Baltimore County, MD

# Recovery Plan

## State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

2024 Report

# Baltimore County, MD

# 2024 Recovery Plan

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## GENERAL OVERVIEW

### Executive Summary

On March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act was signed into law by the President. Title VI, Section 602 of the Social Security Act establishes the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund, and section 603 establishes the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (together, the Fiscal Recovery Funds). The Fiscal Recovery Funds are intended to provide support to State, local, and Tribal governments in responding to the impact of COVID-19 and in their efforts to contain COVID-19 on their communities, residents, and businesses. The Fiscal Recovery Funds expand the support provided to these governments over the last year, including through the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF). In general, this funding may be used to respond to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19 or its negative economic impacts.

Baltimore County was awarded $160,706,923 in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) to help the County respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency and its negative economic impacts. The fund expenditures must be obligated during the period that begins on March 3, 2021, and ends on December 31, 2024, with all work completed and funding spent by December 31, 2026. Similar to CARES funding expenditures, SLFRF have been directed toward a holistic, County-wide response and recovery effort. The current allotment funds a County-wide recovery and investment program that serves Baltimore County's most impacted residents and businesses.

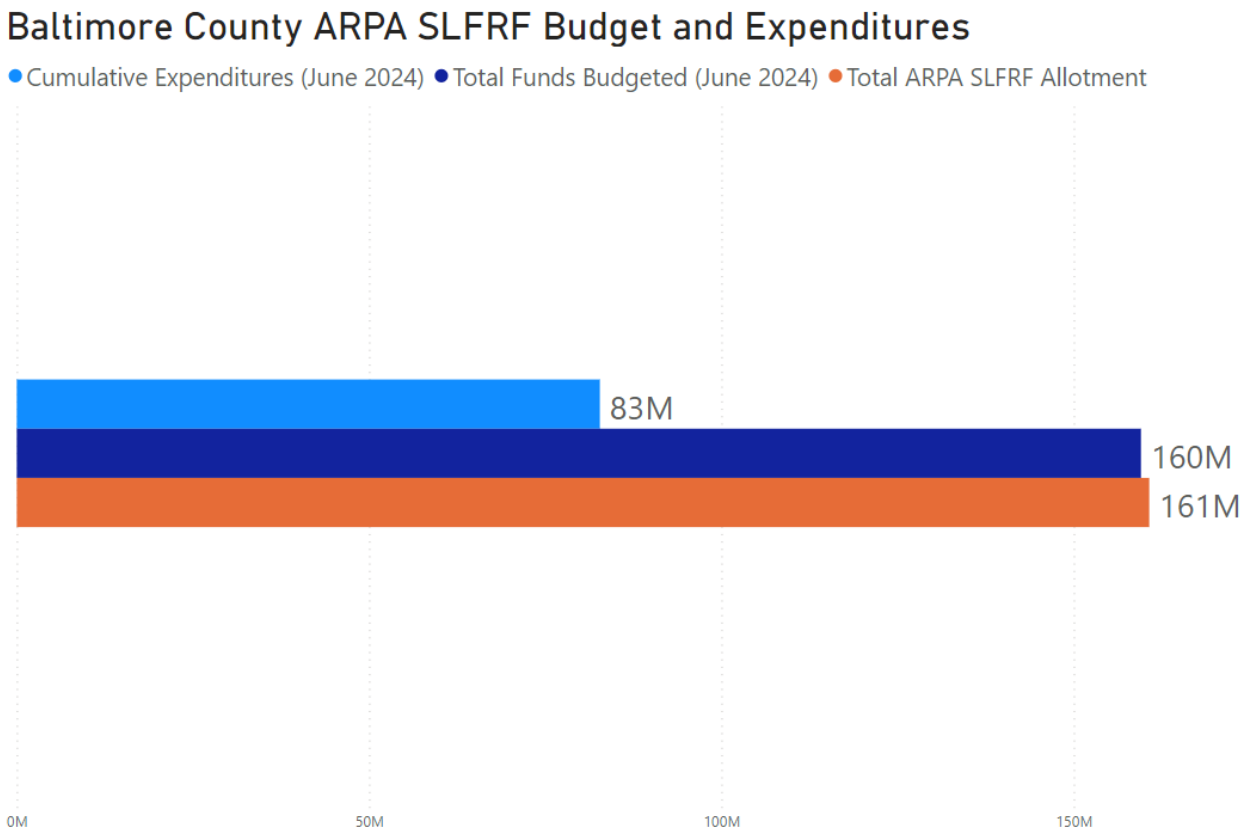
To spearhead the SLFRF planning process, the County created an Economic Recovery Subcabinet, led by the director of the county's Department of Economic and Workforce Development. Comprised of department and programmatic leaders across County government, the Subcabinet was tasked with information gathering, examining nationwide best practices and hosting listening forums with community stakeholders to develop recommendations on SLFRF spending. In addition to prioritizing communities that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Subcabinet was focused on integrating a data-driven approach.

To date, the County has spent $83,258,852.56 of its SLFRF allotment. SLFRF-backed projects span a wide range of programs and services, from social services to infrastructure improvements. Individual SLFRF projects are managed by departmental staff as well as a variety of nonprofit partners. Overall administration of the County's SLFRF portfolio is overseen by an inter-departmental implementation team led by the Office of Government Reform and Strategic Initiatives in the Executive Office and includes the data team of BCSTAT and the Office of Budget and Finance.

The following report details Baltimore County's expenditures as of June 30, 2024. As projects continue to roll out, the Project Inventory will be further expanded for the 2025 annual report and beyond. A current inventory of projects and statuses in maintained online at https://arp-bc-gis.hub.arcgis.com/.

**Uses of Funds**

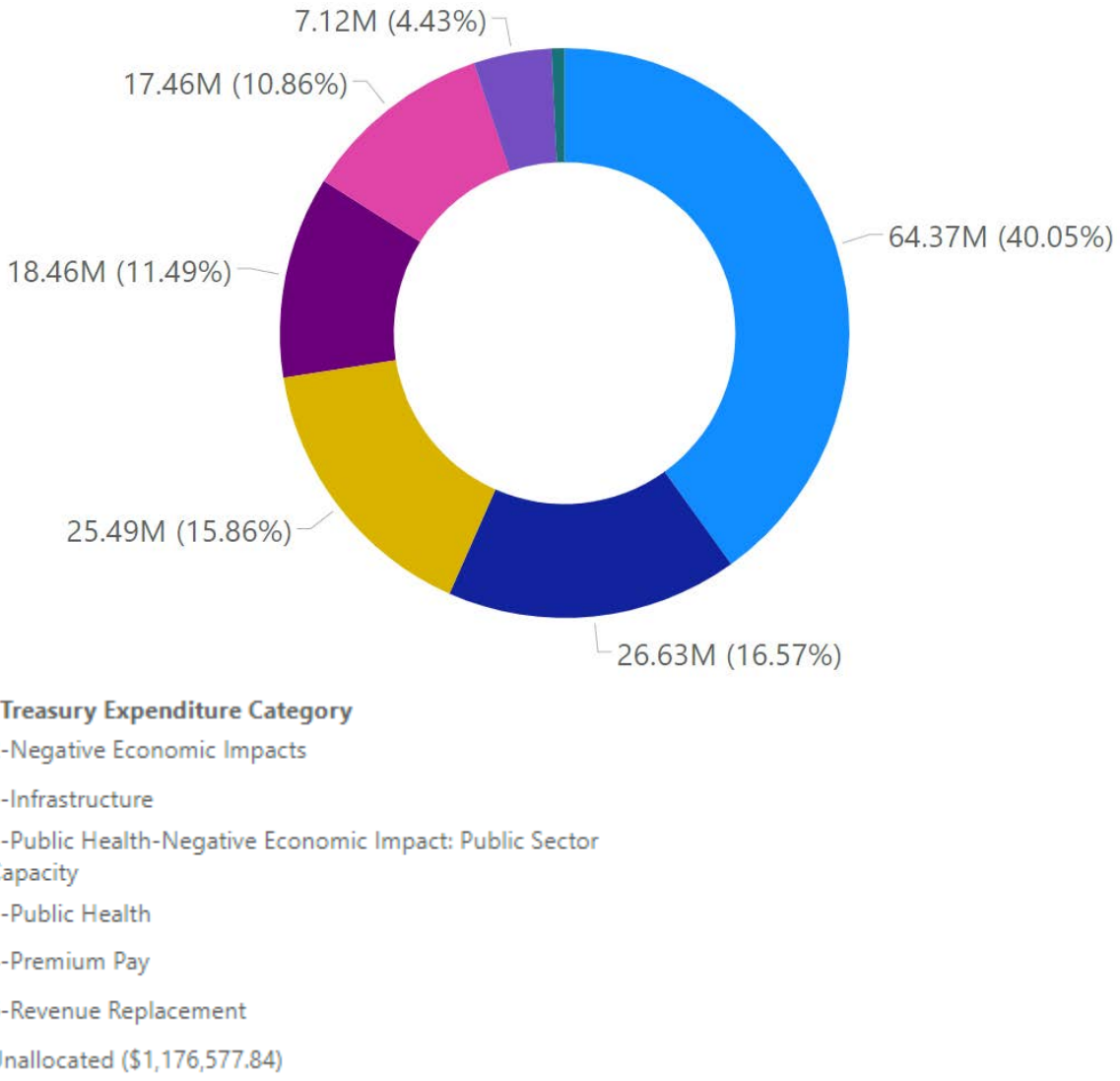
Baltimore County Executive Olszewski is committed to using federal pandemic funding to ensure an equitable recovery for all residents and businesses. In November 2021, County Executive Olszewski announced spending proposals for Baltimore County's allocation from the American Rescue Plan, which advanced a broad range of innovative, equity-focused efforts in addition to ongoing pandemic-response needs. A breakdown of current budgeting and spending by US Treasury Expenditure Category can be found below:




As of June 30, 2024, Baltimore County has allocated $159,530,345 of its total $160,706,923 million SLFRF allotment. Funds have been budgeted into the following Treasury Expenditure Categories (ECs):

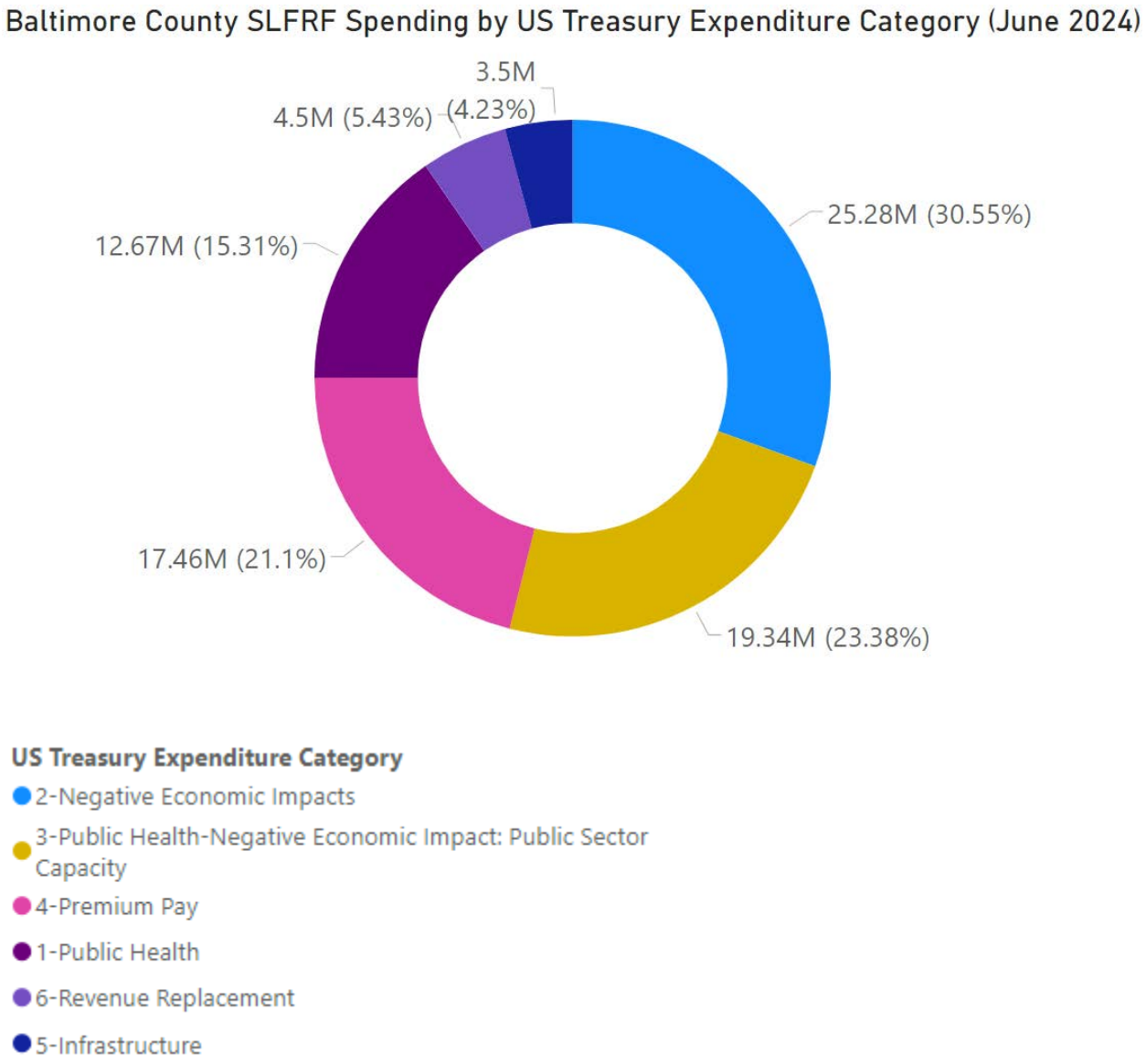
- Public Health (EC 1): $18.46 million
- Negative Economic Impacts: $64.37 million
- Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity (EC 3): $25.49 million
- Premium Pay (EC 4): $17.46 million
- Water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure (EC 5): $26.63 million
- Revenue Replacement (EC 6): $7.12 million

Baltimore County SLFRF Budget by US Treasury Expenditure Category (June 2024)



Of the County's $160,706,923 million SLFRF budget, $82,742,458.00 has been spent as of June 30, 2024:

- Public Health (EC 1): $12.67 million
- Negative Economic Impacts: $25.28 million
- Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity (EC 3): $19.23 million
- Premium Pay (EC 4): $17.46 million
- Water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure (EC 5): $3.5 million
- Revenue Replacement (EC 6): $4.51 million



**Promoting Equitable Outcomes**

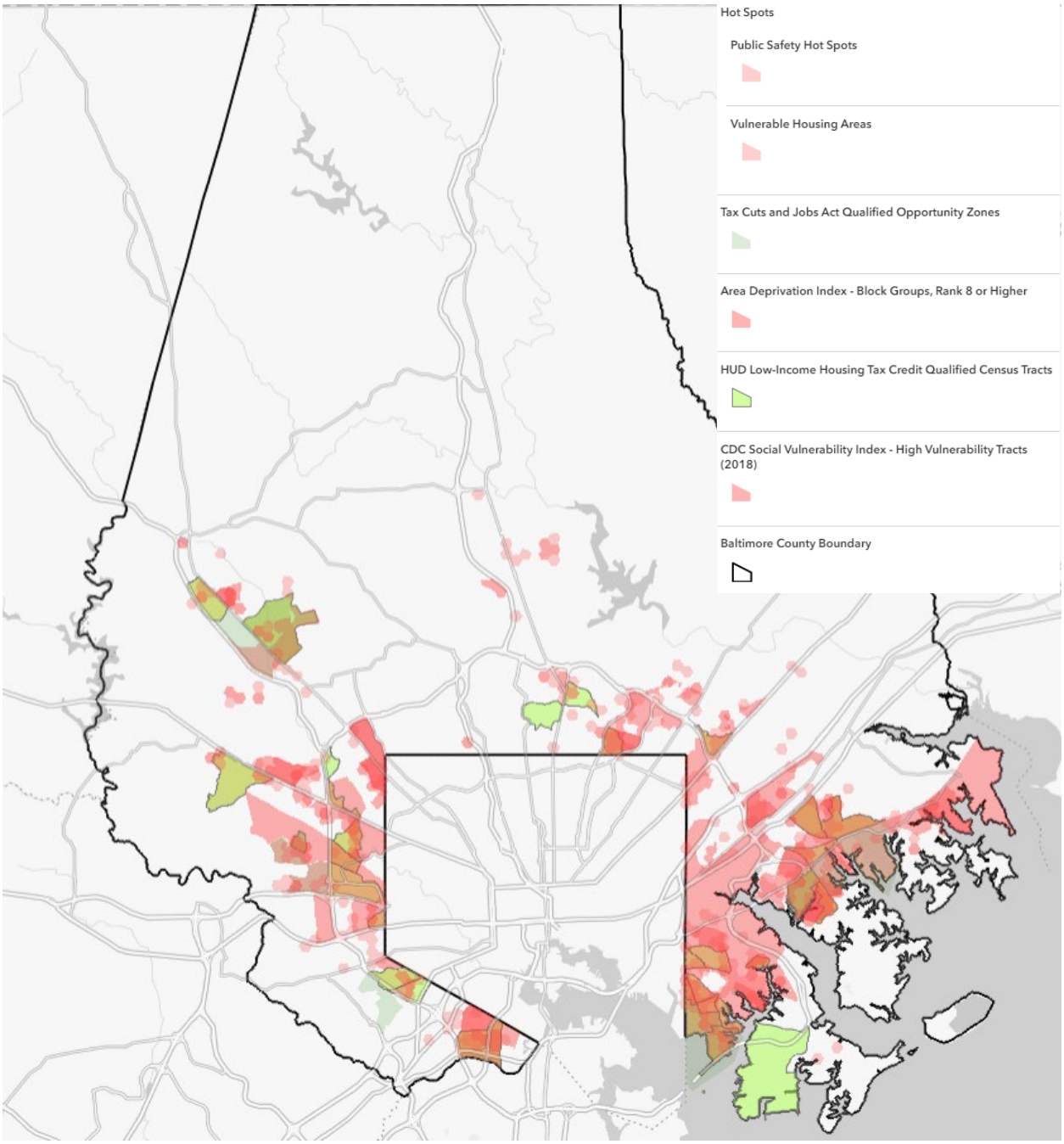
Baltimore County has over 850,000 residents-- the third largest population in Maryland. Nearly 30 percent of the County's population is African American, 103,700 residents are foreign-born, and students in the County's school system speak 97 different languages. From 2010 to 2020, the Hispanic or Latino population grew over 71.7%, 7.2% of residents. As of 2024, eleven percent of the County's households live below the federal poverty line, and 29 percent fall under the Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) threshold, according to the United Way of Central Maryland. Given Baltimore County's diversity, ensuring that our SLFRF expenditures prioritize equitable outcomes is key to our overall recovery. At the onset of the planning stage, the Economic Recovery Subcabinet; Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; and ARPA implementation team worked in conjunction with community stakeholders to define SLFRF equity goals and ultimately a County-wide equity framework. Using the data-based performance model already in place across County government, BCSTAT, the County's data analysis and performance management unit, works to ensure that equity outcomes match Treasury guidance and demonstrate measurable impacts to the community.

The American Rescue Plan requires jurisdictions to target relief in line with Executive Order 13985, ''Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government"1, with Treasury making racial equity a central focus of ARPA spending.2 The County must explain how ARPA funds were used to promote equitable growth and identify the historically underserved, marginalized, or adversely affected groups the projects intend to serve.

> *White House Definitions: (a) The term "equity" means the consistent and systematic fair, just, and impartial treatment of all individuals, including individuals who belong to underserved communities that have been denied such treatment, such as Black, Latino, and Indigenous and Native American persons, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and other persons of color; members of religious minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) persons; persons with disabilities; persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.*
>
> *(b) The term "underserved communities" refers to populations sharing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic communities, that have been systematically denied a full opportunity to participate in aspects of economic, social, and civic life, as exemplified by the list in the preceding definition of "equity."*

To advance Treasury and County equity goals, Baltimore County has targeted ARPA expenditures in critical impact areas, or regions within the County that have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Using a combination of County-level data and federal measures, Baltimore County has identified local areas of disproportionate impact. This wider definition better reflects the needs of communities around the County, and allows for targeted, data-driven investment of ARPA funds. The final map of County-specific disproportionately impacted areas includes:

- Public Safety Hotspots
- Vulnerable Housing Areas
- Area Deprivation Index
- Social Vulnerability Index
- Low-Income Tax Credit Qualified Census Tracts
- Qualified Opportunity Zones



In addition to geographic targeting of disproportionately impacted areas, Baltimore County's ARPA implementation team works closely with project leads to ensure that every aspect of a given projects properly addresses and promotes equitable outcomes. Each department must answer the following questions when soliciting approval to begin their ARPA projects:

1. Goals: Describe the specific historically underserved, marginalized, or adversely affected group(s) that will be impacted by this project.

2. Awareness: How will you ensure that all residents and businesses know about the ARPA project and services?

3. Access and Distribution: How will you ensure that program requirements, applications and paperwork do not create barriers for the target populations?

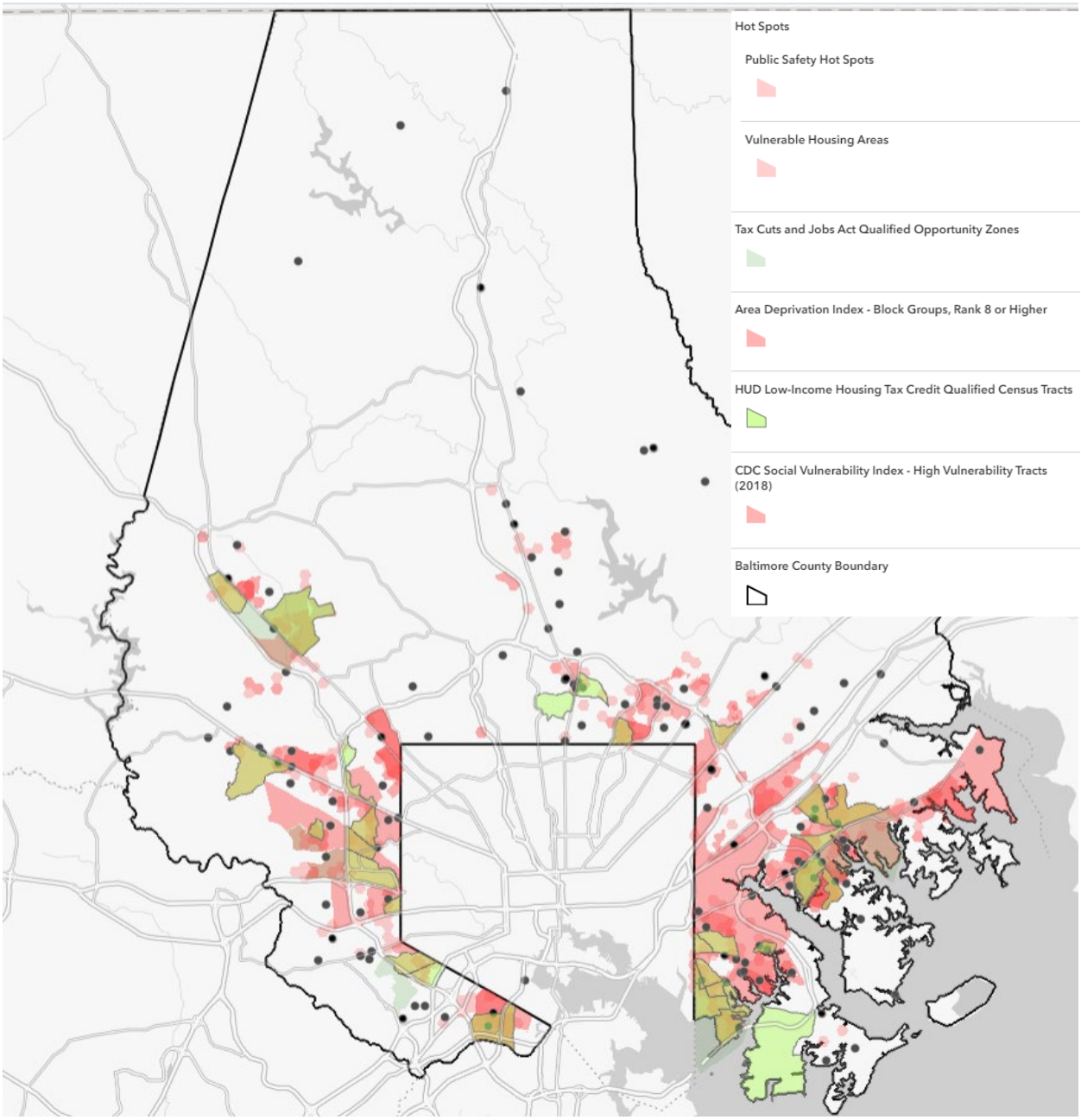
4. Outcomes: How will you research and develop project outcomes that focus on closing significant and persistent disparities between population groups; or ensuring that services are user-friendly, inclusive and accessible?

