking free from the cycle of poverty.
5. Florida state legislation requires a financial literacy training elective to be offered, but with extremely limited public education staffing and resources, more help is needed to address this gap in education.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: The proposed project is supported by pre-preliminary evidence as defined by the Corporation for National and Community Service. The pre-preliminary evidence distinction is based on delivery of near exact intervention and program approach to over 103 students in Southwest Florida. Earn to Learn FL has provided higher education readiness services since 2016 and is modeled after Earn to Learn in Arizona, an organization with over 10 years of experience. Promising results show trends in higher retention, persistence, completion, and graduation rates for Earn to Learn FL students. Current Earn to Learn FL program data validates that since mid-2016, over 550 Florida students have registered interest in Earn to Learn FL, with over 103 students completing their Personal Finance Training by logging over 309 hours of training. Earn to Learn FL has completed required federal evaluation reports for Assets for Independence (AFI) U.S. Department of Health & Human Services grant program.

The reports include submission of program information, outcomes, and demographic data on enrolled participants. All aspects of the program were closely monitored for the AFI evaluations, including service delivery, operation and measure of success metrics. The proposed intervention is evidence informed based on the results which are tabulated both through the AFI reporting requirements and by internal quality control and organizational effectiveness measurements. On a regular basis, both quantitative and qualitative data is collected. Participants are also invited to provide feedback thoroughbred- and post-surveys.

The proposed program will be adapted from College Possible as evidenced in a Randomized Controlled Trial completed by Harvard University National Bureau of Economic Research, Dr. Christopher Avery in October 2013. The evaluation of the College Possible program includes analysis of low-income precollege and college-aged students who received individual mentoring coaching and college preparation support by near peers in order to achieve outcomes in the areas of enrollment, persistence, and college completion. A study from Dr. Avery, "Evaluation of the College Possible Program: Results from a Randomized Controlled Trial" and an evaluation report, "Assets for Independence Demonstration" completed for AFI-DHS federal grant reporting purpose from October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017, as well as the Earn to Learn FL data reported for 2016 through Summer 2019 support the pre-preliminary evidence definition.

Learnings:

Local high school students participated in and benefited from personal financial training and near peer coaching during the 2022-2023 academic year, improving student college readiness. While premature program staff departure impacted our ability to measure improved student aptitude, program metrics indicate students were positively impacted by additional post-COVID support for college readiness:

*158 local students (124 students through FGCU partnership, 34 through other Lee County high schools) participated in our program , receiving personal financial training and near peer coaching

*51 local students fully completed our personal financial training program, receiving a personal finance training (PFT) certificate

*22 local students fully completed our program and received a Florida Prepaid College Foundation scholarship plan

*19 students are or will be attending FGCU or FSW during the 2023-2024 academic year

Community Engagement:

ETLFL has participated in community and local education events during this project, including partnering with FGCU and local high schools to support Lee County high school students. Additionally, we have offered workshops and done presentations at community high schools and we engage the community on social media.

Performance Measured to Date:

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Improve student and college readiness personal and academic attitude on the Student Attitude Survey & College Readiness Assessment for ARPA program participants.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	85% (85/100) Students will show improved college readiness personal and academic aptitude	Project Target	85
		Achieved to Date	0
		Percentage	0.0%
2)	50% (50/100) of student enrollees will complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)	Project Target	50
		Achieved to Date	54
		Percentage	108.0%

Success Comments:

A participant entered the Earn to Learn FL program in 2019. She was unsure of how she would attend college without falling into unmanageable debt. She was matched with an Earn to Learn FL Peer Coach, who worked with her on financial literacy. She was guided through Earn to Learn FL's Personal Finance Training curriculum where she learned about various topics related to her long-term financial well-being like how to budget, building credit, and retirement. At Earn to Learn FL, students like this participant become investors in their own educational goals. She took what she learned in Personal Finance Training and opened a savings account with a savings goal of \$500. When she saved \$500 Earn to Learn FL matched her savings goal with a \$4,000 contribution to be used toward her educational goals. This match was renewed every year until she graduated. She graduated from Florida Gulf Coast University in December 2022 with a Bachelor's degree in Entrepreneurship. She graduated completely debt free. She says, "I don't think I would have been able to do amazing things without the help I received. School would have been completely different, and I would have taken a different path. I am a million times thankful every day." Earn to Learn FL is dedicated to helping students like this participant across Florida pursue their education.

2.25 I WILL Mentorship Foundation Youth Services (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW225E

United Way's Project Subrecipient: "I WILL" Mentorship Foundation Inc.

Funding Amount: \$150,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$150,000

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. I WILL Mentorship Foundation project is a partially ARPA-funded expansion of an existing program that will offer after school and vocational program. The main activities of the project include (a) increasing access and skills to support the community through E-STEM education; and (b) expanding the capacity of our programs year after year to reach more disadvantaged students.



Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: I Will Mentorship Foundation services target those who live in communities with schools that are underfunded and de-prioritized. We seek to fill a critical gap in the education system and open doors that are typically unimaginable for many groups of underrepresented populations, including females, veterans, and low socioeconomic status.

b) Awareness: Through our identified partnerships we have been able to cross-functionally identify and market our programs to historically underserved, marginalized, or adversely affected groups within our local community. IWMF markets and promotes programs through partners, printed marketing literature, weekly STEM Showcase sessions on-site, regularly provide STEM showcases to school groups and community organizations, collecting inquiries and registrations from our website, and online through Facebook and Instagram social media accounts, and email communication. We attempt to reach audiences through multiple formats and through our partners to overcome the obstacle of limited digital access.

c) Access and Distribution: We offer a variety of programs that cater to a broad range in age, skill level, and desired benefit or outcome. Our programs can support a student from age 5 to 22. While we reported serving 328 unduplicated students in 2021, we provided nearly 900 unique services, so many see value in multiple programs within the same year. Online program registration can be completed online or in person. Each student is assessed in person to identify eligible programs.

d) Outcomes: Our programs provide long-lasting results focused on closing gaps and increasing access to underrepresented students specifically focused on E-STEM. IWMF produces results that can be celebrated in the advancement of the students we serve. Students exposed to 21st-century skills in STEM resulted in the 2022 robotic state championship, and a world championship in robotics for ages 11 to 18. In the

schoolyear 2022, 5 past participants graduated high school and enrolled in college with STEM degree majors. And we also produce lasting results, with 5 past students graduating in 2022 with STEM degrees from Florida Gulf Coast University, University of South Florida, Edward Waters College, Fort Myers Technical College, and 2 students who became Commissioned Officers in the US Army in 2022.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices:

- E-STEM (environment, science, technology, engineering, and math) based learning
- 21st Century Workforce skills (communication, teamwork, social skills, self-confidence, and analytical thinking).

Community Engagement:

IWMF has created a robust four phase plan to increase community engagement with use of ARPA Funding.

- Phase 1- identify new stakeholders (Women’s Legacy, SWFL Tech-Prep, Dunbar High school and Periwinkle group) creating materials and interior structure such as surveys (online database), scheduling, staffing. Phase one is 90% complete with 4 new stakeholders and marketing materials prepared (uniforms, banners, fliers).
- Phase 2 -Set kick off meetings, presentation with identified stakeholders. We currently have within next 3 weeks meeting or presentations with all 4 new stake holders’ and start registration.
- Phase 3 - implementation of enhanced services to all stakeholders.
- Phase 4- process improvement , strategic planning of future sessions and reporting to supporters.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Improve access for underrepresented students with academic and technical skills through post-secondary career readiness and hands-on stem training.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	85% (128/150) of the participants will complete the stem training course by end of grant period	Project Target	128
		Achieved to Date	204
		Percentage	159.4%
2)	40% (60/150) of participants will report improved access to academic resources needed in the leading to improved economic improvement	Project Target	60
		Achieved to Date	73
		Percentage	121.7%

Success Comments:

#1 Across the country COVID 19 forced isolation for many teens which created post long term mentally, socially and emotional issues from isolation. A female participant was no exception, her medical concerns created an even longer absence from school than her peers. The parents reached out to I Will Mentorship Foundation (IWMF) for activities that could reduce her isolation but limit exposure. Due to our protocols of limited class size, she was a good fit for our robotics project. In little of no time she was again smiling,

engaged at home and enjoying new friends at the foundation. She was now focused breaking engineering stereotypes and gender barriers in STEM. She excelled at the foundation to levels of being hired as an instructor at IWMF to teach our Spark project to elementary students.

#2 I'm excited to share a delightful update from the heart of our STEMCat community—your generous support has directly fueled a transformative journey!

A worried mother, prompted by her son's secretive hint of a 'surprise' from his school, found her way to us, only to receive a call that would change everything. This call wasn't to issue a concern, but to celebrate her 9-year-old's astounding success. With the highest AR (Accelerated Reader) score in his class, he had soared to 100% - a reading level fully caught up to his grade.

This achievement is particularly remarkable considering his brief time with us. Our STEMCat activities, weaving reading into the fabric of scientific discovery, sparked a beacon of curiosity within him. His newfound passion for literature, especially tales sprinkled with magic, has turned pages into doors of adventure and learning.

His story is a testament to the power of nurturing environments and the immeasurable value of your support. What we celebrate is more than a scholastic victory; it's a narrative of transformation, where a hesitant reader turns into an eager learner, and potential unfurls into excellence.

Our joy is immeasurable, and our gratitude to you, boundless. This young mind's journey from uncertainty to achievement mirrors the very ethos of our mission. Stories like his underscore the significant, life-changing work that unfolds here every day, made possible by your belief in our cause.

Thank you for playing a starring role in this and many more stories of growth and resilience. Together, we continue to kindle the flames of knowledge and curiosity that guide our youth toward brighter futures.

2.25 Summer and After-School Programs (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW225F

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$120,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$96,172.66

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Junior Achievement Programming is a fully ARPA-funded expansion of an existing program for Title I Schools whose objective is to collaborate with community partner to offer after-school and summer camp programs including money management, budgeting, saving, credit and debt. The main activities of the project include (a) providing funding for operational supplies; (b) funding for program insurance; (c) funding for computer equipment and Education Manager software; and (d) funding for operation staff salaries and training.

Project Demographic Distribution: Data is being collected.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: As this program is designed to target students attending Title I schools, JA provides programming to low-income students within Lee County. By only serving Title I students through this program, JA is working to assist these students in breaking the cycle of poverty that plagues their family.

b) Awareness: In regard to marketing the program, JA utilizes newsletters, social media, and direct marketing mailouts to potential partner agencies. Once identified, interested agencies will meet with the Lee County Education Manager to determine the programs they would like. The programs are determined on a partner-to-partner basis. Each partner agency can request the programs that best fit their students' needs.

c) Access and Distribution: Once a potential partner agency indicates they would like JA programming, they are eligible to select from the plethora of programs offered.

d) Outcomes: The outcomes associated with this program are not focused on closing racial or ethnic disparities, however they will assist in lowering the poverty gap over time. By providing low-income students with financial literacy, work and career readiness, as well as entrepreneurship programming, JA allows students to see the importance of financial freedom.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: The curriculum is research-based and aligns with various National Career Development Guidelines (Level III), 21st Century Student Outcomes from the Partnership for 21st Century Skills (Level V), National Council for the Social Studies Curriculum Standards-C3

Framework (Level IV), the Association for Career and Technical Education (Level V), and Common Core Standards/Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (BEST) (Level III).

Community Engagement:

Our communication began with the Lee County School District and to our not-for-profit partners, to let them know as they are able post Hurricane Ian, we would like to expand our JA programs in the Title 1 schools. Also, to partners that directly serve LMI student population. For volunteer recruitment efforts, we have set up information tables at the Heritage Palms Volunteer Fair, Pelican Preserve Volunteer Fair, Pelican Sound Volunteer Fair, and the FGCU service learning fair. We have held meetings with PACE Center for Girls and New Horizons to host summer programs.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		To positively impact youth financial literacy, career and work readiness, and entrepreneurship through in-school and after-school programs.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	210 students will attend educational programs by June 2024	Project Target	210
		Achieved to Date	3539
		Percentage	1685%
2)	65% (136/210) of students will report a positive influence of the program on their use of money, career and work readiness	Project Target	136
		Achieved to Date	173
		Percentage	127%
3)	25 volunteers will be recruited and trained to provide the educational programs	Project Target	25
		Achieved to Date	27
		Percentage	108%

Success Comments

We have a child who is a participant of the Take Stock in Children program, and he attended JA Be Entrepreneurial Creative Problem Solving that began on November 29, 2023. After the class he and his mother stayed and asked several questions of Sean Casey owner/entrepreneur of Twin Cutz. His mother broke the ice by asking Sean about his business specifically, during the presentation Sean had used several examples on how he started his business, from finding the location, creating the correct work environment, and understanding what his clients needed in a barber shop. His mother currently works for Sports Cuts, and they talked about the pros and cons, ending their conversation with an invitation to meet later about future employment with Twin Cutz. Then our participant began asking his questions, his goal is to become an architect, but he had wondered how he could turn that education into an entrepreneurial experience. The child and Sean began brainstorming on the ways an architect is an entrepreneur. In the future, he would like to take his knowledge of architecture and help small businesses successfully build their locations, he wants to ensure he gathers the correct information to build out of the business

space that would meet client's future needs and wants. The conversation ended with Sean giving our participant his card if he has future questions. Then the participant turned to JA Staff and asked if he could invite a few friends to attend the next class because he knew they would learn a lot of valuable information, even though they were not part of the Take Stock in Children program.

2.25 Super Kids Club, Tice (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW225G

United Way's Project Subrecipient: New Horizons of Southwest Florida, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$204,000

Status of Completion: Completed less than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$97,709.49

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Super Kids Club project is a partially ARPA-funded expansion of its K-5 programming, Super Kids Club, to the Tice area in Fort Myers. The program's objective is to provide academic and social training through after-school tutoring, mentoring and character-building lessons to at-risk elementary aged children. The main activities of the project include providing (a) funding for operational staff salaries; (b) funding for operational supplies, computers equipment, software and other IT items; and (c) funding for transportation costs, vehicle insurance, and vehicle maintenance.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:



a) Goals: New Horizons' students come from historically underserved backgrounds, are living in poverty and struggling in school. On average, 95% of New Horizons students are Hispanic or Haitian and the average family income is \$21,600. This group of students was already at-risk of falling behind prior to the pandemic. Programs like the ones New Horizons of SWFL offers are needed now more than ever. New Horizons follows an evidence-based model to effective tutoring as reported by the U.S. DOE ("Evidence that Tutoring Works, 2001) that includes coordination of materials with the classroom, training of tutors and frequent structured tutoring sessions. This, along with our delivery model of small group instruction and computer-based instruction, allows us to address the educational disparities that exist in the population we serve.

b) Awareness: New Horizons collaborates with local public schools to identify the students who are most in need of our programs. New Horizons staff members contact school principals and guidance counselors to set up a meeting, where we explain the criteria, share information about transportation and registration, and a partnership is created. Letters to parents and student registrations are distributed by school personnel to families meeting our criteria. New Horizons staff also asks to attend any school event where information and student registrations can be distributed such as open houses, carnivals, etc. In addition, we utilize referrals from current students, attend neighborhood/community events and partner with local organizations such as Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Take Stock in Children Foundation. Once New Horizons receives an application, parents are contacted to give more details about the program.

c) Access and Distribution: Due to the staffing and volunteer tutors utilized, New Horizons is unable to accommodate students who require one on one tutoring at all times.

d) Outcomes: New Horizons aims to close the learning gap that under-resourced students faced before the pandemic but has been widened over the past two years. This includes ensuring that students stay on track to progress to the next grade at the end of the school year and, ultimately, graduating from high school with a plan for their lives. Underachieving students receive action plans to help them stay on track, and New Horizons staff conducts home visits, attends parent/teacher conference and generally advocates for the student's success.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: The New Horizons model is based on high-quality strategies for effective tutoring as reported in research conducted by the U. S. Department of Education, which includes the coordination of materials with the classroom, training of tutors, and frequent, structured tutoring sessions. (U.S. DOE, "Evidence that Tutoring Works," 2001).

New Horizons focuses on the five essential components of reading as defined by the National Reading Panel: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary development and reading comprehension.

Our program incorporates the elements of effective interventions as determined in the 2007 report by the Florida Center for Reading Research: training in phonological awareness, decoding and word study; guided and independent reading of progressively more difficult texts; and engaging students in practicing comprehension strategies while reading text (Scammacca, Vaughn, Roberts, Wanzek, Torgensen "Extensive Reading Interventions in Grades K-3," FCRR, 2007).

The computerized academic component of the New Horizons of SWFL model uses the IXL online curriculum for our students to achieve measurable outcomes in their reading, language arts, and even some math skills. IXL provides individual learning through their comprehensive curriculum, real-time diagnostics, personalized guidance for the student, and actionable diagnostics. What this provides is content that supports any of the lessons we are working with specifically for each student. IXL can pinpoint where a student's knowledge is and knows exactly where to go to help improve the student's knowledge and understanding. IXL also gives our staff real time analytics to know where to go and how to help each student. This tool is an invaluable component of IXL given the evidence in favor of interim assessments and their effectiveness in promoting learning (Carlson, D., Borman, G. D., & Robinson, M.(2011).

A multi-state district-level cluster randomized trial of the impact of data-driven reform on reading and mathematics achievement. Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, 33, 378-398).

Community Engagement:

We have identified a church partner to host our program and we have made contact with principals at local schools to begin recruitment. Jobs are posted for positions we are hiring for and we have attended at least one job fair. Additional community outreach will commence in Q3, including student recruitment, creating community partnerships, and finding potential volunteer tutors.

We have partnered with Basic Learning Skills Tutoring Center to provide tutors as we continue to recruit volunteers. Additionally, we have attended job fairs and volunteer fairs in Fort Myers for more awareness. We have distributed additional Fliers at Tice Elementary and we are planning a digital strategy.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Improve access to academic, social and character development resources for under-resourced elementary students affected by the learning gap widened by COVID-19.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	Enroll 30 students into the program	Project Target	30
		Achieved to Date	33
		Percentage	110%
2)	80% (24/30) of enrolled students' parents support their child's academic success toward better	Project Target	24
		Achieved to Date	22
		Percentage	91.7%

2.25 Girls Coordinating Council and Reach Program (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW225H

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Pace Center for Girls, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$250,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$181,473.11

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Girls Coordinating Council & Reach project is a partially ARPA-funded existing program to provide therapeutic behavioral health services for at-risk girls to increase their resiliency and protective factors to improve their relationships with families, peers and communities and help them develop the skills to lead productive and engaged lives in the community. The main activities of the project include providing (a) life skills training classes and individual sessions to lead productive and engaged lives in the community; (b) funding for operational staff salaries and training; (c) funding for operational supplies and IT equipment; and (d) funding for occupational license.



Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: Our girls represent the community where they live and include girls and gender expansive youth. Due to the pandemic, the issue of health, especially mental health, is more prominent than ever and continues to unveil overwhelming racial and ethnic disparities in awareness of and access to quality services. Pace's approach is focused on the mental health and well-being of girls through direct services as well as on health and wellness education. Through collaboration with community partners, girls navigate pressing medical needs with ease. Moreover, providing a safe space whether virtually, in the Center or out in the community is fundamental to carrying out Pace's mission and foundational pillars rooted in creating an environment that responds to the specific well-being of girls. Our proposed partnership includes support of the Pace Reach Program Services to give more girls free access to gender-responsive, trauma-informed, and strength-based services in their home, school, or community systems. Reach impacts marginalized girls in underserved areas in need of counseling, clinical therapy and case management from licensed therapists.

- Close to 90% of the girls served live below the poverty line.
- 77% are girls of color: 34% are Black, 23% are White, and 43% are Hispanic.
- Girls served ages 11 -18; the average age is 14.
- On average, girls stay in the program up to 10 months (higher due to COVID).
- Girls come to the program experiencing high levels of conflict in their households (89%), and reporting anti-social behavior (57%), suicidal ideation (65%), mental health issues (91%), and substance abuse (15%).

Most of the girls and families targeted by our program come from low-income communities, have significant barriers due to poverty and education, and need community-based case management support, mental health resources and linkages to education, basic needs and more.

b) Awareness: Marketing and outreach for Pace Lee includes a variety of tactics aimed at addressing equity of access, availability, awareness and engagement. The community at large, which includes girls and their families and complementary youth services providers, are important audiences for increasing overall awareness and familiarity of Pace in this community. We are intentional with bringing the voice of the community into our outreach efforts. And we understand we need to take into account the impact COVID-19 has on marginalized communities. Much of this impact will be felt within the population we serve and the schools they attend for years to come. We work closely with the County school district. There is the need to address literacy, disparate school grades and increased mental health needs which will impact transitions and placement for the girls and families we serve. To accomplish these increased support needs, there must be emphasis and collaboration on changing the outcomes for Students of Color; the majority of the school district and the girls we serve. This level of change will require we leverage the strong partnerships we have fostered over time to help impact the county's graduation rate and more. Pace actively engages in storytelling about our programs, services and outcomes in social media, including Facebook and Instagram. We have recently launched a new website which showcases Pace Lee and allows for individual promotion of events and community engagement opportunities on multiple social media channels. These efforts help to promote staff, community partners, volunteers and other supporters of Pace. Earned media opportunities including print, radio and television are also a part of marketing efforts that reach these key audiences. The Pace Lee Center Executive Director and staff actively build relationships with key media outlets and community leaders in business, government and education. Pacecenter.org and collateral materials for supporters as well as girls and families include the annual Impact Report, Fast Facts, Find the Great in You (brochure). These and other materials are distributed at local events and through schools and other referrals. Pace public relations effort includes distribution of news releases to local media, radio Public Service Announcements and radio interviews throughout the year; email blasts to key constituencies (for example, members of the local Chamber of Commerce); distribution of a quarterly letter that chronicles happenings at the Center to donors and friends of the organization; and in-person networking by senior leadership at community meetings and events. In addition to Pace Staff outreach, members of the Pace Board of Directors actively advocate for community awareness and support.

c) Access and Distribution: No differences.

d) Outcomes: For 15 years, Pace Lee has worked with community leaders, law enforcement and the public school system to support the community's most vulnerable girls and young women at risk for delinquent behavior and school failure. Pace's racial equity and economic mobility work aligns with the Lee community priorities and infuses many of the expressed needs into our direct services and community partnerships. In addition to our core work which elevates the voices of our girls in their historically disadvantaged communities, Pace has further embedded strategies applied through a racial equity lens to ensure our team members and girls perspectives can be heard. In the Pace Lee Center we have been intentional with conducting Culture Circle with staff to facilitate open and honest discussions regarding racial equity. Pace also conducts Healing Circles with girls to connect them to each other and their

communities in a constructive way, while sharing core values. Classroom circles, which can be held virtually and in-person, support two main goals of building community and responding to harms through dialogue that focuses on solutions. Pace is focused on culture and creating an inclusive environment where everyone is comfortable sharing experiences centered around our four cultures words - caring, learning, purpose, results. Our girls and staff are equipped to talk about race equity and inequities through specific curriculum, trainings, organization-wide forums, and healing and culture circles. Pace understands the significance of inclusion and the need to tailor gender responsive services for girls that are empowering and sensitive to their diversity and culture. Pace services are bi-culturally competent and embrace diversity. Staff represent a diversity of cultures and understand the importance of culture competence when working with families. Interventions are provided to address diverse needs and promote open dialogue regarding diversity and bicultural competence so that both staff and youth can be comfortable in different cultural settings without feeling as though they must compromise their own identity. Pace Lee has developed this approach over time out in the community and within its board activities, intentionally addressing issues of racial and social disparities within the community. Specific measurable actions include: Monthly collaboration meetings; Increased "warm hand-off" for girls; Unconscious Bias leadership training; Linkage to community action groups; Leadership access to training on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Workplace.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and Motivational Interviewing (MI). These evidenced-based practices are part of the Pace Reach Logic Model because of research demonstrating their efficacy with youth. CBT & MI are strength-based, person centered, support autonomy, readiness to change & are goal directed. MI is an engagement approach for relationship building, promoting the girl & family voice, meeting them where they are in their readiness to change, affirming strengths & encouraging autonomy. CBT supports a girl and her family to understand the connection between cognitions, behaviors & emotions & find strength in taking accountability for thoughts and actions - a family-centered approach that is collaborative, goal driven & amplifies individual voices.