Baltimore County's Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) is conducting an enterprise-wide equity assessment to identify and evaluate the County's performance in equitable and inclusive decision-making. As a compliance management operation, the Division of DEI seeks to establish enterprise diversity, equity and inclusionary standards that will support the monitoring, managing, and continuous evaluation of the County's fair and equitable decision-making practices. The equity assessment will identify areas of opportunity where the County's performance can be strengthened in order to best meet the needs of the community. The second phase of the assessment will include the development of an "equity" strategic plan, followed by a series of trainings in phase three. Both the equity strategic plan and trainings will be influenced by the results of the equity assessment. A standardized equity tool will also become available for enterprise use, specifically for budget, policy, legislation, and operational development.

The Division is working with an ARPA-funded third-party vendor to complete the assessment. The vendor will conduct a comprehensive review of agency business operations through document review and interviews. A report of their analysis will be prepared and provided to senior leaders. The vendor will also facilitate the development of the equity strategic plan and trainings.

| Project Inventory: 2-Negative Economic Impacts | Cumulative Expenditures (June 2024) | |
|---|---|---|
| **2.10-Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers (e.g. job training, subsidized employment, employment supports or incentives)** | **$** | **29,334.63** |
| Youth Corps | $ | 29,334.63 |
| **2.11-Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care** | **$** | **1,315,000.00** |
| Abilities Network | $ | 300,000.00 |
| Childcare Provider Grant Program | $ | 1,015,000.00 |
| **2.15-Long-Term Housing Security: Affordable Housing** | **$** | **2,810,210.02** |
| Affordable Housing Opportunity Fund | $ | 2,810,210.02 |
| **2.18-Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance** | **$** | **60,000.00** |
| Tax Services for Low Income Residents | $ | 60,000.00 |
| **2.1-Household Assistance: Food Programs** | **$** | **2,183,967.70** |
| Food Distribution | $ | 2,183,967.70 |
| **2.22-Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety** | **$** | **8,546,473.08** |
| Arbutus Traffic Calming/Ped Safety Infrastructure | $ | 116,033.51 |
| Back River Midge Treatment | $ | 895,506.24 |
| Basketball Court Renovations | $ | 539,834.00 |
| Bear Creek Heritage Trail | $ | 247,110.00 |
| Carriage Hill Park - Repairs | $ | 78,782.50 |
| Halstead RAC | $ | 333,320.91 |
| Middle River RAC | $ | 1,000,000.00 |
| Multipurpose Court Renovations | $ | 306,954.00 |
| Northeast Trail - Silver Spring to White March Blvd. & Rossville Blvd. to Hazelwood Ave. Design | $ | 69,674.18 |
| Operation ReTree | $ | 1,113,349.22 |
| Playground Improvements | $ | 152,642.30 |
| Powhatan Park Trail Repair | $ | 22,950.00 |
| QCT Streetscaping | $ | 242,445.24 |
| Recycling and Trash Carts Pilots | $ | 2,329,758.50 |
| Red Run Trail Feasibility Study | $ | 83,761.66 |
| Ripken Foundation project in Essex | $ | 750,000.00 |
| Six Bridges Trail Alignment | $ | 261,970.82 |
| Windsor Mill - Sidewalk | $ | 2,380.00 |
| **2.27-Addressing Impacts of Lost Instructional Time** | **$** | **58,513.06** |
| Study Buddy Tutoring Program Pilot | $ | 58,513.06 |
| **2.2-Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid** | **$** | **1,561,789.31** |
| COVID-19 Legal Services for Eviction Prevention | $ | 1,561,789.31 |
| **2.30-Technical Assistance, Counseling, or Business Planning** | **$** | **228,003.69** |
| Small Business Consultants | $ | 228,003.69 |
| **2.31-Rehabilitation of Commercial Properties or Other Improvements** | **$** | **167,855.68** |
| Community Revitalization Action Grants | $ | 167,855.68 |
| **2.34-Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)** | **$** | **2,838,921.60** |
| Capacity Building | $ | 200,000.00 |
| Community Development Organization for the Liberty Road Corridor | $ | 499,956.60 |
| Nonprofit Support | $ | 2,138,965.00 |
| **2.35-Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality** | **$** | **1,022,639.64** |
| Arts & Entertainment Districts - Catonsville and Dundalk | $ | 80,000.00 |
| Special Events Budget: BMW, Cycling Classic, Steeplechases, Guinness Festivals, Waterfront Festivals | $ | 6,768.50 |
| Tourism, Arts, and Culture Reboot | $ | 935,871.14 |
| **2.37-Economic Impact Assistance: Other** | **$** | **3,282,505.94** |
| College Promise Expansion | $ | 1,600,000.00 |
| Community Equity Districts | $ | 240,000.00 |
| Essex Recovery Initiative | $ | 1,442,505.94 |
| **2.4-Household Assistance: Internet Access Programs** | **$** | **1,175,329.17** |
| Comcast Internet Essentials | $ | 1,012,302.93 |
| Digital Inclusion Coordinator - Seniors | $ | 163,026.24 |
| **Grand Total** | **$** | **25,280,543.52** |

The above table details projects in this report funded under EC 2-Negative Economic Impacts. These projects reflect the County's holistic approach to addressing inequities exacerbated by the pandemic: providing food assistance; supporting affordable housing and housing assistance; expanding internet and technology access; offering technical assistance to small businesses; and expanding green spaces and recreational facilities in disproportionately impacted areas.



The above map details the geographic distribution of Baltimore County ARPA projects listed in the “Project Inventory” section of this report. It excludes planned future projects as well as projects with a Countywide footprint (e.g., Baltimore County Government Administration, COVID Testing, etc.). By leveraging a wide range of economic, social, public health, and public safety data to identify specific areas of need, Baltimore County has sought to maximize the impact of ARPA SLFRF funds at the neighborhood and community level. For example, investments in parks, green spaces, recreation activity centers, and other neighborhood features have been targeted specifically to identified disproportionately impacted areas. Similarly, neighborhoods selected for the Recycling and Trash Cart Pilot were identified through a combination of quantitative data analysis and solicited community feedback. Other community-based ARPA-funded projects—including support for nonprofit organizations, food distribution, and legal support for residents facing eviction—have been focused on disproportionately impacted areas from planning to implementation.

In addition to targeting specific geographic regions for ARPA funding, Baltimore County monitors a variety of programmatic and administrative data to ensure ARPA funds are translating to measurable health, economic, and public safety outcomes in impacted and disproportionately impacted communities. BCSTAT works with Departmental staff to develop tailored equity outcome metrics specific to each project. Both the White House’s Executive Order On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government and the Treasury Department’s 2021 publication The American Rescue Plan: Centering Equity in Policymaking have played a central role in shaping outcome metrics for Baltimore County’s entire ARPA portfolio. Further discussion of County monitoring of and progress toward equity goals is available in the “Use of Evidence” and “Performance Report” sections below. Project-level metrics and evaluation plans related to equity outcomes can be found in the “Project Inventory” section.

**Community Engagement**

The Economic Recovery Subcabinet engaged with many different community stakeholders throughout their internal planning process. Beginning in March of 2021, County Executive Olszewski launched several collaborative efforts to gather stakeholder input on how to use the County’s ARPA funds.  The goal was to engage county departments, businesses, residents and community partners to develop a spending plan that helps the County emerge from the pandemic even stronger than it was before.

To ensure community members could share their feedback, ideas, and priorities regarding the funding proposals, the Olszewski administration hosted two virtual public input meetings and developed an online survey. These recorded sessions, survey results and all information related to ARPA spending can be found on the public website:

https://arp-bc-gis.hub.arcgis.com/pages/public-input

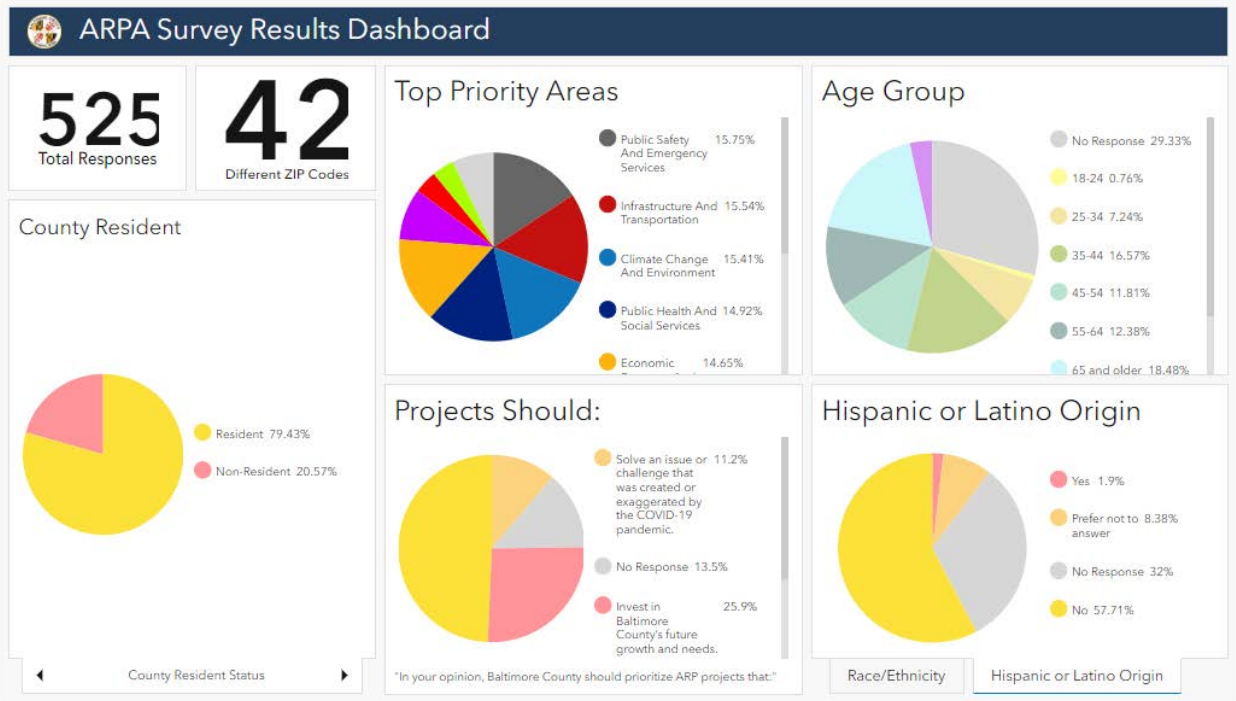



*Figure 1: The results of the County's 2021 online ARPA survey*

To facilitate community outreach and engagement, Baltimore County used ARPA funds to create two new positions: an Immigration Outreach Coordinator and an Immigrant Affairs Fellow. These positions have played a crucial role in addressing language-access barriers and other obstacles facing underserved communities in the County.

# Immigrant Affairs Outreach Footprint: ARPA Impact

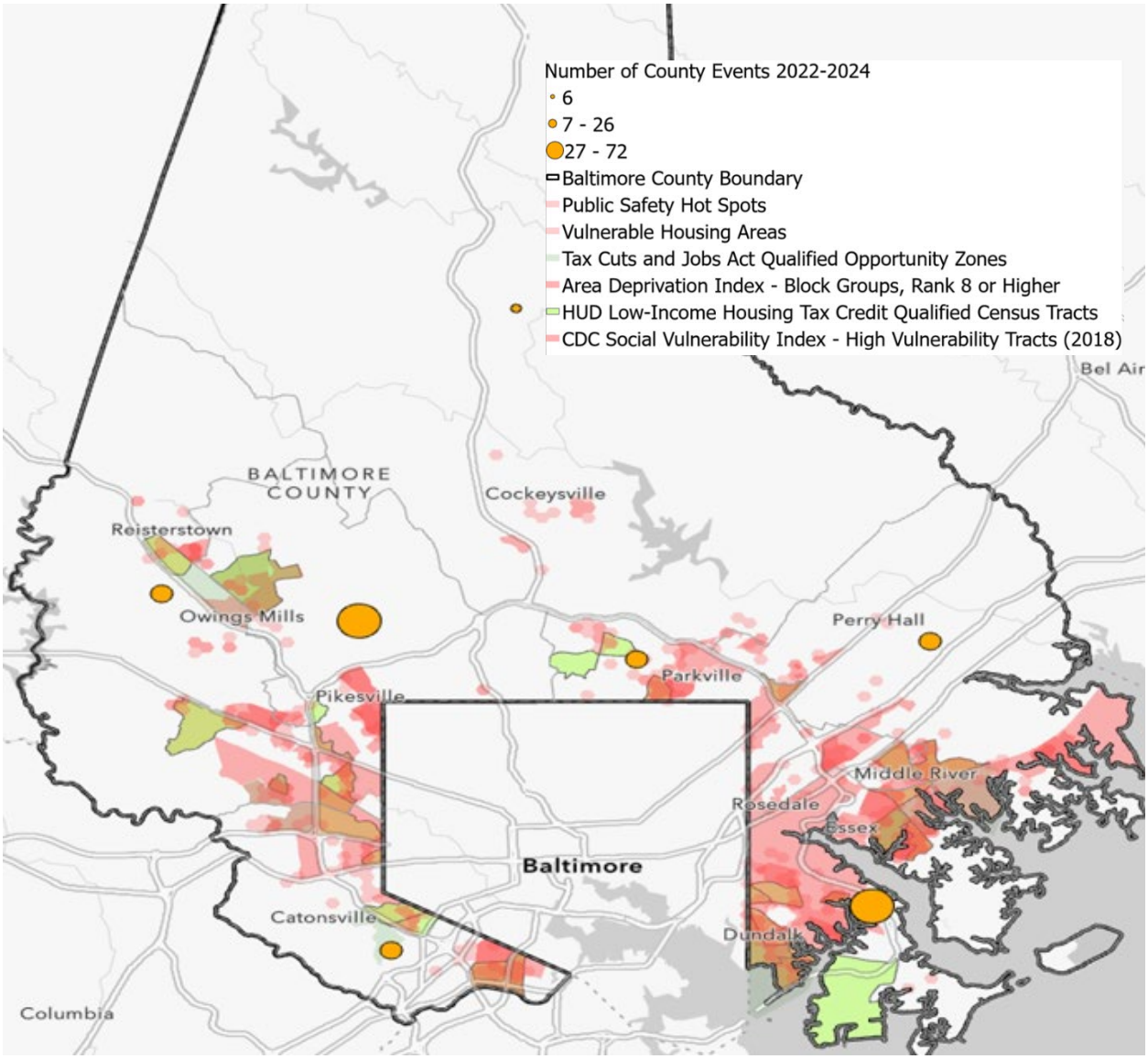



*Figure 2: Immigrant Affairs outreach and ARPA Disproportionately Impacted Areas*

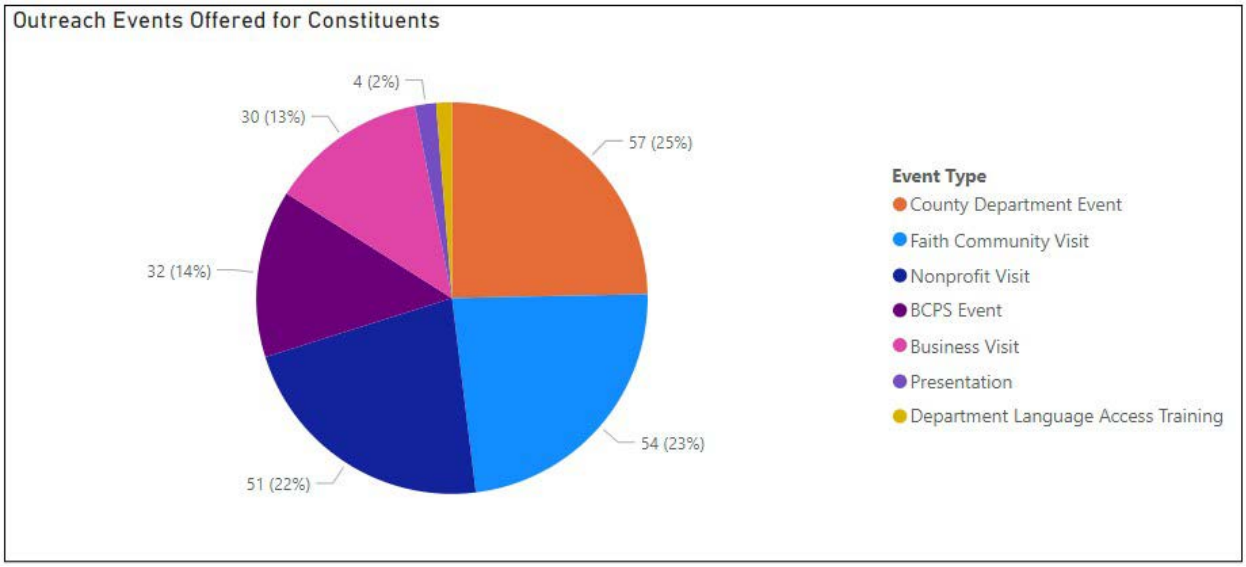



*Figure 3: Immigrant Affairs outreach event types and numbers*

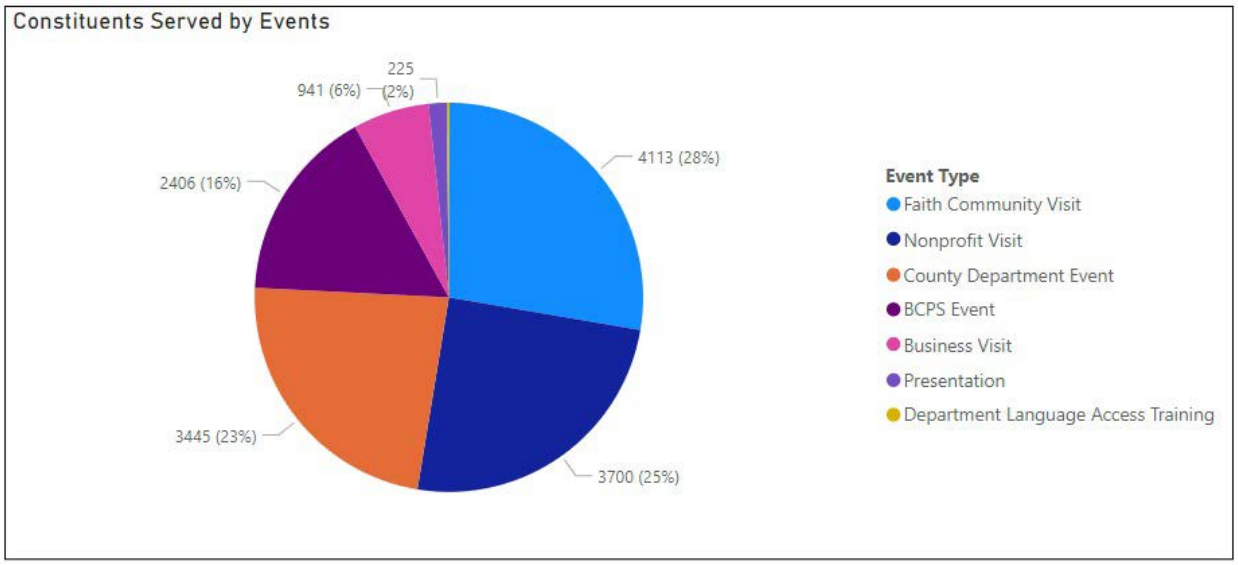



*Figure 4: Immigration Affairs outreach attendance*

As the County's ARPA efforts move from strategic planning to project implementation, community outreach similarly shifted from Countywide efforts to more targeted project-specific engagement. Below are several examples of project-centered community engagement:

- **Essex Initiative:** The County's ARPA-funded Essex Initiative leverages cross-departmental collaboration and dedicate concentrated resources to support the Essex community's recovery. The Essex Coordinator is responsible for multiple SLFRF projects targeted toward the Essex region and collaborates closely with local community organizations organize events, connect with residents, conduct outreach, and distribute educational materials Additional ARPA funding has been approved to support translation services for this initiative.
- **Equity Districts (Place Based Initiatives):** Building on the work done in Essex, Baltimore County has allocated ARPA SLFRF funds to additional neighborhood-specific initiatives. In Woodlawn Village, the County is working with the local business association and several community associations to revitalize the area. The main project to date, in response to community concerns, is to support local small businesses and create more economic opportunity for surrounding community members.
- **Nonprofit Support:** Baltimore County, in partnership with the Baltimore Community Foundation, conducted a competitive process resulting in awards of $2.67 million in ARPA-funded grants to 28 community-based organization to fund 32 projects through the County's ARPA Nonprofit Grant Program. These funds are supporting a diverse range of community efforts and will help cover organizations' revenue reductions or operating expense increases due to the pandemic. The County is using the data received from our nonprofits to understand target populations and where gaps in County services exist. These target populations were uniquely affected by the pandemic and require tailored and ongoing services to continue to recover.
    - Baltimore County is using ARPA funds to partner with nonprofits' projects that align with our Enterprise Strategic Plan. Serving our large and diverse population with evolving community needs, our nonprofits are already enacting on addressing the County's top priority goals for our population. The County has lagged behind our partners in creating vibrant and inclusive communities and we are only able to meet our goals if we work together.
        - Nine organizations are receiving funding for immigrant-serving projects. More than 12% of the County's population are immigrants and many of them were adversely impacted by the pandemic.
        - Seven nonprofits are receiving ARPA funds to address mental health and intimate partner violence. Reducing stigma and providing assistance is crucial for pandemic recovery.
        - Five organizations are addressing needs in Essex. These projects compliment Essex Reimagined, which is the County's multi-departmental, place-based revitalization initiative.
        - Seven organizations have projects to address general Covid-19 pandemic recovery. These projects include, but are not limited to, food distributions, senior engagement, vaccination education, and digital literacy.
- **Tax Services for Low-Income Residents:** From 2021 to 2022, Baltimore County partnered with Cash Campaign of Maryland, Inc, to provide free tax services to

residents. Outreach targeted residents of low-income neighborhoods, minorities, disconnected youth, the unemployed, formerly incarcerated people, veterans, and people with disabilities and other similarly disadvantaged groups. CASH Campaign outreach included posts on its website, a television interview with FOX 45 Morning News, and a radio interview with Larry Young on WOLB. The project also conducted a digital ad campaign from August to October of 2021 (conducted in Spanish from September to October).

- **Operation ReTree:** Operation ReTree is an equity-based, urban, tree-planting program partially funded by ARPA dollars. This program focuses on replacing dwindled tree canopies in older, high-density, lower-income neighborhoods, and channels concentrated capital investment and technical resources to benefit residents of these communities by planting native trees in residential yards and common areas. The County's hyper-local direct marketing outreach strategy employed the community-based social marketing theory, which actively engaged community leaders and adjusted program elements in response to feedback and voiced concerns. Project staff collaborated with community associations and duplicated outreach to tenants and landlords of private rental homes, to maximize potential interest and facilitate communication between all parties. Due to the strictly limited geographic eligibility for each implementation, we intentionally avoid broader promotion through social media, media advertising and other strategies that could disappoint people not included in the targeted area.
- **Recycling and Trash Cart Pilot:** Baltimore County's Recycling and Trash Cart Pilot distributed high-quality trash carts for residential trash pickup in the Essex community. New 65-gallon trash carts were delivered to approximately 4,300 residences in Essex neighborhoods in November 2022. The pilot was conceived following discussions between County leadership and local officials and neighborhood leaders to discuss community concerns, including public safety, code enforcement, access to recreational spaces, as well as other social and economic disparities. Rat infestation and loose trash was a common concern for most participants. Postcards were mailed to all residences designated to receive trash carts prior to distribution, and the pilot rollout was heavily publicized by local media.
- **Capacity Building:** As part of the Capacity Building project, Baltimore County is partnering with a third-party partner, Maryland Association of NonProfits (MANO) to provide hands-on technical assistance to its community-based organizations. This project includes support in fundraising, board development and other competencies needed for long term success. MANO has connected with dozens of local nonprofit organizations through this initiative, extending the County's community-based footprint and the impact of ARPA funds.
- **Community Development Organization for the Liberty Road Corridor:** Baltimore County retained the services of The Nelson Ideation Group (TNIG) to engage community stakeholders in forming a non-profit community development organization (CDO) serving the Randallstown area. In 2023, TNIG convened a Work Group of stakeholders representing key institutions, businesses, community, nonprofits, and government in central Randallstown and south along Liberty Road to the City line. The Work Group discussed target area, gathered data, developed a Needs Assessment Survey, and drafted purpose, vision, mission, and values statements for the new non-profit.

The stakeholder work group and Baltimore County finalized a target area for the CDO's initial work and established the name of the organization as the Greater Randallstown Community Development Organization (GRCDO). A public call for applicants to form the founding Board of Directors was issued in April, 2023 and distributed via social media, county press release, and email. Consultants from TNIG and Baltimore County interviewed all applicants and selected the founding board, which began meeting in September, 2023.

**Labor Practices**

The Baltimore County Council approved prevailing wage legislation in 2020 for capital projects that exceed $300,000 in cost, or are County-subsidized by an amount exceeding $5 million. The County adheres to this legislation for all ARPA-funded infrastructure and capital projects.

Baltimore County also maintains local hiring requirements for capital projects that exceed $300,000 in cost, or are County-subsidized by an amount exceeding $5 million.

Baltimore County's Minority and Women's Business Enterprise (MBE and WBE) program was established in 2022 to increase MBE and WBE participation in Baltimore County contracts. The County's overall goal is to have 23 percent of the cumulative total of all discretionary dollars spent in a fiscal year of County procurements awarded to/performed by MBE and WBE firms. This will increase to 30 percent in fiscal year 2026. More information on the County's MBE and WBE program can be found online:

https://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/departments/budfin/purchasing/supplier-diversity/minority-women

**Use of Evidence**

Baltimore County launched BCSTAT, the County's first data-driven performance management program, in 2019. Housed in the County Executive's Office of Government Reform and Strategic Initiatives, BCSTAT has the mission to create accountability, improve performance, ensure data quality and increase transparency across Baltimore County. The BCSTAT team works in partnership with individual departments, using data analysis to assess, monitor and improve County functions and services. Use of evidence and data-based systems for decision-making are deeply integrated throughout County government; SLFRF projects follow this model while simultaneously adhering to Treasury guidance. BCSTAT works closely with Departmental staff and other partners during project planning to ensure SLFRF-backed interventions are backed by research and evaluation: this work includes assessment and review of academic literature; investigation of real-world case studies and evaluations; and thorough analysis to determine the applicability of evidence to Baltimore County's specific situation. The County is continuing to evaluate each project and identify the best research and evidence to model our programs after. Evidence-based support is reflected widely throughout the project inventory. Appendix A: Use of Evidence Compendium contains more detailed information on evidence-backed interventions at the project level.

## Performance Report

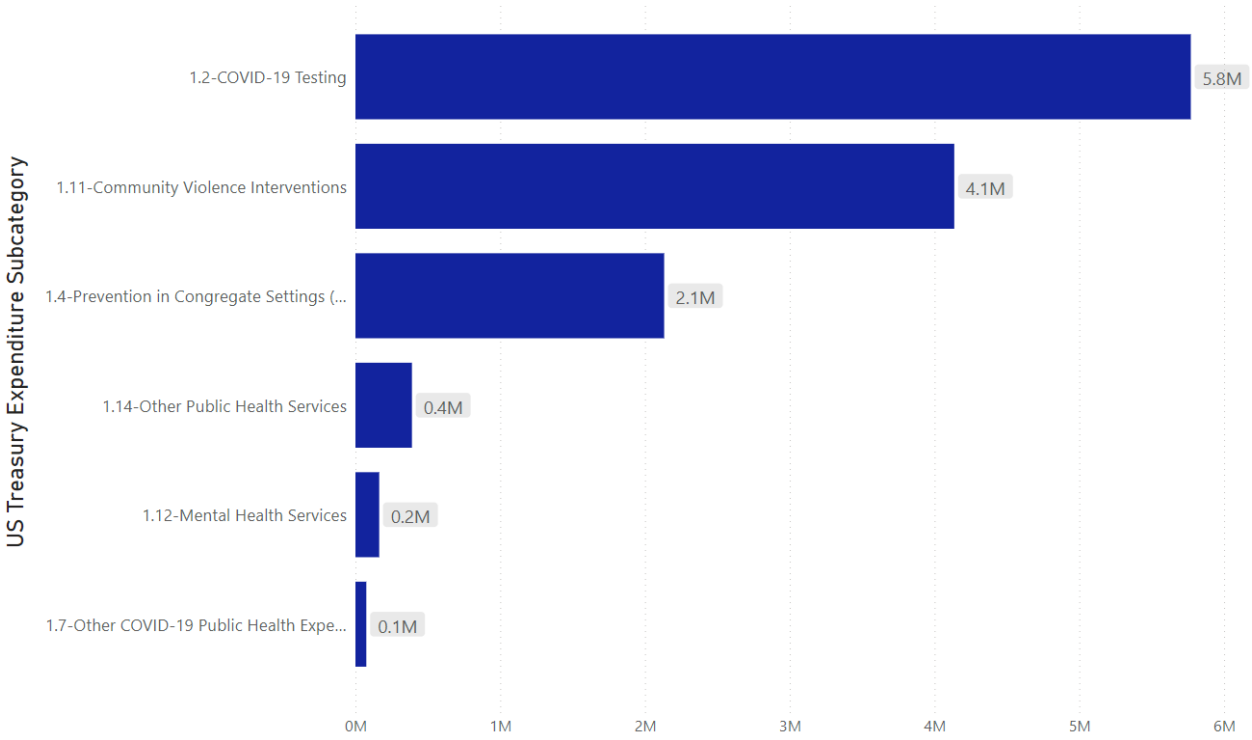
BCSTAT works with project staff from planning to implementation to evaluation to develop performance metrics, monitor progress, and assess long-term outcomes. During the design and planning phase of ARPA-funded projects, BCSTAT and project staff develop input, output, and outcome metrics designed around project goals and real-world contexts. Performance indicators are informed by Baltimore County's Enterprise Strategic Plan as well as goals embedded in the County's Outcome-Based Budgeting framework.

Outcome data for ARPA projects is captured through a variety of mechanisms. In addition to project-specific outcome metrics, BCSTAT monitors a variety of high-level trends at regular STAT sessions, which bring internal stakeholders together for a cross-departmental, collaborative focus on the County Executive's top priorities. These STAT sessions apply a data lens to specific topics such as housing and homelessness, sustainability, neighborhoods, and opioids, bringing data analysis to inform decision-making and strategies. As ARPA implementation continues to unfold across the County, STAT reviews of Countywide trends and issues will help quantify and contextualize the overall impact of SLFRF funds on public safety, economic development, environmental quality, public health, and other important areas of interest.

## PROJECT INVENTORY

### Expenditure Category 1: Public Health

| Project Inventory: 1-Public Health | Cumulative Expenditures (June 2024) | |
|---|---|---|
| **1.11-Community Violence Interventions** | **$** | **4,136,273.67** |
| Automated License Plate Reader Trailers | $ | 346,942.55 |
| Firearms Discharge Detection System | $ | 374,000.00 |
| Mobile Crisis Team Expansion | $ | 2,845,636.65 |
| POD Systems | $ | 569,694.47 |
| **1.12-Mental Health Services** | **$** | **164,104.20** |
| Cordico Wellness Application | $ | 90,000.00 |
| Parent Child Interaction Therapy | $ | 74,104.20 |
| **1.14-Other Public Health Services** | **$** | **390,210.82** |
| Animal Services Consultant | $ | 25,000.00 |
| Fire Equipment | $ | 365,210.82 |
| **1.2-COVID-19 Testing** | **$** | **5,770,128.18** |
| Covid Testing | $ | 5,770,128.18 |
| **1.4-Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, Child care facilities, etc.)** | **$** | **2,132,339.71** |
| Baltimore County Detention Center Enhanced COVID Prevention | $ | 480,660.63 |
| Baltimore County Government Building Disinfection/Mitigation | $ | 175,803.83 |
| Circuit Court Social Distancing (Jury and Visitor) | $ | 1,475,875.25 |
| **1.7-Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)** | **$** | **75,061.55** |
| Baltimore County Employee Vaccination Verification - OHR | $ | 28,872.00 |
| Resident Hotel Isolations | $ | 46,189.55 |
| **Grand Total** | **$** | **12,668,118.13** |




***Expenditure Subcategory 1.11-Community Violence Interventions***

**Automated License Plate Reader Trailers**
Project ID: 1014
Total Project Budget: $346,943.00
Spent To Date: $346,943.00
Project Expenditure Category: 1-Public Health-1.11-Community Violence Interventions

*Project Overview*

- The Police Department will acquire and implement automated license plate reader (ALPR) trailers for communities that are experiencing disproportionate levels of violent crime (Lansdowne). These trailers can be deployed as stationary sensors to capture vehicle traffic information for correlation with calls-for-service data, crime report data, and firearms discharge detection system data to increase crime clearance rates and/or efficiency.
- Timeline/status: The mobile trailer platform initially used proved ineffective, and the BCPD is in the process of replacing the initial trailers with a pole-mounted ALPR platform, at no additional cost from the vendor. 16 pole-mounted units have been received, out of a total order of 25.

*Use of Evidence*

- To supplement the preliminary evidence base supporting this intervention, a rigorous program evaluation will be conducted on this project. For more information, refer to Appendix A: Use of Evidence Compendium (pg. 80).
- Dollar amount of the total project spending allocated towards evidence-based interventions: TBD pending program evaluation

*Performance Report*

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | # ALPR Units | 16 |
| | ALPR Days Operational | Data collection pending installation |
| **Output** | # ALPR Alerts | Data collection pending installation |
| | # ALPR hits resulting in a stolen-vehicle recovery | Data collection pending installation |
| | # violent-crime-related arrests (NIBRS defined homicides, 1st degree assaults, rapes, robberies) resulting from an ALPR alert | Data collection pending installation |
| | # motor vehicle-related arrests resulting from an ALPR alert | Data collection pending installation |
| | Overall motor-vehicle crime rates | Data collection pending installation |
| **Outcome** | Violent crime rates | Data collection pending installation |
| | Traffic-safety statistics | Data collection pending installation |
| | ALPR-related arrests/arrest rate demographic breakdown | Data collection pending installation |
| | Overall clearance rate | Data collection pending installation |
| | Overall crime rate (NIBRS Group A) | Data collection pending installation |

**Firearms Discharge Detection System**
Project ID: 1018
Total Project Budget: $748,000.00
Spent To Date: $374,000.00
Project Expenditure Category: 1-Public Health-1.11-Community Violence Interventions

*Project Overview*

- The Baltimore County Police Department will acquire and implement a firearms discharge detection and notification system for communities that are experiencing disproportionate levels of violent crime (Wilkens and Central Essex areas). This system would alert the police to firearms discharges with reliable location data and allow dispatching of field officers in real time to reduce reporting and response times.
- Timeline/status: System has been live in Wilkens Precinct since July 2023 and in Essex Precinct since August 2023.

*Use of Evidence*

- A rigorous program evaluation will be conducted on this project. For more information, refer to Appendix A: Use of Evidence Compendium (pg. 80).
- Dollar amount of the total project spending allocated towards evidence-based interventions: TBD pending program evaluation

*Performance Report*

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | # Precincts covered | 2 |
| | System/technology | Operational |
| **Output** | Total Incidents (Alerts) | Collection ongoing |
| | Total Shots Detected | Collection ongoing |
| | Verified Dischargings | Collection ongoing |
| | Calls with other CFS | Collection ongoing |
| | Unknown Incidents | Collection ongoing |
| | % Verified Incidents | Collection ongoing |
| | % Unknown Incidents | Collection ongoing |
| | Incidents which would have been reported | Collection ongoing |
| **Outcome** | Overall crime trends | Evaluation ongoing |
| | Refer to Use-of-Evidence Compendium | Evaluation ongoing |

**Mobile Crisis Team Expansion**
Project ID: 1009
Total Project Budget: $4,433,075.00
Spent To Date: $2,845,636.65
Project Expenditure Category: 1-Public Health-1.11-Community Violence Interventions

*Project Overview*

- The COVID-19 pandemic increased the number of residents experiencing mental, behavioral or emotional health crises. This funding supports the expansion of the County's Mobile Crisis Team dedicated to behavioral mental or emotional crisis response. The expansion will add capacity during peak hours to support parallel Police and Health and Human Services call response and crisis evaluation efforts; provide

robust coverage for each of the three patrol divisions (West, Central, and East areas); and reduce response times for smaller geographic areas. The 9-1-1 Call Center Clinician program will also divert low acuity calls from physical police response.
- Timeline/status: ARPA funds have been used to fund the MCT expansion, which added 2 police sergeants, 4 police officers, 2 vehicles, desks, computers and additional tasers to the MCT. Along with the police personnel and equipment this grant funded the addition of a clinician in the 911 center.

*Use of Evidence*

- Multiple studies support the use of mobile crisis teams to direct individuals experiencing behavioral or mental health issues to appropriate care. For more information, refer to Appendix A: Use of Evidence Compendium (pg. 98).
- Dollar amount of the total project spending allocated towards evidence-based interventions: $2,845,636.65

*Performance Report*

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | # MCT Staff | See "Project Overview" |
| **Output** | # 911-clincian cases opened for FY 2024 | 310 |
| | # Cases referred to clinician via 911 | 304 |
| | # Cases referred to clinician via patrol | 6 |
| | # Clinician cases resolved | 125 |
| | # Clinician cases referred to crisis response | 27 |
| | # Clinician cases sent back to 911 | 5 |
| | # Clinician cases utilized for de-escalation | 152 |
| **Outcome** | Rate of diversion of calls-for service from patrol officers through MCT program | Evaluation pending |
| | % Total behavioral health calls diverted to mobile crisis team | Evaluation pending |
| | Overall use-of-force rates/arrest rates/hospitalization rates | Evaluation pending |
| | Overall public safety costs (salary comparisons) | Evaluation pending |

**Portable Observation Devices**
Project ID: 1019
Total Project Budget: $787,603.00
Spent To Date: $569,694.47
Project Expenditure Category: 1-Public Health-1.11-Community Violence Interventions

*Project Overview*

- Specific communities in the Essex and Wilkens Precincts are experiencing disproportionate levels of violent crime when compared to other areas in Baltimore

County. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated violent crime. Through deploying additional observations capabilities (PODs), we expect them to work in concert with "Shotspotter" technology and Automated License Plate Reader systems. These additional resources are currently in phases of deployment in these communities. We expect to improve community safety, increase investigative and crime fighting abilities, and we expect to reduce violent crime in these lower socioeconomic communities through these efforts.

- Timeline/status: Technology purchases have been completed, and the system is currently completing installation.

*Use of Evidence*

- A rigorous program evaluation will be conducted on this project. For more information, refer to Appendix A: Use of Evidence Compendium (pg. 80).
- Dollar amount of the total project spending allocated towards evidence-based interventions: TBD pending program evaluation

*Performance Report*

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | # Precincts covered | 2 |
| | # PODs | 115 |
| **Output** | # Officers utilizing PODS | Pending Deployment |
| | # Arrests resulting from use of POD footage | Pending Deployment |
| | # Violent crime arrests resulting from use of POD footage | Pending Deployment |
| | # Instances POD footage utilized for citizen complaint investigations | Pending Deployment |
| | Demographic breakdown of POD-related arrests | Pending Deployment |
| | Breakdown of offenses for POD-related arrests | Pending Deployment |
| **Outcome** | Refer to Use-of-Evidence Compendium | Evaluation ongoing |
| | Overall crime trends | Evaluation ongoing |

### *Expenditure Subcategory 1.12-Mental Health Services*

**Cordico Wellness Application**
Project ID: 1011
Total Project Budget: $124,000.00
Spent To Date: $90,000.00
Project Expenditure Category: 1-Public Health- 1.12-Mental Health Services

*Project Overview*

- The Cordico Wellness Application provides confidential, 24/7 proactive and preventative wellness support to Baltimore County firefighters. response. An existing County competitively procured contract was used to obtain the service, which will provide firefighters with anonymous behavioral health support, as first responders have been greatly impacted by the pandemic.
- Timeline/status: The Cordico app has been in use at the County Fire Department since mid-2022. The application will be maintained until ARPA sunsets; the County will attempt to continue through other funds after grant period ends.

*Use of Evidence*

- Multiple studies provide evidence that wellness apps in general, as well as mobile wellness applications targeted specifically toward first responders, can play a positive role in addressing multiple disorders such as stress, anxiety, and depression. For more information, refer to Appendix A: Use of Evidence Compendium (pg. 102).
- Dollar amount of the total project spending allocated towards evidence-based interventions: $90,000.00

*Performance Report*

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | SaaS platform | Online |
| **Output** | # Application sessions by Baltimore County employees | 1,500 |
| **Outcome** | Mental health/workplace satisfaction study | Pending |

**Parent Child Interaction Therapy**
Project ID: 1011
Total Project Budget: $200,000.00
Spent To Date: $74,104.20
Project Expenditure Category: 1-Public Health- 1.12-Mental Health Services

*Project Overview*

- Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) is designed to interrupt dysfunctional interactions between a parent and young children between the ages of 2 and 7. The program focuses on building healthy parent/child relationships through intensive coaching and skills training. The impact of the pandemic on child development and caregivers has been well documented, and this intervention is designed to address these effects.
- Timeline/status: Associated Catholic Charities / Villa Maria Community Resources have been delivering PCIT services since 2023, with the project scheduled to be completed in December 2024. The project is serving families in Community Clinics in Dundalk and Lansdowne.

*Use of Evidence*

- The Child Welfare Information Gateway's 2013 publication "Parent-Child Interaction Therapy With At-Risk Families" provides the evidence base behind Associated Catholic Charities / Villa Maria Community Resources PCIT work in Baltimore County
- Dollar amount of the total project spending allocated towards evidence-based interventions: $74,104.20

*Performance Report*

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| Input | # of community-based behavioral health clinics that have completed building renovations to facilitate the delivery of PCIT in accordance with program model design | 2 |
| | # of community-based behavioral health clinics equipped with the communication equipment and program supplies that facilitate the delivery of PCIT in accordance with program model design | 2 |
| | # of licensed therapists that have been selected by vendor as PCIT therapists | 5 |
| | # of selected PCIT therapists that have initiated training requirements for PCIT Therapist Certification | 5 |
| Output | # of unduplicated families served in the PCIT program | 30 |
| Outcome | % of participating families completing 8 or more PCIT parent-child coaching sessions | 60% or greater |
| | % of participating families achieving a total Dyadic Parent-Child Interaction Coding System (DPICS) score of at least 30 on behavior descriptions, reflections, labeled praise, and unlabeled praise in at least one Child-directed Interaction (CDI) session. | 60% or greater |

### *Expenditure Subcategory 1.14-Other Public Health Services*

**Animal Services Consultant**
Project ID: 1021
Total Project Budget: $300,000.00
Spent To Date: $25,000.00
Project Expenditure Category: 1-Public Health-1.14-Other Public Health Services

*Project Overview*

- In response to an influx of abandoned animals in the County during and following the pandemic period, Baltimore County is contracting a consultant to provide full review of all existing services in the Department of Animal Services and provide recommendations for process changes and enhancements in accordance with best practices.

- Timeline/status: A vendor has been selected as of March 2024.

*Use of Evidence*

- Use-of-evidence is not a requirement for projects in this expenditure category. The vendor's report will follow established research and best practices, and the results of their recommendations will be evaluated internally.

*Performance Report*

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | External consultant | Selected |
| **Output** | Report and recommendations | Pending |
| **Outcome** | Countywide implementation of recommendations | Pending |

**Fire Equipment**
Project ID: 3015
Total Project Budget: $851,318.00
Spent To Date: $365,210.82
Project Expenditure Category: 1-Public Health-1.14-Other Public Health Services

*Project Overview*

- Fire department purchases of turnout gear and medic equipment for the County's volunteer-owned fleet
- Timeline/status: $365,210.82 of the budgeted $701,318.00 has been expended.
- This project was previously listed as "Fire Turnout Gear"

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for this project.

*Performance Report*

- Development of a performance evaluation plan for this project is ongoing.