Community Engagement:

Outreach events took place at Dunbar high school through attendance and networking at the Art's night. REACH representative met with staff, community members, and families of students. In May REACH presented and participated at the Lee County Mental Health fair connecting with local agencies. In June, REACH met alongside fellow pace staff in engagement with the Florida Repertory theater touring the site and meeting with their staff and students.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Girls that successfully complete the Pace Reach program will improve their relationships with families, peers, and others in their community.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	80% (6/8) of girls that have successfully completed the Pace Reach program will decrease their level of risk or maintain	Project Target	6
		Achieved to Date	15

Outcome Statement 1:	Girls that successfully complete the Pace Reach program will improve their relationships with families, peers, and others in their community.		
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
	low risk as evidenced scores from the pretest and posttest in the program	Percentage	250%
2)	80% (6/8) of girls that complete the Pace reach program will have no new involvement in the Juvenile justice system a year after completion of the program as evidenced by the report from the comprehensive accountability report, Department of Juvenile Justice	Project Target	6
		Achieved to Date	16
		Percentage	266%

2.25 Arts, Character and Education or "ACE" (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW225I

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Quality Life Center of Southwest Florida, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$400,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$274,261.14

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Arts, Character and Education "ACE" project is a fully ARPA-funded new program to increase their reading or math skills by one letter grade or maintain an A or B level and to increase positive behavior through afterschool/summer youth program. The main activities of the project include (a) providing tutoring, homework assistance, and age-appropriate character and leadership building activities for children and youth; (b) funding for operational staff salary; (c) providing funding for program curriculum materials; and (d) provide funding for computer equipment for students and operational staff.



Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: Quality Life Center was established for the very purpose of serving a historically underserved and marginalized community known as Dunbar in Fort Myers. The children and youth in this community have been hit particularly hard academically by the COVID pandemic. This community consists of eleven census tracts in Lee County, FL (3.01, 3.02, 4.01, 5.02, 5.03, 5.04, 6, 7, 11.01, 11.02, and 12.01) which approximate the three zip code areas of 33901, 33916, and 33905. The Quality Life Center facility located on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in Fort Myers is located in census tract 5.02 where 69% of the residents are Black. Census tracts 6, immediately to the south of our facility, is 81% Black. (Source: 2020 US. Census Redistricting Data). Among Quality Life Center's target community as a whole (all eleven census tracts), 31% of residents are Black, compared to 8.7% in Lee County as a whole. Hispanics comprise 30.2% of our target community, compared to 23.7% in Lee County. (Source: 2019 American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables) Thus, more than 60% of our target community are either Black or Hispanic. Nine of the eleven census tracts which make up our target community are identified as "High Poverty" areas by the 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates. As of 2022, nine of the eleven tracts are designated as Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Qualified Census Tracts which means 50 percent of households here have incomes below 60 percent of the Area Median Gross Income (AMGI) or have a poverty rate of 25 percent or more. (Source: U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Policy Development and Research). For the past thirty years, Quality Life Center has delivered afterschool and summer academic and enrichment program for children and youth, the vast majority of whom reside in this community. The outreach effort built into this project will ensure that students in this very community, who have suffered the most academically due to the pandemic, and therefore stand to benefit the most, will be served.

b) Awareness: The tutoring services and teen enrichment activity described in this project will take place within this community at our facility on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, a heavily traveled major roadway that runs right through this community and connects the City of Fort Myers and I-75. There are two essential components which will make possible the successful marketing of this project to these eligible Lee County students and families with equity in mind. The first is the staff position "ACE Youth Program Assistant / Outreach Specialist". When students meet, speak with, and get to know our staff members (who look like them) out in their neighborhoods, and hear directly what Quality Life Center is all about, personal connections will be made that will draw children and teens, and their parents, into our center. There is no substitute for personal, face-to-face outreach. The second essential component for the successful marketing of this project is replacement of our broken electronic message center. The electronic message center generates excitement and interest about the magic that goes projects described in this application (afterschool tutoring/enrichment and mental health services).

c) Access and Distribution: Quality Life Center provides equal access to its programs across groups and there are no administrative requirements that result in disparities. We provide assistance with completing application requirements and, to the extent possible, with assisting families with determining if they meet eligibility criteria if and when such criteria are part of a specific contract to provide services between QLC and an outside entity.

d) Outcomes: Yes. The primary focus of this project is to help close the gap between where students from our predominantly minority community were academically before the COVID pandemic, and the disproportionately worse position they are in now, as compared to academic losses among students county-wide.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: Four evidence-based curricula, and one evidence-based Dyslexia screening instrument, are proposed for the intensive tutoring program to be delivered at Quality Life Center:

1.) Envision Mathematics 2020 for students Grades K-5: This curriculum was formerly titled "ScottForesman-Addison Wesley Elementary Mathematics". The program is now owned and distributed by Savvas

Learning Company. The evidence supporting the effectiveness of this curriculum is strong. The Institute of Education Sciences What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) identified three studies of this program that meet WWC evidence standards without reservations. WWC Research Overview [URL:https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/Docs/InterventionReports/wwc_sfaw_052913.pdf](https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/Docs/InterventionReports/wwc_sfaw_052913.pdf)

2.) Saga Education Math Tutoring Curriculum for Grades 6 - 12: The evidence of effectiveness for this curriculum is strong. Two randomized controlled studies involving more than five thousand students in Chicago public schools demonstrated statistically significant gains on both math achievement test scores and math grades after one year of tutoring.

URL: https://www.nber.org/system/files/working_papers/w28531/w28531.pdfGuryan, J. et. al Not Too Late: Improving Academic Outcomes Among Adolescents; National Bureau of Economic Research; 2021 Cambridge, MA. URL:<https://www.brookings.edu/research/improving-academic-outcomes-for-disadvantaged-students-scaling-up-individualized-tutorials/>Anders, R. et. al. Improving Academic outcomes for Disadvantaged Students: Scaling Up Individualized Tutorials; The Brookings Institution; 2016 Washington DC.

3.) Fountas & Pinell Leveled Literacy Intervention Grades for K-3: The evidence supporting the effectiveness of the Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI) is strong. The What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) identified two studies of LLI that fall within the scope of the Beginning Reading topic area and meet WWC group design standards. Two studies meet WWC group design standards without reservations. LLI had positive effects on general reading achievement and potentially positive effects on reading fluency.

WWC Research Overview

[URL:https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/Docs/InterventionReports/wwc_leveledliteracy_091917.pdf](https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/Docs/InterventionReports/wwc_leveledliteracy_091917.pdf)

4.) READ 180 Grades 4-12: Evidence supporting the effectiveness of the READ 180 program is strong. The What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) identifies nine studies the meet WWC standards without reservations, and six studies meeting WWC standards with reservations. WWC Research Overview

[URL:https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/Docs/InterventionReports/wwc_read180_112916.pdf](https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/Docs/InterventionReports/wwc_read180_112916.pdf)

Community Engagement:

Hosted the first "Q-mmunity Street Fest" for students and families within the community. During this time we hosted a book fair to promote recreational reading and invited representatives from the Lee County Library to join us and sign students up for library cards. This event created the space for us to discuss with community members the importance of academics in all facets and how fun learning can be. We were able to express the expectations and results of our academic program since its implementation, as well as encourage families to sign up to receive services.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Minimize the impact of the COVID pandemic on K-12 student academic achievement in reading and math through afterschool and summer tutoring.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	70% per quarter of students in the ACE tutoring program will achieve or maintain passing grades per School District standards by the end of the grant funding period	Project Target	530
		Achieved to Date	345
		Percentage	65.1%

Success Comments:

"<Name Removed> truly enjoys his time at the Quality Life Center. Each day he returns to class, he tells me all about how he received assistance on his homework and is proud of the work he is completing. Now that there is more academic support, he gets one-on-one help in the areas he may not have understood while in class and this is extremely helpful for me as the teacher because he is able to get deep intervention solely by himself. I am happy to know that he is receiving additional support from the 'Q' each day he attends."

- Teacher, Local Elementary School

“When <Name Removed> came into the classroom at the beginning of the year his attitude towards completing work in school and getting his homework done was very poor. It took several weeks for a change to be seen and he has only been improving since he told me that he works with someone at the Quality Life Center to receive tutoring. He is excited to read now in front of a small group of peers versus getting upset and he is raising his grades in my class with this extra help from the Quality Life Center. He has me message the Academic Supervisor at the Q about his behavior each week and he brings her his test score with pride now. Both he and I are beyond grateful for Quality Life and what they are helping him with.”

- Teacher, Local Elementary School

2.25 Youth Success (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW225J

United Way's Project Subrecipient: YMCA Fort Myers

Funding Amount: \$225,000

Status of Completion: Completed less than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$192,027.90

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with



YMCA OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The YMCA project is a partially ARPA-funded existing program that will provide before school and afterschool programs at additional sites of Camp Estero, Hector A Cafferata ES, Six Mile Charter school, Fort Myers Middle Academy, Lehigh Acres Methodist Church and Lehigh Acres Middle School. The afterschool and summer programming provides academic enrichment and homework assistance, character development, structured outdoor activities for physical activities, healthy snacks, hand-on engaging indoor activities that include music and art, and fun. The Y will add the BellXcel Power Scholars program, English Language Arts and Math support. The main activities of the project include providing (a) the afterschool and summer programming including academic enrichment and homework assistance, character development, structured outdoor activities for physical activities, healthy snacks, hand-on engaging indoor activities that include music and art, and fun. The Y will add the BellXcel Power Scholars program, English Language Arts and Math support; (b) funding for operational staff salary and retention support; and (c) funding for program supplies.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: YYS was intentionally designed to include underserved families in targeted communities within Lee County. Our sites are strategically located to meet the needs of families that need to work as well as need a safe and enriching environment for their children. YYS has include transportation to some sites in the afterschool.

b) Awareness: The Y has designed the YYS afterschool and summer programs to be in targeted communities with need for educational enrichment to address disparities. Our programs will be marketed in English and in Spanish in the schools that have been mentioned. Our staff will attend school open-houses and events to reach out to families with need. We will also ask our school contacts to help identify students for our programs. The Y is known as a trusted partner in these communities, and we do not anticipate any problems reaching our program capacity at each site and ensuring that those families and children with need will be among our participants.

c) Access and Distribution: There are no differences in access or administrative requirements.

d) Outcomes: Our intended outcome is focused on closing the learning gaps in the YYS participants. We have enhanced our afterschool and summer programs with evidence-based extended learning tools specifically designed for afterschool and summer programs.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices:

- BellXcel Power Scholars Evidence Base
<https://www.bellxcel.org/education-research-and-insights/>
- Afterschool Programming Evidence Base Neild, R.C., Wilson, S.J., & McClanahan, W. (2019). Afterschool programs: A review of evidence under the Every Student Succeeds Act. Philadelphia: Research for Action. <https://www.researchforaction.org/projects/afterschoolessa/>
- Summer Learning Loss and Benefits of Summer Learning Evidence Base
<https://www.brookings.edu/research/summer-learning-loss-what-is-it-and-what-can-we-do-about-it>
- Atteberry, Allison, and Andrew McEachin. (2019). School's Out: The Role of Summers in Understanding Achievement Disparities.
- <https://www.wallacefoundation.org/knowledge-center/Documents/Every-Summer-Counts-A-Longitudinal-Analysis-of-Outcomes-from-the-National-Summer-Learning-Project.pdf>
- YYS is built using these practices. We will maintain fidelity with the Power Scholars program through regular training and reviews with each site's staff observed implementation.

Community Engagement:

- Advertised directly to students and families through PeachJar, automated phone calls, and emails.
- Collaboration with organizations like S.A.D.D. , I WILL Mentoring Foundation, Beesley’s Pawprints and student volunteers from FGCU.
- Leadership is also a part of the Lee County Action Team for Out of School Programming though the Future Makers Coalition and Collaboratory.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Increase likelihood of on-time grade advancement for participants in YMCA Before and After-school enrichment programming at Fort Myers Middle Academy.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	90% (45/50) of children participating in the YMCA program utilizing Power Scholars will show an increase in achievement in math and English language arts score from pre to post test	Project Target	45
		Achieved to Date	3
		Percentage	6.4%

Outcome Statement 2:		Improve physical fitness capabilities of participants in VMCA Before and After School Enrichment programming at Fort Myers Middle Academy.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	90% (45/50) of children who are in attendance of the program per quarter (9) will participate in a minimum of 30 minutes of physical activity daily	Project Target	405
		Achieved to Date	385
		Percentage	95.1%

Success Comments:

A 6th grader moved to America this year to live with his dad. His first language is Creole but had picked up on the English language quickly . When our BASE Coordinator first met him, he was pretty shy and would only want to sit on his computer and be left alone. Lately he has been engaging with multiple other students by playing board games with them or joining in the pick-up basketball games in the mornings. He has been a lot more talkative to both his peers and the counselors.

2.26 Counseling Project (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW226A

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice

Funding Amount: \$240,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$127,957.80

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.26 Addressing Educational Disparities: Mental Health Services

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Behavioral Health Project is a fully ARPA-funded existing program that will increase the access to outpatient mental health services mental health counseling. The main activities of the project include providing funding for operational staff salaries and mental health services.



Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: The Youth Counseling Program addresses health equity and health disparities based on race, ethnicity and socio-economic status. The targeted schools have a high percentage of low income, African American and Hispanic students. While schools can currently refer students to outside therapists, many families cannot follow up on these referrals as they face barriers such as transportation, lack of insurance, or parents inability to take time off work for appointments. In Lee County, many students are recent Hispanic immigrants, and their parents face language and cultural barriers when trying to navigate the mental health system. The Youth Counseling Program addresses these barriers and offers vulnerable students in the Lee County School District an accessible way to receive mental health treatment including bilingual mental health counselors.

b) Awareness: The Youth Counseling Program is school based and relies on the Lee County School District to take the lead in communicating about the Program and engaging stakeholders. The School District communicates with the various schools who in turn communicate with respective guidance counselors, teachers, administrators, and parents as needed to raise awareness about the resource and ensure that students in need are connected to appropriate services.

c) Access and Distribution: The Program is intended to reduce barriers to access across groups. There are no administrative requirements that would result in disparities. Students are identified based on their need for mental health services.

d) Outcomes: The intended outcomes and impact of the Youth Counseling Program addresses gaps in services based on economic and racial disparities. The goal is to reach universal levels of service but to understand how programs are impacting specific populations but disaggregating outcome data by race and ethnicity in order to ensure that economic and equity goals are being met. The proposed Youth Counseling Program addresses and prioritizes racial equity issues since the expected economic benefits will disproportionately impact African American and Hispanic residents of Lee County.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: The program is based on a model integrating community mental health providers into school systems known as Comprehensive School Mental Health System. This evidenced based model is recognized by SAMHSA.

Community Engagement:

Catholic Charities is working through community partners such as the Lee County Public Schools to promote the program. Behavioral Health services are also promoted through Catholic Charities offices throughout the county to clients receiving a variety of social services.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Increase access to outpatient mental health services for 200 youth or adults.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	200 of youth or adults receiving outpatient mental health counseling	Project Target	200
		Achieved to Date	212
		Percentage	106%
1)	252 of youth or adults receiving mental health assessments	Project Target	252
		Achieved to Date	163
		Percentage	64.7%
1)	100 of youth or adults successfully complete mental health treatment plans	Project Target	100
		Achieved to Date	16
		Percentage	16%

Assistance to Small Businesses

2.29 Small Business Resiliency Assistance

Project ID: ARPA-NE229A

Funding Amount: \$2,044,091.29

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$2,044,091.29

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.29 Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship^

Project Overview



Small Business Resiliency Assistance Grants will help to respond to the negative economic impacts on small businesses and will help them keep their businesses open, protect local jobs, support community recovery, and increase the resiliency of local businesses. The project beneficiaries will be small businesses and charitable nonprofits primary in QCT and low to moderate income designated areas. The program requires applicants to have received technical assistance from at least one of the ARPA-funded Small Business Technical Assistance Subrecipients and to be referred to Lee County Economic Development for a Small Business Resiliency Assistance grant application.

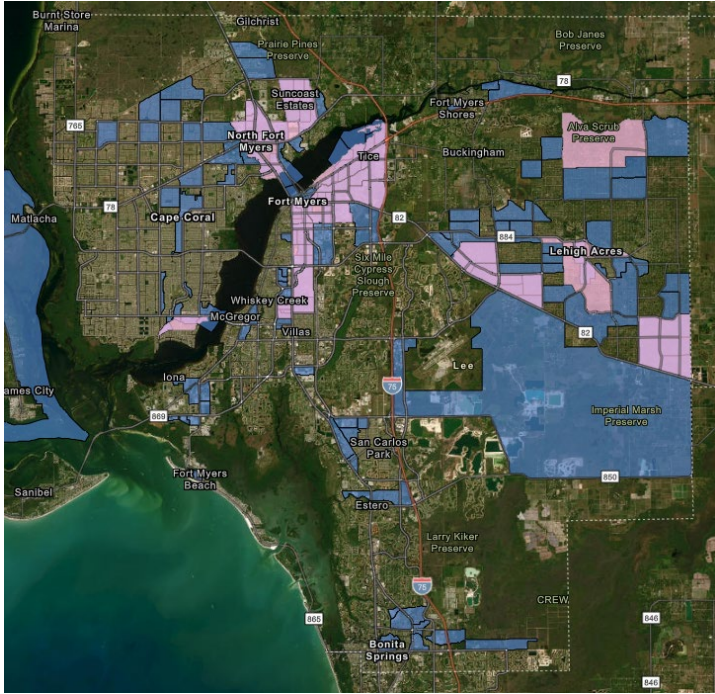
Subrecipient Technical Assistance Provider Referrals for Grant Awards	Count
SCORE	21
Small Business Development Center	41
SWFL Impacts Partners	52
SWFL Regional Manufacturing Association	5

Certifications/Ownership	County
Certified DBE/MBE/WBE and other Minority and Women owned	61

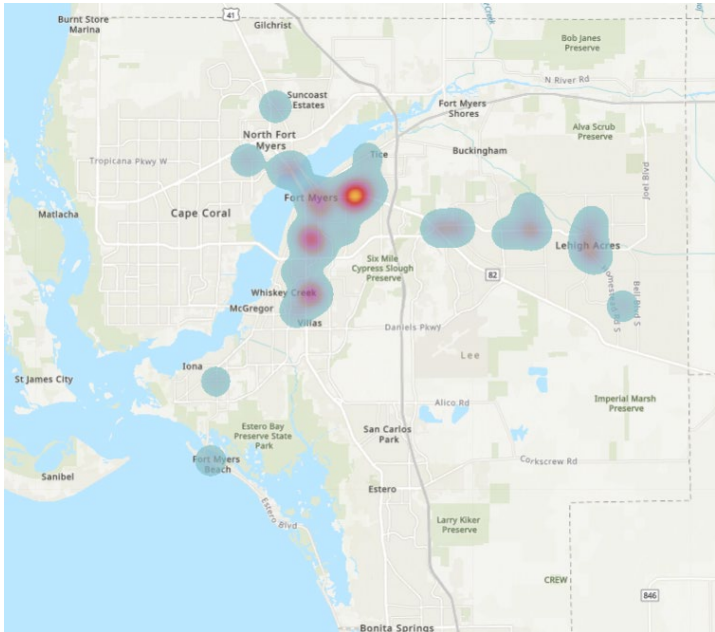
Certifications/Ownership	County
Certified Veteran Owned and other Veteran owned	8

Promoting Equitable Outcomes: This project focuses on providing grant assistance to businesses within QCTs and low to moderate income designated areas.

Eligibility Map



Heat Map of Grant Recipients



Use of Evidence: This section is not applicable to this project per Treasury Reporting Guidance.

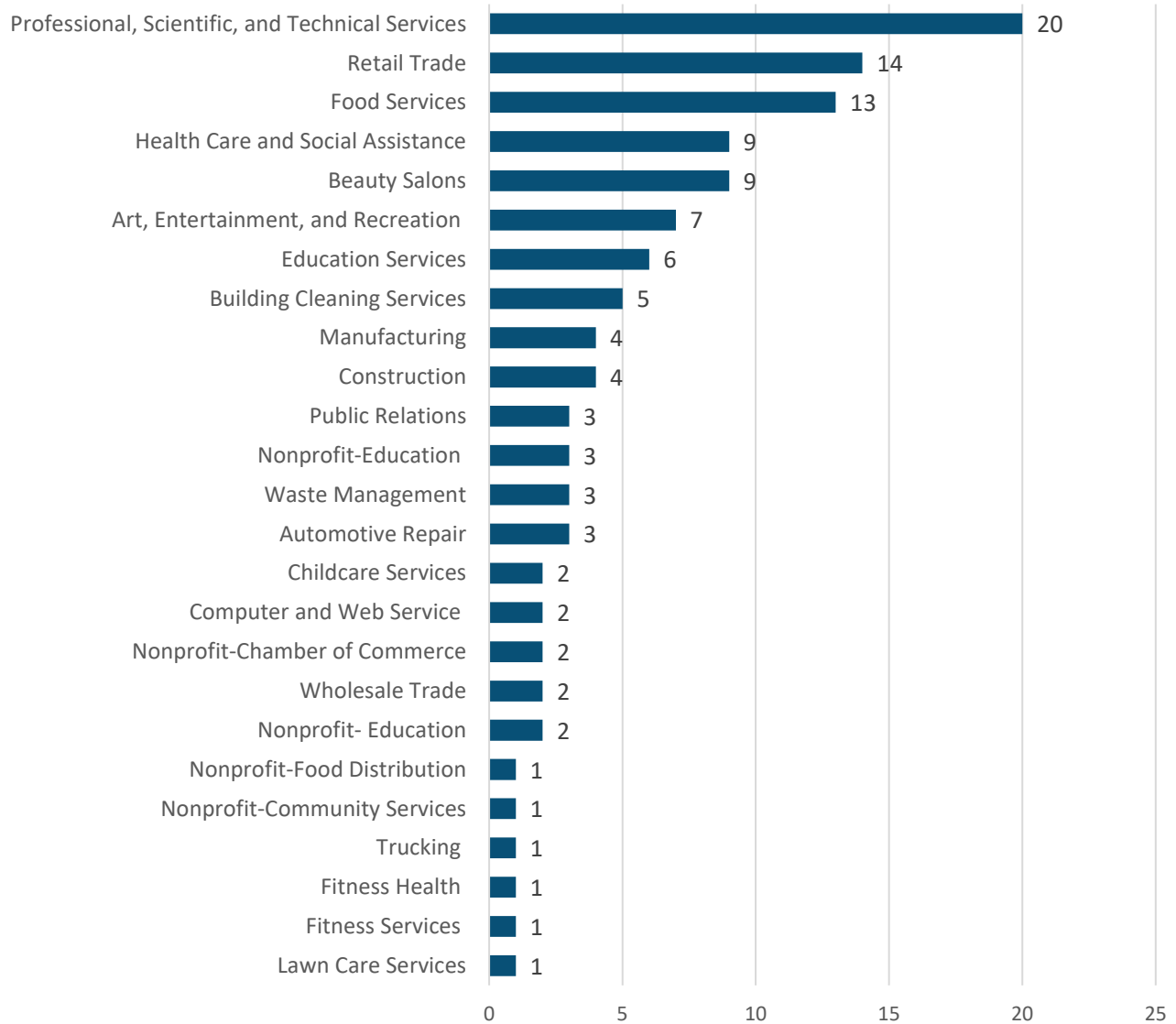
Performance to be Measured:

7/31/2024

[CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE]

Number of Small Businesses Awarded Resiliency Grant	Number of Small Businesses Served
119	119

ARPA Small Business Resiliency Grant Business Categories



Performance Outcome to be Measured:

Increased economic viability of small business that had been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

2.30 Small Business Technical Assistance

Project ID: ARPA-NE230A1, FGCU Board of Trustees on behalf of the Florida Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

Funding Amount: \$250,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$215,500

Project Duration: January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2023

Project Expenditure Category: 2.30 Technical Assistance, Counseling, or Business Planning*^

Project Overview:



The Florida Small Business Development Center, Technical Assistance Project is an existing program that will contract with Lee County to extend its services to small businesses disproportionately affected by COVID-19 by providing technical assistance, counseling, or other business planning services. This project will target businesses in Qualified Census Tracts and in Low-Moderate income designated areas who were impacted by COVID-19 facing financial insecurity, substantial declines in gross receipts, those with less capacity to weather financial hardship, those with less access to credit. The service results in a business assessment to provide individualized and group training in business planning and improvement. The major activities for this project include (a) Triage and Business Needs Assessment; (b) Training; (c) Business Research; (d) Growth Acceleration; (e) International Trade; (f) Government Contracting; (i) Business Continuation; (j) Capital Access Planning; and (k) Organizational Development.