### *Expenditure Subcategory 1.2-COVID-19 Testing*

**Covid Testing**
Project ID: 1002
Total Project Budget: $5,909,044.00
Spent To Date: $5,770,128.18

Project Expenditure Category: 1-Public Health-1.2-COVID-19 Testing

*Project Overview*

- ARPA funding was used to implement a county-wide COVID-19 response program. Two key parts of this response were a testing program and a vaccination program. Due to the dual nature of our testing and vaccination sites, these expenditures reflect vaccination costs as well. To operate these massive sites, the services of temporary staff via temp contracts were utilized. Security was critical for the safety of the staff and residents using these locations. Equipment to move supplies from a central distribution site to the various testing and vaccination sites was employed. A portable trailer was rented and placed on the parking lot next to the Drumcastle Government Center in an effort to address the ongoing demand for COVID testing. A test site was also established at the Timonium Fairground; on a single day in November, over 1,000 tests were administered at this site. During the vaccination campaign, mass clinic locations were established at the Maryland State Fairgrounds along with the Community College of Baltimore location.
- Timeline/status: The first testing clinic was held on April 16, 2020. The first vaccine was administered on December 23, 2020. The Health Department continues to offer testing and vaccination.

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for this category. However, the County's COVID-19 prevention and mitigation efforts were in line with all federal best practices and mirrored the federal government's at-home COVID-19 testing strategy.

*Performance Report*

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | # Testing sites | 122 |
| | # Vaccination clinic locations | 122 |
| | # Individual vaccination clinics | 1136 |
| **Output** | # COVID tests administered | 73,000+ |
| | # Vaccinations provided | 285,000+ |
| **Outcome** | COVID case trends | Refer to Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients, Inc., (CRISP) |

### *Expenditure Subcategory 1.4-Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, Child care facilities, etc.)*

**Baltimore County Detention Center Enhanced COVID Prevention**
Project ID: 1009
Total Project Budget: $671,669.00
Spent To Date: $480,660.63
Project Expenditure Category: 1-Public Health-1.4-Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, Child care facilities, etc.)

*Project Overview*

- To prevent community spread throughout the County's detention center, contracted services were provided to allow for physical distancing and improved sanitation. Contracted activities include: enhanced cleaning; prepared inmate meals; and inmate testing.
- Timeline/status: Vendors for contracted COVID prevention activities were secured in July 2021.

*Use of Evidence*

- The contracts for this project were finalized during a period in which scientific research and public health guidelines were rapidly evolving. The County's congregate setting COVID-19 prevention and mitigation efforts were in line with all academic and federal best practices at the time.
- Dollar amount of the total project spending allocated towards evidence-based interventions: $671,669.00

*Performance Report*

- The County currently relies on the Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients, Inc., (CRISP) for COVID case data.

**Baltimore County Government Building Disinfection/Mitigation**
Project ID: 1010
Total Project Budget: $175,803.72
Spent To Date: $175,803.72
Project Expenditure Category: 1-Public Health-1.4-Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, Child care facilities, etc.)

*Project Overview*

- This project consists of COVID-19 disinfection services, purchases of personal protective equipment and related materials (hand sanitizer, air filters, etc.) for County residents and students, and supporting activities for equipment storage and distribution.
- Timeline/status: This project has largely concluded following the end of the Public Health Emergency, although the County currently maintains certain stocks of materials.

*Use of Evidence*

- This project was finalized during a period in which scientific research and public health guidelines were rapidly evolving. The County's congregate setting COVID-19 prevention and mitigation efforts were in line with all federal best practices at the time.
- Dollar amount of the total project spending allocated towards evidence-based interventions: $175,803.72

*Performance Report*

- The County currently relies on the Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients, Inc., (CRISP) for COVID case data.

**Circuit Court Social Distancing (Jury and Visitor)**
Project ID: 1005
Total Project Budget: $1,472,117.82
Spent To Date: $1,475,875.25
Project Expenditure Category: 1-Public Health-1.4-Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, Child care facilities, etc.)

*Project Overview*

- This project includes contracted jury office assistance and services to provide sufficient social distancing for congregate jury services; physical building modifications such as carpet and tile cleaning; additional security for Circuit Court facilities in response to pandemic needs; and repair in the Circuit Court jury assembly room.
- Timeline/status: This project is ongoing.

*Use of Evidence*

- The contracts for this project were finalized during a period in which scientific research and public health guidelines were rapidly evolving. The County's congregate setting COVID-19 prevention and mitigation efforts were in line with all federal best practices at the time.
- Dollar amount of the total project spending allocated towards evidence-based interventions: $1,200,000

*Performance Report*

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | # Circuit Court facilities adapted for pandemic response | 4 |
| | # Additional Circuit Court employees | 3 |
| | # Visitor Center security staff | 1 |
| | Jury facility security | Contracted to vendor |
| | Construction and renovation materials | Misc. |
| **Output** | # Jury selections | 157 |
| | # Jurors summoned | 190,000+ |
| | # Vsitor Center supervised visits | 534 |
| **Outcome** | COVID case trends | Refer to Chesapeake Regional Information System |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | for our Patients, Inc., (CRISP) |

### *Expenditure Subcategory 1.7-Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)*

**Baltimore County Employee Vaccination Verification – OHR**
Project ID: 1006
Total Project Budget: $28,872.00
Spent To Date: $28,872.00
Project Expenditure Category: 1-Public Health- 1.7-Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)

*Project Overview*

- Effective October 1, 2021, Baltimore County Government initiated a COVID-19 vaccine mandate and testing requirements for employees. This policy requires the Office of Human Resources to verify County Employee vaccination statuses. Enterprise health documentation collection and verification software has been utilized for COVID-19 vaccination compliance purposes, tracking Baltimore County Government and Baltimore County Public Library employees during the pandemic.
- Timeline/status: October 2021-October 2022

*Use of Evidence*

- This project was finalized during a period in which scientific research and public health guidelines were rapidly evolving. The County's COVID-19 testing efforts were in line with all federal best practices at the time.
- Dollar amount of the total project spending allocated towards evidence-based interventions: $28,872.00

*Performance Report*

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | WellCheck health software | Procured |
| **Output** | # Employee vaccination verifications | 9,870 |

**Resident Hotel Isolations**
Project ID: 1007
Total Project Budget: $46,190.00 Spent To Date: $46,189.55
Project Expenditure Category: 1-Public Health-1.7-Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)

*Project Overview*

- This project funded hotel rooms for County residents unable to safely social distance in their home or shelter. To prevent community spread, the County contracted with several hotels to provide room for County residents who cannot safely socially distance.
- Timeline/status: This project has concluded.

*Use of Evidence*

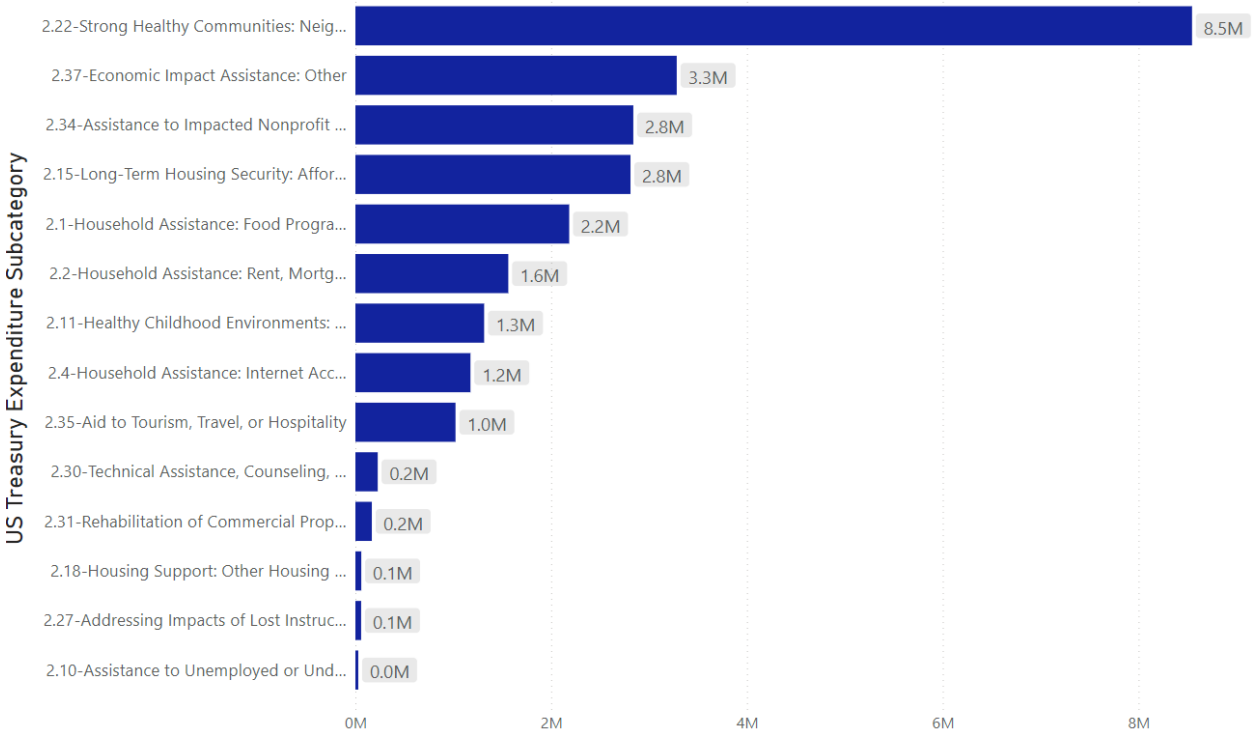
- This project was finalized during a period in which scientific research and public health guidelines were rapidly evolving. The County's congregate setting COVID-19 prevention and mitigation efforts were in line with all federal best practices at the time.
- Dollar amount of the total project spending allocated towards evidence-based interventions: $46,189.55

*Performance Report*

- The County currently relies on the Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients, Inc., (CRISP) for COVID case data.

## Expenditure Category 2: Negative Economic Impact

| Project Inventory: 2-Negative Economic Impacts | | Cumulative Expenditures (June 2024) |
|---|---|---|
| **2.10-Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers (e.g. job training, subsidized employment, employment supports or incentives)** | $ | **29,334.63** |
| Youth Corps | $ | 29,334.63 |
| **2.11-Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care** | $ | **1,315,000.00** |
| Abilities Network | $ | 300,000.00 |
| Childcare Provider Grant Program | $ | 1,015,000.00 |
| **2.15-Long-Term Housing Security: Affordable Housing** | $ | **2,810,210.02** |
| Affordable Housing Opportunity Fund | $ | 2,810,210.02 |
| **2.18-Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance** | $ | **60,000.00** |
| Tax Services for Low Income Residents | $ | 60,000.00 |
| **2.1-Household Assistance: Food Programs** | $ | **2,183,967.70** |
| Food Distribution | $ | 2,183,967.70 |
| **2.22-Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety** | $ | **8,546,473.08** |
| Arbutus Traffic Calming/Ped Safety Infrastructure | $ | 116,033.51 |
| Back River Midge Treatment | $ | 895,506.24 |
| Basketball Court Renovations | $ | 539,834.00 |
| Bear Creek Heritage Trail | $ | 247,110.00 |
| Carriage Hill Park - Repairs | $ | 78,782.50 |
| Halstead RAC | $ | 333,320.91 |
| Middle River RAC | $ | 1,000,000.00 |
| Multipurpose Court Renovations | $ | 306,954.00 |
| Northeast Trail - Silver Spring to White March Blvd. & Rossville Blvd. to Hazelwood Ave. Design | $ | 69,674.18 |
| Operation ReTree | $ | 1,113,349.22 |
| Playground Improvements | $ | 152,642.30 |
| Powhatan Park Trail Repair | $ | 22,950.00 |
| QCT Streetscaping | $ | 242,445.24 |
| Recycling and Trash Carts Pilots | $ | 2,329,758.50 |
| Red Run Trail Feasibility Study | $ | 83,761.66 |
| Ripken Foundation project in Essex | $ | 750,000.00 |
| Six Bridges Trail Alignment | $ | 261,970.82 |
| Windsor Mill - Sidewalk | $ | 2,380.00 |
| **2.27-Addressing Impacts of Lost Instructional Time** | $ | **58,513.06** |
| Study Buddy Tutoring Program Pilot | $ | 58,513.06 |
| **2.2-Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid** | $ | **1,561,789.31** |
| COVID-19 Legal Services for Eviction Prevention | $ | 1,561,789.31 |
| **2.30-Technical Assistance, Counseling, or Business Planning** | $ | **228,003.69** |
| Small Business Consultants | $ | 228,003.69 |
| **2.31-Rehabilitation of Commercial Properties or Other Improvements** | $ | **167,855.68** |
| Community Revitalization Action Grants | $ | 167,855.68 |
| **2.34-Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)** | $ | **2,838,921.60** |
| Capacity Building | $ | 200,000.00 |
| Community Development Organization for the Liberty Road Corridor | $ | 499,956.60 |
| Nonprofit Support | $ | 2,138,965.00 |
| **2.35-Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality** | $ | **1,022,639.64** |
| Arts & Entertainment Districts - Catonsville and Dundalk | $ | 80,000.00 |
| Special Events Budget: BMW, Cycling Classic, Steeplechases, Guinness Festivals, Waterfront Festivals | $ | 6,768.50 |
| Tourism, Arts, and Culture Reboot | $ | 935,871.14 |
| **2.37-Economic Impact Assistance: Other** | $ | **3,282,505.94** |
| College Promise Expansion | $ | 1,600,000.00 |
| Community Equity Districts | $ | 240,000.00 |
| Essex Recovery Initiative | $ | 1,442,505.94 |
| **2.4-Household Assistance: Internet Access Programs** | $ | **1,175,329.17** |
| Comcast Internet Essentials | $ | 1,012,302.93 |
| Digital Inclusion Coordinator - Seniors | $ | 163,026.24 |
| **Grand Total** | $ | **25,280,543.52** |




### *Expenditure Subcategory 2.10-Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers (e.g. job training, subsidized employment, employment supports or incentives)*

**Youth Corps**
Project ID: 2011
Total Project Budget: $29,334.63
Spent To Date: $29,334.63
Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impacts-2.10-Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers (e.g. job training, subsidized employment, employment supports or incentives)

*Project Overview*

- This youth employment initiative consists of a paid internship opportunity for Baltimore County youth who are in school, have graduated or dropped out of high school, by providing valuable education, training, counseling and work-based learning opportunities.
- Timeline/status: After review, this project has been cancelled and funds reallocated.

*Use of Evidence*

- Research has found evidence that youth employment/internship programs are associated with benefits including increased employment, increased earnings, improved job skills, and heightened social-emotional skills. Due to project cancellation, a program evaluation will not take place.
- Dollar amount of the total project spending allocated towards evidence-based interventions: $29,334.63

*Performance Report*

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| **Output** | # People participating in summer youth employment programs | 50 |

### *2.1-Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care*

**Abilities Network Childcare Pilot**
Project ID: 2042
Total Project Budget: $300,000.00
Spent To Date: $300,000.00
Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impacts-2.1-Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care

*Project Overview*

- $300K match to the nonprofit Abilities Network for their pilot program Growing Opportunities in Family Child Care (GoFCC) to increase Family Child Care. GOoFCC was developed and implemented by the Montgomery County Child Care Resource and Referral Center, and provides incentives and removes barriers to becoming a registered family child care provider. This program aims to increase the number of licensed family childcare providers through recruitment, coaching, and other support.
- Timeline/status: The grant to Abilities Network was executed during Quarter 2, 2023.
- This project was previously reported under Expenditure Category 6-Revenue Replacement

*Use of Evidence*

- As this project was recently reclassified from Revenue Replacement, a full use-of-evidence review for this project is ongoing.
- Dollar amount of the total project spending allocated towards evidence-based interventions: $300,000.

*Performance Report*

- Development of a performance evaluation plan for this project is ongoing.

**Childcare Provider Grant Program**
Project ID: 2018
Total Project Budget: $1,015,000.00
Spent To Date: $1,015,000.00
Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impacts-2.1-Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care

*Project Overview*

- The childcare industry has proven itself to be a vital part of this country's economy, as parents cannot return to full time work without safe, reliable childcare. Licensed childcare providers face increased costs due to COVID-19 cleaning requirements, decreased capacity to provide adequate social distancing and decreased enrollments. Between July 2020 and May 2021, the number of licensed family and center-based childcare providers decreased by over seven percent. This grant program is designed to support County-based childcare providers with 14 or fewer registered childcare slots. Funding is eligibility-based. Eligible providers can receive $5,000 in grant funds to support their childcare operations. These funds will help providers manage ongoing enrollment challenges and will enable providers to ensure that they are able to provide quality services while maintaining a safe and healthy environment for their staff and the children they care for.
- Timeline/status: A webinar was held on May 15. Application submissions were accepted via email from Monday, May 22, at 9 am through Friday, June 2, at 5 pm. Towson-based Abilities Network will administer the grant program, distribute grant payments and verify childcare licenses. Abilities network was provided a 5% administrative fee to administer the grants to childcare providers on behalf of Baltimore County. Baltimore County made all funding decisions.
- Baltimore County provided a one-time payment of $5,000 in federal ARPA funds to 177 childcare providers with 14 or fewer registered childcare slots. These funds helped providers manage ongoing enrollment challenges and enabled providers to continue to provide quality services while maintaining a safe and healthy environment for their staff and the children they care for.

*Use of Evidence*

- In addition to empirical data referenced above demonstrating the shortage of childcare providers in Baltimore County, research supports offering grants to community-based organizations to increase enrollment. Further, research shows evidence that support for childcare providers can lead to increased availability and accessibility of childcare for low-income families. For more information, refer to Appendix A: Use of Evidence Compendium (pg. 106).
- Dollar amount of the total project spending allocated towards evidence-based interventions: $2,500,000.00.

*Performance Report*

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| **Output** | # Childcare providers supported | 177 |
| | # Children enrolled (cumulative) | 947 |

### *Expenditure Subcategory 2.15-Long-Term Housing Security: Affordable Housing*

**Affordable Housing Opportunity Fund**
Project ID: 2007
Total Project Budget: $16,000,000.00
Spent To Date: $3,307,639.46
Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impacts- 2.15-Long-Term Housing Security: Affordable Housing

*Project Overview*

- This project establishes an affordable housing fund to expand long-term affordable housing in the County, targeted toward residents whose incomes are at 60% or below of established area median income. The objective of the project is to resolve rental housing shortage for low income residents, in accordance to County's signed Voluntary Conciliation Agreement with HUD.
- Timeline/status:
    i. Project:
        1. Prescott Square Apartments – 4400 Old Court Rd, Pikesville, MD 21208; 70 affordable units (70 VCA eligible)
        2. MCB Real Estate: The Beacon – 7700 Dory Lane, Sparrows Point, MD 21229; 201 affordable units (26 VCA eligible)
        3. MCB Real Estate: The BLVD - 7935 Belridge Rd, Nottingham, MD 21236; 214 affordable units (46 VCA eligible)
        4. MCB Real Estate: The Springs – 53 Bayberry Rd, Parkville, MD 21234; 45 affordable units (38 VCA eligible)
        5. Lansdowne Gardens – Silerton Rd, Halethorpe, MD 21227; Preservation of 167 existing affordable units (do not count as VCA hard units, but Baltimore County is required to fund continued affordability per terms of VCA)
    ii. Potential Projects:
        1. Forge Overlook – 4100 Maple Ave, Halethorpe, MD 21227; 20 affordable units (20 VCA eligible)
        2. Loch Raven Overlook – 8712 Loch Raven Blvd, Towson, MD 21286; 122 affordable units (115 VCA eligible)
    iii. Timeline:
        1. Closing transaction for Prescott Square - 5/31/24
        2. Estimated closing & acquisition date for all 3 MCB deals - 8/1/24
        3. Estimated closing date for Lansdowne Gardens - 12/1/24
        4. Estimated closing date for Forge Overlook -– 10/1/24

5. Estimated closing & acquisition date for Loch Raven Overlook - 12/31/24

*Use of Evidence*

- Multiple studies support public-backed construction or revitalization of affordable housing as an effective intervention to boost housing stock, revitalize lower-income households, and stabilize rents and housing costs over medium- to long-term timeframes. The County's specific need for more affordable housing at various income levels is well established, as detailed by the report issued by the Affordable Housing Workgroup. The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) regularly puts out reports and data regarding the growing housing shortage nationwide. A new report from the NLIHC and the Community Development Network of Maryland found that in Maryland, the average fair market rent for a two-bedroom rental home was $1,909, while in Baltimore County it was $1,943. To afford such a rental home, full-time workers in the county would need to earn at least $37.37 per hour—or more than double the minimum wage.
- Dollar amount of the total project spending allocated towards evidence-based interventions: $16,000,000.00

*Performance Report*

- Development of a performance evaluation plan for this project is ongoing. The mandatory performance indicator "number of affordable housing units preserved or developed" will be included in this evaluation plan.

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | # Transactions closed | 1 |
| **Output** | # Affordable housing units preserved or developed | 70 |

### *Expenditure Subcategory 2.18-Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance*

**Tax Services for Low Income Residents**
Project ID: 2008
Total Project Budget: $60,000.00
Spent To Date: $60,000.00
Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impacts-2.18-Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance

*Project Overview*

- This project connected low-income residents referred through housing services to free tax preparation assistance. Tax preparation services were provided by the CASH Campaign of Maryland, Inc. The program followed Volunteer Income Tax Assistance guidelines to serve income qualified households in Baltimore County. The CASH Campaign contracted with 2-1-1 at United Way of Central Maryland to schedule appointments and answer calls regarding tax preparation. Outreach included posts on the CASH Campaign website, a television interview with FOX 45 Morning News, a radio

interview with Larry Young on WOLB, and a digital ad campaign from August to October (September - October in Spanish).
- Timeline/status: The contract with the CASH Campaign ran from 7/1/2021 to 12/31/2022.

*Use of Evidence*

- Studies show that free tax preparation services play a crucial role in helping households at or near the poverty level avoid predatory financial practices, engage with asset-building resources, and access tax-administered social benefits. Moreover, comprehensive outreach is central to ensuring eligible recipients are aware of and able to utilize these resources. For more information, refer to Appendix A: Use of Evidence Compendium (pg. 111).
- Dollar amount of the total project spending allocated towards evidence-based interventions: $60,000.00

*Performance Report*

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | # Phone calls accepted from taxpayers requesting assistance | 272 |
| | # and location of tax sites | 2 (Randallstown Library and North Point Library) |
| | # General market impressions (Adults 18-44 with Kids, HHI <$55,000) from digital ad campaign | 280,919 (14,252 higher than promised impressions) |
| | Click-through rate (CTR) by gender (general market) | CTR by Gender: Female .29% Male .28% Unknown: .26% |
| | Click-through rate (CTR) by age (general market) | CTR by Age: 18-24 .20% 25-34 .26% 35-44 .34% |
| | # Spanish-language market impressions (Adults 18-44 with Kids, HHI <$55,000**)** from digital ad campaign | 78,951 (12,284 higher than promised impression) |
| | Click-through rate (CTR) (general market) | CTR by Gender: Female .36% Male: .42% Unknown .20%<br>CTR by Age: 18-24 .28% 25-34 .35% 35-44 .41% |
| **Output** | # Form 1040s filed | 95 |
| | # Individuals in households served | 118 |
| | Demographic breakdown of primary applicants for assistance | Gender: 67.5% female, 32.1% male, .4% other<br>Race and ethnicity: 88.4% African American, 1% Asian or Pacific Islander, 6% Caucasian, 1.2% multi racial |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Outcome** | % Households assisted with income < $58,000 | 100% (average household income $23,413) |
| | # Refunds with an average of $1,923 per return | 70 |

### *Expenditure Subcategory 2.1-Household Assistance: Food Programs*

**Food Distribution**
Project ID: 2003
Total Project Budget: $2,255,512.31
Spent To Date: $2,183,967.70
Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impacts- 2.1-Household Assistance: Food Programs

*Project Overview*

- Emergency Food Operation: After the height of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Baltimore County set aside $1,996,927 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for a long-term perishable food Request For Proposals (RFP) to address food insecurity and maintain feeding operations. Baltimore County maintained feeding operations at 17 sites within disproportionately impacted communities, all of which were determined to be low-income, have low access to food and have high Social Vulnerability Indexes (SVI). The County released an RFP to seeking a nonprofit and/or vendor to specifically source produce and dairy from local farms and distribute those items based on community need. Food was distributed at these partner sites weekly and or monthly, based on self-reported need through our online request form. Sites were reduced over time based on the reduction in emergency need until the end of the project in January 2023. All distribution partners were connected to potential “mainstream” sources to support sustaining efforts after the ARPA-funded projects ceased.
- Community Food Expenditures and Fresh Food Programs: $92,080 of ARPA funds has been allocated to fund food access related activities and/or programs within Health and Human Services (HHS). This funding will support the following:
    i. (Current) Food requests for community events within disproportionately impacted communities. These are done in partnership with HHS programs that serve vulnerable populations. Community schools, faith-based partners and nonprofits are able to make the request for food to the Food Security Coordinator.
    ii. (Discontinued) Maryland Food Bank (MFB) Shelf Stable Back up Boxes (BUBs) for COVID positive residents who are isolating.
    iii. (Discontinued) Distribution of BUBs within targeted communities to promote vaccination.
- Timeline/status: The Emergency Food Operation ran from April 2022 – January 2023. Community Food Expenditures and Fresh Food Programs has been active since July 2022.

*Use of Evidence*

- Research during the initial stages of the pandemic established a clear need for food security programs to mitigate the social and economic impact of COVID-19. The County's Food Distribution project was guided by research on best practices, including community partnerships and engagement. For more information, refer to Appendix A: Use of Evidence Compendium (pg. 116)
- Dollar amount of the total project spending allocated towards evidence-based interventions: $2,183,967.70

*Performance Report*

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | # Community events | 15 |
| **Output** | # Produce boxes distributed (cumulative) | 96,495 |
| | # Produce boxes serving New American communities and families | 58,676 |
| | # Bags Mascela distributed | 24,558 |
| | Lbs. rice and beans distributed | 246,812 |
| | # Protein boxes distributed (Baltimore County farmers) | 1,138 |
| | # Dairy boxes distributed (Baltimore County farmers) | 1,744 |
| **Outcome** | Long-term ACS/SDOH tracking | Pending |

### *Expenditure Subcategory 2.22-Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety*

**Arbutus Traffic Calming/Ped Safety Infrastructure**
Project ID: 2043
Total Project Budget: $500,000.00
Spent To Date: $116,033.51
Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impacts-2.22-Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

*Project Overview*

- Traffic-calming studies in the Arbutus area (East Drive and Poplar Avenue, East Drive and Maple Avenue, East Drive and Linden Avenue). The region selected for the study connects directly to both Arbutus Elementary, a school serving students living in identified disproportionately impacted areas, and an identified Tax Cuts and Jobs Act Qualified Opportunity Zone.
- Timeline/status: The traffic-calming study has been completed, and remaining funds will be used for sidewalk improvements.

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in this Expenditure Category.

*Performance Report*

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | Traffic calming study | Complete |
| **Output** | Sidewalk improvements | Pending |
| **Outcome** | Pedestrian safety and other neighborhood indicators | Under development |

**Back River Midge Treatment**
Project ID: 2026
Total Project Budget: $1,625,000.00
Spent To Date: $895,506.24
Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impacts-2.22-Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

*Project Overview*

- Back River is a green space recreational waterway for the surround communities and far beyond with the establishments like waterfront restaurants and marinas as well as the State Park Hart Miller Island and Baltimore County Park Rocky Point. This project involves Bti treatment of 1,200 acres of tidal water in the Back River in response to an ongoing midge infestation. Bti application will also take place at the adjacent wastewater treatment plant. The objective of midge treatments is to mitigate an ongoing infestation that affects the surrounding impacted community's ability to make use of this resource.
- Timeline/status: Bti larvicide has been purchased and delivered as of May 2023. Bti Treatments began June 2023. Back River surface water treatments for 2024 occurred during March, April, May, and June. Remaining funds for this project will be encumbered by December 20.

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in this Expenditure Category.

*Performance Report*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | Bti totes purchased | 25 |
| **Output** | Bti applications | 5 |
| **Outcome** | Neighborhood indicators of interest | Ongoing |

**Basketball Court Renovations**
Project ID: 2016
Total Project Budget: $550,000.00
Spent To Date: $539,834.00
Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impacts-2.22-Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

*Project Overview*

- Replacement of 178 basketball hoops in disproportionately impacted areas throughout Baltimore County.
- Timeline/Status: This project has been completed.

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in this Expenditure Category.

*Performance Report*

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | # Basketball hoops removed | 178 |
| **Output** | # Basketball hoops installed | 178 |
| **Outcome** | Neighborhood indicators of interest | Ongoing |

**Bear Creek Heritage Trail**
Project ID: 2014
Total Project Budget: $250,000.00
Spent To Date: $247,110.00
Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impacts-2.22-Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

*Project Overview*

- First phases of a multi-phase trail beginning at the North Point State Battlefield Park and winding around Bear Creek. RPA funding will be applied to the design and construction of the initial phases of the trail. this includes grading, drainage, landscaping and trail elements such as interpretive signage, markers, benches, bike racks, a trailhead kiosk and wayfinding signs. The community to be served is Dundalk, which is 1% Black and 8% Latinx. The median income is approximately two-thirds of the Baltimore Metropolitan area. Over 14% of the residents live in poverty. This project will open up educational, social and recreational opportunities in the community that do not exist at this time
- Timeline/status: The grant funding this project has been executed with the nonprofit NeighborSpace of Baltimore County. NeighborSpace has drawn down all remaining funds for this project as of June 30, 2024. They will use all funds allocated before the end of the calendar year. Remaining funds will either be used for design of Phase 3 or for repairs to a mural painted in 2014 that is directly on the route of the trail that ties in

with the History of the Battle of North Point that is highlighted along the route of the trail. NeighborSpace issued an RFP for design of Phase 3 and expects to select a contractor by mid-July 2024 for design work, and they will be expended remaining ARPA funds for this work by end of December 2024, and most likely much earlier.

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in this Expenditure Category.

*Performance Report*

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | New structures, features, and instillations | Construction ongoing |
| | # Activation/outreach events | 4 (1 virtual, 3 in-person |
| **Output** | # Residents made aware of trail | 200 (estimate based on event attendance and distribution of emails/fliers) |
| | Attendance at events/programs | 140 |
| **Outcome** | Neighborhood indicators of interest | Ongoing |

**Carriage Hills Park**
Project ID: 2040
Total Project Budget: $450,000.00
Spent To Date: $78,782.50
Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impacts-2.22-Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

*Project Overview*

- Development of Carriage Hills Park. Carriage Hill Park has basketball court, playground, and pavilion that need repair and/or replacement. This project includes the design and construction of new improvements, though additional consultation with the surrounding communities is needed before deciding on which amenities to add to the park. After consultation, playground to be relocated closer to existing parking lot; repairs to take place at existing multipurpose court and path.
- Timeline/status: Work on the playground is complete. The Court work is slated for June 2024. The replacement of the path and additional site restoration work will follow in summer 2024. Once this is completed, remaining funds can be used to address more items at the park (benches, etc.). All work will be complete by December 2024.

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in this Expenditure Category.

*Performance Report*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | Assessment of needs | Complete |
| **Output** | # and type of park improvements | Playground |
| **Outcome** | Neighborhood outcomes of interest | Pending |

**Halstead Recreation Activity Center**
Project ID: 2025
Total Project Budget: $402,177.00
Spent To Date: $333,320.91
Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impacts-2.22-Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

*Project Overview*

- Design and cosmetic renovation/improvements to remove and replace portions of slab, replace/repair affected floors, ceiling and doors. These improvements will address community health and wellness needs exacerbated by the pandemic.
- Timeline/status: Project is underway and in line with budget. Project has been fully invoiced as of summer 2024.

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in this Expenditure Category.

*Performance Report*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | Design/construction milestones | Pending |
| **Output** | Final improvements | Pending |
| **Outcome** | Facility usage statistics | Pending |
| | Neighborhood/recreation outcomes of interest | Under development |

**Middle River Recreation Activity Center**
Project ID: 2036
Total Project Budget: $1,000,000.00
Spent To Date: $1,000,000.00
Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impacts-2.22-Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

*Project Overview*

- ARPA funding for $1,000,000 of the total $10,000,000 Middle River Recreation Activity Center, including construction of a new building/recreation center next to Glen Arm Elementary School.

- Timeline/status: Transfer of funds has been completed, with construction targeted for completion in 2025

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in this Expenditure Category.

*Performance Report*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | # RACs targeted | 1 |
| **Output** | Final construction | Pending |
| **Outcome** | Neighborhood outcomes of interest | Pending |

**Multipurpose Court Renovations**
Project ID: 2016
Total Project Budget: $550,000.00
Spent To Date: $306,954.00
Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impacts-2.22-Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

*Project Overview*

- Recreational, multipurpose courts, most often located at public elementary schools, are susceptible to wear from use, weather and tree roots (including basketball courts). This proposal includes the evaluation, design and construction to repair, replace and enhance these amenities.
- Timeline/Status: Courts are scheduled for construction during Spring and Summer 2024

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in this Expenditure Category.

*Performance Report*

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | Design/construction milestones | Pending |
| | # Outreach events | Pending |
| **Output** | Renovation numbers (area paved, instillations completed, etc.) | Pending project completion |
| **Outcome** | Public health measures including crime statistics, health outcomes, Rec & Parks program development, etc. | Under development |

**Northeast Trail**
Project ID: 2027
Total Project Budget: $450,000.00
Spent To Date: $69,674.18
Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impacts-2.22-Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

*Project Overview*

- Design work for bike and pedestrian trails from Silver Spring to White Marsh and Rossville to Hazelwood.
- Timeline/status: Plan and Timeline: Project initiated on 11/27/2023. 30% design is scheduled for completion by 7/31/2024. 65% design and initial has been submittal for permitting is scheduled for completion by 11/30/2024

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in this Expenditure Category.

*Performance Report*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | Marketing/outreach/translation costs | $2,500-$3,000 |
| **Output** | Multi-use Path 30% design (southern trail section) | Completed |
| | 60% Design (southern trail section) | Completed |
| | 60% Design (northern trail section) | Pending |
| | Final design 100% | Pending |
| **Outcome** | Trail use numbers and demographic breakdown | Pending |
| | Stoneleigh Elementary-based transit trends | Pending |
| | Neighborhood/transportation outcomes of interest | Pending |

**Operation ReTree (Tree Equity Funding)**
Project ID: 5001
Total Project Budget: $1,150,000.00
Spent To Date: $1,113,349.22
Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impacts-2.22-Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

*Project Overview*

- Each tree planted helps increase the County's tree canopy, which curtails stormwater runoff and erosion and reduces greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere. Trees provide food, protection and habitat for wildlife while increasing property values and enhancing the character of neighborhoods. This project will prioritize tree planting in Qualified

Census Tracts, areas of Baltimore County that tend to have less tree canopy than other, more affluent areas.

- Timeline/status: 417 trees were planted in FY22. In FY23, $58,950.56 was spent in the fall on outreach materials for the Hawthorne and Lansdowne areas. An additional $143,466.44 was spent in the spring, covering outreach materials and 225 trees in Charlesmont and Colgate-Eastwood.
- This project was previously reported under Expenditure Category 5-Infrastructure-5.6-Clean Water: Stormwater

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for this project. However, the benefits of tree-planting for public health, neighborhood revitalization, and environmental protection have been well documented by academic research. For a map of tree-planting locations, refer to Appendix A: Use of Evidence Compendium

*Performance Report*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Output** | # Trees planted to date | 642 |
| | # Neighborhoods served | 4 |

**Playground Improvements**
Project ID: 2051
Total Project Budget: $300,000.00
Spent To Date: $152,642.30
Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impacts-2.22-Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

*Project Overview*

- Playground development and improvements in impacted communities throughout Baltimore County.
- Timeline/status: Playground design is underway and Glendale Park and Hillcrest Park.

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in this Expenditure Category.

*Performance Report*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | # Playgrounds targeted | 2 |
| **Output** | Final construction | Pending |
| **Outcome** | Neighborhood outcomes of interest | Pending |

**Powhatan Park Trail Repair**
Project ID: 2019
Total Project Budget $30,000.00
Spent To Date: $22,950.00
Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impacts-2.22-Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

*Project Overview*

- This project will complete certain sustainability improvements in Powhatan Park. Social, economic and environmental benefits will be provided as well as a much-needed recreational amenity in an underserved community in the Lochearn area. Funds will be used to repair a stone entrance to the trail, reinstall the trail site and places boulders at the trail entrance. These are the final elements to the park project for this community.
- Timeline/status: Trail was restored following installation of drainage pipe. Project completed December 2022.

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in this Expenditure Category.

*Performance Report*

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | New features installed | Stone entrance plaza (560 sq. ft.) |
| | Length trail reinstalled | 730 ft. |
| | # Activation/outreach events | 2 activation events (maintenance workshops), 1 outreach event (park opening), monthly Powhatan Farms Improvement Association meetings |
| | # Outreach materials delivered | 2 print fliers (250 copies each), 1,700 email invitations, 16 Facebook posts |
| **Output** | # Households receiving outreach fliers | 239 households received at least 2 flyers advertising 2 maintenance workshops |
| | Social media mentions | Planned 2024 |
| | Attendance at park events/programs post-renovation | 92 |
| **Outcome** | Park utilization/visitor numbers post-renovation (including demographic breakdown | Ongoing |
| | Median home values in surrounding community | Ongoing |

**Streetscaping**
Project ID: 2032
Total Project Budget: $3,000,000.00
Spent To Date: $242,445.24
Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impacts-2.22-Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

*Project Overview*

- Streetscaping improvements in disproportionately impacted areas throughout Baltimore County (Woodlawn Village area and Essex CDP).
- Timeline/status: Preliminary estimates and designs developed by June 2024. Final engineered drawings to be completed by August 2024. Project under contract for construction by December 2024.

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in this Expenditure Category.

*Performance Report*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | Design/construction milestones | Pending |
| | # Community meetings held | 5 |
| | # Community meeting attendees | 115 |
| **Output** | Final engineered drawing | Pending |
| | Final construction | Pending |
| **Outcome** | Neighborhood outcomes of interest | Pending final construction |

**Recycling and Trash Carts Pilots**
Project ID: 2010
Total Project Budget: $2,745,000.00
Spent To Date: $2,329,758.50
Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impacts-2.22-Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

*Project Overview*

- Improving trash collection and reducing the rat population are both key to community health. Also, the additional carts reduce litter, improving the neighborhood health. This project will fund recycling and trash cart distributions across the County to mitigate rat infestation and decrease trash pickup costs.
- Timeline/status: 4,300 trash carts were delivered to select zip codes in the Essex neighborhood in November 2022. All carts were accompanied with a flyer providing additional information. Mailers and flyers have been translated. The County is currently working with the vendor to outline the next phase of the Pilot.

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in this Expenditure Category.

*Performance Report*

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | # Carts delivered | 4,300 (Essex) |
| | # Households informed of pilot | 4,300 |
| **Output** | Volume/weight of trash collected per cart/pickup location | Ongoing |
| | Pilot trash cart utilization rate over timespan | Ongoing |
| | Pilot vs non-pilot volume/weight comparison | Ongoing |
| | Pilot trash cart lifespan | Ongoing |
| **Outcome** | Trash-related code enforcement cases (volume over timespan/compared to control neighborhood) | Ongoing |
| | Rodent-related code enforcement cases (volume over timespan/compared to control neighborhood) | Ongoing |
| | Resident satisfaction with trash carts | Pending |
| | Non-pilot resident requests for trash carts | Pending |

**Red Run Trail Feasibility Study**
Project ID: 2013
Total Project Budget: $200,000.00
Spent To Date: $18,413.02
Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impacts-2.22-Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

*Project Overview*

- Feasibility study for the extension of the Red Run Trail to near the Metro Station in Owings Mill, Maryland, which will allow for non-motor vehicle travel from the current Red Run Trail and park facilities to the Owings Mills Metro Station. This project will provide people of every age, ability and socioeconomic background a safe and inexpensive space for outdoor physical activity, commuting and recreation.
- Timeline/status: Feasibility Study was completed in March 2023. 100% Design Proposal and Scope have been received. Topographical and Property Surveys are currently underway
- Costs for marketing /outreach and translation services costs for community engagement will be between $2,500 and $3,000

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in this Expenditure Category.

*Performance Report*

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | Marketing/outreach/translation costs | $2,500-$3,000 |
| **Output** | Feasibility study | Complete |
| | 100% Design Proposal and Scope | Complete |
| **Outcome** | Trail use numbers and demographic breakdown | Pending |
| | Owings Mill Station traffic numbers | Pending |
| | Neighborhood/transportation outcomes of interest | Pending |

**Ripken Foundation Renaissance Field**
Project ID: 2034
Total Project Budget: $750,000.00
Spent To Date: $750,000.00
Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impacts-2.22-Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

*Project Overview*

- Partnership with the Ripken Foundation for improvements to Renaissance Field in Essex, including instillation of a synthetic turf Field along with lighting system
- Timeline/status: This project has been completed as of Spring 2024

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in this Expenditure Category.

*Performance Report*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | Ripken Foundation contract | Executed |
| **Output** | Field improvements | Turf, lighting |
| **Outcome** | Neighborhood outcomes of interest | Ongoing |

**Six Bridges Trail Alignment**
Project ID: 2012
Total Project Budget: $1,100,000.00
Spent To Date: $261,970.82
Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impacts-2.22-Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

*Project Overview*

- A feasibility study of the Six Bridges Trail, which will allow for non-motor vehicle travel from Radebaugh Park to Stoneleigh Elementary School in Towson. This project will provide people of every age, ability and socioeconomic background a safe and inexpensive space for outdoor physical activity, commuting and recreation.
- Timeline/status: Feasibility Study has been completed. 100% design work is in progress. The first community meeting was held on 6/25/2024. Project is on schedule for final design to be completed by the end of November 2024
    i. Plan and Timeline:
        1. Project initiated January 2024
        2. 50% design + initial submittal for permitting – July 2024
        3. Permits – October 2024
        4. 90% design – September 2024
        5. 100% design + mylars – November 2024

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in this Expenditure Category.

*Performance Report*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | Community meeting | 1 |
| | Preliminary design work, surveys, utility mapping, and wetland delineation | Complete |
| **Output** | Feasibility study | Complete |
| | 100% Design | Pending |
| | Pilot trash cart lifespan | Pending |
| **Outcome** | Trail use numbers and demographic breakdown | Pending |
| | Stoneleigh Elementary-based transit trends | Pending |
| | Neighborhood/transportation outcomes of interest | Pending |

**Windsor Mill**
Project ID: 2041
Total Project Budget: $3,500,000.00
Spent To Date: $ 2,380.00
Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impacts-2.22-Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

*Project Overview*

- Project to develop continuous, safe pedestrian access along Windsor Mill Road.
- Timeline/status: Plans have been finalized and project is currently in the land acquisition and utility relocation phase. Consultant recently submitted proposal for construction phase services and preparation of ad package.

i. Provide NTP for Design of Phase 2 and 3 and associated land acquisition: August 2024
ii. Provide NTP for retaining wall design build project: July/August 2024
iii. Land acquisition completion Spring 2025
iv. Construction Start: Spring 2025

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in this Expenditure Category.

*Performance Report*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | Assessment and design | Complete |
| **Output** | Length of sidewalk improvements | Pending |
| **Outcome** | Neighborhood outcomes of interest | Pending |

### *Expenditure Subcategory 2.27-Addressing Impacts of Lost Instructional Time*

**Study Buddy Tutoring Program Pilot**
Project ID: 2005
Total Project Budget $58,513.06
Spent To Date: $58,513.06
Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impacts-2.27-Addressing Impacts of Lost Instructional Time

*Project Overview*

- To encourage cross generational engagement and assist students with making up for lost instructional time, a pilot tutoring program has been created to connect seniors with K-12 students. Students experienced several learning disruptions due to the pandemic, severely impacting the amount of instructional time received. The pilot will engage these students with senior volunteers to close these learning gaps.
- Timeline/status: This project was cancelled in 2022. $58,513.06 of the original budgeted amount was expended.

*Use of Evidence*

- Due to project cancellation, the County will be unable to conduct a program evaluation of this pilot.

*Performance Report*

- No students participated in this tutoring program.

### *Expenditure Subcategory 2.2-Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid*

**COVID-19 Legal Services for Eviction Prevention**
Project ID: 2001
Total Project Budget: $2,591,000.00
Spent To Date: $1,561,789.31
Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impacts-2.2-Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid
*Project Overview*

- As a part of the County's Housing Stabilization/Eviction Prevention emergency response, there is a need for legal services for the most vulnerable County residents, in particular those impacted by COVID-19. Nonprofit legal aid partners will provide a combination of pre-trial settlement assistance, day-of trial assistance, extended representation, outreach, and further partnering with community organizations to educate and advocate for residents affected by COVID-19
- Timeline/status: Funding has been dispersed to three legal and case management nonprofits: the Legal Aid Bureau, Inc., Pro Bono Resources of MD, Inc., and St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center. Following the end of the Public Health Emergency, this project has been designated to continue, and contracts with the three providers extended, until SLFRF funding expires.

*Use of Evidence*

- Multiple studies have demonstrated the efficacy of legal aid in preventing or mitigating eviction for nonpayment of rent. Within the context of the unpredictable early phase of the pandemic, this evidence base supports the County's goal of preventing rent-related evictions and supporting residents at risk of eviction. For more information, refer to Appendix A: Use of Evidence Compendium (pg. 120)
- Dollar amount of the total project spending allocated towards evidence-based interventions: $591,000.00

*Performance Report*

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | # Nonprofit legal/case management providers | 3 |
| **Output** | # Calls | 2,554 |
| | # Instances of Representation Provided | 3,324 |
| | # Individuals Receiving Representation | 2,830 |
| | # Closed Cases | 2,651 |
| **Outcome** | Assessment of eviction/trends/housing stability | Ongoing |

### *Expenditure Subcategory 2.29-Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship*

**Operating Through Tough Times Grant**
Project ID: 2021
Total Project Budget $1,000,000.00
Spent To Date: $ 0
Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impact- 2.29-Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship

*Project Overview*

- Although many Baltimore County business participated in previous rounds of CARES and RELIEF Act stimulus funding, many more did not meet the federal/state eligibility requirements. Thus, Baltimore County businesses with fewer than five employees or businesses that began operations after the state-mandated closures could not take advantage of these critical funding streams. The Operating Through Tough Times recovery initiative recognizes that there were many Baltimore County business that continued to push through more than 15 months of COVID-19 challenges without government assistance, and that these businesses deserve assistance in helping to weather this next wave of COVID-related operating challenges. This grant will provide operational support for those small businesses, especially those in the service sector, who continue to provide goods and services to Baltimore County residents during the pandemic.
- Timeline/status: After review, this project has been cancelled and funds reallocated.