Project Demographic Distribution:

Race

American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	White
1%	2%	25%	1%	71%

Ethnicity

Hispanic or Latino Owned
104 (33%)

Veterans

Veteran Owned
9

Gender

Female	Male	No Reply	Total
191	118	7	313

Promoting Equitable Outcomes: This project focuses on providing assistance to businesses within QCTs and low to moderate income designated areas.

Website and Social Media Samples:

ARPA PROGRAM

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR THE ARPA GRANT?

SMALL BUSINESS RESILIENCY GRANT PROGRAM IS NOW OPEN

Lee County has allocated \$4 million for the Small Business Resiliency Grant program to help small businesses and charitable nonprofits offset COVID-19 pandemic-related costs and improve business resiliency. This program is designed to help small businesses keep their doors open, protect local jobs threatened by the COVID-19 pandemic, support community recovery, and increase the resiliency of local businesses in our community. Funds for this program are part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Coronavirus State, and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSLFRF) allocated to Lee County.

WHAT DO YOU GET OUT OF THIS PROGRAM?

IF YOU'RE ELIGIBLE, COMPLETE THE FORM TO CONNECT WITH A CONSULTANT. YOU'LL RECEIVE A CHECKLIST TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION!

Small Business Resiliency Grant Application Form

Email (required)

First Name

Last Name

ARPA GRANT APPLICATION DOCUMENTATION CHECKLIST

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST!

A BUSINESS CONSULTANT WILL BE REACHING OUT TO YOU TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT.

ARPA GRANT APPLICATION DOCUMENTATION CHECKLIST

[DOWNLOAD HERE](#)

ARPA GRANT APPLICATION DOCUMENTATION CHECKLIST

HAS YOUR BUSINESS BEEN IMPACTED BY COVID-19?

You might qualify for the Small Business Resiliency Grant

visit www.fsbdcswfl.org/arpa-program & complete the form

SMALL BUSINESS RESILIENCY GRANT

[CHECK ELIGIBILITY](#)

www.fsbdcswfl.org/arpa-program

DO YOU QUALIFY?

The Small Business Resiliency Grant program helps small businesses and charitable nonprofits offset COVID-19 pandemic-related costs.

www.fsbdcswfl.org/arpa-program

[CONTACT US TODAY](#)



Use of Evidence: Evidence-producing - Learning Agenda Development Statement

The Small Business Development Center at FGCU, Technical Assistance Project, ARPA program activities will be engineered, marketed, and implemented to discover best practices that result in the successful identification of eligible beneficiaries who will receive the business-specific technical assistance and referral to improve business outcomes.

SBDC will engage an evidence-producing learning agenda as part of its ARPA project to build on existing research to identify and formalize best practices that will improve local SBDC operational issues, host institution evaluation, and SBDC metrics. SBDC will annually evaluate its ARPA technical assistance activities and community responses to identify best practices related to operational issues, host institution evaluation, business and partner feedback, output and outcome metrics.

Background

By design, SBDC centers offers support in areas that the host college or university commonly teaches subjects. These areas of support range from initial startup to growth strategies for small businesses. SBDC’s offer services that bring together higher education, small business, and government resources. A review of the literature revealed an indirect use of higher education resources (courses) in the form of experiential learning (Cook, Belliveau, and Campbell 2016; Geho and McDowell 2015; Kosnik, Tingle, and Blanton, III 2013; Cook, Campbell, and Kopp 2013), with specific course work (Minifie 2018), and with specific type of clients.

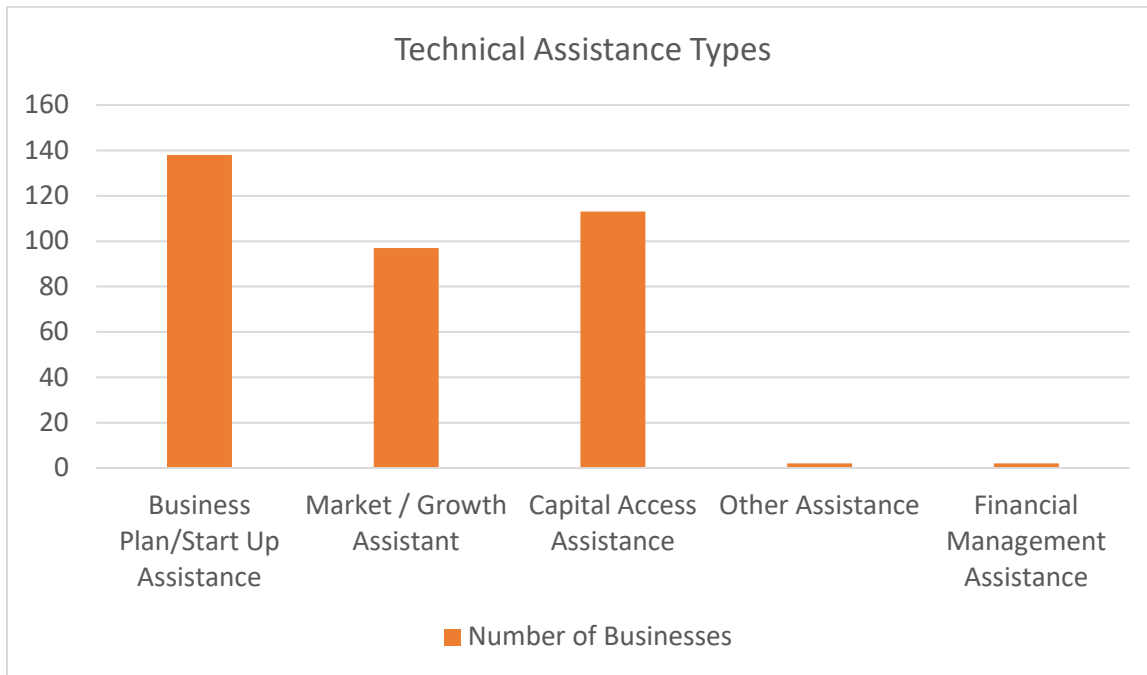
While the benefits of bringing SBDCs into the classroom have been delineated (Knotts 2011; McDowell and Geho 2015), previous research has not addressed best practices of host institutions and their SBDC centers. For universities, understanding best practices could increase experiential learning opportunities for students, enabling students to positively impact their communities, which is important for colleges of business that maintain AACSB International Accreditation (AACSB 2021).

The methodology for understanding the current environment and identifying best practices a survey was developed to evaluate three specific area: SBDC respondents that worked with students from their host institution, respondents who didn't currently with students from their host institution, and general questions for all respondents.

Conclusion

This program enhances the mission of the Small Business Development Center as an educational asset to small businesses. The targeted population of disproportionately disadvantaged businesses encouraged additional outreach to new clients.

Approximately 1,282 hours of technical assistance were logged in the SBDC internal consulting management system for the ARPA program. This time excludes programmatic and process development, professional development associated with the grant, and administrative time (e.g., scheduling meetings with businesses, logging hours of technical assistance in our system, replying to emails, phone calls, and other inquiries, etc.) which are not logged. Businesses were educated on resiliency actions for their unique business needs and referred to the Resiliency Grant when eligible and appropriate. Even if the businesses that did not receive a grant, continued technical assistance and continued ongoing relationships with the SBDC consulting team. These relationships and strengthening of their businesses will prepare them for future challenges. The types of technical services delivered that will help prepare the small business for future challenges included assistance for: business planning/startups, market/growth, capital access and financial management.



Performance Measured to Date:

Number of Small Businesses Applying for Technical Assistance	Number of Small Businesses Recommended for Project Funding through the Lee County Resiliency Grant
352	60

Total Hours Spent with Clients
1,282

ARPA Measure: Number of Small Businesses Served
352

Business Type	Client Count
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	2
Utilities	1
Construction	29
Manufacturing	17
Wholesale Trade	4
Retail Trade	21
Transportation and Warehousing	8
Information	5
Finance and Insurance	8
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	12
Professional, Scientific, Technical Services	37
Administrative Support	26
Educational Services	15
Health Care and Social Assistance	19
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	12
Accommodation and Food Service	14
Other Service	37
Not Set	46

Performance Outcome to be Measured: Increased economic viability of small business that had been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Project ID: ARPA-NE230A2, Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE)

Funding Amount: \$25,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$13,795.48

Project Duration: January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.30 Technical Assistance, Counseling, or Business Planning*^

Project Overview:



SCORE’s Technical Assistance Project is an existing program that will contract with Lee County to extend its services to small businesses disproportionately affected by COVID-19 by providing technical assistance, counseling, or other business planning services. This project will target businesses in Qualified Census Tracts and in Low-Moderate income designated areas who were impacted by COVID-19 facing

financial insecurity, substantial declines in gross receipts, those with less capacity to weather financial hardship, those with less access to credit. The service results in a business assessment and will provide templates and tools to assist small businesses with formalizing their business planning and operations. The major activities for this project include (a) Small Business Mentoring; (b) Business Resource Library; (c) Small Business Development Classes and Workshops including Strategy & Planning, Business Plans/Startup Assistance, Legal Issues, Non-Profit, Buying or Selling a Business, Marketing, Public Relations & Sales, Accounting & Cash Flow and Financing/Capital.

Project Demographic Distribution: Data will be reported when available.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes: This project focuses on providing assistance to businesses within QCTs and low to moderate income designated areas.

SCORE also coordinated a Women’s Conference for Entrepreneurs entitled “Positioning Your Business for Success” It included presentations on websites, multiple panel discussions, a keynote speaker.

Use of Evidence: Evidence producing - Learning Agenda Development Statement

SCORE, Small Business Technical Assistance project will identify learning opportunities to the use of a network of volunteers, experience business mentors, templates for business planning and operations to help small businesses evaluate their needs and opportunities to grow their businesses. SCORE will evaluate the programs operational issues, beneficiary and partner feedback, output and outcome metrics to identify opportunities for improve to formalize best practices.

Score's objective is to build upon the national research such as the following finding:

- Entrepreneurs in all stages of the business life cycle were most concerned with marketing and sales, with finding new customers being the top concern.
- Other business owners and peers were the primary source of information and advice for small business owners in all stages of the business life cycle.
- Startups rely heavily on part-time workers and independent contractors for job creation, with only 14% obtaining financing and 35% expecting significant revenue growth in the next year.
- Microbusinesses (0-4 employees) contributed the most jobs and hired more new workers in FY 2016, but 65% of them anticipated struggling or stagnating in the next year.

For additional research that may be referenced in the Learning agenda see <https://www.score.org/megaphone-main-street-data-reports>.

Performance to be Measured:

Number of Small Businesses Applying for Technical Assistance	Number of Small Businesses Recommended for Project Funding through the Lee County Resiliency Grant
20	20

ARPA Measure: Number of Small Businesses Served
20

Performance Outcome to be Measured: Increased economic viability of small business that had been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Project ID: ARPA-NE230A3, SWFL Impact Partners

Funding Amount: \$100,000

Status of Completion: Complete

Total Project Expenses: \$100,000

Project Duration: January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2023

Project Expenditure Category: 2.30 Technical Assistance, Counseling, or Business Planning*^

Project Overview:

The SW Florida Impact Partners LLP, Technical Assistance Project, is an existing program that will contract with Lee County to extend its services to small businesses disproportionately affected by COVID-19 by providing technical assistance, counseling, or other business planning services. This project will target businesses in Qualified Census Tracts and in Low-Moderate income designated areas who were impacted by COVID-19 facing financial insecurity, substantial declines in gross receipts, those with less capacity to weather financial hardship, those with less access to credit.



The service will help to identify opportunities to a network of investors, developers, and neighborhood leaders, and identify business opportunities in opportunity zones and CRAs. The major activities for this project will (a) Provide subject matter expertise on business recovery options and act as the conduit between businesses and all local, State, and Federal programs available; (b) Provide consulting for businesses impacted by COVID-19 in targeted areas and consult on topics to accelerate a sustainable to resilient recovery; (c) Perform outreach to businesses in QCT zones and Low to Moderate Income specified areas, to learn of their ongoing needs, provide support, and refer them to available resources; and (d) Assist in the development of a small business recovery tool kit/curriculum.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes: This project focuses on providing assistance to businesses within QCTs and low to moderate income designated areas.

Use of Evidence: Evidence Producing - Learning Agenda Development Statement: The Southwest Florida Impact Partners, Technical Assistance Project, will implement a learning agenda to identify best practices that will further its local efforts to provide technical assistance, counseling, and other business planning services. SWFL Impact Partners will evaluate the programs operational issues, beneficiary and partner feedback, output, and outcome metrics to identify opportunities for improve to formalize best practices.

Project Analysis

Through providing technical assistance, several key strategies emerged that supported strengthening the community, expanding owner's knowledge, and access to community resources.

- **Community Engagement Events:** Hosting community engagement events, such as open house events, provides an effective platform for connecting with MBE/DBE business owners. These events offer opportunities for networking, sharing experiences, and understanding the specific challenges faced by businesses in the community.
- **Individualized Support:** Offering individual counseling sessions allows for tailored support that addresses the unique needs of each business owner. This personalized approach fosters trust, engagement, and better outcomes.
- **Access to Information and Resources:** Providing valuable information about professional tools and services, such as upcoming seminars, learning labs, and partnerships with community stakeholders, enhances business owners' understanding and ability to navigate the complexities of running a small business. Access to resources empowers business owners to make informed decisions and seek additional support as needed. An example was, leveraging funding opportunities, such as the ARPA Small Business Resiliency Grant funding, to support community business owners. That demonstrated a commitment to investing in the success and resilience of local businesses. Strategic allocation of resources allows for impactful interventions that address immediate needs and foster long-term sustainability.
- **Ongoing Technical Services:** Recognizing the importance of ongoing support, including needs assessment, grant counseling, consulting, mentoring, coaching, and business development, ensures that business owners receive comprehensive assistance beyond initial engagement. Continuous support is essential for addressing evolving challenges and promoting sustainable growth.

Conclusion

Community participation is a central concept for building successful small businesses. SW Florida Impact Partners focused technical assistance on an individual business owner community-centered approach for helping the owner improve their business. Continuing to incorporate these learnings into future initiatives can strengthen the approach to providing technical assistance, ultimately enhancing the support available to qualified business owners, and promoting economic growth and prosperity in the community.

Performance to be Measured:

Number of Small Businesses Applying for Technical Assistance	Number of Small Businesses Recommended for Project Funding through the Lee County Resiliency Grant
206	52

ARPA Measure: Number of Small Businesses Served
206

SW FL Impact Partners held a community engagement open house event. There were 239 certified MBE/DBE were invited and 30+ attended the event.

Performance Outcome to be Measured: Increased economic viability of small business that had been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Success Comments

As a Technical Assistance Provider at SW Florida Impact Partners LLP, it was an exciting and joyful accomplishment, when businesses who worked very diligently to get the grant, took care of the required documents, listened to recommendations, and came weekly to complete any task required of them and were good listeners. Technical Assistance fill with joy when they received the ARPA grant funding and this was the first time they had ever received a grant for their business.

Project ID: ARPA-NE230A4, Goodwill Industries of SWFL

Funding Amount: \$50,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$50,000

Project Duration: January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2023

Project Expenditure Category: 2.30 Technical Assistance, Counseling, or Business Planning*^

Project Overview:



The Goodwill Industries of SWFL MicroEnterprise program technical assistance project is an existing program that will contract with Lee County to extend its services to small businesses and nonprofits disproportionately affected by COVID-19. The project will help low-to-moderate-income and disadvantaged individuals start or stabilize their businesses. Services include business classes with feasibility planning, cash flow, and financial access. Participants are assigned a small business mentor who helps participants with business planning and coaching.

The major activities for this project include business counseling, mentoring, and referrals for 1. Small Business Development Classes 2. Small Business Mentoring 3. Business Planning Coaching 4. Small

Business Loan Options 5. Potential Access to small business loan and matching funds. Additionally, the funds will cover professional fees, supplies, marketing for the program, and travel.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes: The project focuses on providing assistance to businesses within QCTs and low to moderate income designated areas.

Community Engagement and Outreach: Goodwill Industries Microenterprise Institute achieved more enrollments and businesses started in quarter 2 2023. Our efforts in distributing flyers to nonprofits, retail stores, ads on FB increased. We continue to see over the last year the benefits of this program and with funding provided through ARPA grant we are able to add additional class in Fort Myers last year, which contributed to 30 business that were started. Without the funding we would not be able to offer more classes.

Use of Evidence: Evidence Producing – Learning Agenda Development Statement:

Goodwill, Small Business Technical Assistance project, through its MicroEnterprise program, will identify the best practices to help low- to moderate-income and disadvantaged individuals start or stabilize their businesses through small business mentoring, business planning and coaching. Goodwill will engage an evidence-producing learning agenda as part of its ARPA project to identify and build upon best practices that will improve its local MicroEnterprise program. Goodwill will evaluate the program's operational issues, beneficiary and partner feedback, output, and outcome metrics to identify opportunities for improvement to formalize best practices.

Project Analysis

The program provides participants who primarily fall within low to moderate incomes with essential business skills to enhance their chances of success and self-sufficiency. With the support of the APRA funding, 31 participants were able to start or strengthen their businesses after completing the course.

Conclusion

The program identified that participants could benefit significantly from additional one-on-one mentoring sessions, which can improve their confidence and practical application of business concepts. Through providing technical assistance we learned that participants have technical barriers that included no access to high speed internet, transportation barriers, basic computer literacy. It was learned that personalized support and ongoing guidance are crucial in helping entrepreneurs effectively implement the skills learned in the course.

Performance to be Measured:

Number of Small Businesses Applying for Technical Assistance	Services Awarded to Businesses (disaggregate by type, other)
31	0

ARPA Measure: Number of Small Businesses Served
31

Performance Outcome to be Measured: Increased economic viability of small business that had been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Success Comments

- 1) A graduate of the Cape Coral class in April 2023 – fulfilled a dream she had been chasing for years and in late August it came true with a lot of hard work. She opened her record business in Ft Myers.
- 2) Two graduates for the class, both with a background in cosmetology opened a nail studio in Fort Myers.
- 3) A graduate that completed the MicroEnterprise program in September of 2023 was struggling with branding and pricing of his business that he launched in the summer of 2023. He successfully completed a feasibility plan and marketing plan that helped him create new branding for his herbal slush teas. You can find him at a local market.
- 4) A single mother of two boys and has been baking and creating as a hobby for her son’s events. She heard about the MicroEnterprise program from who sister-in-law who graduated from the program 2018. She knew everything about creating delicious treats but wanted to learn the ins and outs of starting and sustaining a small business. She graduated in September. In October launched her business and she immediately started booking events and parties.

Project ID: ARPA-NE230A5, SW Regional Manufacturers Association

Funding Amount: \$50,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$14,634.98

Project Duration: January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.30 Technical Assistance, Counseling, or Business Planning*^

Project Overview:



The Southwest Regional Manufacturers Association (SRMA), Technical Assistance Project, is an existing program that will contract with Lee County to extend its services to manufacturers disproportionately affected by COVID-19 by providing technical assistance, counseling, or other business planning services. This project will target businesses in Qualified Census Tracts and in Low-Moderate income designated areas who were impacted by COVID-19 facing financial insecurity, substantial declines in gross receipts, those with less capacity to weather financial hardship, those with less access to credit. The service provides direct resources such as industry networking, local and state advocacy, and local business connections who can assist manufacturing companies impacted by COVID-19 to stabilize and recover. In addition, it provides outside resources of various types, including consulting, training, supply chain network, apprenticeships, and statewide connections to the same group and purpose. The major activities for this project will (a) Perform outreach to disadvantaged manufacturing businesses to learn of their ongoing needs, provide support, and refer them to available resources; (b) act as the conduit between manufacturing businesses and all local, State, and Federal programs available; (c) provide general business counseling by providing guidance through the program for the individual manufacturing business; (d) connect outside solution providers to manufacturers who can provide one-on-one consulting for businesses impacted by COVID-19 and provide

solutions to accelerate a sustainable and resilient recovery; and (e) facilitate in-person and online training events speaking on key topics essential to accelerate business resilience and recovery.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes: These projects focus on providing assistance to businesses within QCTs and low to moderate income designated areas.

Use of Evidence: Evidence Producing - Learning Agenda Development Statement:

The Southwest Regional Manufacturers Association, Technical Assistance Project, will implement a learning agenda to identify best practices that will further its local efforts to provide technical assistance, counseling, and other business planning services. SRMA will evaluate the programs operational issues, beneficiary and partner feedback, output and outcome metrics to identify opportunities for improve to formalize best practices.

Performance Measured to Date:

Number of Small Businesses Applying for Technical Assistance	Number of Small Businesses Recommended for Project Funding through the Lee County Resiliency Grant
15	5

Technical Service Types	Number of Small Businesses
Assessment of Business needs	14
Growth Acceleration	5
Performance Optimization	1
Employee Training	2
Marketing	7
Supply Chain Resiliency	5
Financial Recovery	6

Note: A single small business may have received service under multiple service types.

ARPA Measure: Number of Small Businesses Served
15

Performance Outcome to be Measured: Increased economic viability of small business that had been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Success Comments

Having manufacturing companies take a 1 to 1.5 hour assessment is a success story in itself! The assessment provides eye-opening questions, as many do not think about the various topics when they think about being prepared for the next business disruption/catastrophe. After the assessment, our goal is to provide resources to enhance their resiliency efforts in the areas they are weak. One of the three companies has contracted with the SRMA to implement a Safety Training Program, which includes Leadership in Safety, First Aid, CPR, and AED, all of which identified as needs due to the assessment.

Assistance to Nonprofits

2.34 Nonprofit Human Services Grant and Capacity Building

Project ID: ARPA-NE234A, Human Services Grant Program, United Way

Funding Amount: \$1,099,000 (= \$17,000,000 minus grants to nonprofits)

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$941,709.85

Project Duration: November 1, 2021 – June 30, 2025

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)^

Project Overview:



**United Way
of Lee County**

The United Way Lee County Nonprofit Human Services Grant project is a new ARPA-funded initiative. The project will provide grants to Lee County human services nonprofits to fund direct services and operational enhancements that

will sustain temporary emergency assistance, supportive services, community engagement, and build resiliency. The grants project descriptions are distributed throughout this report under their relevant expense category:

- 1.12 Mental Health Services
- 1.13 Substance Use Services
- 2.01 Household Assistance: Food Programs
- 2.10 Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers
- 2.16 Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons
- 2.19 Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators
- 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services
- 2.26 Addressing Educational Disparities: Mental Health Services
- 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

The major activities include the administration of the grant program by United Way. The grant program includes a Notice of Funding Available (NOFA) issuance, grant proposal review and preparation to be handed off for evaluation by committees. The evaluation committees will recommend community appropriate project to the Board of Commissioner for review and approval. Subaward agreements will be developed between United Way, as pass-through, and the nonprofits with approved proposals. United Way will distribute funds and monitor their subrecipients.

Project Demographic Distribution: Data is reported under each subaward within the Project Inventory.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes: Details are reported under each subaward within the Project Inventory.

Use of Evidence: This section is not applicable to this project but is be reported with applicable subawards.