*Use of Evidence*

- N/A

*Performance Report*

- N/A

### *Expenditure Subcategory 2.30-Technical Assistance, Counseling, or Business Planning*

**Small Business Consultants**
Project ID: 2006
Total Project Budget $411,155.00
Spent To Date: $228,003.69
Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impact-2.30-Technical Assistance, Counseling, or Business Planning

*Project Overview*

- This project supports the hiring of a small business resource consultant within the Department of Economic and Workforce Development. This is directed toward addressing the extensive negative impacts of the pandemic on small businesses. Th

Small Business Consultant provided small business counseling sessions at 6 libraries locations. These counseling sessions include making referrals to business resources for starting a business and supporting existing businesses. Additional topics range from creating a business plan, business structure, mentor, permits, licenses, BOOST loans, funding, grants, training and more. The Small Business Consultant also works to build relationships with relevant organizations including Towson University, Maryland Saves, Baltimore Community Lending, local chambers of commerce and business associations, and the Baltimore County Economic Development Advisory Board.

- Timeline/status: Position was filled in the first quarter of 2023.

- *Use of Evidence*

  - Research has identified a positive benefits of entrepreneurship education and related training/assistance in driving job creation, regional development, and small business development. Technical assistance will be driven by best practices backed by research and evaluation. For more information, refer to Appendix A: Use of Evidence Compendium (pg. 128).
  - Dollar amount of the total project spending allocated towards evidence-based interventions: $228,003.69

*Performance Report*

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | # Library branches served | 6 |
| | Business help line/call-in | Operating |
| | # Additional locations served | 1 (StarTUp at the Armory) |
| **Output** | # Business help line/call-in calls | 260 |
| | # Library counseling instances | 294 |
| | # StarTUp at the Armory counseling instances | 25 |
| | # Referrals to MDOT Office of Small and Minority Business Policy | 100+ |
| | # Events attended | 13 |
| **Outcome** | # Pitch competition winners assisted | 1 (ZenJoy) |
| | Long-term survey/outcome data | Ongling |

### *Expenditure Subcategory 2.31-Rehabilitation of Commercial Properties or Other Improvements*

**Commercial Revitalization Action Grants**
Project ID: 2039
Total Project Budget: $200,000.00
Spent To Date: $167,855.68
Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impacts-2.22-Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

*Project Overview*

- The purpose of the Commercial Revitalization Action Grant (CRAG) program is to provide additional funding for projects that benefit the County's Commercial Revitalization Districts (CRD) and improve the local business climate of these districts. Projects proposed under the CRAG program must clearly demonstrate the advantages and improvements those projects will bring to the CRD. The main purpose is not to promote any specific organization or to benefit the surrounding residential community, but any residual benefits are appreciated. All events must be held within a CRD and provide opportunities for local business involvement and promotion. Potential patrons attend events and the connection to local businesses must be clear. Projects should implement the objectives of the County's Commercial Revitalization Program or local revitalization plans. Examples of CRAG-funded projects include:
    i. Beautification projects like planting seasonal flowers in planters spaced throughout a commercial district
    ii. Banners on poles that highlight when visitors are in the commercial district
    iii. Gateway signage
    iv. Street furniture
    v. Marketing expenses to brand a district or promote the district via social media, print ads, radio ads, etc.
    vi. Events including outdoor movies, festivals, farmers markets
- Timeline/status: CRAG funding has been allocated to 11 projects in neighborhoods around the County. Two were approved in July 2024; the other ARPA grants were previously approved and funds were fully disbursed by June 2024.
- This project was previously listed under Expenditure Category 6-Revenue Replacement.

*Use of Evidence*

- As this project was recently reclassified from Revenue Replacement, development of a program evaluation plan for this project remains ongoing

*Performance Report*

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | # Projects funded | 11 |
| **Output** | Under development | Pending |
| **Outcome** | Under development | Pending |

### *Expenditure Subcategory 2.34-Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)*

**Capacity Building (Community-Based Organizations)**
Project ID: 2033
Total Project Budget: $500,000.00
Spent To Date: $200,000.00
Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impacts-2.34-Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

*Project Overview*

- Engagement with a third-party partner, Maryland Association of NonProfits (MANO), to assist the County in providing hands-on services to its community-based organizations. This project includes support in development, skills, and competencies needed for long-term sustainability. Additional assistance will be directed to provide technical support to subrecipients of ARPA funding to increase financial and human capital management capabilities.
- Timeline/status: MANO's work on this project is ongoing.

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in this expenditure category.

*Performance Report*

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | # Capacity-building virtual workshops | 3 |
| **Output** | # Topic-based virtual workshops | 4 |
| | # Capacity-building virtual workshop attendees | 86 (individuals) |
| | # Topic-based virtual workshop attendees | 102 (individuals) |
| **Outcome** | Needs Assessment Survey responses | 300 |
| | # Applicants for Limited Opportunities (technical assistance) | 59 (organizations |

**Community Development Organization for the Liberty Road Corridor**
Project ID: 2009
Total Project Budget $500,000.00
Spent To Date: $137,381.55
Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impact-2.30-Technical Assistance, Counseling, or Business Planning

*Project Overview*

- Funding to create a community development organization (CDO) that can focus on building cohesion, a sense of place and a structure for economic growth, redevelopment and potential services. The central node of the Liberty Road corridor has a concentration of commercial development but, although it is seen as the heart of Randallstown, it lacks cohesion and a “sense of place”. The aging commercial businesses straddle a very busy state road that carries residents to work, home – and to shop elsewhere. Funding will retain a consultant and support phase one of the CDO start-up.
- Timeline/status: A Board of Directors has been appointed and met for the first time on July 2023. The CDO has also completed a Needs Assessment Survey of the community that was crafted with participation from a Work Group of 20+ community stakeholders. The next steps (adopt bylaws and conflict of interest policy, mission, vision, values; file for 501c-3 status with IRS; and create a strategic plan and fundraising plan for first three years) were completed in 2023. Staff were hired in 2023. The 3-year Strategic Plan and Fundraising Plan were developed in 2024, and the CDO is currently working to fundraise, hire an executive director, create a website and other communications channels, and implement programs aligned with the Strategic Plan.

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in this expenditure category. However, research has demonstrated the value of targeted bottom-up, community-based development for small business growth and overall economic development. This project will further adhere to best practices identified in the relevant literature.

*Performance Report*

- Information on this initiative can be found here.

**Nonprofit Support**
Project ID: 2017
Total Project Budget $2,138,965.00
Spent To Date: $2,138,965.00
Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impacts-2.34-Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

*Project Overview*

- Baltimore County, in partnership with the Baltimore Community Foundation (BCF), conducted a competitive process resulting in awards of $2.67 million in ARPA-funded grants to 32 community-based organizations. ARPA Nonprofit Grant Program funds will support a diverse range of community efforts. These funds will also help cover organizations' revenue reductions or operating expense increases due to the pandemic.
- The full list of Baltimore County ARPA Nonprofit Grant awardees can be found online at https://arp-bc-gis.hub.arcgis.com/pages/grants.
- Timeline/status: The full $2,200,000 was disbursed to the BCF, who distributed to non-profit grantees in December, 2023.

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in this expenditure category.

*Performance Report*

- A wide-ranging suite of performance metrics has been developed to evaluate the diverse portfolio of grantees under this project. Metrics will be made available on the County's ARPA website at https://arp-bc-gis.hub.arcgis.com/pages/grants.

### *Expenditure Subcategory 2.35-Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality*

**Arts & Entertainment District Grant - Catonsville**
Project ID: 2020
Total Project Budget $80,000.00
Spent To Date: $80,000.00
Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impacts-2.34-Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

*Project Overview*

- This grant has been distributed to the nonprofit Baltimore County Arts Guild to develop an arts and entertainment (A&E) district in the Catonsville neighborhood. The grant will provide supportive space for artists to teach, create and market their work within the A&E Districts; strengthen neighborhood art infrastructure and arts supportive businesses; evolve neighborhood roles as a creative destination to incent community revitalization; and encourage tourism.
- Timeline/status: The grant agreement has been executed and the project is complete.

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in this Expenditure Category.

*Performance Report*

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | # Focus groups held | 16 |
| | # Community meetings held | 1 |
| **Output** | # Collaborations established | 5 (Towson University Graduate Art Education Department, Art Builds Community, Guild Music Committee, Contemporary Arts, Catonsville Farmers Market) |
| | # Grants prepared | 1 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | Catonsville Sustainable Community Renewal Application and Action Plan | Contributed to development |
| | Catonsville Sustainable Community Renewal Application and Action Plan | Developed and executed |
| | # Websites developed | 1 (Catonsville Arts District Website) |
| **Outcome** | Overall arts and entertainment employment and business statistics | Ongoing |

**Special Events Budget**
Project ID: 2028
Total Project Budget $6,768.50
Spent To Date: $ 6,768.50
Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impacts-2.35-Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality

*Project Overview*

- Support for special events throughout the County. These events increase tourism and support the County's travel and hospitality sectors., helping these industries in their pandemic recovery.
- Timeline and status: Support was provided to the Maryland Cycling Classic through this project. Subsequently, and after review, this project has been cancelled and remaining funds reallocated.

*Use of Evidence*

- N/A

*Performance Report*

- N/A

**Tourism Arts and Culture Reboot**
Project ID: 2022
Total Project Budget $1,673,231.00
Spent To Date: $935,871.14
Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impacts-2.35-Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality

*Project Overview*

- Promotion to support overall recovery efforts in the tourism, hospitality and service industry sectors through engagement with an external consultant. Contractual services will include market analysis and rebrand, launch of the rebrand, website, and app.

- Timeline and status: Initial contract with Marriner Marketing to include initial market analysis and rebrand. Negotiations for extension of contract are forthcoming to include launch of rebrand, marketing, website and app.

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in this Expenditure Category.

*Performance Report*

- Final report available upon request.

### *Expenditure Subcategory 2.37-Economic Impact Assistance: Other*

**College Promise Expansion**
Project ID: 2037
Total Project Budget $ 1,600,000.00
Spent To Date: $ 1,600,000.00
Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impacts-2.37-Economic Impact Assistance: Other

*Project Overview*

- The newly expanded Baltimore County College Promise, in partnership with the Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC), offers “last-dollar” scholarships for eligible students. A credit student must have a final high school GPA of 2.3 or higher. Qualifying students must reside in Baltimore County and have an adjusted gross household income of $150,000 or less. Additionally, students must maintain a 2.3 GPA, or continuing education equivalent, for all CCBC coursework to maintain the Promise scholarship. For eligible students, all other funding sources must be applied before the student is awarded Baltimore County College Promise funds. This includes funds from the Maryland Community College Promise, Pell, other scholarships and grants, and waivers.
- Timeline and status: The transfer of funds for this project has been completed as of July 2024.

*Use of Evidence*

- Development of a program evaluation plan for this project is ongoing.

*Performance Report*

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | Fund transfer | Complete |
| **Output** | # Scholarships awarded | Pending |
| **Outcome** | Evaluation of educational outcomes | Pending |

**Community Equity Districts**
Project ID: 2038
Total Project Budget: $2,400,000.00
Spent To Date: $240,000.00 Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impacts-2.37-Economic Impact Assistance: Other

*Project Overview*

- Support for a wide range of initiatives targeted at two compact community centers in critical impact areas: Woodlawn Village and Dundalk Village. Local partners inform strategy and planning, especially in the longer term to sustain impact well beyond ARPA. Priorities in the immediate term focus on cultivating local partnerships, beautifying public spaces, and enhancing public safety. Longer-term goals focus on economic revitalization and development of neighborhood stakeholders.
- Timeline and status: $240,000 has been granted to the Grant to Security Woodlawn Business Association (SWBA) to support revitalization efforts in Woodlawn Village (May 2024 - September 2026)

*Use of Evidence*

- Development of a program evaluation plan for this project is ongoing.

*Performance Report*

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | Community associations funded | 1 |
| **Output** | Development ongoing | Pending |
| **Outcome** | Development ongoing | Pending |

**Essex Recovery Initiative**
Project ID: 3005
Total Project Budget: $3,000,000.00
Spent To Date: $1,442,505.94
Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impacts-2.37-Economic Impact Assistance: Other

*Project Overview*

- A multi-departmental place-based recovery initiative in the Essex community, an area which has been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Timeline/status: Ongoing
- Multiple projects reported elsewhere in this report (Automated License Plate Reader, Portable Observation Devices, Firearms Discharge Detection System, Tree Equity,

Recycling and Trash Cart Pilot) are overseen by the Essex Initiative Coordinator funded under this project.
- This project was previously reported under Expenditure Category 3.3-Public Sector Workforce: Other

*Use of Evidence*

- Refer to Appendix A: Use of Evidence Compendium (pg. 131).

*Performance Report*

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | # County positions funded | 5 (Library Social Worker, Essex Initiative Coordinator, Essex Administrative Lead) |
| | Essex Project Director | 1 (Chesapeake Gateway Chamber of Commerce position) |
| **Output** | Gap Analysis & Recruitment Plan | Completed via Essex Community Development Corporation |
| | # Outreach events attended | 20+ |
| | # Essex Branch Social Worker individuals assisted | 126 |
| **Outcome** | Development ongoing | Pending |

### *Expenditure Subcategory 2.4-Household Assistance: Internet Access Programs*

**Comcast Internet Essentials**
Project ID: 2002
Total Project Budget: $1,117,000.00
Spent To Date: $1,012,302.93
Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impacts-2.4-Household Assistance: Internet Access Programs

*Project Overview*

- This project provides free "Internet Essentials" Service to low-income families who live in Comcast service areas. Many residents may have internet service available where they live, but struggle to afford the monthly cost of service. These households are now receiving service at no-cost; the number of households serviced will be limited to the budgeted amount.
- Timeline and status: This project has been completed as of September 2022.

*Use of Evidence*

- Multiple studies have found evidence that increased internet availability and adoption can increase labor-force participation and lead to improved health outcomes. Extending

internet access in low-income areas further plays an important role in addressing digital and economic inequities in Baltimore County.

- Dollar amount of the total project spending allocated towards evidence-based interventions: $791,587.67

*Performance Report*

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| **Output** | # Residents provided Comcast internet | 9,000-10,650 (monthly) |

**Digital Inclusion - Seniors**
Project ID: 2004
Total Project Budget: $163,026.50
Spent To Date: $163,026.24
Project Expenditure Category: 2-Negative Economic Impacts-2.4-Household Assistance: Internet Access Program

*Project Overview*

- The Baltimore County Department of Aging will be utilizing ARPA funds to hire a Digital Inclusion Coordinator to establish tools, training, and resources to empower older adults with technology. It will be this position's responsibility to develop partnerships to offer free technology classes throughout the County for older adults. Additionally, the position will research and educate the community on resources to pay for or assist with paying for devices and connectivity. Finally, the position will develop a Helpline where older adults can call or connect via Zoom to get their technology questions answered.

- Timeline/status: 250 iPads (the full amount budgeted for and purchased) have been distributed. Three quarters of technology classes have been held through Senior Planet. Affordable Connectivity Program Application Assistance and Education events are being offered at all 20 Baltimore County senior centers to improve awareness of this new federal free or reduced Wi-Fi program for residents. Tech Support continues to be offered on a weekly basis.

*Use of Evidence*

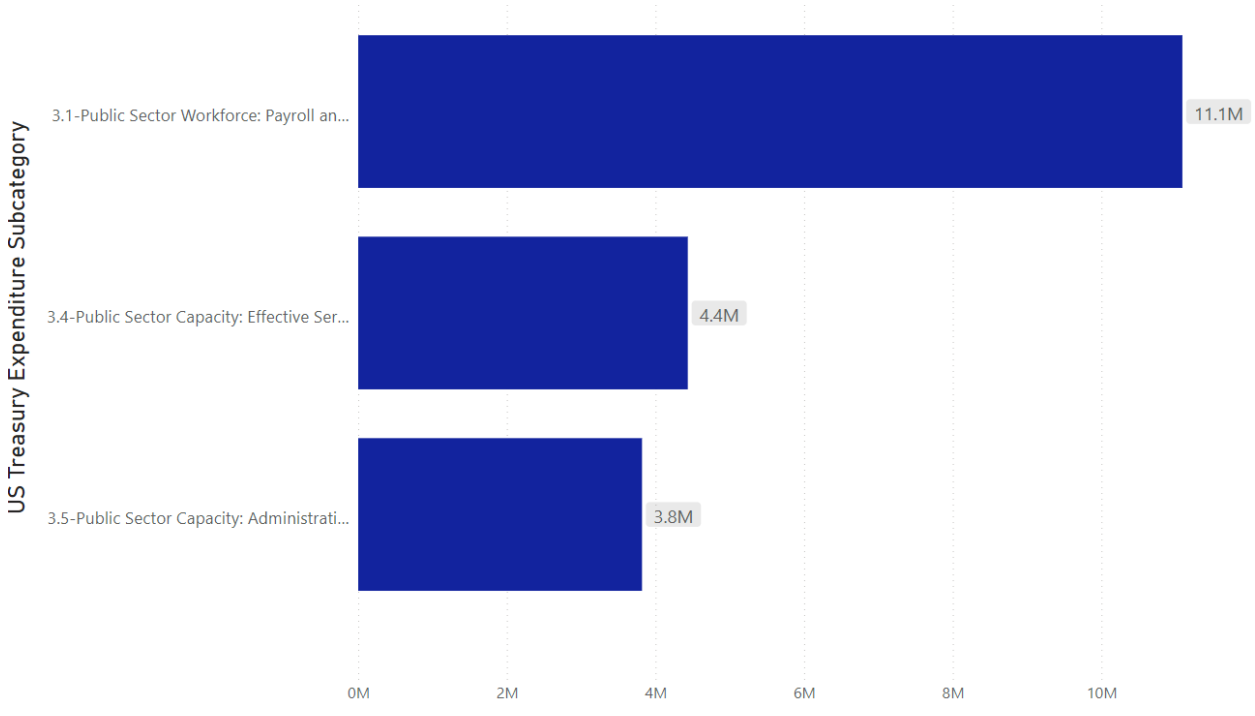
- Multiple studies provide evidence that education, training, and distribution of devices such as iPads can work effectively to bridge the digital divide for seniors and mitigate digital inequities experienced by this demographic. For more information, refer to Appendix A: Use of Evidence Compendium (pg. 134)
- Dollar amount of the total project spending allocated towards evidence-based interventions: $163,026.24

*Performance Report*

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | # iPads distributed | 250 |
| | ACP Assistance Locations | 20 |
| **Output** | Total attendance at Senior Planet Digital Training Classes to date | 534 |
| **Outcome** | Assessment of project impact on digital divide | Under development |

## Expenditure Category 3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity

| Project Inventory: 3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity | | Cumulative Expenditures (June 2024) |
|---|---|---|
| **3.1-Public Sector Workforce: Payroll and Benefits for Public Health, Public Safety, or Human Services Workers** | **$** | **11,089,063.69** |
| Payroll | $ | 11,089,063.69 |
| **3.4-Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery** | **$** | **4,434,518.21** |
| Baltimore County Government Operations Infrastructure | $ | 3,922,297.97 |
| Coordinated Entry and Homelessness Prevention Program | $ | 368,562.49 |
| Data Processing Equipment - Comprehensive Recreation Management Software | $ | 89,332.87 |
| New Americans Assistance | $ | 26,594.88 |
| Racial Equity Implementation | $ | 27,730.00 |
| **3.5-Public Sector Capacity: Administrative Needs** | **$** | **3,818,371.60** |
| Baltimore County Government Administration | $ | 2,994,606.36 |
| Bus Driver Recruitment Initiatives | $ | 28,281.56 |
| Compliance and Monitoring Services | $ | 147,081.58 |
| Grant Writing Support | $ | 29,964.74 |
| Liberty American Job Center | $ | 108,876.00 |
| Unsheltered Homeless Outreach Response Coordinator | $ | 25,678.07 |
| Vulnerable Population Outreach Program | $ | 323,897.40 |
| Wellness Coordinator | $ | 159,985.89 |
| **Grand Total** | **$** | **19,341,953.50** |



### *Expenditure Subcategory 3.1-Public Sector Workforce: Payroll and Benefits for Public Health, Public Safety, or Human Services Workers*

**Payroll Costs for Staff Responding to COVID-19**
Project ID: 3001
Total Project Budget: $12,188,087.50
Spent To Date: $11,089,063.69
Project Expenditure Category: 3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity-3.1-Public Sector Workforce: Payroll and Benefits for Public Health, Public Safety, or Human Services Workers

*Project Overview*

- Payroll and covered benefits for public safety, public health, health care, human services and similar employees of Baltimore County government, for the portion of the employee's time spent responding to COVID-19.
- Timeline/status: This project has funded 9 positions for the Chronic Disease Unit; 1 emergency planner; approximately 60 positions dedicated to contact tracing, testing, and call center; Fire Department callback; $100 stipends for testing/vaccination workers; labor chargebacks; and stipends of $250 per pay period to employees who were required to report to work in person and who had school-aged children between 0 and 12 during the pandemic period.

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for this project.

*Performance Report*

- Evaluation of this project is ongoing.

### *Expenditure Subcategory 3.4-Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery*

**Baltimore County Government Operations Infrastructure**
Project ID: 3002
Total Project Budget: $4,958,912.98
Spent To Date: $3,922,297.97
Project Expenditure Category: 3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity-3.2-Public Sector Workforce: Rehiring Public Sector Staff

*Project Overview*

- Technology infrastructure, staffing and consulting and other capacity building resources to support delivery of government programs and services using data and evidence.
- Timeline/status: This project covers a wide array of procurement, hiring, and technology activities and remains ongoing.

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for this project.

*Performance Report*

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| Input | # Microsoft EA email licenses procured | 450 |
| | # Desktop technician support hours | 1,791 |
| | # Adobe E-Signatures purchased | 50,000 |
| | # WebEx licenses procured | 250 |
| | # Immigration Outreach positions | 2 |
| | # Data positions | 10 |
| | # Grants positions | 2 |
| Output | # Agencies offering online appointment scheduling services to the public | 6 agencies (7 different appointment types) |
| | # Endpoints protected via Deep Freeze security software licenses | 412 (BCPL and Rec & Parks) |
| | Health Case Management (IT) activities | 775 hours supporting COVID initiatives; development of data models and BI dashboards and reports for Health case management. |
| | Core Upgrade for Network | - Old equipment supported 8, 10Gbps links vs. new up to 12, 100Gbps links; 24, 40Gbps links, 48, 25Gbps links.<br>- Throughput from our Network Communications Room to our Data Center increased from 40Gbps to 160Gbps due to this change.<br>- Throughput between data centers in Towson and Essex will increase from 20Gbps to 80Gbps within the next year as we make other backend changes. |
| | Optical Network Upgrade | - Old equipment at each data center supported up to 10Gbps links vs. new equipment supports up to 100Gbps links<br>- Core-to-Core and Distribution-to-Core communications will |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | | increase from 40Gbps to 200Gbps<br>- All public school Access level links will increase to a maximum of 20Gbps.<br>- Many local government sites will increase to a maximum of 20Gpbs, all Access sites will have at least 2Gpbs service. |

**Coordinated Entry and Homelessness Prevention Program**
Project ID: 2030
Total Project Budget: $4,194,014.98
Spent To Date: $2,889,221.11
Project Expenditure Category: 3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity-3.4-Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

*Project Overview*

- The Coordinated Entry and Homelessness Prevention Program is a program developed in conjunction with Department of Social Services and the Department of Housing and Community Development to have a designated team to perform HUD-mandated activities such as Homeless shelter screening, shelter diversion and eviction prevention for County residents. This program consists of two teams to provide these services.
- Timeline/status: The Coordinated Entry team became fully operational in 2022 with a dedicated Supervisor hired in March 2022.
- This project was originally funded under Expenditure Category 2.16-Long-Term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused persons

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for this project. However, this project follows all HUD best practices and guidelines.

*Performance Report*

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | # ARPA-funded positions | 8 |
| **Output** | # Shelter, RRH, Diversion, Homeless services calls answered (FY23) | 5,534 |
| | # Eviction prevention calls answered (FY23) | 2,057 |
| | # General information and support calls answered (FY23) | 13,447 |
| | # Shelter, RRH, Diversion, Homeless services calls answered (FY24) | 3,205 |
| | # Eviction prevention calls answered (FY24) | 1,755 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| | # General information and support calls answered (FY24) | 11,221 |
| **Outcome** | # Referrals made to shelter (FY23) | 1,114 |
| | # Calls referred for Shelter Diversion (FY23) | 98 |
| | # Calls referred to Eviction Prevention services (FY23) | 87 |
| | # Callers receiving information and support (FY23) | 1,090 |
| | # Referrals made to shelter (FY24) | 3,759 |
| | # Calls referred for Shelter Diversion (FY24) | 153 |
| | # Calls referred to Eviction Prevention services (FY24) | 587 |
| | # Callers receiving information (EP, Voucher, Housing Assistance, etc) (FY24) | 5,180 |
| | # Calls receiving information, referral to DSS and community resources (FY24) | 6,034 |
| | # Calls referred to Rapid Re-Housing services (FY24) | 249 |

**Data Processing Equipment - Comprehensive Recreation Management Software**
Project ID: 3008
Total Project Budget: $150,000.00
Spent To Date: $89,332.87
Project Expenditure Category: 3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity-3.4-Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery

*Project Overview*

- Baltimore County Recreation and Parks (BCRP) will deploy CivicRec stations across county recreation facilities. The CivicRec stations will give participants the ability to register for programs and gain access to the facilities. The CivicRec stations will also give the county the ability to collect vital data about who is using county recreation facilities and facility usage trends. The recreation participation and usage data will then be used to make data informed decisions about resource allocation for programs.
- Timeline/status: Online Registration through CivicRec was made available to the general public beginning on January 2, 2024. Three out of 35 total hardware installations have been completed.

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in this expenditure category.

*Performance Report*

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | CivicRec software | Operational |
| | # Hardware instillations | 3 |
| **Output** | # User accounts (total) | 12,671 |
| | # BCPR program registrations (total) | 3,218 |
| | # BCRP program registrations (male) | 2,069 |
| | # BCRP program registrations (female) | 1,082 |
| | # BCRP program registrations (under 18) | 1,934 |
| | # BCRP program registrations (18-34) | 355 |
| | # BCRP program registrations (35-64) | 609 |
| | # BCRP program registrations (65+) | 320 |
| | # Summer camp registrations | 565 |
| | # Pavilion reservations online | 1,283 |

**New Americans Assistance**
Project ID: 2023
Total Project Budget $50,000.00
Spent To Date: $26,594.88
Project Expenditure Category: 3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity-3.4-Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery
*Project Overview*

- This project is intended to address the pandemic impact on the New Americans community via resources for the County's New American Health Care Access Task Force and support for the New Americans Entrepreneurs Workshop.
- This project was previously listed as "New Americans Entrepreneurs Workshop" under Expenditure Category 2-Negative Economic Impact-2.30-Technical Assistance, Counseling, or Business Planning

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in this expenditure category.

*Performance Report*

- Evaluation of this project is ongoing.

**Racial Equity Implementation**
Project ID: 2023
Total Project Budget $280,494.00
Spent To Date: $27,730.00
Project Expenditure Category: 3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity-3.4-Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery
*Project Overview*

- The Baltimore County Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) is conducting an enterprise-wide equity assessment to identify and evaluate the County's performance in equitable and inclusive decision-making. As a compliance management operation, the Division of DEI seeks to establish enterprise diversity, equity and inclusionary standards that will support the monitoring, managing, and continuous evaluation of the County's fair and equitable decision-making practices. The equity assessment will identify areas of opportunity where the County's performance can be strengthened in order to best meet the needs of the community. The second phase of the assessment will include the development of an "equity" strategic plan, followed by a series of trainings in phase three. Both the equity strategic plan and trainings will be influenced by the results of the equity assessment. A standardized equity tool will also become available for enterprise use, specifically for budget, policy, legislation, and operational development.
- Timeline/status: The Division is working with a third-party vendor, Daniel Sims, Consulting Group to complete the assessment. The vendor is currently conducting a comprehensive review of agency business operations through document review and interviews. A report of their analysis will be prepared and provided to senior leaders in Fall 2024. The vendor will also facilitate the development of the equity strategic plan and trainings beginning in 2025.

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in this expenditure category.

*Performance Report*

- Evaluation of this project will follow rollout of the equity strategic plan in 2025.

### *Expenditure Subcategory 3.5-Public Sector Capacity: Administrative Needs*

**Baltimore County Government Administration**
Project ID: 3003
Total Project Budget: $5,017,199.00
Spent To Date: $2,994,606.36
Project Expenditure Category: 3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity-3.5-Public Sector Capacity: Administrative Needs

*Project Overview*

- Address administrative needs caused or exacerbated by the pandemic, including addressing backlogs and administrative shortages.
- Timeline/Status: This project primarily covers payroll/hiring, and is ongoing. Funds have also been used to cover technology purchases, a waste collection service agreement, and facilities management.

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for this project.

*Performance Report*

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | # Property Management positions | 10 |
| | # Budget & Finance positions | 4 |
| | # Law Office positions | 5 |
| | # WebEx licenses procured | 250 |
| | # Permits, Approvals, and Inspections positions | 2 |
| **Input** | # Property Management positions | 10 |
| | # Rec & Parks PAL leaders | 11 |
| | # Laptops purchased | 45 |

**Bus Driver Recruitment Initiatives**
Project ID: 3004
Total Project Budget: $35,000.00
Spent To Date: $28,281.56
Project Expenditure Category: 3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity-3.2-Public Sector Workforce: Rehiring Public Sector Staff

*Project Overview*

- This project provides supplemental fingerprinting and background services to hire Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) bus drivers, with the goal of filling a shortage incurred during the COVID pandemic. One of the major barriers in hiring new bus drivers is the cost incurred to obtain the mandatory background check. The fee of $100 dollars for the background check is passed on to the potential employee, becoming a barrier to employment to those who have often been disproportionately impacted by the economic and health effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. To support BCPS, the County will provide assistance utilizing APRA funding to cover this cost.
- Timeline/status: Approximately 267 background checks and fingerprintings have been completed.

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in the expenditure category.

*Performance Report*

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| **Output** | Bus Attendants Fingerprinted | 113 |
| | Bus Drivers Fingerprinted | 163 |

**Compliance and Monitoring Services**
Project ID: 3006
Total Project Budget: $815,195.00
Spent To Date: $147,081.58
Project Expenditure Category: 3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity-3.5-Public Sector Capacity: Administrative Needs

*Project Overview*

- Funding for a position to oversee federal and state compliance and monitoring for the Baltimore County Department of Housing and Community Development.
- Timeline/status: This position has been filled.

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in this expenditure category.

**Grant Writing Support**
Project ID: 3007
Total Project Budget: $29,964.70
Spent To Date: $29,964.70
Project Expenditure Category: 3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity-3.5-Public Sector Capacity: Administrative Needs

*Project Overview*

- Funding to engage a grant writing/seeking firm to help Baltimore County identify and apply for federal infrastructure grants, provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.
- Timeline/status: After review, this project has been cancelled and funds reallocated.

*Use of Evidence*

- N/A

**Liberty American Job Center**
Project ID: 2024
Total Project Budget: $108,876.00
Spent To Date: $108,876.00
Project Expenditure Category: 3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity-3.5-Public Sector Capacity: Administrative Needs

*Project Overview*

- This project funds rent payments for the Liberty American Job Center. The Liberty American Job Center is one of Baltimore County's three American Job Centers (Career Centers). American Job Centers are required by federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) grants. Most Job Center staff are Career Consultants who provide personalized career services to Baltimore County residents including resume writing, skills assessments, and enrollment in job training – all paid for by WIOA. The location also has a computer lab for customers to use to search for jobs, create resumes, etc.
- Timeline/status: Rent payments have been made according to schedule.

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in this expenditure category.

*Performance Report*

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | Rent payments | Completed |
| **Output** | # Individuals entered in training | 27 |
| **Outcome** | # Individuals completing training | 17 |

**Unsheltered Homeless Outreach Response Coordinator**
Project ID: 3010
Total Project Budget: $125,000.00
Spent To Date: $25,678.07
Project Expenditure Category: 3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity-3.5-Public Sector Capacity: Administrative Needs

*Project Overview*

- Homeless Outreach Response Coordinator for Baltimore County's Department of Housing and Community Development. This position addresses administrative, outreach, and programmatic needs resulting from the pandemic emergency.
- Timeline/Status: This position has been filled. 48 homeless encampments have been addressed: 38 have been on county property, 5 on private property and 5 on state property. The Outreach Coordinator has also successfully collaborated with EMS and

DoH (PEER support program) to get the highest utilizer of EMS and hospital Emergency Services to rehab to address needs.

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in this expenditure category.

*Performance Report*

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | Coordinator position | 1 |
| **Output** | # Homeless encampments addressed (via coordination with street outreach teams to provide services, or camp deemed abandoned) | 48 |
| | # Active homeless encampments currently being addressed | 3 |
| **Outcome** | Overall unsheltered population trends | Ongoing |

**Vulnerable Population Outreach Program**
Project ID: 1013
Total Project Budget: $700,000.00
Spent To Date: $323,897.40
Project Expenditure Category: 3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity-3.5-Public Sector Capacity: Administrative Needs

*Project Overview*

- This project will expand the resources available to 10 precinct-level Domestic Violence and Vulnerable Adult Coordinators as well as 1 Administrative Coordinator to enhance their ability to proactively engage vulnerable populations in the field. The addition of laptop computers, remote connectivity, communications equipment, and vehicles will allow them to work remotely and in field locations, and proactively engage vulnerable populations in the community.
- Timeline/status: Vehicle and equipment purchases have been completed.
- This project was previously listed under Expenditure Category 1-Public Health-1.11-Community Violence Interventions

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in this expenditure category. However,, multiple studies support the role of domestic violence specialists in improving emotional support, information sharing, communication, efficiency, education, access to networks, and improved police legitimacy in domestic violence cases.

*Performance Report*

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | # Vehicles purchased | 11 |
| **Output** | # Visits Attempted | Tracked internally |
| | # High-Danger Visits Successfully Completed by Officer/Advocate Team | Tracked internally |
| | # High-Danger Visits Successfully Completed by Officer Only | Tracked internally |
| | # Non-High Danger Visits Successfully Completed by Officer/Advocate Team | Tracked internally |
| | # Non-High Danger Visits Successfully Completed by Officer Only | Tracked internally |
| | # Visits Attempted | Tracked internally |
| | # High-Danger Visits Successfully Completed by Officer/Advocate Team | Tracked internally |
| | # DV Police Reports | Tracked internally |
| | # Lethality Assessments (Excluding Mutual Allegations) | Tracked internally |
| | # Victims Did Not Answer (DNA) | Tracked internally |
| | # Non-High Danger Screens | Tracked internally |
| | # High-Danger Screens | Tracked internally |
| **Outcome** | Domestic violence and behavioral health outcomes/trends | Tracked internally |

**Wellness Coordinator**

Project ID: 2031
Total Project Budget: $159,985.89
Spent To Date: $127,500.00
Project Expenditure Category: 3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity-3.5-Public Sector Capacity: Administrative Needs

*Project Overview*

- Wellness Coordinator to promote mental and behavioral health initiatives within the Baltimore County government, in response to increased internal demands for existing employee wellness resources due to the pandemic. The position oversees the administration of major County-wide wellness initiatives; implements County insurance programs and wellness initiatives and/or performs senior-level professional administrative duties in support of County goals; and coordinates and leads all departmental modal wellness initiatives.
- Timeline/Status: This position has been filled and is expected to revert to general funding after December 2024.
- This project was previously listed under Expenditure Category 1.12-Mental Health Services

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for this project.

*Performance Report*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | Wellness coordinator position | 1 |
| **Output** | # Events held | 46 |
| | # Event attendees (cumulative) | 2280 |
| **Outcome** | Overall employee health outcomes | Tracked by Cigna |

## Expenditure Category 4-Premium Pay

| Project Inventory - Public Sector Capacity | Cumulative Expenditures (June 2024) | |
|---|---|---|
| 4.1-Public Sector Employees | $ | 17,455,217.00 |
| Baltimore County Government Premium Pay | $ | 17,455,217.00 |
| Grand Total | $ | 17,455,217.00 |

### *Expenditure Subcategory 4.1-Public Sector Employees*

**Baltimore County Government Premium Pay**
Project ID: 4001
Total Project Budget: $17,455,217.00
Spent To Date: $17,455,217.00
Project Expenditure Category: 4-Premium Pay-4.1-Public Sector Employees

*Project Overview*

- Premium pay to address heightened risk faced by essential Baltimore County Government employees during the public health emergency.
- Timeline/status: This project has been completed.

*Use of Evidence*

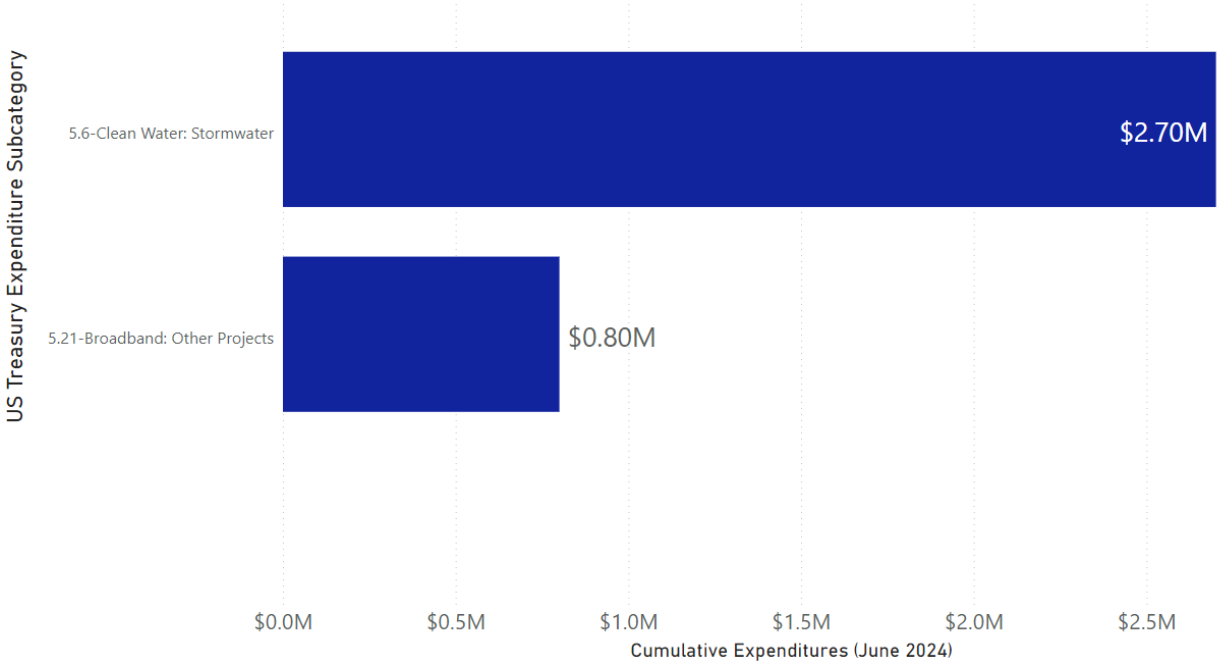
- Use of evidence is not a requirement for this project.

*Performance Report*

- The expenditures from the one-time Premium Pay program from SLFRF funding totaled $17.7 million. Premium pay went to approximately 33 percent of staff who identify as non-white. The premium pay allotment contributed to a 14 percent increase in the number of employees whose total pay fell above $93,765 (150 percent of the Baltimore County Average Annual Wage for all occupations). Considering the impact through an equitable framework, employees of color and female employees each comprised 22 percent of those who benefited from the premium pay bonus increasing their total pay above the $93,765 threshold. Considering the "public health/safety vs regular premium pay" differential, the impact was greater for public health/safety employees with this group experiencing a 13.54 percent increase in the percentage who fell above the $93,765 threshold for their total pay (compared to 6.05 percent increase for those in the "other" category).

## Expenditure Category 5-Infrastructure

| Project Inventory - Public Sector Capacity | Cumulative Expenditures (June 2024) | |
|---|---|---|
| 5.21-Broadband: Other Projects | $ | 800,410.53 |
| Broadband Buildout | $ | 800,410.53 |
| 5.6-Clean Water: Stormwater | $ | 2,701,204.41 |
| Baltimore Harbor Watershed Living Shoreline Project (Middle Branch Park) | $ | 1,650,000.00 |
| Green Infrastructure | $ | 89,694.98 |
| Storm Drain Inlet Repair | $ | 826,678.48 |
| Storm Water Asset Management | $ | 134,830.95 |
| Grand Total | $ | 3,501,614.94 |




### *Expenditure Subcategory 5.21-Broadband: Other Projects*

**Broadband Buildout**
Project ID: 5002
Total Project Budget: $1,500,000.00
Spent To Date: $800,410.53
Project Expenditure Category: 5-Infrastructure-5.21-Broadband: Other Projects

*Project Overview*

- Broadband fiber buildout to unserved locations throughout the County.
- Timeline/status: Refer to Project and Expenditure Report

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in this expenditure category.

*Performance Report*

- Refer to Project and Expenditure Report

### *Expenditure Subcategory 5.6-Clean Water: Stormwater*

**Baltimore Harbor Watershed Living Shoreline Project (Middle Branch Park)**
Project ID: 5003
Total Project Budget: $6,600,000.00
Spent To Date: $1,650,000.00
Project Expenditure Category: 5-Infrastructure-5.6-Clean Water: Stormwater

*Project Overview*

- This project will reestablish approximately seven acres of lost wetlands habitat in the Middle Branch Park watershed.
- Timeline/status:
    i. Work Completed:
        1. All data collection has been completed (land survey, bathymetric survey, Geotechnical Investigations, environmental [sediment & water] sampling, wetland investigations, vegetation/tree surveys, records research).
        2. Preliminary Engineering and Design, hydrology modeling, and conceptual plan preparation has been completed.
        3. 35% Design Plans/State & Federal Joint Permit Application Submission; and 65% Design Plans/City Permit Submissions have been completed.
    ii. Future work to be completed:
        1. Final Design Development & Regulatory Approval Process;100% Design & Permit Issuance; Addition of Baltimore County to permanent Right of Entry; Completion of Long-Term Management (LTM) Plan and Establish LTM Endowment; Construction.

  Construction is scheduled to begin October 2024, with completion projected for June 2025. Construction Completion is slightly delayed due to the delayed NTP on the contract which pushed back data collection start and ultimate permit issuance dates back. As a result, the vendor must wait until the appropriate 2025 seasonal planting window to complete construction.

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for this project.

*Performance Report*

- Development of a performance evaluation plan for this project is ongoing.

**Green Infrastructure**
Project ID: 5004
Total Project Budget: $ 2,600,000.00
Spent To Date: $1,650,000.00
Project Expenditure Category: 5-Infrastructure-5.6-Clean Water: Stormwater

*Project Overview*

- Green infrastructure to alleviate flooding in vulnerable areas. This pilot began during FY23, throughout several areas of Baltimore County and will see green infrastructure being installed to help alleviate flooding in areas identified to be most affected and most suitable for deployment of green infrastructure techniques. The solution will target several populations and the County will use the Census tract's social vulnerability indices in order to prioritize such deployments.
- Timeline/status: Projects are being allocated as Asset inventories are completed for Drainage areas of interest. All projects will have components contracted for construction by 12/31/2024.

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in this expenditure category.

*Performance Report*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Output** | # Concrete homes project completed | 1 (Liberty Parkway) |

**Storm Drain Inlet Repair**
Project ID: 5005
Total Project Budget: $ 1,000,000.00
Spent To Date: $826,678.48
Project Expenditure Category: 5-Infrastructure-5.6-Clean Water: Stormwater

*Project Overview*

- Project will result in reconstruction of approximately 200 damaged inlets.
- Timeline/status: This project has been completed.

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in this expenditure category.

*Performance Report*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Output** | # Storm drain inlets repaired | 206 |

**Storm Water Asset Management**
Project ID: 5004
Total Project Budget: $ 1,000,000.00
Spent To Date: $134,830.95
Project Expenditure Category: 5-Infrastructure-5.6-Clean Water: Stormwater

*Project Overview*

- Baltimore County Public Works needs to inventory and assess the condition of its drainage infrastructure. Years of expansive development, throughout the County, left the local government with a very limited understanding of the extent and condition of its drainage network. The lack of data limits the County's understanding of the level of service it can provide within the constraints of its financial resources. This project will build on the Storm Drainage Assets Management (SDAM) model; a County proprietary toolset designed to assess drainage throughout the County, taking in consideration several most-relevant metrics, from a County and resident perspective. The SDAM model has been developed in six pilot areas and will effect an expansion of the evaluation model in areas most susceptible for interjurisdictional impacts, with an emphasis on historically disadvantaged neighborhoods.
- Timeline/status: Evaluation complete for all pilot areas. System manual and training also complete. The entire product is being migrated to County servers and software environment, for internal use. Refinement and adjustments iterations underway, for revisions to the scoring system and development of more comprehensive and transparent reporting mechanisms; proposal for expanded services under review with Bureau of Engineering. This project will be fully completed by July 2026.

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for this project.

*Performance Report*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | # SDAM Pilot Areas | 6 |

## Expenditure Category 6-Revenue Replacement

| Project Inventory - Revenue Replacement | Cumulative Expenditures (June 2024) |
|---|---|
| **6.1-Provision of Government Services** | **$ 4,513,976.03** |
| External Vest Carriers | $ 110,513.14 |
| Grants to Volunteer Companies | $ 999,999.88 |
| NAACP/Baltimore County Gun Buyback | $ 55,328.00 |
| Polaris EUV | $ 158,477.00 |
| Public Safety Grant - Towson Chamber of Commerce | $ 431,280.00 |
| Reuseable bags | $ 109,995.00 |
| Sector Strategy Coordinator | $ 118,080.74 |
| Towson Circulator | $ 2,530,302.27 |
| **Grand Total** | **$ 4,513,976.03** |

### *Expenditure Subcategory 6.1-Provision of Government Services*

**External Vest Carriers (Police)**
Project ID: 6002
Total Project Budget: $692,016.00
Spent To Date: $110,513.14
Project Expenditure Category: 6-Revenue Replacement-6.1-Provision of Government Services

*Project Overview*

- New vest carriers to contain needed patrol equipment for officers. New equipment will provide easier accessibility to equipment while providing more comfortable fit eliminating health problems (hip and back issues) that occur with other vests.
- Timeline/status: Equipment purchases are ongoing.