Performance Measured to Date:

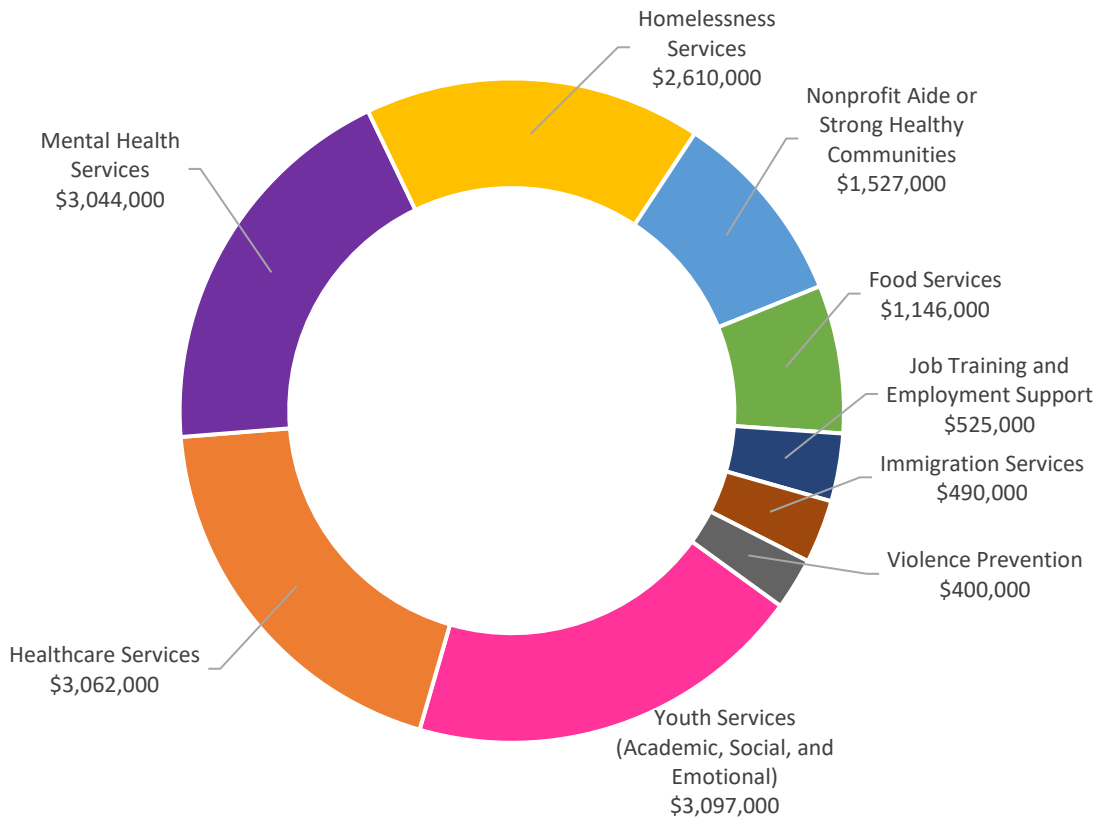
Number of Eligible Organizations Applying for Project Funding and Amount Requested	Number of Organizations Awarded Project Funding and Amount Awarded
74 \$78,085,000	60 organization; 63 projects \$15,901,000

ARPA Measure: Number of Nonprofits Served
60

Categories of direct services project funding and amount awarded.

Project Category	Active Project Awards
Youth Services (Academic, Social, and Emotional)	\$3,097,000
Healthcare Services	\$3,062,000
Mental Health Services	\$3,044,000
Homelessness Services	\$2,610,000
Nonprofit Aide or Strong Healthy Communities	\$1,527,000
Food Services	\$1,146,000
Other: Civil Legal Aid and Violence Prevention	\$890,000
Job Training and Employment Support	\$525,000

Project Funding Breakdown



Performance Outcome to be Measured: Increase in services available to community as evidenced through the performance outcomes for each subaward project.

Community Engagement and Success Comments:

Comments on United Way as the administrator of this grant program for nonprofits:

- Lee County Housing Development Corp stated the one-to-one attention along with round the clock question support (including weekends) has helped the Executive Director. The individualized attention has made a difference with ARPA and how she approaches grants in general.
- Impact for Developmental Education’s Executive Director said individualized attention, quick response to questions and knowing she has someone who truly cares about the agency’s success has been a tremendous help.

Another display of community benefit from ARPA support is the growth in collaborative efforts. Funded Agencies are “organically” coming together to expand service reach and to provide support to those in need. Demographic and geographic (within Lee County only) hurdles are surmounted (at least partially) through multiple agency affiliation. Below are a few specific examples of collaborations brought about via ARPA funding support.

The Jewish Federation has been very busy creating collaborating partnerships.

- The Jewish Federation has started collaborating with the Dr. Piper Center regarding Senior services and Volunteers
- The United Way’s Beesley’s Paw Prints program is brought in to visit during their Lunch and Learn sessions
- They are working with the VA to provide services to Veterans
- The Jewish Federation has been connected with Hearts and Homes for Veterans as well as Senior Friendship Centers

The Dubin Center has been in discussions with Interfaith Charities regarding the use of Interfaith’s new building to hold a Senior Memory Care Café.

Special Equestrians and Family Initiative were introduced to explore possibilities. They have some of the same clients and both have been searching for a client management system that is HIPAA compliant.

Hermanos Unidos began collaborating with Harry Chapin Food Bank as well as Midwest Food Bank to obtain food for their hot meals’ food program. This collaboration has significantly reduced the expense of purchasing food and has increased the agency’s ability to extend their days from once a month to twice a month.

Project ID: ARPA-NE234B, United Way Recovery Grant Project, United Way

Funding Amount: \$ 3,000,000

Project Duration: November 1, 2021 – December 31, 2026

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$2,597,533

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)^

Project Overview



**United Way
of Lee County**

The United Way Recovery Grant Project is an ARPA funded enhancement of United Way's existing services. The project will implement strategies to improve business efficiencies, train and develop staff, and integration technologies to improve communication, data management, and data security.

Major activity includes the addition of an Operations Administrator to formalize and oversee health and safety protocols, security, and maintenance of three service facilities, two warehouses, and 15 United Way Houses. Key staff will receive operations specific training to provide more effective leadership and organizational efficiencies. Funds will be used for salaries of 15 staff in various service areas. Fund will also be used to pay for rental space, utilities, and VOIP technology. Funds will be used to purchase equipment that will improve inventory management. The outcome to the enhancements includes formalizing and documenting operational processes, policies, and procedures that facilitate direct service delivery.





Promoting Equitable Outcomes: United Way is committed to delivering the ARPA projects and other community service in ways that reflect their policy, as noted below. Specifically, United Way is committed to ensuring that communities, groups, and individuals historically and economically disproportionately impacted are aware of opportunities to improve their lives.

Mission: United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades is a volunteer driven organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for all people in our community.

Commitment to Anti-racism/Ethnic Discrimination: United Way unequivocally denounce racism and ethnic discrimination because they undermine the well-being and vitality of our community.

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Statement of Principle

We take the broadest possible view of diversity.

We value the visible and invisible qualities that make you who you are.

We welcome that every person brings a unique perspective and experience to advance our mission for the health, education, and financial stability of every person in every community.

We believe that each United Way community member, donor, volunteer, advocate, and employee must have equal access to solving community problems.

We strive to include diversity, equity, and inclusion practices at the center of our daily work.

We commit to using these practices for our business and our communities.

Organizational Guiding Principles

1. Maintain the highest integrity and ethical standards.
2. Maximize resource development activities and achieve the annual campaign goal.
3. Maintain the fiscal responsibility of the organization and be accountable to the community for every dollar raised and spent.
4. Allocate United Way resources to local human service programs and initiatives so as to achieve the greatest positive impact.
5. Be a leader in identifying critical and emerging social service problems and serve as a catalyst in developing the most coordinated, effective and efficient human service delivery system to solve those problems.
6. Work collaboratively with all groups to foster the idea of "Community" in its broadest sense.
7. Develop strong positive partnerships with United Way agencies, programs, and initiatives so that together we can make a difference in the lives of families, children, and individuals in our community.
8. Recognize that the success of our United Way is directly dependent on our ability and the ability of our partners to recruit, maintain and motivate dedicated, enthusiastic, and productive volunteers.
9. Recognize the value of diversity and to be committed to promoting inclusion and diversity in all United Way activities.
10. Educate the community about the positive impact of the United Way and the United Way network of partner programs and initiatives so that the United Way system is recognized as the best way to improve the quality of life in our community.

Performance Outcomes to be Measured:

Outcome Statement 1:		Agencywide operational efficiencies will improve through program and staff development.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	16 Staff training and leadership development opportunities will lead to enhanced personnel and operational processes. (per Year)	Percentage Completed	119%
2)	Policy/procedure reorganizations will streamline operations, providing clarity and continuity in UW service delivery. (per Year)	Percentage Completed	100%
3)	Train and align organizational leadership positions to better guide/direct service delivery areas.	Percentage Completed	100%

Outcome Statement 2:		Internal operations will be augmented through improved/enhanced communication, data management, and data security through technology integration.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	3 data management systems will be integrated into agency operations (includes staff training and rollout). (per year)	Percentage Completed	100%

Success Comments:

ARPA funding serves to enhance United Way programs, information technology, data management and internal controls, resulting in updated hardware and software to better manage internal processes. New staff hired with dedicated functionality continue to improve and expand service to the community.

We are seeing continued progress in service to the community through all departments. Each program has improved functionality and steadily increases in ability to serve the community and in the actual results of serving the community. The interactivity among Partner Agencies, both new and seasoned, displays a level of collaboration that is fostered through United Way of Lee County and the result of enhanced operations within the United Way.

The productivity within the Gifts In Kind (GIK) program was enhanced through the integration of a barcoding system to fully track donations in and distributions to the community. Recovery from the impacts of COVID-19 and subsequent widespread challenges has driven the need for the GIK program and the extensive warehouse just to meet basic needs. ARPA support has afforded United Way the opportunity to grow in strength, size, quality of service, and as a leader in the nonprofit space. This, in turn, deepened relationships and ultimately provided the best possible service to the community.

The United Way School Resource Center, a division of the Gifts In Kind program, is designed to assist students with essentials to maintain focus on their academic studies. Often these items are associated with school uniforms, footwear, and personal hygiene products in addition to classroom materials. School Counselors and School Social Workers assess the student’s individual situation then complete a request for items needed.

- Improved packaging efficiency – optimized packaging methods for more efficiency and sustainability.

- 24-hour order turnaround – when a child is in need, SRC serves to meet that need
- Enhanced Use of Volunteer Support – pre-packaging results in expedited order processing
- Enhanced Warehouse Organization – restructured location to stage items to be used throughout the SRC

The United Way WeCare program has been extremely active assisting those in need of charitable medical services. The delays and cancellations of medical care due to COVID-19 created significant problems for many and the addition of another Patient Care Coordinator has enabled the program to thrive. WeCare serves low-income and/or uninsured individuals. The ARPA funding supported a Spanish speaking patient care coordinator position.

211 Program

During Q2 of 2024, the 211 information and referral program fielded 12,677 calls for assistance. 436 of those were Veteran Assistance calls and were immediately directed to our Mission United department within the 211 program. This was a 33% increase over Q2 of 2022 with 9,526 calls.

2.34 Have a Heart Pets (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW234B

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Cape Coral Animal Shelter Corporation

Funding Amount: \$60,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$60,000

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. Have a Heart for Pets project fully ARPA-funded existing program that will save low-income individuals and families money and improve emotional health by preventing unnecessary pet euthanasia. The main activities of the project include (a) providing veterinary services at no cost to low-income families; and (b) providing funding for operational staff salaries and veterinary procedures including vaccines, wellness and sick office visits, minor surgeries, x-rays, diagnostic tests, and ultrasound.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: Our entire focus of our low-cost clinic is serving our large senior population on fixed incomes and the underserved who own animals but cannot afford veterinary care. We also focus on educating the public about pet ownership. There is definitely a cultural aspect of how animals are viewed in a home environment, and we strive to educate on responsible pet ownership, emphasizing the importance of vaccines, wellness care, and spay/neutering to help with the extreme overpopulation of animals throughout Florida.

b) Awareness: We do an outstanding job of getting our information out to the public. One of our board members is a partner in Celsius Marketing and they do all of our social media/community outreach marketing. To reach the underserved areas, we work with local food banks, churches, and human aid groups as many humans who need help from those agencies also have pets that need help. The news media has also been important for sharing our story, and we have been featured often in print, on radio, and on television. We will continue our outreach to underserved areas. All printed materials have been translated to Spanish and we have multiple bilingual employees who have assisted with outreach to the Hispanic community.



c) Access and Distribution: All clients are treated equally.

d) Outcomes: Our target is the underserved who own pets. That includes all races, ethnicities, and age groups. We aim to serve anyone who needs our assistance to keep their animals alive, healthy, and out of the shelter.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-producing project with learning agenda. The need for our services is evident by the fact that, in just two years, we have over 5,000 clients taking advantage of our low-cost veterinary services. This need will continue to grow as our population grows.

Community Engagement:

Our veterinarians and vet technicians are aware of the program and offer it to the clients whose pets are in need of services or medications yet refuse because of financial hardship. We advertise as a low-cost veterinary clinic, which attracts many low-income individuals who seek us out for discounted or free veterinary care.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Increase the number of patients/animals treated in our clinic at no charge to the client due to financial hardship.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	Increase (9) patients/animals treated free of charge in 2022. COMPLETED	Project Target	9
		Achieved to Date	42
		Percentage	466.7%
2)	Increase (by 90) patients/animals treated free of charge in 2023	Project Target	90
		Achieved to Date	96
		Percentage	106.7%
3)	Increase (by 60) of patients/animals treated free of charge in 2024	Project Target	60
		Achieved to Date	60
		Percentage	100%

Success Comments:

#1 Our mission at Cape Coral Animal Shelter is to engage a special bond between people and animals by means of adoption services, medical care, education, and training for the prevention of cruelty and abandonment. This grant has been instrumental in helping us to provide veterinary care to many people that have suffered economic hardship due to the Covid-19 global pandemic. In several cases, our assistance was life or death for the animal. Sasha was brought to us by her owner in extreme pain, lethargic, and her prognosis was not good. Her owner had rescued her but could not afford to have her spayed as she lost her job during Covid. The dog developed pyometra (infected and ruptured uterus) and was hours away from passing. Our vets performed emergency surgery, provided fluids, and sent Sasha home to recuperate. A few weeks later, she returned for a follow up and was happy and healthy. Her owner was so grateful—surely Sasha would have died without this lifesaving surgery which she would never have been able to afford. We have many stories just like this already, and we look forward to many more because of this funding.

#2

We have hundreds of success stories of animals and their families who suffered greatly during the national COVID pandemic. One story that truly stands out is about Angel, who came to us on March 22, 2024. Her owners rescued her from the streets near Fort Myers Beach just before the pandemic. They had every intention of getting her spayed, but both work in the hospitality field and lost their jobs immediately at the onset of COVID. They loved and cared for Angel the best they could but could not afford to get her the care she needed. Just as things started to look up for the family, they lost their home and everything they owned during Hurricane Ian. Again, Angel's veterinary care was put on hold as the family found a place to live and tried to get their lives back in order. Not once did they ever consider rehoming Angel like many would have done, because they love her very much and she is a part of their family. In March 2024, Angel became very sick and was diagnosed with pyometra—an infected uterus from not being spayed. This condition is deadly and emergency surgery is required immediately to save her life. The family frantically took Angel to two different clinics who told them the surgery would cost approximately \$5,000-\$6,000 and they needed the money upfront. Of course, they did not have the money. They knocked on our door in the late afternoon of that day, visibly broken and in tears. We were Angel's last hope. Our vet and vet team agreed to stay late and perform the surgery as the family waited frantically in our lobby. We are happy to report Angel survived the surgery and is happily enjoying life. The family was forever grateful to CCAS, and we made it a point to let them know we were able to help them because of the very generous ARPA Grant we received. We are truly grateful for this opportunity to help so many people through this grant.

2.34 Deaf and Hard of Hearing Project (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW234C

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Deaf Service Center of Southwest Florida Inc. dba/Sally J Pimentel Deaf and Hard of Hearing Center, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$100,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$84,591.78

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. DHHC ARPA Project is a fully ARPA-funded new program that will improve information and training resources available to those effected by person who are deaf or hard of hearing. The main activities of the project include providing (a) individual and group education and Instruction for youth, adults living with hearing impairments and persons of all ages who need instruction in the use of modern assistive technology equipment; and (b) funding for operational project staff salaries, supplies, printing/publication, and client transportation.



Seeing the way the world hears...

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: Through the Department of Housing and Urban Development, individuals are considered severely disabled and fall under the "limited clientele" category if they are unable to perform one or more functional activities, which includes: hearing, or having one's speech understood. Further, according to HUD, it is generally presumed that Limited Clientele individuals are generally presumed to be principally low to moderate income. This disproportionately affected population are also members of underserved and marginalized groups. Deaf and hard of hearing individuals are also considered a vulnerable population, which may have a high risk for multiple health problems and/or pre-existing conditions; have limited life options (e.g., financial, educational, neighborhood, geographic location, housing, employment); face any type of discrimination (racial, ethnic, caste, gender, sexual orientation, disability, cultural, national, religious, etc.); display fear and distrust in accessing governmental and non-governmental services and programs or disclosing sensitive information; have a limited ability to understand or give informed consent and have a lowered capacity to communicate effectively; have mobility and/or cognitive impairments and have a lack of access to transportation services. We hope to find and serve all of them. We will try our best to get the word out to them that we are searching for them and to please contact us for assistance. We will use all means we can think of to reach out and contact persons considered to be underserved, marginalized, or adversely affected individuals and groups.

b) Awareness: After English language speakers, the Deaf Community is the third largest cultural-linguistic group in the United States. However, unlike some other non-English speaking communities - such as Hispanic - the Deaf population often is ignored. Granted protections under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), businesses are expected to take steps to make their services available to the disabled - including

the Deaf Community. Underserved and marginalized populations include people who experience discrimination of any kind and encounter barriers (e.g., racial, ethnic, gender, sexual orientation, economic, cultural, and/or linguistic) to accessing public health and health care goods and services. They thus receive fewer and lower quality health care and public health goods and services; have a lack of familiarity with the health care delivery system; face a shortage of readily available providers and lack access to quality systems of care. We will be contacting businesses, first responders, doctors, schools, senior centers, nursing homes, non-profit human service organizations, civic organizations, churches, etc. We will also be reaching out to deaf and hard of hearing persons who are the leaders in the deaf community to continue to establish trust and build on the relationship to further reach those individuals needing our services. We will be frequently advertising our search using available radio, newspapers and social media platforms. We will reach out to as many Lee County residents as possible for the entire period of our funding.

c) Access and Distribution: No differences in terms of contact or the education services we offer. All educational and instructional services we offer are free to persons with hearing impairments.

d) Outcomes: The intended outcome of our ARPA project is to determine to what degree were hearing impaired residents of Lee County negatively impacted by the pandemic and to assist all those that were with assistance that helps mitigate the negative effects they experienced as individuals.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: Disabled persons are negatively impacted by the COVID pandemic at a rate greater than the general population. Building on this principle, we believe it to be prudent to take the initiative and look for persons with hearing impairments residing in Lee County that are being negatively impacted by the pandemic and assess their need for assistance.

1.) A study published by the National Library of Medicine in September of 2021, entitled "Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Communication and Healthcare Access for Adults with Hearing Loss", concluded that adults with hearing loss, cochlear implant users and rural residents experience greater challenges in communication pandemic preparedness, and access to healthcare during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2.) "The Experience of deaf healthcare professionals during the coronavirus pandemic", (August 2021) concluded deaf Healthcare Professionals felt left behind, isolated and frustrated by a lack of transparent masks and reasonable adjustments to meet their communication and workplace support needs".

Community Engagement: In addition to making phone calls to local businesses, our agency has conducted several community outreaches at the local mall. We have met several new deaf individuals and their families at these community events and shared the different services and programs we offer. We have invited these individuals and their families to our agency and once here asked them to fill out an assessment for their needs. From there we offer them the services they need, whether from our agency or referrals through United Way or other agencies.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Increase the number of needs assessments of deaf and hard of hearing individuals and their families in Lee County.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	1200 contacts will be made with clients, their families, and/or businesses serving same clientele by the end of the grant cycle	Project Target	1200
		Achieved to Date	1131
		Percentage	94.3%
2)	85% (1020/1200) clientele and/or their families will utilize one or more Agency services by the end of the grant cycle	Project Target	1020
		Achieved to Date	855
		Percentage	83.8%

Outcome Statement 2:		Minimize the impact of COVID by reducing unnecessary stress and isolation caused by the pandemic in deaf and hard of hearing youth and adults.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	85% (1020 /1200) of participants utilizing one or more of the services will demonstrate increased knowledge of communication abilities, technology, or equal access to increased independence and reduced isolation as indicated by pre and post testing.	Project Target	1020
		Achieved to Date	668
		Percentage	65.5%

Success Comments:

#1 We have a new client with deafness from a stroke, a term called Latened Deaf Adult by Stroke. He became deaf after a stroke two years ago and fell into a deep depression. As a result of the stroke, he lost his hearing and along with dealing with the effects of COVID-19 and losing his hearing, he also lost his job as an attorney. He had no way to communicate with hearing people other than writing everything down. After working with our Deaf Mentor who provided different techniques to adapt, including using autistic, non-verbal tools for communicating, the gentleman was able to communicate! He was so happy to see the different cards and was able to point to what he wanted to say easily. He is currently taking assistive technology classes at our center and learning to use "talk to text" on his phone to help him communicate. He has also begun our ASL Sign Language classes along with his hearing daughter. He has since regained hope for a normal life after working with our agency and is excited to learn sign language and socialize with the deaf. His feelings of isolation and depression have greatly diminished.

#2 Every year, thousands of hearing children attend summer camps where they acquire life-changing skills, such as independence and social interaction, that they carry into adulthood. However, for many deaf children, these experiences are often out of reach due to a lack of communication accessibility. Even when they do attend, the isolation is compounded by the inability to fully participate, as their peers may not know sign language. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated this situation, intensifying feelings of isolation, overwhelm, and depression among deaf youth.

In Southwest Florida, there were no summer camps conducted 100% in American Sign Language (ASL) – until now. Thanks to the ARPA grant, our organization was able to provide a transformative experience for the first time in history for deaf youth in Lee County.

Our 5-day overnight camp was a resounding success, welcoming eight campers, none of whom had ever experienced camping before. They had a blast, engaging in various activities and learning new skills. From cooking and playing games to forming deep bonds with one another, the campers enjoyed a rich, inclusive environment.

One high school student, for the first time, felt a sense of "family" and togetherness, inspiring him to foster similar bonds with his family at home. Another camper overcame her cell phone addiction, choosing instead to play games and even learn to sew. A natural leader among the campers discovered the importance of not only leading but also following. One hard of hearing camper received her "sign" name from her deaf peers, symbolizing her official acceptance into the Deaf community.

The camp provided invaluable lessons in independence, with the deaf youth learning essential living skills such as cooking, budgeting for meals, and outdoor safety. The impact of this camp, made possible by the ARPA grant, was profound and far-reaching, equipping our deaf youth with the tools and confidence they need to thrive.

Our camp stands as a testament to the power of inclusion and accessibility, ensuring that every child, regardless of their hearing ability, can enjoy the enriching experience of summer camp. Thank you, ARPA, for making this possible and for giving our deaf youth in Lee County a chance to grow, learn, and feel truly connected.

2.34 Senior Companion Program (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW234D

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Dr. Piper Center for Social Services, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$196,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$173,268.52

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Expansion of the Senior Companion Project is a partially ARPA-funded existing program that will improved/maintained independent living for at least 90% of elderly (lower-income 55 years old or older) clients; increase access to service for 95% of elderly clients; and train, retain at least 95% of senior companion volunteers. The main activities of the project include providing (a) volunteer recruiting and training initiatives and make community presentations to faith-based organizations, senior groups, and other community organizations to recruit volunteers; (b) senior companionship services through the program volunteers; and (c) funding operations staff salaries, supplies, advertising/printing/publication, facility rent, and client transportation.



Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: Based on the Dept of Elder Affairs Profiles of Older Floridians, SWFL shows county variations in the percentage of populations 60 and older: Charlotte with 47%, Collier with 36%, Hendry with 20%, Lee with 34%, and Sarasota with 44%. Within these counties, the racial make-up is 4% black, 7% Hispanic, and 95% white. Also, 54% of the 65-84 age population are veterans. On the other hand, 88% of the older population in this service area are living at poverty level and US Census 2021 estimates state that 8.4% of the Lee County population are disabled. Lastly, Williams Institute of Law of UCLA states that 3.4% of Lee County identify as LGBT. The Senior Companion Program engages in recruitment strategies that draw from all geographic and demographic populations in the community to reflect the diversity of the community that includes all races, ethnicities, sexual orientations, degrees of English language proficiency, veterans and families, and persons living with disabilities. Last year, approximately 20% of individuals served were 55-64 years old, and 80% of individuals served were 65 years or older. We also served 34% black and 54% Hispanic individuals.

b) Awareness: Volunteers are recruited through presentations to local faith-based organizations, senior groups, newspaper advertisements and publicity generated by news stories published or aired by area media outlets, referral from other community organizations, announcements in various publications, fliers posted in area senior housing complexes, senior centers, program representation in community events such as volunteer fairs, and most importantly by word of mouth. We seek out veteran volunteers, military family members, and people living with disabilities by joining forces with the Veterans Foundation of Lee County.

c) Access and Distribution: Clients receiving respite services are homebound and, due to their level of need, do not receive transportation services. All other clients, if able to get in and out of the vehicle on their own, are offered transportation along with companionship services.

d) Outcomes: Outcomes are focused on frail elderly clients feeling less lonely, being able to remain living in their own home, having the ability to get to doctors' appointments and grocery shopping, and being more satisfied with life. The program also seeks to provide opportunities for older people willing to share their experience, abilities, and skills for the betterment of their community and themselves to help frail elderly in their communities maintain independence.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: The Senior Companion Program is a federally funded program sponsored through AmeriCorps Seniors. The program has long used evidence to support whether the services provided are having the intended effect. The evidence-based program model addresses the amount of contact or service over a period of time, characteristics of service recipients, methods of quality assurance, training of professional staff and supporting volunteers, standard procedures, and monitoring for fidelity to program model. The evaluation design of the Senior Companion Program is based on Outcomes Based Planning and Evaluation. Outcome-based planning uses program client's needs and desired results as the foundation for designing programs. Outcome-based evaluation is a systematic way to assess the extent to which the program has achieved its intended results. The program focuses on key questions: "How has my program made a difference?" and "How are the lives of the clients better as a result of the program?" The Senior Companion Program follows this method very strictly. Volunteer coordinators will complete a Client Care Plan before volunteers are assigned to their clients. The Client Care Plan consists of Client's Needs, Activities to meet those Needs, Expected Accomplishments, and Outcomes. The Client's Needs, Activities and Expected Accomplishment are discussed with the volunteers before his/her first meeting with the client. At the end of the fiscal year, the Client Care Plan will be revisited, and the volunteer coordinator will complete the document by listing the "Outcomes." The completed Client Care Plan is used to evaluate the impact of the program.

Community Engagement:

Since April 2023, we've conducted presentations and/or attended recruitment events at Fort Myers Beach Chamber, Above Board Chamber, The Heights Foundation, Council of the Blind, low-income senior housing (Presbyterian Home and St. John XXIII), Lehigh Community Service, Lehigh Senior Center, and Cameo. We also scheduled presentations at several other housing communities for July and August 2023.

Since April 2024, we've conducted presentations/attended events at Bonita Senior Center, Lehigh Senior Center (Resiliency Roundup), Carriage Village (55+ mobile home community in NFM), and the Dunbar Library. We also connected with the Dunbar Festival Committee re: assistance with volunteer recruitment. We continue to maintain our relationship with FMHA, onboarding new volunteers through the low-income senior housing.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Frail homebound elderly clients will have improved capacity for living independently preventing premature institutionalization.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	90% of clients served that remain in their own home	Project Target	648
		Achieved to Date	432
		Percentage	66.7
2)	85% Volunteer Retention- Low-income senior volunteers will remain engaged and have an increased sense of purpose and overall quality of life	Project Target	56
		Achieved to Date	31
		Percentage	55.4%
3)	95% Increased social ties and decreased feelings of loneliness	Project Target	684
		Achieved to Date	410
		Percentage	59.9%
4)	98% Senior Companion volunteers will receive orientation training upon enrolling in the program and ongoing in-service training to increase their existing level and add new skills	Project Target	66
		Achieved to Date	88
		Percentage	133.3%

Success Comments:

#1 The Senior Companion Program Coordinator received a call from client. who had been in the program approximately 9 months and needed transportation for grocery shopping and getting to his doctor's appointments. He did not have any local family support, was homebound and isolated therefore he was also seeking companionship services.

He shared that his Senior Companion volunteer was a walking angel. He stated that his health conditions were very poor, and he honestly did not have the strength in him to fight until he met the volunteer. He stated the volunteer was a wonderful soul that went above and beyond- more than some people's own family members. He stated, "it is easier to go through the struggle because of <name removed>." He was extremely thankful with the support he received from the Dr. Piper Center and stated if his health conditions weren't so poor, he would be applying to become a Senior Companion volunteer with the agency because he saw, firsthand, the importance of the services that our organization provided to the community. He felt less isolated and was able to remain living independently because of the support provided by his Senior Companion Volunteer.

#2 The Program Director received a letter from <name of participant removed> regarding her Senior Companion volunteer <name of volunteer removed>. <name of volunteer removed> has been a dedicated volunteer in the program since 2013 and currently has 4 clients. She is also a member of the Senior Companion Advisory Council and she volunteers at the Dr. Piper Center's Annual Christmas Celebration every year. <Name of participant removed> wrote <name of volunteer removed> is a giver, a good provider, and a nice Christian woman who lets her light shine. She stated she has been a client of <name of volunteer removed> for a few months and is loving every minute of it. <name of volunteer

removed> takes her to her doctor's appointments and stated she is always there for her. <Name of participant removed> shared that she is slow moving, uses a cane, and has a "sickness" but that <name of volunteer removed> is there every step of the way. She stated her Senior Companion volunteer assists her with getting to the car, into a wheelchair, or with any other help she needs. <Name of participant removed> stated she loves <name of volunteer removed> and thanks God for sending her into her life. She stated her volunteer has given her joy and she is so grateful to be one of her "receivers" (clients). <Name of participant removed> stated <name of volunteer removed> treats her with respect, kindness, and knows her job. <Name of participant removed> stated since<name of volunteer removed> has started to work with her she is less lonely and is able to get to her appointments. <Name of participant removed> thanked the Dr. Piper Center and <name of volunteer removed>for coming into her life.

2.34 Diaper Bank (United Way's Project Beneficiary)

Project ID: ARPA-BUW234E

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Healthy Start Coalition of Southwest Florida

Funding Amount: \$291,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$275,092

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a beneficiary agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. Healthy Start's Regional Diaper Bank project is a partially ARPA-funded expansion of an existing program to ensure that parents have the diapers and other resources that promote healthy parenting. The main activities of the project include providing (a) funding for operational staff salaries; (b) warehouse rent; (c) funding to develop a diapers bank (surplus); and (d) outreach materials.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes: This beneficiary organization will use the funds to cover the negative economic impact their diaper distribution program(s) suffered during the COVID-19 pandemic. The program addresses the need for diapers for low income, minority, and other households in Lee County.

Success Comments:

We met <name removed> at a temporary FEMA village when we were distributing diapers with Catholic Charities. Sheri is a young mother of three and was pregnant with her fourth child. She had absolutely no family support and was left homeless. We were able to provide diapers, wipes, baby food, a pack &



play and other items. Working with our partners, she and her children were placed temporarily in a Salvation Army shelter. Since Salvation Army is also a Diaper Bank partner, we were able to continue to supply her diapers while she was there. She was enrolled in Healthy Start home visiting services and continues to receive diapers through her home visitor. Again, through community collaboration, she now has a job, a permanent home, a dedicated home visitor and a beautiful new baby girl who will not have to worry about diapers.

2.34 Busing for Veterans (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW234F

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Hearts & Homes for Veterans

Funding Amount: \$65,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$61,472.81

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. Hearts & Homes for Veterans Bus project is a fully ARPA-funded expansion of an existing program that will improve the client access to services that improve self-worth, community engagement, and self-care. The main activities of the project include

funding to provide (a) operational staff salaries; and (b) funding for rent and motel housing lodging, client utilities, furnishing and supplies, vehicle repairs and transportation.



Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: HHV's clients are low-income and homeless veterans and their families are already a disproportionately affected population. Further, HHV is blind to race, gender and ethnicity. Our main umbrella is in being a low-income and homeless veteran. Low-income and homeless veterans and their families are already a disproportionately affected population. Additionally, veterans suffering from a mental illness/PTSD are often marginalized.

b) Awareness: This project is meant to serve a specific population of Lee County, a specific marginalized community. With that in mind, it is not meant to serve the masses. There is equity in helping a disproportionate population.

c) Access and Distribution: In our cohort group of HHV clients, there are no differences in the access to benefits or services. The only administrative requirements that are needed would be copies of documents such as a veteransDD214, and Disability Award Letters or Social Security documents, all of which we can help them by telling them exactly what they need and how to get the documents. We can further take them to a computer to help them get the document, sit them down with the DAV representative and now potentially take them to the agencies to get the documents.

d) Outcomes: The intended outcome is intended to close the gap between veterans who neglect their health for lack of transportation to those that receive regular care because transportation is not a problem. Race, gender, etc. is not at issue but will be tracked for further data.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-producing project with learning agenda – Hypothesis: Clients at HHV will more likely follow through with medical appointments and travel to handle problems when provided with transportation.

Community Engagement:

HHV has been advertising on our web site, distributed Flyers and is included in HHV's weekly E-mail blast.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Increase transportation availability to homeless and low-income Veterans and family.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	Enroll 120 Veteran in the transportation program by end of 2024	Project Target	120
		Achieved to Date	290
		Percentage	242%
2)	Provide 240 service trips (30/quarter)	Project Target	240
		Achieved to Date	3156
		Percentage	1315%

Success Comments:

Each day we hope to be able to take Veterans to scheduled doctors' appointments, shopping trips are also planned with stops at Walmart allowing veterans to shop for food and/or needed items. HHV is hopeful that Veterans will make good use of this bus service. This is a trial beginning and adjustments will be made as requirements dictate. Transportation is one of the Top 5 needs requested by our local Veteran community.

One of our new volunteers, with a background as a VA Peer-to-Peer support specialist, was assisting a newly registered client; the client, was a recently relocated National Guardsman from New York. (He had actually been activated twice). He had come to HHV requesting support with his back rent. His wife had been hospitalized and had returned to New York. He lost his job when he was left to care for their two young daughters.

HHV's volunteer Peer Specialist reached out to a Soldier and Family Readiness Specialist with the Florida National Guard, regarding his request for rent assistance. Requested documents were sent to the Family Readiness Specialist, who reached out to one of her contacts - - an American Legion Post in Broward County -- for possible additional financial assistance.

On December 20, 2022, Hearts and Homes for Veterans (HHV) provided the Van, driver, volunteer Peer specialist to escort the Veteran and his two daughters to Delray Beach. The Veteran met with the American Legion Rep and the Board of Directors from Glen Eagle Country Club; Veteran was awarded an \$1800 gift card to go towards his back rent.

2.34 Speed Servin' Angels (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW234G

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Hermanos Unidos Catolicos Brothers and Sisters United

Funding Amount: \$100,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$100,000

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. Speed Servin' Angels is a fully ARPA-funded new program that will decrease food insecurity for low-income individuals and families. The main activities of the project include providing (a) no-cost hot meal served to weekly at our kitchen/dining site; (b) funding for operational staff salaries; and (c) funding for food and operational supplies, professional services, and food handlers' equipment.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: All the groups we serve have been historically underserved and were adversely affected by the COVID 19 pandemic. Lehigh Acres has a 40% Hispanic population compared with 26.2% in the state. This higher percentage of Hispanics also brings language barrier issues with food access. Lehigh Acres has 19.55% Black population compared with 16.9% in the state. This means poverty issues will loom larger in Lehigh Acres as a higher percent of minority populations deal with food security issues. Our organization's project addresses the basic weekly food needs with a hot meal and other foods offered to these populations in a safe, inclusive, supportive environment. This is not available or offered anywhere else in Lehigh Acres leaving many underserved. With the pandemic any hot meals served by Churches were ended. The pandemic adversely affected the marginalized groups who had less money for food, more economic impact with lost jobs, many were close to losing their apartments or homes due to financial stress, cause them to spend less on food; therefore, food insecurity increased among the low income and poverty families.

b) Awareness: We will market the project, 'Speed Servin' Angels'...free hot, nutritious meals weekly...through many avenues including: notices to the Churches in the area for their bulletins, notices to the social services agencies to disseminate to their clients, flyers in doctor offices, flyers at places of business near where the homeless gather, Facebook notices, word-of-mouth.

c) Access and Distribution: There is no difference between access to services across the groups: our goals are to serve all in need of food who come to the meal; we address the food insecurity needs of our large minority population by encouraging participation in receiving the meal or delivery of meal if they are homebound, lack transportation, etc.

d) Outcomes:

1. We will see a decrease of food insecurity in our Lehigh Acres poverty and low income population by reaching out and serving the free weekly meal, with pantry service that day, and delivery of the meal when needed; this will address the increased need since the COVID-19 pandemic has negatively financially affected large numbers of workers in the community who lost their employment and are just now

beginning to return to work and climb out of the financial hole the pandemic caused for many families.

2. We hope to see an increase in nutrition and health with the offering of the free meal; a supportive environment at the time of the meal assures diners of companionship and support, essential for families and individuals to feel valued, cared about, and gives a renewed sense of hope in themselves and the community, all which translates into higher level of health, and higher educational achievement as children and teens are not worried about their family's food insecurity (closing the 'gaps' on educational achievement of minorities and the white population in the schools; higher education achievement and food security are positively correlated; more stable families and food security are positively correlated; less crime and food security are positively correlated.

3. Therefore, our projects outcomes will include a higher overall functioning of those who attend our weekly meals; alleviating some negative effects of the COVID pandemic is the goal of the project with providing increase access to food, and thereby, increased ability to improve one's health for all who partake weekly of the nutritious meal.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-producing project with learning agenda - Hypothesis: 'If we serve them, they will come,'; we believe the hunger levels/food insecurity of our community population justifies and calls for increased action in our community to serve hot meals to those in poverty, near poverty, and the homeless.

Community Engagement:

Flyers, Community outreach at food distribution sites, and other community sites. Word of mouth also has dramatically increased our outreach to families.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Decrease food insecurity for low-income individuals and families.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	1000 hot meals to low-income individuals and families per quarter (8)	Project Target	8,000
		Achieved to Date	22,564
		Percentage	282%
2)	Serve 300 households per quarter (8)	Project Target	2400
		Achieved to Date	3652
		Percentage	152.2%

Success Comments:

#1 We had this young man come to the meal drive the last three times we held the events. We were very happy we were able to provide a meal for him each time he came through in his time of need. However, we really knew he was grateful when he offered to step in and volunteer at the event!

Not only are we here to provide help to the underprivileged with something as simple as a hot meal, but also to provide a volunteer opportunity to those who feel called to do so.

#2 On the designated day, the hot food drive kicked off with an incredible response from the community. People of all walks of life lined up to receive a hot meal, their faces lighting up with gratitude. Families struggling to make ends meet, homeless individuals, and even the elderly residents living alone were served without discrimination.

2.34 Early Intervention Services (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW234H

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Impact for Developmental Education, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$199,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$199,000

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Early Intervention Services project is a fully ARPA-funded expansion of an existing program whose objective is to provide early intervention with infants and toddlers to eliminate or reduce the severity of disabilities & developmental delays by providing therapeutic early intervention to at-risk children and their families. The main activities of the project include (a) assessment testing for autism; (b) training for professional service providers; (c) therapeutic Listening & Loaner Program of sensory equipment to loan to parents; (d) providing after school program; and (e) funding for operation staff salaries, computer and other operational equipment.



Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

- a) Goals: Historically infants and toddlers with developmental delays are underserved. IMPACT addresses the needs of the entire family.
- b) Awareness: IMPACT will market the project to our partner agencies, parent magazine, Facebook, and to those we currently serve who were affected by Covid 19
- c) Access and Distribution: No differences in access.
- d) Outcomes: Intended outcomes are focused on closing gaps. Individual developmental goals are written on a plan.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-producing project with learning agenda – Hypothesis: Early intervention services can change a child's developmental path and improve outcomes for children, families and their community.

Community Engagement:

IMPACT receives referrals from Lee County Schools, Early Steps, Pediatricians, and families who have previously received services. They have a website and a Facebook page.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Early intervention services will assist children and their families overcome developmental delays and achieve their individual goals.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	75 unduplicated children will be evaluated to determine their developmental delays	Project Target	75
		Achieved to Date	74
		Percentage	98.7%
2)	75 unduplicated children will receive an individualized plan of action	Project Target	75
		Achieved to Date	72
		Percentage	96%
3)	75% (56/75) children will reach their developmental goals as written in their individual plan by end of the grant period	Project Target	56
		Achieved to Date	70
		Percentage	125%

Success Comments

IMPACT is truly grateful for the invaluable opportunity to participate in this Grant program. While the journey was filled with a significant amount of hard work, the immense satisfaction derived from being able to serve our community far outweighs any challenges faced.

When Impact was honored with this grant to bolster our ongoing program and support families in need, we swiftly set our plans into motion. Through the implementation of strategic initiatives, we successfully facilitated the adaptation of both our staff and the families we serve to the constantly evolving landscape.

By leveraging telehealth services such as Zoom, we were able to connect with families who preferred remote assistance. Additionally, we were able to revamp our playground equipment, procure new computers for our staff, and acquire essential supplies for evaluations and reports. The provision of therapy equipment and accessories further enhanced our services, while the introduction of a loaner program for therapy equipment catered to families in dire need.

Furthermore, we prioritized the continuous growth and development of our staff by providing them with comprehensive training, ensuring that their skills remain sharp and up-to-date.

None of these remarkable accomplishments could have been possible without the incredible opportunity extended to us, and for that, we are profoundly grateful.

2.34 Serving Our Community (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW234I

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Interfaith Caregivers of South Lee Inc dba/Interfaith Charities of South Lee, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$136,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$106,604.02

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with



United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Serving Our Community project partially ARPA-funded expansion of an existing program whose objective is to decrease food insecurity through an after-school and summer lunch program and to provide a means for tax preparation through VITA. The main activities of the project include providing (a) funding to lease additional space large enough to relaunch and enhance the food distribution program; (b) funding to purchase office furniture and supplies; and (c) funding for operation staff salaries.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: Continue serving our community.

b) Awareness: Our services are marketed equally to all Lee County residents.

c) Access and Distribution: There are no differences in levels of access to benefits or any administrative requirements. The only criteria for receiving food is that the client must live within our service area (between Gladiolus Road and Coconut Road). This is in cooperation with other food pantries in the area to ensure equitable distribution.

d) Outcomes: Our intended outcomes are primarily focused on closing gaps.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-producing project with learning agenda

Community Engagement:

Communicated on our website, through social media and personal communications.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Decrease food insecurity for disadvantaged people in South Lee County.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	1200 households will receive a weekly food distribution per quarter	Project Target	9600
		Achieved to Date	19254
		Percentage	200%
2)	125 children will attend the Summer Lunch program by the end of the grant period	Project Target	62
		Achieved to Date	367
		Percentage	591%

Outcome Statement 2:		Increase the financial resources of community residents by preparing tax returns free of charge	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	900 tax returns will be prepared	Project Target	900
		Achieved to Date	1555
		Percentage	172.8%

2.34 Comprehensive Housing Counseling (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW234J

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Lee County Housing Development Corporation

Funding Amount: \$225,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$168,437.29

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. Comprehensive Housing Counseling project is a partially ARPA-funded expansion of an existing program whose objective is to increase stable housing and avoid eviction/foreclosure for individuals and families. The main activities of the project include providing free housing counseling including Financial Management & Budgeting Counseling (FBC), Pre-purchase counseling (PPC), Mortgage Delinquency & Default Resolution Counseling (DFC), Rental Housing Counseling (RHC) and Home Improvement Counseling (HIC).



Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: Black families disproportionately experience the weight of being housing cost burdened, as demonstrated by higher eviction rates and lower home ownership rates. According to Urban Institute, the black homeownership gap in Florida is 44%; this disparity is a major contributing factor to racial wealth gap (Explaining the Black-White Homeownership Gap: A Closer Look at Disparities across Local Markets, 2019). Families financially positioned to purchase a home through a fixed rate mortgage are equipped with an antidote to rising housing costs.

b) Awareness: While the bidding war for housing continues among financially secure families, it's those with lower incomes who are facing the most significant consequences of the current housing boom. Swiftly rising home costs mean that families who've worked hard to prepare for homeownership may no longer be able to afford it, let alone find suitable housing that fits their needs. Plus, with the increased cost of housing comes a correlating increase in the cost of rent. According to Mike Allan, member of Lee County's Affordable Housing Task Force, less state funding overtime has made it harder to manage the affordable housing crisis in Lee County. Florida was on the forefront when we established our housing trust fund. The William E. Sadowski Affordable Housing Act, as approved by the Florida Legislature and codified as Chapter 420 of the Florida Statutes, requires the development of an Affordable Housing Incentive Plan by all local governments electing to participate in the housing production and preservation initiatives authorized by the Act. During fiscal year 2020, Florida lawmakers passed Senate Bill 2512, which took away more than half the state's Sadowski funds from affordable housing. Without those funds, affordable housing projects never happened, even when you have the low-income housing tax credits. According to a 2021 Home Attainability study by the Urban Land Institute, accessing affordable housing requires sufficient savings to cover a down payment and closing costs for those seeking homeownership

and for those seeking affordable rentals, requires savings for moving costs. However, high housing costs can serve as a barrier to accumulating these savings. In some cases, high rental costs lead to limited disposable income, making it difficult to accumulate savings sufficient to achieve basic housing stability, let alone purchase a home. Racial and ethnic disparities exist, with research showing that Black and Hispanic families have smaller emergency savings. To illustrate barriers to housing stability and wealth creation, their 2021 Affordability Index includes a metric that estimates the number of months it would take for a household at 50 percent of AMI to accrue sufficient savings to cover a move to a new apartment (first and last month's rent, plus a security deposit) or withstand a three-month disruption in income if it were able to build savings based on national savings rate data. The median for the full data set was 29.7 months, with the nation's hottest rental markets requiring more than 40 months of savings. For households who are able to rent sustainably, it is still challenging in many regions to accumulate the amounts necessary to purchase a home. The Index estimates the number of years it would take for a household at 80 percent of AMI to save for a down payment and closing costs for a median-priced home. The median for the Index data set was 14.6 years, and 23 regions had estimates of 20 years or more. With the ability to save sufficient capital in a reasonable amount of time limited, the impact that family financial assistance can have in gaining a foothold on the ladder of wealth creation is magnified. Gaps in homeownership rates in rapidly appreciating markets can become self-reinforcing, because the wealth created through homeownership can be passed down to the next generation. In this way, racial disparities can become more entrenched, given the aforementioned racial ownership gaps and research that shows that White households are more likely to receive an inheritance or receive help for making a down payment than Black or Hispanic households. Among most regions in the 2021 Index data set, Black and Hispanic households are also more likely than White households to have high-cost mortgages (median gap of 9.28 and 7.77 percentage points, respectively), which may lead to housing instability or limit the equity and savings accrued by those households that are able to purchase a home. LCHDC is a primary developer of affordable housing in our markets. ARP funding will expand our ability to deliver needed units.

c) Access and Distribution: None known

d) Outcomes: According to a 2021 Home Attainability study by the Urban Land Institute, accessing affordable housing requires sufficient savings to cover a down payment and closing costs for those seeking homeownership and for those seeking affordable rentals, requires savings for moving costs. However, high housing costs can serve as a barrier to accumulating these savings. In some cases, high rental costs lead to limited disposable income, making it difficult to accumulate savings sufficient to achieve basic housing stability, let alone purchase a home. Racial and ethnic disparities exist, with research showing that Black and Hispanic families have smaller emergency savings. To illustrate barriers to housing stability and wealth creation, their 2021 Affordability Index includes a metric that estimates the number of months it would take for a household at 50 percent of AMI to accrue sufficient savings to cover a move to a new apartment (first and last month's rent, plus a security deposit) or withstand a three-month disruption in income if it were able to build savings based on national savings rate data. The median for the full data set was 29.7 months, with the nation's hottest rental markets requiring more than 40 months of savings. For households who are able to rent sustainably, it is still challenging in many regions to accumulate the amounts necessary to purchase a home.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: HUD’s final rule implements the requirement that homeownership counseling and rental housing counseling required under or provided in connection with HUD programs be provided only by organizations approved by HUD under HUD's Housing Counseling Program.

In addition, this final rule implements the statutory requirement that, for an organization to be approved by HUD to participate in HUD's Housing Counseling Program, all counselors employed by the organization that provide homeownership counseling and rental housing counseling must pass the certification examination and become a HUD certified housing counselor.

Lee County Housing Development Corporation has a certified housing counselor and the agency is in compliance with the Final Rule.

Community Engagement:

Outreach efforts are on-going via social media, TV, community events, website and community resource room. Continued collaborations/partnership with local, state and federal partners.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Increase housing stability for households impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic. Additional Measurement Tools: LCHDC will utilize client action/work plans, budget/spending plans, case management notes, and follow-up feedback surveys to measure program success.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	80% (240/300) of renter households served under the program will utilize knowledge gained from housing counseling to either avoid eviction or locate suitable permanent housing as evidenced by execution of a renewal lease agreement, court records (e.g., disposition documents, etc.)	Project Target	240
		Achieved to Date	219
		Percentage	91.3%
2)	80% (76/95) of homeowner households served will utilize knowledge and counseling efforts to avoid foreclosure or obtain alternative permanent housing (purchase of new unit) as evidenced by a modification agreement or other loss mitigation correspondence issued by the servicer or mortgagee	Project Target	76
		Achieved to Date	47
		Percentage	61.8%
3)	80% (104/130) of education clients served will increase their knowledge of group education, specifically home buyer education as evidenced by a home buyer education certificate	Project Target	103
		Achieved to Date	95
		Percentage	92.2%

Success Comments:

<Name removed> is a success story because he landed a permanent apartment after becoming homeless due to health issues resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. “I need people to know what happened to me,” he said, who described himself as a compassionate man who now lives in his new apartment a Husky who is the only family he has.

His journey from having a home, to living in his car, to permanent housing highlights the challenge Lee County Housing Development Corporation (LCHDC) tackle in partnership with other community organizations.

After suffering from health issues, <name removed>, 55, was unsuccessful in locating affordable housing assistance when he encountered the Executive Director of the Lee County Housing Development Corporation, a not-for-profit Community Housing Development Organization (CHDO) and HUD approved housing counseling agency back in September 2022.

Even more remarkable is that he can keep his new apartment, as sometime thereafter he was approved for a mainstream (Section 8) voucher. With the Section 8 voucher, he will pay 30% of his income for rent. Since he was already residing in a rental unit subsidized by the Rapid Rehousing Program, his goal of attaining permanent, safe, decent, affordable housing is complete.

This is a testament to how community resources work together to provide long-term solutions for people like <name removed>, who says that he now has hope of a better life, now that he has a place to call home.

2.34 The Friendly Visitor Program for Seniors (United Way’s Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW234K

United Way’s Project Subrecipient: The Lee County Jewish Federation

Funding Amount: \$74,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$49,963.74

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Friendly Visitor project is a partially ARPA-funded new program to recruit and train volunteers to build relationships and visit with seniors to improve their quality of life and community engagement.



The main activities of the project include providing (a) funding for operation staff salaries; (b) funding for program supplies; and (c) senior lunches.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: Seniors with lower incomes who were alone and unable to afford home health care or aides as well as people whose friends or relatives were unable to visit were deeply affected by the world shutting down when the pandemic hit and there was an abrupt cutoff from friends, relatives, community interactions. Seniors living in facilities that experienced staffing shortages and had little to no programming were also greatly affected by Covid.

b) Awareness: The Jewish Federation will market the program to agencies that are connected to the senior population in Lee County, including but not limited to physician offices, pharmacies, non-profit agencies, senior living facilities. The Federation has established relationships with Programming Directors in most senior living facilities who can help The Jewish Federation identify seniors suffering from isolation and mental health issues due to Covid. The Federation also has established connections with many seniors who would benefit from The Friendly Visitor Program.

c) Access and Distribution: No difference in access.

d) Outcomes: Same outcomes for all served.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-producing project with learning agenda – Statistics will be used as evidence, provided by the Area Office for the Aging as our main source. There will be ongoing reviews throughout to determine credible information, and to ensure that our practices are the most effective.

Community Engagement:

- We have hosted three Senior Lunches this quarter with a total of 99 individuals who have attended and attendees have been made aware of the program.

- We have partnered with Alliance for Therapy Dogs, Beesley’s Paws and Gulf Coast Humane Society to provide Animal Therapy to Senior Living Facilities.
- We have partnered with the VA and Area Agency for Aging to distribute robotic cats/dos to Veterans in Lee County.
- We are making phone calls and sending emails to Senior Living Facilities all around Lee County. Outreach to the general public includes: social media posts, posting information on our website, as well as, notifying Senior Service Centers.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		To increase quality of life by addressing relieving loneliness and isolation for clients in adult living facility.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	Goal 1: Increase awareness of the Friendly Visitor Program with adult living facilities and partner organizations Goal = 42 adult living facilities per year (10 Quarters)	Project Target	124
		Achieved to Date	100
		Percentage	80.6%
2)	3 partner organizations have an increased awareness of the Friendly Visitor Program	Project Target	8
		Achieved to Date	14
		Percentage	175%
3)	Create 12 monthly lunch programs with topics of discussion and activities. Goal = 12 per calendar year (10 Quarters)	Project Target	30
		Achieved to Date	28
		Percentage	93.3%

Success Comments:

Pandemic. What’s that? We found out when covid hit us all. What to do, where to go, or not go Life as we knew it was suddenly gone and replaced by mask wearing and solitary activities. Events we attended and people we saw were replaced by loneliness and isolation. We lacked the human contact that keeps all of us going. Two years plus and lo and behold we get vaccinations, and very slowly and cautiously we begin the new normal. Wow, lunch bunch restarts. We see familiar faces, such a joy. We talk to people and meet new friends, the gap we felt is starting to fill up. We are reinvigorated. There is life after covid! We meet lovely and diverse people at lunch bunch. It meets every month and so you have new friends constantly. Lunch Bunch, what a blessing.

Today Rebah the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties all the hard-working volunteers who brought us out of a dark and lonely times to a bring new beginning.

2.34 Immigration Services (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW234L

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Lee County Legal Aid Society, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$490,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$362,032.75

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County.



Lee County Legal Aid's Immigrant Advocacy project is a partially ARPA-funded program that will help immigrants navigate the legal system to gain legal employment and residency. The main activities of the project include providing (a) funding for operational staff salaries; (b) needs assessment and legal service for immigrants seeking domestic violence and legal aid assistance; and (c) funding for operational supplies.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: Lee County Legal Aid intends to serve vulnerable and marginalized low-income immigrant survivors of abuse. By intentionally communicating more frequently with our human services and legal services providers on strategies and service delivery methods, the project will reduce unmet needs of our vulnerable immigrant population by providing high-quality legal services to allow our clients to break free from domestic violence and to protect immigrant children from the harms of child abuse, abandonment, and neglect. The typical reluctant client will agree to receive legal help and will no longer suffer social, racial, and economic instability from her/his abuser. We expect that it will take our clients a longer time to adjust and accept societal and cultural norms that reject cycles of abuse and power. However, we do expect to see empowered clients who change their behavior because of our legal intervention to their immigration, domestic violence, and child abuse issues. Finally, we expect to more intentionally engage with donors, funders, and other philanthropic organizations to increase the awareness of Lee County Legal Aid, our services, and specifically our services to immigrant survivors of domestic violence and immigrant children in Florida's dependency (foster care) system.

b) Awareness: We seek feedback and information from both our clients and our community partners in various ways. Due to the sensitivity of the domestic violence survivors and immigrants we work with regularly, we solicit and take the time to listen to their feedback during our representation. When the case has concluded, we ask our clients to submit feedback through a survey. The information is initially reviewed by the support staff that receives it, the staff attorney handling the case, as well as the Executive Director. While it can be difficult to ensure our clients return the survey, we take the time to explain that their feedback is critical to continuously improving our services. We solicit and receive feedback from our community partners during convening and other regularly scheduled meetings on an ongoing basis, such as the United Way partner meetings. We will work with our regular community partners and other social

service providers to help us identify client groups that we can informally engage to help ensure our processes and systems are user-friendly, culturally competent, and accessible. The Department of Children and Families, the Guardian ad Litem's office, and Catholic Charities have begun referring clients to us prior to the official launch of the project. Word of mouth is spreading through governmental agencies that Lee County Legal Aid is the trusted provider and community law firm for resolution to these complex family and immigration matters.

c) Access and Distribution: Potential clients contact Lee County Legal Aid by telephone and are screened for income eligibility, case priorities, and conflicts. Applications for our services are reviewed by senior staff members, and then appointments are made for a staff attorney to conduct a consultation and review the legal issues presented. During intake interviews staff attorneys discuss the legal & financial issues involved in clients' cases. The next step taken on behalf of the client is filing court documents or assisting the client with filling out their own papers to proceed pro-se without a lawyer helping them in their case. "Pro se" clients are given legal advice about their case & are also referred to community partners for non-legal issues. We also refer clients we assist to our collaborative partners for non-legal issues, such as referrals for counseling. In cases such as bankruptcy, criminal law, & other areas outside of our priorities, we provide basic advice & referrals to other law firms and service providers. All cases accepted at Lee County Legal Aid are worked on until a final resolution is reached. Our firm is both Creole and Spanish-fluent and we utilize services with Lighthouse and the Sally J. Pimentel center to ensure all clients have access to our services.

d) Outcomes: We will collect data in Legal Server, our case management system, on the types of legal matters we handle; the number of clients and their children helped; client demographics; and the legal and financial outcomes of the legal intervention (obtaining an injunction and/or legal immigration status). We will also collect data in survey instruments given to clients and our community partners. The data we collect will show evidence of a change in client behavior when legal services are provided and address social and economic needs resulting in:

- Barriers to accessing free and high-quality legal services are removed;
- Immigrant clients and their children increase their English language skills and increase the likelihood to report domestic violence, abuse, abandonment, and/or neglect, and apply for legal status.
- Increased Orders for Protection Against Domestic Violence are issued;
- Clients' housing improves due to legal intervention that results in a healthier physical environment that does not include verbal, emotional, or financial abuse;
- Clients understanding their rights as immigrant victims of domestic violence;
- Clients obtaining lawful employment and earning income to meet basic living expenses;
- Children are safe from violence in the home and not at risk of being placed in Florida's dependency system;
- Clients knowing how to report violations of their protective order;
- Clients' children are regularly attending school;
- Clients and their children regularly receive medical care rather than remaining unknown and in the shadows of society;
- Clients secure personal and family stability due to legal assistance.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-producing project with learning agenda - Learning Question is: In what ways does providing civil legal services to immigrants improve their self-sufficiency and economic contribution to their local and state economies? We will include feedback loops through client & community partner surveys to collect data and we will also monitor and collect case related data directly from clients. Our Theory of Change is based on the assumption that appropriate legal interventions can interrupt cycles of domestic violence and child abuse, neglect, and abandonment. Through community lawyering, outreach, and legal interventions, Lee County Legal Aid empowers immigrant clients and their families by obtaining legal status, rights, a path to economic stability, safe housing, and other basic needs.

Community Engagement:

Networking with DCF, the office of the Guardian ad Litem, Catholic Charities, and the North Fort Myers United Way House. WhatsApp direct cell phone connection to Immigration Attorney's office. Instagram videos created in Creole, posted by our Immigration Attorney. Courtroom appearances for immigration are increasing legal community awareness of the mission, as are speaking engagements in the community. Currently finalizing a marketing/pr contract for interactive web page, social media, print and more speaking engagement presence.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Assist underserved, abused, abandoned, and neglected immigrant children navigate the legal system to gain legal residency.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	25 Unduplicated client consultations	Project Target	25
		Achieved to Date	320
		Percentage	1280%
2)	6 petitions filed by the Immigration Attorney for SIJS (Special Immigrant Juvenile Status) for previously identified clients	Project Target	8
		Achieved to Date	63
		Percentage	787.5%

Success Comments:

Our Immigration Legal Team has provided legal assistance to ninety-two individuals since our agency first began offering Immigration services in the Spring of 2022.

We received an approval of Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, a Social Security Card and a Work Authorization Card for our client, who is now 18 years old. <name removed> is an undocumented youth from Guatemala. He came to the United States as an unaccompanied minor at the age of fifteen. He was a runaway youth. He was reported missing after running away from the youth center he resided in. He was found, homeless and inebriated, by the Department of Children and Family investigators. He was placed in foster care. We completed his Special Immigrant Juvenile Status application with Immigration authorities. He now has a lawful status as a Special Immigrant Juvenile, is eligible for Medicaid, can work lawfully, and has a clear pathway to become a lawful permanent resident, once a Visa is available to him.

2.34 Vision Rehabilitation and Support Services (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW234M

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Lighthouse of Southwest Florida, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$232,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$190,484.88

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. Vision Rehabilitation and Support Services project is a partially ARPA-funded program to serve persons and families with low vision/blindness needs by increasing strategies for independence, providing knowledge of community resources such as paratransit services, employment opportunities, and mental health services and increasing access and knowledge of adaptive devices and assistive technology. The main activities of the project include providing (a) training and referrals for adaptive and assistive technology for those with vision impairment; (b) funding for data management solutions; (c) funding for operational staff; and (d) program marketing.



Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: Lighthouse of SWFL provides services to Lee County residents with blindness and vision impairment. Vision Serve Alliance briefing reports that African Americans and Hispanics report higher level of prevalence of vision impairment and that older adults with vision impairment have lower levels of underserved and minority communities. Lighthouse of SWFL partners with United Way and Division of Blind Services to identify clients in need of services throughout minority communities.

b) Awareness: This project includes a priority focus of designing and launching a public relations and marketing plan to increase outreach and awareness. This plan will include heightened sensitivity to reach all residents in need of services with equity in mind. Various modes of communication will be utilized to reach a wide audience for referrals and inquiries for services.

c) Access and Distribution: Lighthouse of SWFL program staff administer intake and assessment for services using various modes of communication to allow access for any resident who may need services - including in-person at the office or home setting, telephone, email, and secure electronic delivery for completion of intake documents. The agency's fleet vehicles are utilized to get clients to these appointments or to get staff to the home if client is unable to travel to the office. Bi-lingual staff are available to assist with translation when needed. Accommodations for persons with hearing loss is made available to meet the need of the individual requiring services.

d) Outcomes: Intended outcomes focus on closing gaps for groups of people in need of vision rehabilitation services that may have more difficulty accessing services and support (i.e., lower level of education, lower level of income/economic disparities, etc.).

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: Lighthouse of SWFL incorporates evidence-based/best practices for vision rehabilitation from Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER); Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP) for instructional curricula and methods used for vision rehabilitation and support services. References include: Foundations of Vision Rehabilitation Therapy; Foundations of Rehabilitation Teaching with Persons who are Blind or Visually Impaired; Foundations of Low Vision; The Lighthouse Handbook on Vision Impairment and Vision Rehabilitation; Low Vision Rehabilitation; Foundations of Rehabilitation Counseling with Persons who are Blind or Visually Impaired; Foundations of Orientation and Mobility 3rd Edition; Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants; Making Eye Health a Population Health Imperative; Self-Esteem and Adjusting with Blindness Third Edition; The Oregon Project for Preschool Children Who are Blind or Visually Impaired Sixth Edition. Lighthouse of SWFL received accreditation from National Accreditation Council for Blind and Low Vision Services (NAC) in 2016 and is currently renewing accreditation with AER.

Community Engagement:

Lighthouse of SWFL utilizes Constant Contact to send an electronic newsletter weekly to nearly 800 subscribers, and posts updates, news and photos to our Facebook page every other weekday. We have also begun advertising with LeeTran on two of their paratransit buses that transport passengers throughout Lee County, have instituted the quarterly “ENLIGHTENED” printed newsletter that is mailed to nearly 1,800 supporters, and are frequently invited to attend health fairs such as the recent “Low Vision Expo” at Amavida Resort Retirement Community. Lighthouse of SWFL staff members are often invited to present to Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions and other civic clubs in our area. Tours of our organization are requested by groups and perspective consumers who have a strong interest in learning more about the wide array of vision rehabilitation and support services we provide. We issue press releases as warranted to the local media for events, such as our free White Cane Day event held each year in October. Currently we are in the process of redesigning and updating our agency website in order to make it more user-friendly and a trusted resource for those seeking information on low vision, blindness and the vision rehabilitation and support services we offer.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Increased knowledge of health and wellness related to vision impairment/blindness	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	Fifty (50) adults and children will participate in vision rehabilitation and support sessions by the end of the grant cycle	Project Target	50
		Achieved to Date	780
		Percentage	1560%
2)	80% (40/50) of clients participating in vision rehabilitation and support services for independent living will report increased knowledge of their health/eye conditions	Project Target	60
		Achieved to Date	648
		Percentage	1080%

Outcome Statement 1:		Increased knowledge of health and wellness related to vision impairment/blindness	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
3)	80% (40/50) of clients participating in vision rehabilitation and support services for independent living will report increased knowledge of the impact of their health or eye condition on their vision and independence	Project Target	60
		Achieved to Date	68
		Percentage	1080%

Outcome Statement 2:		Increased knowledge of interventions for independence related to blind/low vision	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	80% (40/50) of clients participating in vision rehabilitation classes for assistive technology accessibility will demonstrate increased knowledge of assistive technology apps and tools for blind/low vision	Project Target	60
		Achieved to Date	131
		Percentage	218%

Success Comments:

#1 Nearly four years ago, <name removed> started participating in Lighthouse of Southwest Florida’s Children’s Program. Then, he was an eight-year-old boy who was very much aware of the limitations that Nystagmus (a vision condition in which the eyes make repetitive, uncontrolled movements often resulting in reduced vision and depth perception that can affect balance and coordination) and being very nearsighted had on his performance in reading, playing sports, and many other areas.

The constant uncontrollable movement of his eyes made it difficult to focus on details, and a sentence in small print was a confusing string of letters. <name removed> would often be hesitant to try new activities if it was with a group of peers with better sight than he. He knew how much longer it took him to do certain activities and he did not like being the one who was slowing down the group.

Although he had this lack of confidence, <name removed> always brought, and continues to bring, positivity to the group instruction and activities in which he participates with Lighthouse of SWFL. Being around other kids who have similar struggles has made him more comfortable with having a visual impairment. He takes to heart all instruction, advice and tips given to him by his instructors and puts them into practice immediately.

<name removed> has learned not to get frustrated with taking longer to complete tasks. He has also been a leader in boosting the group’s courage to try new things. He has even discovered new hobbies and talents through his time with Lighthouse of SWFL’s Children’s Program. Over the past year, <name removed> has succeeded in raising his reading level by utilizing assistive technology for magnification. He also patiently learned some new dance routines and increased his speed in memorizing lyrics to new songs. He has even taken his newfound confidence into the kitchen and loves to bake brownies virtually on his own. During the summer of 2022, <name removed> participated in Lighthouse of SWFL’s Summer Camp and was a leader, always with a word of encouragement and a helpful hand for his peers. He has

also recently been selected to join his middle school's National Junior Honor Society, which promotes the values of scholarship, service, leadership, character and citizenship within the school.

The growth and strides <name removed> has made through Lighthouse of SWFL vision rehabilitation lessons and activities have flowed over into the rest of his life at home, school, and in the community. The goal of our Children's Program is to instill in our children the confidence and skills needed to be as independent and active as other kids their age. Our intention is to continually build on the concepts they are taught as children so they can be successfully carried through into adulthood. <name removed> is well on his way and is just one of the many students making positive progress at Lighthouse of SWFL!

#2 We recently had the children's summer camp at Lighthouse for kids with low vision and blindness. The recent summer camp centered around the theme of kindness, where children not only enjoyed a variety of activities but also learned essential life skills and contributed to the community.

Life Skills Learned:

Cooking: Campers learned basic cooking techniques, fostering independence and creativity in the kitchen.

Cleaning: Sessions on cleaning helped children understand the importance of maintaining a tidy and organized environment.

Money Management: Practical lessons on managing money aimed to instill financial literacy from an early age.

Community Engagement:

Volunteering: Campers participated in community service activities, experiencing the value of giving back.

Writing Thank You Notes: Children practiced gratitude by writing thank you notes, which were distributed to various community members.

Special Visits and Events: Lee County Sheriff's Office Deputy Dogs: The campers had an exciting visit from the Lee County Sheriff's Office deputy dogs, learning about the roles and responsibilities of these trained animals.

Author Visit: The author of a popular children's book visited the camp, sharing stories and inspiring the young readers.

Talent Show: The camp concluded with a talent show where students showcased their singing and dancing abilities and special talents. This event was a highlight for many campers, providing a platform for them to express their creativity and confidence in a safe environment.

Camper Feedback: One of the campers who loved wearing her princess dresses to camp and showing up with her sparkly glasses shared her enthusiasm, saying, "It was the best day, and I had so much fun playing with my friends."

Conclusion: The summer camp successfully combined educational and recreational activities, emphasizing kindness, community involvement, and the development of practical skills. The positive feedback from the campers reflects the program's success in creating a memorable and impactful experience.

2.34 Transitional Group Home for Young Mothers (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW234N

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Our Mother's Home of Southwest Florida

Funding Amount: \$290,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$263,277.08

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Transitional Group Home for Young Mothers project is partially ARPA funded Mentored Living Program to enable full capacity of teen mothers and their babies (ages 11-18) residents living at the home and the expansion of a new facility that will house residents ages 18-21 and their child (10 residential rooms). The main activities of the project include providing (a) funding for program equipment such as beds, cribs, desks and furniture; (b) funding for operational staff salaries; and (c) funding to purchase IT equipment such as a smart board, desktop, laptops and software.



Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: During the Covid-19 pandemic, we have seen a shift in those we serve particularly the historically underserved and marginalized to include Latinx undocumented immigrants, Black, Haitian American and young women of all ethnicities living in extreme poverty. All of the young mothers we serve are extremely low income foster children that are referred to Our Mother's Home by the State of Florida; 100% are eligible for free reduced lunches, on Medicaid and below the national poverty level. Many of our residents are from adversely affected groups--victims of abuse, domestic violence and human trafficking (80%), the latter of which as seen a 20% increase in cases (National Human Trafficking Hotline) and monolingual. They are survivors that wish to stay with their baby and learn from our successful Mentored Living Program to transition to independent living.

b) Awareness: The majority of residents of Our Mother's Home are referred through the Department of Children and Families and Children's Network, it is the responsibility of Our Mother's Home to maintain the confidentiality of its resident young mothers. Our Mother's Home markets its project to Lee County residents with goals of forming partnerships geared towards providing the young mothers with support services. A new addition to our agency will come with the new facility. We will be adding a community space that will be open to businesses and agencies in the community to use, at no charge. The new building is very centrally located downtown, and many businesses and human services are offered nearby. This new community room will be large enough to seat up to 15 people, have top-grade technology with projection, Wi-Fi, and conferencing available. There will be a full-service coffee bar and bathroom available for use. This will be a great space for smaller nonprofits to come when trying to hold board or staff retreats and volunteer meetings. This will also be a space that is designed for local businesses in the community to come and learn about Our Mother's Home, utilize volunteer opportunity benefits

encouraged by the company, and use a space that is outside of their normal confines and allow them to take in a new surrounding while also learning about Our Mother’s Home.

c) Access and Distribution: All young mothers referred to Our Mother's Home from the Florida Department of Children and Families receive the same access to benefits and services; no favoritism occurs for any reason. There are NO administrative requirements that result in disparities in any resident's ability to complete applications or meet eligibility criteria.

d) Outcomes: The intended outcomes are to improve the safety of our young mothers and their child's environment physically, emotionally and psychologically; improve the well-being of each resident living in our New Transitional Group Home for Young Mothers with social and community resources in nearby proximity to the home, increase healthy connections for each resident, with the ultimate change being improved self-sufficiency. We will be able to close gaps in service that arose from COVID-19 by ensuring the young mothers whose lives we impact receive the structure and care they need.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-producing project with learning agenda - Outcomes will be evidence-producing to improve the safety of our young mothers and their child’s environment physically, emotionally and psychologically; improve the well-being of each resident. It is estimated that each resident that lives at Our Mother's Home will drop negativity and low self-esteem they arrived with and become self-sufficient. We make a profound difference in the lives of young mothers and their babies. With a place to live, offering wrap-around services, including enrichment workshops and the opportunity to finish school, residents' transition into self-sufficient living and contribute to their community by being a good parent with a job and "pay it back" with volunteer services in the community.

Community Engagement:

For nearly 2 years, Our Mother's Home has been advertising the new facility to the community via eblasts, social media, videos, tours, press releases, etc. We actively engage our donors by inviting them to come see the building, sponsor a room, showing them the plaque for their room, etc. We have begun letting other agencies know that we will be opening a Community Pantry and Education Center for young moms in the community to expand our community footprint.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Improve the safety, well-being and healthy connections of young mothers and their child’s environment physically, emotionally, and psychologically while living in the New Transitional Group Home for Young Mothers to become self-sufficient and ready for independence.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	25 unduplicated young mothers will live in the New Transitional Group Home and participate in the Parenting Naturally Skills Training and Life Skills Training	Project Target	25
		Achieved to Date	29
		Percentage	116%
2)	90% (23/25) of young mothers completing Parenting Naturally Skills Training will demonstrate increased knowledge and utilization of learned parenting practices as indicated by pre and post testing.	Project Target	23
		Achieved to Date	32
		Percentage	139%
3)		Project Target	21

Outcome Statement 1:		Improve the safety, well-being and healthy connections of young mothers and their child’s environment physically, emotionally, and psychologically while living in the New Transitional Group Home for Young Mothers to become self-sufficient and ready for independence.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
	85% (21/25) young mothers completing life skills training will decrease the occurrence of homelessness when transitioning out of residential group foster care home as assessed by pre and post testing. (Trainings and workshops include Healthy Eating and Nutrition Program, iEmpathize Life Coaching, English as a Second Language (ESOL), finances and budgeting, relationship therapy, normalcy activities, car seat safety and CPR).	Achieved to Date	28
		Percentage	133%

Success Comments:

OMH Success Story: <Name removed> came to Our Mother’s Home as a timid and shy 14-year-old, who had become pregnant due to sexual abuse within her own family. By age 15, she had given birth to a beautiful little baby girl. Years of trauma had created many behaviors that were inappropriate for her age, along with an unhealthy emotional connection with adult men.

Our Mother’s Home provided therapy in many forms, psychological therapy, art therapy, pet therapy, and relationship and sex therapy. <Name removed> was also enrolled in school at the Lee Adolescents Mothers Program so that she could continue her education and bring her child with her to school.

Over the years, <Name removed> has been able to accomplish many things, with the help of the OMH Case Manager and the organization itself. She attends weekly parenting classes and recently completed an additional class called The Parenting Toolbelt.

During COVID-19, Our Mother’s Home had to take extra precautions to ensure that all our moms and babies were safe. At one point in time, both <Name removed> and her daughter had COVID. Our staff rose to the challenge of taking care of them. They would put on gowns, gloves, and masks and would bring them drinks, soup, snacks, etc. They would also take their temperature and give them medicine to reduce any fevers. When <Name removed> turned 18, she opted to get the COVID-19 vaccine and Our Mother’s Home helped her set up the appointment and take her to the doctor to receive it.

Our Mother’s Home has not only provided normalcy for <Name removed> over the last 3 years, but they have also helped her to gain her independence. <Name removed> completed a financial literacy course and was able to open her own bank account. The agency also partnered with Vocational Rehabilitation and was able to get <Name removed> a job, where she currently works as a hostess on the weekends for a local diner. On her 18th birthday, <Name removed> transitioned to the 18+ room at Our Mother’s Home. She was given help in applying for food stamps, shown how to ride the city bus, and has now gained her independence. She is actively working on her high school diploma and plans to graduate with honors in December 2022. In September 2022, <Name removed> studied for and passed her Alcohol and Abuse test for her driver’s permit and is on her way to getting her driver’s license!

2.34 Creating a Strong Healthy Community through Food Assistance Project (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW234OP

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Pine Manor Improvement Association

Funding Amount: \$227,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$124,417.75

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. Creating a Strong Healthy Community through Food Assistance Project is partially ARPA-funded existing program to decrease food insecurities by providing a food pantry and various other programs to promote community wellness. The main activities of the project include providing (a) food distribution program and community garden; (b) funding to enhance food storage operations, supplies, and operational equipment; and (c) funding to obtain a CPA review of finances and financial audit; and (d) funding for operational staff salary.



Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: Our goal is to have the client base mirror the demographics of the Pine Manor community. That's why we will have native Spanish and Creole speakers help promote the program through neighborhood canvassing. We will distribute fliers in Spanish and Creole in the community for those do not have internet access. We also will work with houses of worship to spread the word among their parishioners. The Lee Board of County Commissioners recognizes Pine Manor as a neighborhood in need of direct social service delivery. We will serve all residents seeking assistance. The community is diverse: 2,768 are Hispanic or Latino; 1,253 are two or more races, 1,211 are white; 1,086 are some other race; 767 are not Hispanic or Latino; 493 are black or African American; and 1 Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

b) Awareness: We will employ a multi-tiered approach to promote this expanded program. We will ask existing clients to refer additional clients. We will develop handouts to be distributed throughout the community and houses of worship. Our proposed community engagement director will coordinate neighborhood outreach to Pine Manor residents with the assistance of two temporary workers fluent in Spanish and Creole. Lastly, we will use traditional social media and the services of one of our board members, who is public relations executive at Priority Marketing, to develop a media campaign that promotes our services.

c) Access and Distribution: All eligible clients have equal access to services.

d) Outcomes: Outcomes are intended to increase the total number of unique clients and services provided, thereby reducing the level of food insecurity, and increasing the health and wellbeing of Pine Manor residents.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices:

- 1) "A systematic review of food pantry-based interventions in the USA," Public Health Nutrition, June 2019, <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30834852/>.

Fourteen articles evaluating twelve distinct interventions identified from the keyword/reference search met the eligibility criteria and were included in the review. Five were randomized control studies and the remaining seven were pre-post studies. All studies found that food pantry-based interventions were effective in improving participants' diet-related outcomes. In particular, the nutrition education interventions and the client-choice intervention enhanced participants' nutrition knowledge, cooking skills, food security status and fresh produce intake. The food display intervention helped pantry clients select healthier food items. We will use the Pine Manor food pantry to combat food insecurity and use food pantry-based interventions cited in the review.

- 2) "A Qualitative Study of Rural Low-Wealth Participants' Experiences with Community Gardens," Journal of Hunger & Environmental Nutrition, Volume 17, 2022 <https://doi.org/10.1080/19320248.2021.1907641> This qualitative study examines how community garden participants experience the effects of participation on fruit and vegetable consumption and health behaviors. Semi-structured interviews and focus groups were conducted with a total of 61 community garden managers and participants in community gardens located in rural, low-wealth communities. Adequate fruit and vegetable consumption is vital as only 12.2% of people aged 18 and older in the United States consumed the recommended amount of fruit and 9.3% consumed the recommended amount of vegetables. Community Garden interventions have been associated with increased access to and consumption of fruits and vegetables. This association has been particularly strong among participants with limited access to food retailers and within low-wealth populations. Community Gardens also may help low-wealth communities cope with the high cost of fruits and vegetables as well as increase food security. We will use methods outlined in this study in our efforts to increase fruit and vegetable consumption for Pine Manor residents.

Community Engagement:

We are currently promoting client services on site at the association building. This includes the food pantry and social services.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Expand the number of clients served by the Pine Manor Improvement Association Food Pantry and nutrition programs offered by the Association.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	30 clients per quarter will participate in cooking/nutrition classes	Project Target	300
		Achieved to Date	77

Outcome Statement 1:		Expand the number of clients served by the Pine Manor Improvement Association Food Pantry and nutrition programs offered by the Association.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
		Percentage	25.7%
2)	8 culinary kitchen classes will be offered	Project Target	8
		Achieved to Date	9
		Percentage	112.5%
3)	40 clients will complete the Culinary Kitchen Program	Project Target	40
		Achieved to Date	26
		Percentage	65%

Outcome Statement 2:		Increase the access to social assistance services and medical participation by 5% a year.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	160 clients will participate in medical screenings hosted by the Pine Manor	Project Target	160
		Achieved to Date	426
		Percentage	266%
2)	Increase from 4,991 to 5,740 individuals with access to social	Project Target	5740
		Achieved to Date	9471
		Percentage	165%

Success Comments:

Our partnership with FGCU nursing students and Premier Mobile Services identified several people with dangerously high blood pressure and other life-threatening conditions. The nursing group screened one client whose blood pressure was so high that they urged her to go directly to her doctor or ER. She went to the ER where her high blood pressure was confirmed. She was immediately put on medication. A week later, another client came to the association complaining of a headache and so the resident coordinator asked if she would like her blood pressure taken and she said yes. The nurses checked it and confirmed it was very high. The client suffers from high blood pressure and was on medication. Because of the screening, she called her doctor and went directly to the doctor's office to adjust her medication. While offering medical checkups, Premier Mobile found out that a client was diabetic but had no way of getting the insulin or the equipment that she needed. She also had an open wound and needed wound care. Premier helped ensure the client received the care she needed. These free screenings are a literal lifesaver for the community.

2.34 Center for Integrated Health and Wellness (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW234Q

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Providence Family Life Center Corporation

Funding Amount: \$100,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$100,000

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. Center for Integrated Health and Wellness project fully ARPA-funded new program to provide a "one-stop shop" to improve individual and family health and wellbeing. The main activities of the project include providing (a) provide a menu of other support services including transportation, food assistance and digital literacy; (b) funding for operational staff salary and training; (c) funding for the required insurances; (d) funding for operational supplies and technology and office equipment; (e) for provide physical and mental health assessment and health education; and (f) provide financial management education.



Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: While Providence Family Life Center upholds a strict non-discrimination policy, we are sensitive to the systemic inequities faced by many minority residents of Lee County. We have relationships in the community with many minority groups; African American, Haitian, Latin X, LGBTQ, veterans and refugees. Our mission is to serve all residents in an equitable manner, and we will direct specifically targeted messaging aimed at some of these hard-to-reach populations.

b) Awareness: Providence Family Life Center is located on Broadway, in business center that was designed to provide opportunities for minority businesses in the heart of Fort Myers. The office is geographically positioned on the same campus as Hope Club House and the Haitian community and will have maximum visibility. Outreach events will include health fairs and other community events. Providence Family Life Center has agency collaborations in place that will provide referral marketing solutions. We are listed in the Green Book published by the Lee County Homeless Coalition and are immersed with the Lee County Human and Veteran Services agency as a partner agency listed in HMIS, and work in conjunction with the outreach staff there.

c) Access and Distribution: It is the commitment of Providence Family Life Center to vehemently protect the equitable and fair provision of the services provided by this project. There will be no administrative disparities in service provision tolerated by Providence administrators or staff.

d) Outcomes: Outcomes will focus on closing health and financial disparate gaps in service, education, and behavior modification. A secondary outcome will attenuate the historic systemic inequities faced by vulnerable and minority populations.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: Utilizing agency experience and available research, this project supports evidence-based practices and combines them into an integrated model of holistic care tailored to each individual client. Supported by research on the Social Determinants of Health, Providence Family Life Center incorporates research, best practices, and field experience to make positive and sustainable changes in client health and wellbeing.

Healthy People 2030, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Retrieved from <https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/social-determinants-health>

Thakur, N., Lovinsky-Desir, S., Bime, C., Wisnivesky, J. P., & Celedón, J. C. (2020). The structural and social determinants of the racial/ethnic disparities in the US COVID-19 pandemic. What's our role?. American journal of respiratory and critical care medicine, 202(7), 943-949.

Community Engagement:

The Center for Integrated health and wellness services at Providence Family Life Center offers Wellness Wednesdays as a community outreach from 8am - 1pm each Wednesday. The services are promoted using the United Way 211 service and Lee County Human Veterans Services Outreach Coordinators. The services are also promoted to all Lee County agencies via email. Finally, services are promoted on the agency website at www.providencefamilylifecenter.com

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Increase the number of homeless individuals who apply for and receive SSA benefits using the SOAR model.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	10 SOAR applicants prescreened for SOAR eligibility per quarter	Project Target	100
		Achieved to Date	55
		Percentage	55.0%
2)	10 successfully completed and submitted SOAR applications to SSA on behalf of homeless individuals who meet eligibility requirements per quarter	Project Target	100
		Achieved to Date	43
		Percentage	43%

Outcome Statement 1:		Provide healthcare education for underserved individuals in Lee County.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	Conduct 12 healthcare education classes at Providence Family Life Center	Project Target	12
		Achieved to Date	15
		Percentage	125.0%
2)	10 individuals will attend the healthcare education classes at Providence Family Life Center	Project Target	10
		Achieved to Date	22
		Percentage	220.0%

Success Comments:

Participant A Demographics -Client was directed to Center for Integrated Health and Wellness at Providence family Life Center. Upon initial wellness screening, client demographics included: African American Female, 32 years old, grossly obese client with a history of poor nutrition and foot pain. Client stated that she feared losing her job due to having anxiety. She developed poor healthcare follow-up with primary care physicians and mental health during the Covid-19 pandemic. Other social determinants of health include client had a history of low socioeconomic status, poor financial management, sexual abuse and trauma resulting in mental illness, homelessness and lack of social supports.

Client was referred to the new program “Wellness Wednesdays” at The Center for Integrated Health and Wellness. She had lab services completed at the center in September 2022. During the assessment of data by Health Services Director, client data identified high cholesterol and high levels of sodium in her blood.

After receiving a health evaluation by physician and wellness education counseling by Health Services Director, client developed a health and nutrition plan, in addition to a budget to support healthy eating. Health Services Director was able to help client get back on track with medication management and counseling to reduce anxiety. Client also agreed to participate in all scheduled physician visits and mental health counseling.

Consistent health monitoring by the Health Services Director shows that as of December 2022, client has lost 5 pounds, remains current with medication management, attends counseling sessions, and has been able to maintain employment.

2.34 Mental Health Program (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW234R

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Quality Life Center of Southwest Florida, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$400,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$251,175.66

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Mental Health Service Project is a partially ARPA-funded new program to improve community mental health and wellness through training and workshop and treatment. The main activities of the project include (a) providing psychoeducational trainings or workshops for children and families; (b) funding for operational staff salary; and (c) funding for operational equipment and supplies.



Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals:

Quality Life Center was established for the very purpose of serving a historically underserved and marginalized community known as Dunbar in Fort Myers. This community consists of eleven census tracts in Lee County, FL (3.01, 3.02, 4.01, 5.02, 5.03, 5.04, 6, 7, 11.01, 11.02, and 12,.01) which approximate the three zip code areas of 33901, 33916, and 33905. Nine of these eleven census tracts are identified as "High Poverty" areas by the 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates. As of 2022, nine of these eleven census tracts are designated as Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Qualified Census Tracts which means 50 percent of households have incomes below 60 percent of the Area Median Gross Income (AMGI) or have a poverty rate of 25 percent or more. (Source: U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Policy Development and Research). The Quality Life Center facility located on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in Fort Myers is located in census tract 5.02 where 69% of the residents are Black. Census tracts 6, immediately to the south of our facility, is 81% Black. (Source: 2020 US. Census Redistricting Data). Among all eleven of the census tracts making up Quality Life Center's target community, 31% of residents are Black, compared to 8.7% in Lee County as a whole. Hispanics comprise 30.2% of our target community, compared to 23.7% in Lee County. (Source: 2019 American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables) Thus, more than 60% of our target community are either Black or Hispanic. For the past thirty years, Quality Life Center has delivered afterschool and summer academic and enrichment programs for children and youth, the vast majority of which reside in this community.

b) Awareness: Because of the stigma associated with mental health treatment in the Black community, our intent with this project is to create a culture of wellness at both Quality Life Center and in our surrounding community. For example, currently all the children and youth in our ACE Afterschool program participate in daily meditation. This is one example of "wellness" practices and self-care activities that

have become normalized at our center. There are many other such themes and practices we intend to promote and encourage under the umbrella of "wellness". We feel that this approach will be more effective in conducting outreach than the sometimes negatively viewed terms of "mental health" or "mental illness". Black celebrities and athletes, for example Simone Biles, have helped contribute to a much more positive and healthy view of therapy, and the importance of addressing one's emotional and psychological needs, and we would like to incorporate such examples in our marketing and outreach efforts. The staffing for this project incorporates and assigns marketing and outreach tasks at every level, such as public speaking and the delivery of educational workshops both at our center and out in the community, in local churches and other civic settings. These will bring our diverse staff into contact with community residents and local leaders and will convey the message that culturally competent care is available at Quality Life Center. Another critical piece of our effectiveness in marketing both this project and the tutoring project also described herein is the replacement of our electronic message center mounted on the exterior of the second floor of the northwest corner of our facility. As noted, our facility is located in the heart of our target community on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. where thousands of vehicles travel between Fort Myers and I-75 each day. When it was operational, it definitely had an impact in our effort to educate our community about the services we offer. Effective marketing and outreach messages will be seen by precisely the residents for whom this project is intended. We will be able to communicate both practical information such as the availability of wellness services and the days and hours of availability (including Saturdays and evenings), but also help create the desired culture of wellness and the importance of holistic health and self-care through uplifting inspirational messages aligned with Quality Life Center's organizational values. These kinds of messages will remind people of the importance of taking care of one's mental well-being without using the word "mental". In short, the electronic message center generates curiosity and a sense of community which draws people in and keeps our positive message and healthy values in the minds and hearts of those we hope to reach. All of the above is in addition to our organization's new marketing director who is already stepping up our visibility in the community through social media and other traditional channels.

c) Access and Distribution: Quality Life Center provides equal access to its programs across groups and there are no administrative requirements that result in disparities. We provide assistance with completing application requirements and, to the extent possible, with meeting eligibility criteria if and when such criteria are part of a specific contract to provide services between QLC and an outside entity.

d) Outcomes: The primary focus of this mental health program is to help close the unacceptably large gap between the existing capacity of Lee County to provide mental health services for its citizens, and the extraordinarily high need for such services, particularly in the black community, especially after the COVID pandemic.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices:

Mental health counselors will use the following forms of therapy, all of which have a "strong" base of peer-reviewed evidentiary support:

- 1.) Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4396183/>
<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubpdfs/trauma.pdf>;

- 2.) Cognitive Behavioral Therapy <https://effectivechildtherapy.org/therapies/>
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3584580/>
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6457979/><https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/23988455/>
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4610618/><https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6231848/>
- 3.) Dialectical Behavioral Therapy <https://effectivechildtherapy.org/therapies/><https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6584278/><https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7376475/>
- 4.) Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing Therapy <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5816922/><https://www.emdr.com/research-overview/><https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6106867/>
- 5.) Solution-Focused Brief Therapy <https://solutionfocused.net/research-in-solution-focused-therapy/><https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5483485/>
- 6.) Narrative Therapy <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7071554/>
7. Family Systems Therapy <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5025363/><https://selfleadership.ir/uploads/cf4ac2fe547943f9886d5003c307dbeb.pdf>MaterialsNot

Community Engagement:

Sound Mind Program at Quality Life Center has been focusing on community engagement and acquisitions of new clients and secure referral sources of clients from outside of Quality Life Center. Sound Mind Programs Clinicians and Program Assistant/Case Manager have been heavily engaged in community outreach and either hosting or participating in community workshops. During this quarter a new clinician joined Sound Mind Program staff which has increased the services that we provide tremendously.

The agency will communicate updates of the program through both synchronous and asynchronous methods, such as via email, social media, Flyers, Brochures, Newsletters, QLC Parent Meetings, Website, Tours, Meet & Greets, and Zoom. The frequency of the planned communication about the program will be Bimonthly updates for Newsletters, Monthly updates provided during Parent Meetings, Weekly posts for social media, Weekly updates for emails and phone calls, Biweekly awareness for flyers and brochures, and Monthly Tours and Meet & Greets. The audience in which the program will be in communication with, includes the following: Community Members, Community Businesses/Agencies/Organizations, Schools, Quality Life Center’s current staff, students, and student families, Faith Leaders, Civic Leaders, Local Advocates, Neighborhood counsel Representatives, School District Representatives, County Government Agencies, Hospitals and Population Specific Mental Health Agencies.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Increase the availability of therapeutic counseling services including clinical counseling and psychoeducational workshops.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	1,748 units of service in therapeutic counseling (a unit of service is one session of individual or group therapy per participant)	Project Target	1748
		Achieved to Date	1905
		Percentage	109%
1)	45 units of service in psychoeducational workshops	Project Target	45

	(a unit of service is one workshop per participant)	Achieved to Date	202
		Percentage	448.9%%

Success Comments:

Success Story One:

A minor child, who experienced multiple forms of trauma and abuse was self-referred to the Sound Mind Program. The client began individual treatment to manage the impact of the experienced abuse and trauma. The client and caregiver reported the client experienced many different symptoms that impacted the client’s daily functioning, general positive regard, school, and interpersonal relationships. The caregiver reported the client’s symptoms were challenging during COVID. As a result, the client began attending individual and family sessions weekly. As treatment continued, the caregiver and client reported a substantial decrease in symptoms and an increase in coping and grounding skills to manage the impact of trauma and abuse. The client created a picture and provided it to the clinician and reported “thank you for all that you have done for me” and “thank you for getting me to understand abuse thank you so much”. The caregiver reported “thank you so very much for all that you do for us. They are doing amazing thanks to you”.

Success Story Two:

A young adult, who experienced abuse and unhealthy relationships was self-referred to the Sound Mind Program. The client began individual treatment to manage the impact of the experienced abuse and to learn how to obtain and maintain healthy relationships. The client reported to have experienced many different symptoms that impacted the client’s daily functioning, general positive regard, work, hobbies, family relationships, and interpersonal relationships. The client reported these symptoms were increased during COVID. As a result of the reported symptoms and diagnoses, the client began to attend weekly individual therapy sessions. As treatment continued, the client reported an increase in positive mood, an increase in developed skills to cope and process difficult emotions, and a decrease in self-harming behaviors. The client reported an increase in “good” weeks where in the initial onset of treatment, the client reported no “good” weeks or days. The client’s primary care physician reported “since they started these services, I have seen a drastic positive change. They would never smile and now they smile and laughs during their appointments with me. Whatever you are doing is working. I am so happy they are seeing you”.

2.34 Senior Crisis Intervention Program (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW234S

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Senior Friendship Centers, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$100,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$95,565.45

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. Senior Crisis Intervention (SCIP) project is a partially ARPA-funded existing program will offer crisis food assistance to seniors. The main activities of the project include providing (a) funding for operational staff salary; and (b) funding for operating supplies and equipment.



Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: Senior Friendship Centers targets low-income minority seniors living in rural areas throughout Lee County. Although assistance is available to those that meet the eligibility criteria set forth, we target rural communities with our outreach efforts to ensure we are reaching the underserved, marginalized and adversely affected seniors in Lee County.

b) Awareness: We have a diversified outreach plan that includes ensuring accurate information about programs and services is made available to 211 and local libraries as well as placed in our household necessity bags along with other relevant community resources. Outreach events include participation on the Bonita Senior Center programs committee, CAMEO, Senior Blue Book, Cape Coral Community Foundation, DCF and with the Area Agency on Aging of Southwest Florida. We find that getting the word into the community is a key success factor to ensuring we're targeting the low-income minority seniors most in need of assistance.

c) Access and Distribution: The applications for EHEAP and rental/mortgage assistance both currently allow for a signature waiver to be completed by our staff. This flexibility allows us to gather backup documentation/information needed to complete the client application without the client needing to come to our office. We receive applications in-person, via email and by way of the USPS. Should the signature waiver be eliminated and the need for a 'wet' signature be reimplemented, we will allow for office hours and a secure drop off location so that clients can submit application documents timely. We will continue to allow emailed applications with a scanned application and supporting documents showing a signature.

d) Outcomes: We are looking to assist low-income, minority seniors remain in their homes by addressing a financial crisis that would otherwise leave them without utilities, food or housing.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practice: The National Council on Aging completed a study in April 2021 looking at the benefits of receiving public benefits had on older adults. The outcome of the study found that older adults who received financial assistance showed "large reductions in food insecurity and modest to moderate increases in social and emotional wellbeing" (Popham & Silberman,2021)

Community Engagement:

Recipients that received Emergency and Friendly Food and household necessities bags through the SCIP program where initially targeted for this project. They were assessed for need and were given the ARPA funded supplies. Senior Friendship Centers wants to assure these were going to our high need clients who have little to no other support. Several EHEAP program recipients were made aware and received these funded supplies. We will continue to evaluate community needs through inquiries received to our agency and engage those identified. Moving forward we will work with other programs within SFC (case management, nutrition, and volunteer) to assure our most vulnerable seniors are assisted in getting these types of needs met. Volunteers are aware of project and share with clients they serve.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Increase the ability for seniors to remain independent in their homes through food and household necessities bags.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	600 food and household necessities bags will be distributed to seniors in need each year	Project Target	600
		Achieved to Date	110
		Percentage	183.3%
2)	90% (540/600) will report they are able to remain independent in their home by receiving food/household necessities bags	Project Target	540
		Achieved to Date	530
		Percentage	98.1%

Success Comments:

2022 brought a lot of heartache, illness, and stress to our most vulnerable clients. Through the generous funds provided we were able to not only provide some much-needed household necessities but also some emotional support through the volunteers who safely delivered the ARPA bags to those in need. These supplies were invaluable as clients continue to do what is needed to combat the Covid virus and remain healthy. Due to many having limited income these supplies are often not a part of their basic needs list. Many of these clients are also homebound and do not have easy access to obtain essential supplies and necessities. The ARPA bags contained items that were intentionally chosen to help with household cleaning and personal hygiene with the hope of reducing the risk of illness to the recipients. All recipients were appreciative and confirmed that the supplies received would enable more effective cleaning. We are optimistic that by providing these supplies to those who would otherwise not have access, we have helped in the prevention and spread of the Covid strains that remain.

2.34 Special Equestrians Therapeutic Horsemanship Program (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW234T

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Special Equestrians, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$53,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$46,721.26

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Special Equestrians Therapeutic Horsemanship Program is a partially ARPA-funded existing program to provide a therapeutic horsemanship program which empowers individuals with disabilities through therapeutic horseback riding, therapeutic carriage driving and groundwork (unmounted activities). The main activities of the project include providing (a) a therapeutic horsemanship program; (b) funding for operational staff salary and volunteer recruitment; (c) funding for management software; (d) funding for marketing to create professional horse leader video; (e) funding for program supplies and computer equipment; and (f) funding for professional service.



Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: Special Equestrians serves persons with disabilities. Our services are available to all populations in this category. Our fees for service have always been very low. We work hard for public support to keep costs down for our population served. If someone cannot afford services, we have readily available scholarships. United Way supports us with 10 scholarships a year. No one has ever been turned down for inability to pay for services.

b) Awareness: We have a variety of ways to market our services. We are asked to speak to local service clubs and communities about our services. We are listed on United Way 211 for our therapeutic horsemanship services including our Veteran's program. Our website is an excellent source for anyone interested in information about our services. We are often referred by schools, therapists, and local physicians. Our outreach team which goes into the Lee County schools is one of our best marketing approaches. We get to meet the children in the exceptional child classes with our team of volunteers and horses. The children are given brochures and information to take home to their parents. We have visited more than 25 different schools and agencies since 2012. Many of them are regulars, once a year. Because of Covid, our visits were halted from March of 2020 until January of 2022. Now we are back in full swing, and we have already visited three Lee County Schools in 2022. Articles have been published in local free magazines (Florida Country) and Fort Myers Florida Weekly describing our programs and services.

c) Access and Distribution: There are no differences in levels of access to benefits and services across groups. We do have an application in Spanish if requested.

d) Outcomes: Having sufficient volunteer support for our classes affects all groups in the same beneficial way. We strive to search all races, ethnic groups, and any other groups equally. We want our services known to and available to anyone who needs them. Close to 40% of our participants are on some form of scholarship.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-producing project with learning agenda - Our project will be evidence producing since it is based on serving more participants with additional volunteers to support the Therapeutic Horsemanship Classes.

Community Engagement:

- During the month of April, our volunteer coordinator leads a group of FGCU students in a group cleaning and maintenance project at our center. On May 1st, our volunteer software, Better Impact, launched allowing our volunteers to add their own volunteer hours and choose their own availability.
- In June, we had a group of 26 Keiser University nursing students go through orientation and sidewalker training. They will be with us during the summer, filling a huge void left by our winter visitor volunteers who are not here at present.
- A series of volunteer recruitment posts were made on our Facebook Page in May.
- A volunteer recruitment ad was placed once again (at no charge) in a local magazine, Florida Country.
- The new volunteer brochure was printed and is in use at this time. The new volunteer video was completed and has been launched on Facebook and Constant Contact. It will be used in the volunteer fair in July.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Increase the resource available for the disabled through a therapeutic horseback riding program.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	Recruit and train 9 unduplicated volunteers per quarter to help administer the therapeutic horseback riding	Project Target	81
		Achieved to Date	227
		Percentage	342%
1)	85% (8/9) of volunteers per quarter who successfully complete volunteer orientation and training will develop skills in side-walking and/or horse leading as indicated by a survey given at the end of their training	Project Target	64
		Achieved to Date	207
		Percentage	323.4%

Success Comments:

During the COVID pandemic in September of 2020, Special Equestrians was in a tough situation. We did not want to use our regular volunteers as sidewalkers with the students because of the threat of the virus spreading when people were close to each other. We chose to ask the parents and relatives to become sidewalkers for their children. The family members were amazing, and they were happy to go through volunteer orientation. Our participant numbers went from 17 to 50 with sidewalker support.

We were extremely grateful to our family members however, not being able to use our regular volunteers for sidewalkers was a huge detriment to our regular volunteer morale. With many of them relegated to disinfecting and cleaning, we lost a large number of volunteers. Some of the volunteers feared COVID and never returned.

By May of 2021, we began allowing our own sidewalkers to volunteer with riders once again. Still, many of our volunteers did not return and our numbers were down quite a bit. It was a struggle each week to fill the needed volunteer spots for sidewalkers and horse leaders. Most weeks, we had to ask the family members to step in, once again. Normally, we like to give our parents a break to network with other parents who are there for their child's lesson.

The ARPA grant opportunity had a great appeal to give our volunteer recruitment new life. With assistance paying for our volunteer coordinator's salary and new ideas being created to assist with recruitment, we have become energized once again. The volunteer fairs we have attended have been so encouraging and the equipment we purchased has given us a great way of showing people who we are and what we do. Volunteer interest is going up and we are better able to provide the needed class volunteers.

Our Volunteer Recruitment numbers have risen dramatically in the past few months. This improvement is the best success story possible for Special Equestrians.

2.34 Recovery: Food and Tutoring Service (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW234U

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Saint Martin De Porres Outreach Community Ministries Inc

Funding Amount: \$21,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$21,000

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The St.



Martin project is a partially ARPA-funded existing program to provide tutoring and meals to disproportionate populations. The main activities of the project include providing funding toward (a) administering a tutoring and meals program; (b) purchase of books for tutoring; (c) purchase of technology items such as laptops; and (d) rent a mobile classroom facility.

Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: As referenced elsewhere, the Tice area of Fort Myers is among the most economically challenged sections of the city. In fact, SMDP estimates that approximately 50% of our clients are homeless.

b) Awareness: Our's is predicated on the "If you build it (they) will come". All our clients in Tice are economically disadvantaged or homeless. Since we satisfy their need for food, these people will keep coming.

c) Access and Distribution: No difference in access.

d) Outcomes: SMDP feeds and tutors everyone who comes to us; any race, color, age, faith, weight, and height are treated the same.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-producing project with learning agenda – Hypothesis: The project will lead to an increased number of people fed through cafe and food pantry and improved school grades among school aged children being tutored.

Learnings:

\$4300 was directed to our after school tutoring initiative to significantly enhance our program by purchasing appropriately sized table and chairs, buying 6 new power books, and acquired video and television capabilities. 7 students there are K - second grade. Our instructors are retired teachers who have made helping these students to achieve improvements in reading, math, and in ESL they primary objective. Progress is tracked for each. Though these students attend public schools, all come from families for whom Spanish is the home language. We work to create potential for them to become contributing members of society.

\$16,700 has been allocated to purchase food for homeless and economically disadvantaged people. For many we serve, our meal service M-F is the only source of meals they receive. The food we provide to homeless and economically disadvantaged people sustains them, and our dining area provides a clean safe environment.

Community Engagement:

Word of mouth. We serve a large population of low income to homeless individuals/families.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Improve students reading, math and ESL through the after-school program.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	90% (11/12) participants will show improved scores as evidenced by academic report cards	Project Target	11
		Achieved to Date	24
		Percentage	218.2%
2)	90% (11/12) of youth will maintain passing grades as indicated on their report cards each quarter	Project Target	11
		Achieved to Date	6
		Percentage	54.5%

Outcome Statement 2:		Reduce food insecurity in the homeless population.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	1500 homeless will be fed one hot meal, five days a week by the end of the grant period	Project Target	1500
		Achieved to Date	1784
		Percentage	118.9%

Success Comments

Part of SMDP’s ARAP award allocated early in 2023 was a payment toward supporting our after school Initiative. Power books, training materials, videos chairs and tables provide an environment conducive to learning.

Most of our students are preschool to 2 grade and for all, English is a second language. This means that since in school all classes are in English, unless these young students get help outside (SMDP) not only are they “lost in school”, but without this tutoring focused on ESL issues they at great risk of falling behind, now and in the future. The ARPA grant has been invaluable in getting these young people off on the right foot.

Only through their developing conversational and written English do these youth have the potential to become self-sufficient members of Society.

2.34 Child Grief Support Services (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW234V

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Valerie's House Inc

Funding Amount: \$280,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$280,000

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Child Grief Support Services project is a partially ARPA-funded existing program that provide mental health services including emergency crisis support, ongoing grief support, and mental health counseling. The main activities of the project include providing (a) individual grief counseling as well as group counseling to grieving children and their families; (b) funding for program supplies; (c) funds for lease payments for the facility use; and (d) funding for operational staff.



Promoting Equitable Outcomes:

a) Goals: Valerie's House historically serves low to poverty income families who are uninsured or underinsured and have no place else to go. Our goal for this project is to focus on expanding to additional Title I schools in an effort to reach marginalized and underserved bereaved students. According to the Childhood Bereavement Estimation Model, Black children experience the death of a parent or sibling at a rate that is 1.5xs the national average. Unaddressed grief can derail a child's development and when that grief is compounded by existing marginalization, intervention is paramount to securing a healthy future for the child.

b) Awareness: Equitable outreach involves accounting for cultural and economic differences in our presentation and representation. Providing in-school services allows grieving children who are unable to travel to the Valerie's House location to benefit from grief support. Our Forever Home will be built within a low-income tract to allow for visibility and ease of access.

c) Access and Distribution: No difference in access.

d) Outcomes: Our intended outcomes focus on reaching children proportionate to the childhood grief rates in our community. Low-income children are more at-risk for experiencing the death of a parent or sibling, as are Black children. By providing services to the most marginalized bereaved children, we will close gaps in mental health services and improve both short-term and long-term outcomes.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: Valerie's House programming is modeled after Dougy Center for Grieving Children and Families- a respected national leader in childhood bereavement. In 1982, Dougy Center developed a model of grief group support for bereaved children that has developed into the

standard of grief support in the United States. The theoretical framework of Dougy's model has been successfully substantiated by decades of outcome tracking and more than 500 childhood grief programs across this country operate using this framework.

We rely on the nationally renowned Childhood Bereavement Estimation model to understand how many grieving children are within our service area. These estimations provide information about race and regional disparities that allow us to focus services on reaching underserved and over-affected populations. Additionally, The Adverse Childhood Experience study shows us that when children experience the death of a parent or sibling, they are at a significantly higher risk of suffering from mental and physical health issues, substance abuse, taking their own life, and engaging in criminal activity. That study also shows us that with interventions, those risks can be mitigated. Valerie's House programming aims to mitigate those risks and teach bereaved children that they are not limited by their loss.

A study published by the Journal of Psychology found that families who experienced the loss of a parent or sibling experienced economic challenges for an average of 18 years following the death. Children who experience loss are more likely to be expelled from school, and more likely to drop out of high school. A study published by the National Library of Medicine reports that in a longitudinal study, participants who received bereavement counseling demonstrated a decline in complicated grief symptoms.

Community Engagement:

We continue to raise awareness about Valerie's House, and we are regarded as the community expert regarding childhood grief. We have received participant referrals from local law enforcement, school administrators, United Way, and local funeral homes, and the number of bereaved children we serve continues to grow. We participated in outreach (tabling events) and shared our services with local churches, rotary clubs, and other community partners.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Reduce the risks associated with childhood grief by ensuring children in Lee County have access to comprehensive grief support services.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	750 unduplicated participants will be enrolled in Valerie's House services for grief counseling and/or grief support groups within the grant period	Project Target	750
		Achieved to Date	2471
		Percentage	329.5%
2)	75% (563/750) of participants will demonstrate progress through their grief journey as measured by self-reporting, caregiver reporting, and observation	Project Target	563
		Achieved to Date	477
		Percentage	84.7%
3)	75% (563/750) of participants will demonstrate progress through their grief journey as measured by self-reporting, caregiver reporting, and observation	Project Target	100
		Achieved to Date	62
		Percentage	62%

Success Comments:

Brothers Work Through Their Loss Together
 Nothing can break this brotherly bond, not even grief.

<Name removed> age 11, and <name removed> age 9, are consistent members of the Monday night grief group at Valerie's House- Fort Myers. They started coming to group night with their father.

The brothers are grieving the death of their mother, who passed away in April 2020 after losing her battle with cancer. They all found comfort while attending group night at Valerie's House.

"It's important to talk about your feelings because if you don't, it's just going to stay with you until you feel sad," <name removed> said. "When you take it off your mind, you feel relieved."

He also said he enjoys coming to Valerie's House to spend time with friends who understand what he's going through.

Their father is a founding member of Valerie's House dad's group. He is a strong leader in the group and someone that the men can depend on and look to for encouragement.

"Valerie's House has helped us a lot," he said. "We feel their love and that they care about us. I feel relieved because I am no longer afraid to show my emotions."

The family has stuck with Valerie's House through our community's most challenging times. They attended groups with COVID-19 precautions in place, as well as took part in our virtual groups.

Most recently, the three were severely impacted by Hurricane Ian. Valerie's House stepped in to support this family, along with many others. We provided them with a generator and additional supplies after the storm.

The boys said they felt supported knowing that Valerie's House was there for them after the hurricane and that they didn't have to go through it alone.

"I feel happy when I come to Valerie's House," <name removed> said. "I have a lot of friends that make me feel like I'm going to be okay."

Aid to Impacted Industries

2.35 Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality

Project ID: ARPA-NE235A, Digital Infrastructure Recovery Program for Tourism Businesses Experiencing Negative Economic Impact

Funding Amount: \$89,795

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$89,795

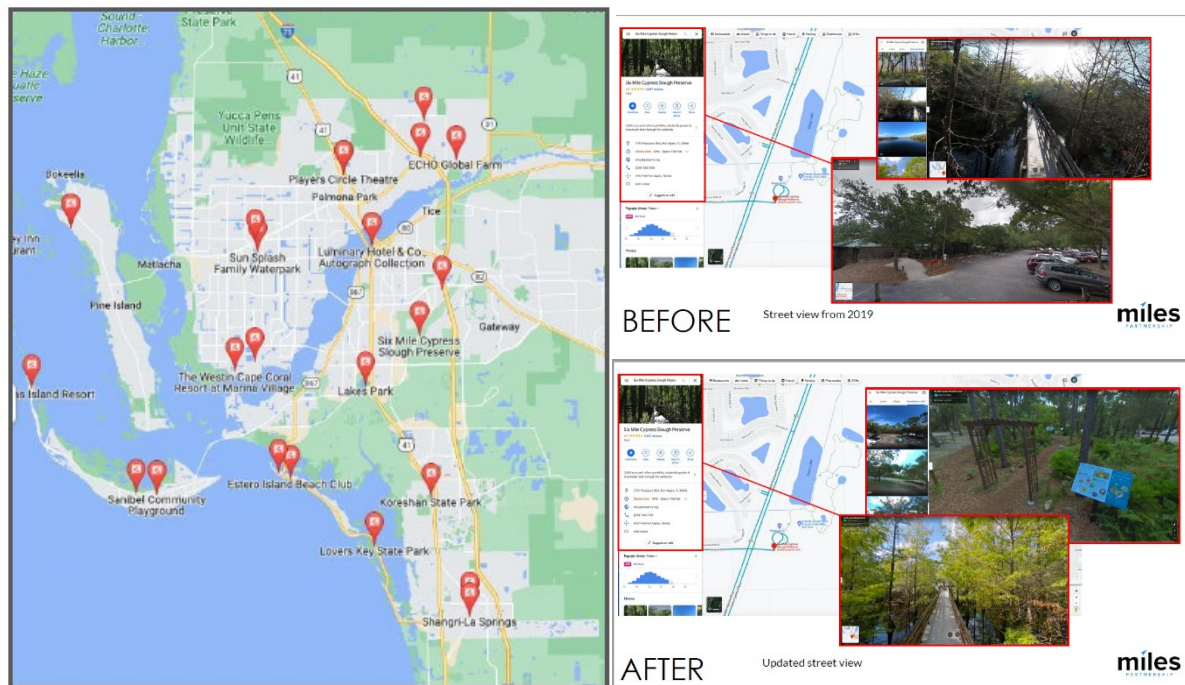
Project Duration: April 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.35 Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality^

Project Overview



The Digital Infrastructure Recovery Program is a new, fully ARPA funded, government service of Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau (VCB) to provide a digital destination optimization program. The project is aimed at understanding and measurably improving the completeness, depth, and quality of information available to consumers about Lee County's individual tourism related businesses, through online platforms like Google, Yelp, TripAdvisor, etc. The main activities include providing provide training and technical assistance to local businesses, with actionable "how-tos" and best practices, for up to 90 businesses through hands-on assistance and a series of virtual workshops.



Locations captured in August 22 and sample before and after.

Project Demographic Distribution: N/A for this project

Promoting Equitable Outcomes: This project benefited small businesses dependent on tourism and hospitality, which were disproportionately affected the pandemic.

Performance to be Measured:

Number of Businesses Enrolled/Completing the Program	Percentage of Businesses with Complete Profiles Before/After the Program	Measurable Increase in Intent to Visit Businesses Versus Prior to Optimization
61	54%	29%

Project ID: ARPA-NE235D, Incentivize Local Meeting Bookings to Rebound from Neg Econ Impact to Tourism

Funding Amount: \$100,000

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$63,500

Project Expenditure Category: 2.35 Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality^

Project Overview:



The Reimbursement Grant to Incentivize Local Meeting Bookings to Rebound from Negative Economic Impact to the Tourism Industry is a new, fully ARPA funded, government service of Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau (VCB) to increase group occupancy and revenue for Lee County hotels that have not recovered from the lack of the meetings and conferences market segment since March 2020. The grant seeks to encourage businesses who plan meetings and conferences to consider Lee County when planning in-person meetings and conferences. Through the program, companies that book a meeting with a Lee County hotel have the opportunity to receive up to \$5,000.00 for the company, association, or organization.

The major activity of the program includes reimbursement of the host company for booking a minimal number of lodging room nights with a peak night of at least 10 lodging rooms, with the exception of sports events, weddings, reunions, group tours or other social events.

Project Demographic Distribution: N/A for this project

Promoting Equitable Outcomes: This project benefits small businesses dependent on tourism and hospitality, which were disproportionately affected the pandemic.

Performance Measured to Date:

Number of Participating Organizations	Number of Grant Applications Paid	Total Room Pickup	Total Room Revenue
24	19	7688	\$1,863,642.52

3 Public Sector Capacity

General Provisions

3.1 Emergency Medical Staff (21)

Project ID: ARPA-PS031A

Funding Amount: \$4,211,941

Project Duration: November 2, 2021 – December 31, 2024

Status of Completion: Completed 50% or more

Total Project Expenses: \$4,211,941

Project Expenditure Category: 3.1 Public Sector Workforce: Payroll and Benefits for Public Health, Public Safety, or Human Services Workers

Project Overview



The pandemic resulted in impacts on Public Safety Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and workload. Staffing impacts include quarantine and isolation orders and fatigue from the 18 months of response, in addition to illness after exposure to COVID-19. EMS Staff have responded to higher-than-normal incident volumes. The EMS workload has increased dramatically, with unique incidents in August 2021 up 31 percent over August 2019 alone. The addition of new EMS positions will allow for increase opportunity for time off without impacting operational readiness. The project will create 21 new EMS positions to address staffing associated with the COVID-19 pandemic (18 EMTs and 3 Lieutenants).

Project Demographic Distribution: N/A for this project

Promoting Equitable Outcomes: N/A for this project

Performance: KPIs for these projects are in development and future reports will be updated to include them.

- ARPA Measure: Number of government FTEs responding to COVID-19 supported under this authority

3.1 Paramedics and EMT Workforce – Pandemic Engaged Staff

Project ID: ARPA-PS031B

Funding Amount: \$26,038,852

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$26,038,852

Project Duration: July 1, 2021 – April 30, 2022

Project Expenditure Category: 3.1 Public Sector Workforce: Payroll and Benefits for Public Health, Public Safety, or Human Services Workers

Project Overview:



The pandemic resulted in impacts to Public Safety Emergency Medical Services staff and workload. The outcome of this project is to support the staffing costs of those public safety workers engaged in the pandemic response. The major activity cost for this project is salaries for pandemic engaged EMTs and paramedics from Q3 of 2021 through Q2 of 2022.

Project Demographic Distribution: N/A for this project

Promoting Equitable Outcomes: N/A for this project

Performance:

ARPA Measure: Number of government FTEs responding to COVID-19 supported under this authority = 304

4 Infrastructure

Broadband

5.21 Broadband Gap Analysis

Project ID: ARPA-IN521A

Funding Amount: \$99,199

Project Duration: March 25, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$99,199

Project Expenditure Category: 5.21 Broadband: Other projects

Project Overview:

The Broadband Gap Analysis project is a vendor contracted new, fully-ARPA funded, Lee County government initiative to identify the community's broadband needs, gaps in service availability and speed requirements, and to formulate a scope of work and options to address the gaps.



The project involves contracting with a consultant to complete a Broadband Availability and Adoption Gap Analysis.

The project activities will (a) Evaluate existing broadband service capabilities and capacities; (b) Detail where gaps exist between capacity and demand; Identify the demand and assess adoption rates for broadband access; (c) Identify areas that are broadband unserved or underserved, from a broadband capability perspective; with a focus on low-income communities; (d) Review national, state, and local best practices to provide a Board with various options to address Lee County's broadband needs; and (e) Recommend Board options (including cost details) to address the gaps in broadband services that are provided.

Status of Completion: Completed less than 50%

Project Demographic Distribution: N/A for this project

Promoting Equitable Outcomes: The Broadband Gap Analysis focuses on determining the unserved and under-served areas of Lee County.

Performance to be Measured: The completed report was shared for planning locally and will also be submitted by the Local Technology Planning Team to the State of Florida's DEO Office of Broadband.

Lee County has developed a broadband website to support the initiative with the State of Florida, and the results from the ARPA funded broadband gap analysis can be found on this project website within the Local Technology Planning Team report. <https://www.leegov.com/broadband>

Revenue Replacement

6.1 Big Carlos Pass Bridge Project

Project ID: ARPA-RR061A

Funding Amount: \$48,241,146

Project Duration: June 2023– December 31, 2024

Status of Completion: Completed less than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$0

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview:

The Big Carlos Pass Bridge project includes construction of a new fixed span bridge with a life span of 75 years, includes pedestrian bridge features, a fishing pier, creation of a new barrier reef, and coordination with the water utilities.

Project web page: [Big Carlos Pass – Construction \(bigcarlosbridgeproject.com\)](http://bigcarlosbridgeproject.com)

Project Demographic Distribution: N/A for this project

Promoting Equitable Outcomes: N/A for this project

Performance to be Measured KPIs for this project are in development and future reports will be updated to include them.

- Project status as a % complete.
- Projected/actual construction start date
 - **June 15, 2023 groundbreaking**
- Projected/actual initiation of operations date (month/year)
- Location
 - **County Road 865 Fort Myers Beach, FL**
- Davis Bacon certification
- Did the project prioritize local hires
- Did the project have a Community Benefit Agreement

6. Administrative

7.1 Consulting Services for Oversight and Compliance of American Rescue Plan Funds

Project ID: ARPA-AD071A, Management Consultant

Funding Amount: \$127,221

Project Duration: December 7, 2021 – December 6, 2024

Status of Completion: Completed 50% or more

Total Project Expenses: \$127,221

Project Expenditure Category: 7.1 Administrative Expenses

Project Overview:



Services under the contract that may be provided by the consultant include ARPA compliance, reporting, and best-practice operational consulting for County and sub-recipients. Examples may include: Providing technical support for program management including project procurement and compliance; Providing technical support and best practice advice regarding: County and sub-recipient monitoring and management of ARPA fund uses; Project documentation; Tracking project and performance data; Reporting and communication systems for the board, grant sub-recipient and grant fund beneficiaries. Preparing internal and federal reports.

7.1 Administrative Expenses – Human Services

Project ID: ARPA-AD071B, Human and Veteran Services Grant Management Positions

Funding Amount: \$646,756

Project Duration: January 1, 2022 – (TBD)

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$534,487.45

Project Expenditure Category: 7.1 Administrative Expenses

Project Overview:



Staff hired to provide grant administration support for the Human Services Department ARPA-related grants. The positions include two Community Impact Coordinators, one Grant Analyst, and one Fiscal Specialist.