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in this expenditure category.

**Grants to Volunteer Companies (Fire)**
Project ID: 6003
Total Project Budget: $1,000,000.00
Spent To Date: $999,999.88
Project Expenditure Category: 6-Revenue Replacement-6.1-Provision of Government Services

*Project Overview*

- Funding to support the fiscal recovery efforts of the County's 29 volunteer companies.
- Timeline/status: All grants have been disbursed.

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in this expenditure category. However, the County tracks and evaluates volunteer fire company performance via a wide range of metrics and analyses.

**NAACP/Baltimore County Gun Buyback**
Project ID: 6002
Total Project Budget: $55,328.00
Spent To Date: $36,362.88
Project Expenditure Category: 6-Revenue Replacement-6.1-Provision of Government Services

*Project Overview*

- This project consists of a partnership between Baltimore County and the NAACP to conduct a gun buyback aimed at addressing gun violence in the County.
- Timeline/status: The buybacks were held on April 15, 2023 and June 1 2024
- This project was previously listed under Expenditure Category 1-Public Health-1.11-Community Violence Interventions

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in this expenditure category. Performance metrics for the buyback(s) are available upon request.

**Polaris Electric Utility Vehicles**
Project ID: 6004
Total Project Budget: $158,477.00
Spent To Date: $158,477.00
Project Expenditure Category: 6-Revenue Replacement-6.1-Provision of Government Services

*Project Overview*

- This proposal is to provide electric-powered utility (EUV) vehicles to eight of the largest Baltimore County parks, reducing the department's overall carbon footprint and aligning with our green practices and sustainability objectives.
- Timeline/status: Delivery of the EUV units is estimated for Q4 2024.

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in this expenditure category.

**Safety Grant - Towson Chamber of Commerce**
Project ID: 1016
Total Project Budget: $350,000.00
Spent To Date: $350,000.00
Project Expenditure Category: 1-Public Health-1.11-Community Violence Interventions

*Project Overview*

- This grant is informed by Baltimore County Police data documenting a rise in violent crime during and after the pandemic. The grant funds security staff, cameras, and other interventions in response to a rise in violent crime in the Towson area.
- Timeline/status: Security cameras, security staff, and related equipment were purchased/contracted from April to May 2023.
- This project was previously listed under Expenditure Category 1-Public Health-1.11-Community Violence Interventions

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in this expenditure category. However, multiple studies support the use of private/supplemental public safety measures such as security agents and cameras in reducing crime. Violent crime rates and related data in the intervention area will also be analyzed to assess project efficacy.

**Reusable Bags**
Project ID: 6005
Total Project Budget: $150,000.00
Spent To Date: $109,995.00
Project Expenditure Category: 6-Revenue Replacement-6.1-Provision of Government Services

*Project Overview*

- Purchase of reusable bags to be distributed throughout the County in response to a recently enacted plastic-bag-ban ordinance.
- Timeline/status: Reusable bags have been distributed.

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in this expenditure category.

**Sector Strategy Coordinator**
Project ID: 6006
Total Project Budget: $165,000.00
Spent To Date: $118,080.74
Project Expenditure Category: 6-Revenue Replacement-6.1-Provision of Government Services

*Project Overview*

- Funding for a Sector Strategy Coordinator position to facilitate business development, build partnerships, and develop workforce and economic development opportunities throughout the County.
- Timeline/status: This position has been filled.

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in this expenditure category.

**Towson Circulator**
Project ID: 6007
Total Project Budget: $3,280,302.00
Spent To Date: $2,530,302.27
Project Expenditure Category: 6-Revenue Replacement-6.1-Provision of Government Services

*Project Overview*

- Funding for the Towson Loop, Baltimore County's first free bus circulator service. The Towson Loop provides free localized public transportation to Towson's core destinations and main attractions.
- Timeline/status: The Towson Loop has been in operation since 2021.

*Use of Evidence*

- Use of evidence is not a requirement for projects in this expenditure category.

*Performance Report*

| Metric Type | Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|---|
| **Input** | # Vehicles | 12 |
| **Output** | # Total rides | 179,230 |

## Appendix A: Use of Evidence Compendium

This section covers evidence determinations and program evaluation plans for projects required to meet Federal use-of-evidence standards. Use of evidence review types fall into two categories. Projects that qualify as “evidence-based” under Federal guidelines receive a literature review detailing the underlying evidence base. For all other projects subject to use-of-evidence requirements, an overview of the proposed program evaluation is included.

### Expenditure Category 1: Public Health

**Project Name:**

Combined Police Technologies: Firearms Discharge Detection System, Automated License Plate Reader, Portable Observation Devices

**Expenditure Subcategory:**

1-Public Health-1.11-Community Violence Interventions

**Review Type:**

Program Evaluation

**Project Overview:**

Specific communities in the Essex and Wilkens Precincts are experiencing disproportionate levels of violent crime when compared to other areas in Baltimore County. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated violent crime. This Police project deploys Portable Observation Devices (PODs) in concert with "Shotspotter" technology and Automated License Plate Reader systems. These additional resources are currently in phases of deployment in these communities. We expect to improve community safety, increase investigative and crime fighting abilities, and we expect to reduce violent crime in these lower socioeconomic communities through these efforts.

**Methodology:**

BCSTAT will evaluate several police precinct-level projects to assess the potential causality of these implementations on criminal activity in Baltimore County. The projects that will be reviewed are the Firearms Discharge Detection System, Automated License Plate Reader, and Portable Observation Devices. The data sources used for the analysis will be the aggregated crime data from the Baltimore County police department, the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS), which is the national standard for law enforcement crime data reporting in the United States and covers all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia are certified to report crime data to NIBRS, 82% of the U.S. population is covered by NIBRS, 125 of the 154 police agencies serving cities and counties with a population of 250,000 or more are reporting to NIBRS, covering a total population of more than 76.7 million persons and data collected from the police technology themselves such as the dates of implementation, hours of operation and amount of criminal activity caught by specific technologies.

The research question we hope to answer with this analysis is whether the implementation of these complementary police technologies has statistically impacted criminal activity in Baltimore County.

A quasi-experimental design approach will be used. Locations demographically similar to the regions of Essex and Wilken will be used as control groups. We will look at the criminal activity dates before these technologies were implemented to compare them to criminal activity during the implementation. This will allow us to conduct a difference-in-differences analysis that follows a general equation of $Yi = \alpha + \beta Ti + \gamma ti + \delta (Ti \cdot ti) + \varepsilon i$ Y will represent the amount of crime observed in the selected periods, α is the constant, β is the treatment group-specific effect, γ is the time trend common to control and treatment groups and δ is the actual effect of treatment the results of this analysis will allow us to determine whether these police technologies have had impact on crime in Baltimore county. The Difference in Difference model can disaggregate outcomes by demographics based on available data, we will look at crime by race, sex, socioeconomic factors, and other demographic information to see if these components were impacted in any way by the police projects.

This methodology is based on a variety of studies that employ quasi-exmperimental methods to assess policing outcomes. A study by the Society for Benefit-Cost Analysis that looked at the effects of Police technologies on auto thefts by using a difference-in-differences approach. A 2016 evaluation of police surges in New York City combined a differences-in-differences approach with Poisson regression models. Similar research on the effect of green spaces on health and safety outcomes is also broadly applicable to this evaluation.

**Data Sources:**

Data Sources for Precinct-Level Projects

Our primary data source is the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). NIBRS: the national standard as of January 1, 2021, is compiled by the federal Bureau of investigation (FBI) which provides detailed crime reports on offence categorizations and victims. Aggregated data used in the NIBRS is provided by Baltimore County Police Department (BCoPD). The analysis sample is from the period January 1, 2021 – end of evaluation period (to be determined), and covers *x* number of incidents.  For the geographic analysis areas, refer to the Proposed Evaluation Areas section below. Treatment precincts have received the combined police technologies, while control precincts do not have these police technologies.

Our secondary source will be 911 calls for service related to firearms and general crime. The BCoPD CAD system captures 911 calls for service over time and through this, an analysis can be done comparing pre and post police technology interventions in the aforementioned precincts. The data will be provided by the BCoPD.

From the US Census Bureau, we obtained census track level estimates of demographic variables (race and ethnicity) for each year of the analysis.

**Proposed Evaluation Areas**

To identify the police precincts most comparable to Wilkens and Essex in terms of demographics and crime trends from 2021-2022, we conducted a spatial analysis. First, we assigned each census tract to a precinct by performing a spatial join using the 'have center in' method with a one-to-one join. This allowed us to retain the corresponding census demographic data for each tract. Next, we aggregated the data by precinct, dividing the race/ethnicity* counts by the total population of each precinct to obtain overall demographic percentages. This

demographic data was then used for comparison purposes to find precincts with similar characteristics.

**Demographic Analysis**

| | Cockeysville | Dundalk | Essex | Franklin | Parkville | Pikesville | Towson | White Marsh | Wilkens | Woodlawn |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Total Population | 97783 | 75200 | 91221 | 95163 | 73927 | 76999 | 73964 | 78635 | 80272 | 107573 |
| White % | 76.1 | 66.8 | 58.3 | 45.2 | 69.3 | 43.5 | 61.9 | 53.3 | 62.8 | 15.1 |
| Black % | 7.4 | 14.9 | 26.8 | 38.4 | 14.7 | 45.8 | 24.2 | 28.3 | 18.4 | 66.6 |
| Asian % | 7.3 | 2.8 | 4 | 5.9 | 9.3 | 2.6 | 5 | 8.3 | 7 | 7.7 |
| Hispanic % | 4.8 | 10.5 | 5.9 | 5.4 | 3.7 | 4.8 | 4.8 | 6.5 | 6.8 | 7.4 |
| Two or More Races % | 4 | 4.1 | 4.7 | 4.4 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 3.7 | 2.5 | 4.2 | 2.6 |
| Other Alone % | 0.3 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 0.5 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.2 | 0.6 | 0.8 | 0.4 |
| Amer.Ind./Ak.Native % | 0.1 | 0.4 | 0.1 | 0 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.2 |
| Hawaiian/Nat.Pac.Isl % | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.2 | 0 | 0 |

**The racial and ethnic categories presented in this chart are defined as follows: White, Black, Asian, Two or More Races, Other Alone, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Hawaiian/Native Pacific Islander percentages represent non-Hispanic populations. The Hispanic category is an ethnic designation and not a racial one; individuals in this category may be of any race.*

White and Black residents constitute the two largest race/ethnicity categories in all precincts. To identify the precincts most similar to Wilkens and Essex, we will calculate the Euclidean distance between the race/ethnicity percentages of White and Black residents in these precincts and all other precincts. The precincts with the smallest distances will be considered the most similar.

Comparison for Wilkens:

| Wilkens | Dundalk | Towson | Parkville | Essex | White Marsh | Cockeysville | Franklin | Pikesville | Woodlawn |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | 28.25 | 34.45 | 55.94 | 90.81 | 188.26 | 297.89 | 709.76 | 1123.25 | 4598.53 |

Comparison for Essex:

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | 19.72 | 27.25 | 90.81 | 213.86 | 267.41 | 306.17 | 580.04 | 693.2 | 3450.28 |
| Essex | Towson | White Marsh | Wilkens | Dundalk | Parkville | Franklin | Pikesville | Cockeysville | Woodlawn |

If we find the distances using all races, things look slightly different:

Comparison for Wilkens:

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | 43.06 | 59.77 | 73.45 | 101.23 | 193.02 | 302.27 | 713.08 | 1149.02 | 4602.11 |
| Wilkens | Towson | Dundalk | Parkville | Essex | White Marsh | Cockeysville | Franklin | Pikesville | Woodlawn |

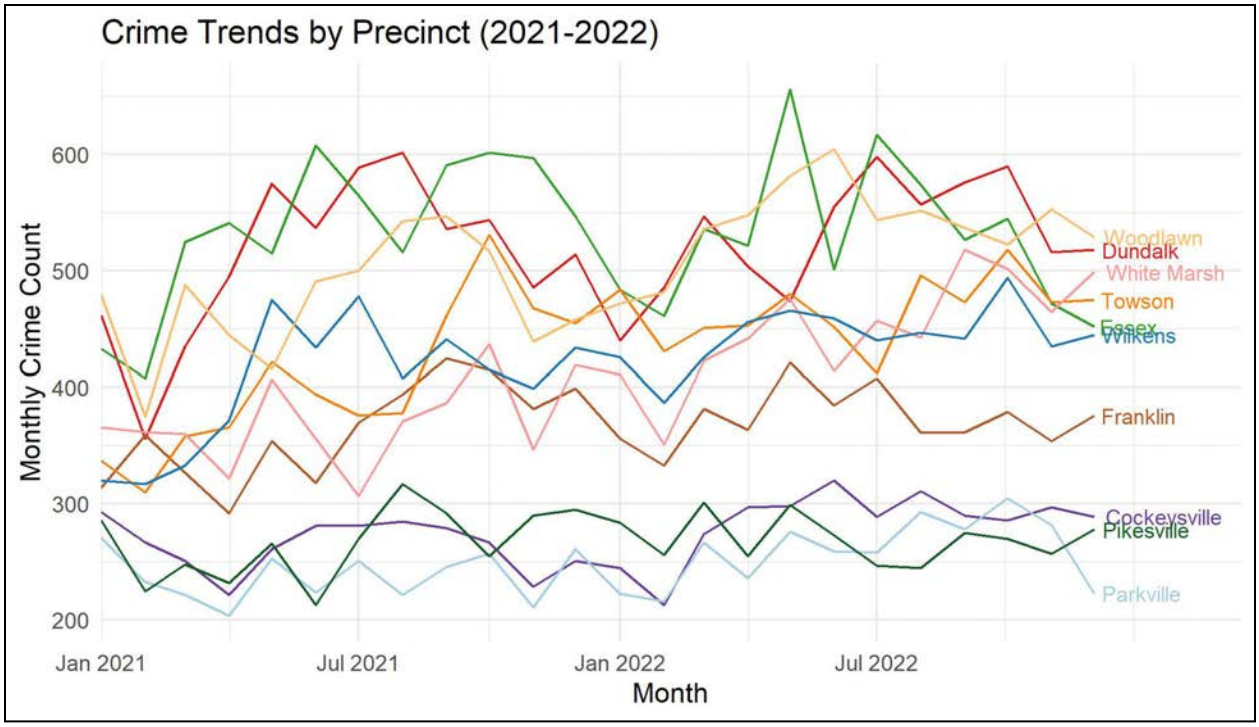
Comparison for Essex:

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | 22.93 | 51.15 | 101.23 | 237 | 304.34 | 310.23 | 587.25 | 705.8 | 3470.68 |
| Essex | Towson | White Marsh | Wilkens | Dundalk | Parkville | Franklin | Pikesville | Cockeysville | Woodlawn |

Thus, demographically, Towson is most similar to Wilkens, and Towson is most similar to Essex. We will need to do a crime analysis to see if these precincts are similar in that regard as well.

**Crime Analysis**

Data used for crime trend analysis is all Baltimore County NIBRS data from 1/1/2021 through 12/31/2022. The data was brought into ArcGIS and geocoded according to columns OBF_XCOORD and OBF_YCOORD. Some rows (8,390 or about 4.8% of the original dataset) were not able to be geocoded due to missing information, but 99% of these rows did have a value for “CITY”. To try and achieve more precincts being assigned, we looked at which precincts were assigned for each “CITY” value after geo-coding the rows with XY data. If a given “CITY” had a precinct assigned 80% or more of the time it appeared in the dataset, we will predict this same precinct for rows with missing precincts. After completing this process, we were able to reduce rows with no precinct to 3,060 or about 1.7% of the original dataset. We removed these rows and looked at crime trends across all precincts as shown below.




Looking for a trend similar to Wilkens, we see that the crime trend in Towson is similar. Essex doesn't seem to have as close of a trend to Towson and Essex also seems to have more extreme fluctuations.

The correlation between precincts establishes the closest match. First, we found the correlation when considering all crime types.

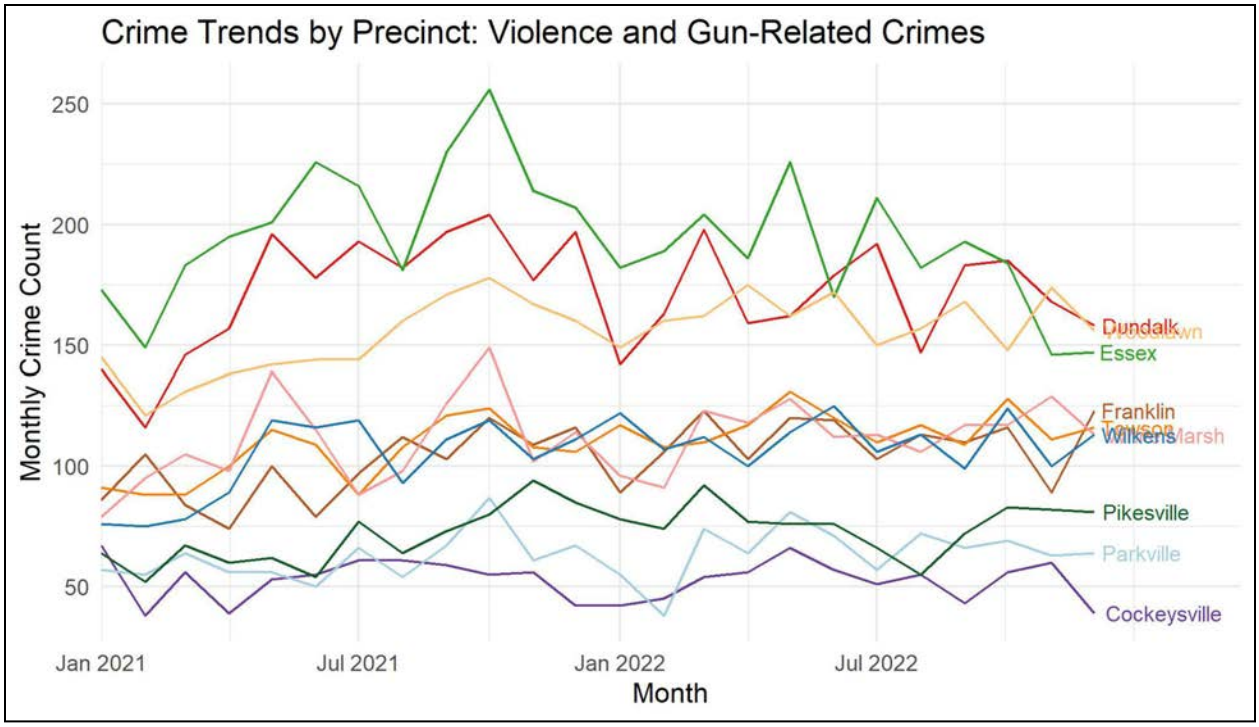
Correlations for Wilkens:

| 1 | 0.71 | 0.66 | 0.52 | 0.51 | 0.49 | 0.47 | 0.44 | 0.42 | 0.23 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wilkens | Dundalk | Towson | Woodlawn | White Marsh | Franklin | Essex | Parkville | Cockeysville | Pikesville |

Correlations for Essex:

| 1 | 0.47 | 0.47 | 0.43 | 0.37 | 0.34 | 0.16 | 0.09 | 0.09 | 0.05 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Essex | Wilkens | Franklin | Dundalk | Towson | Woodlawn | Parkville | Cockeysville | White Marsh | Pikesville |

Next, we will look at correlations when considering violent and weapon-related offenses only (assaults, kidnapping, kidnapping, sex offenses (forcible), homicide offenses, robbery, and weapon law violations).




Correlations for Wilkens:

| 1 | 0.71 | 0.59 | 0.46 | 0.43 | 0.42 | 0.4 | 0.39 | 0.34 | 0.07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wilkens | Towson | Dundalk | White Marsh | Franklin | Woodlawn | Pikesville | Essex | Parkville | Cockeysville |

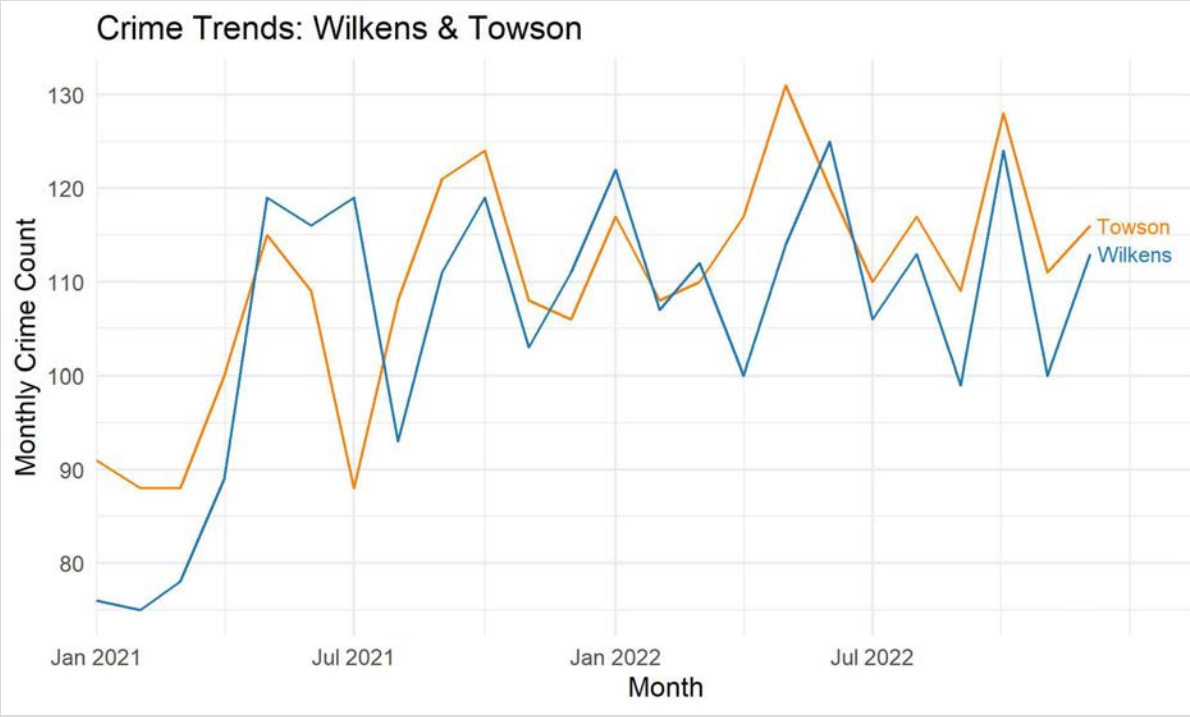
Correlations for Essex:

| 1 | 0.64 | 0.4 | 0.39 | 0.34 | 0.27 | 0.27 | 0.25 | 0.14 | 0.08 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Essex | Dundalk | White Marsh | Wilkens | Parkville | Towson | Cockeysville | Woodlawn | Pikesville | Franklin |

Since we were able to achieve the same or higher correlations using these reduced fields, we will proceed with this set of data.

**Wilkens Comparable Precinct**

Wilkens and Towson are most similar demographically when considering all races and in crime trends when considering crimes related to violence and weapon law violations.




**Essex Comparable Precinct**

Essex is most similar to Towson and White Marsh demographically and most similar to Dundalk with respect to crime trends.

Figure A

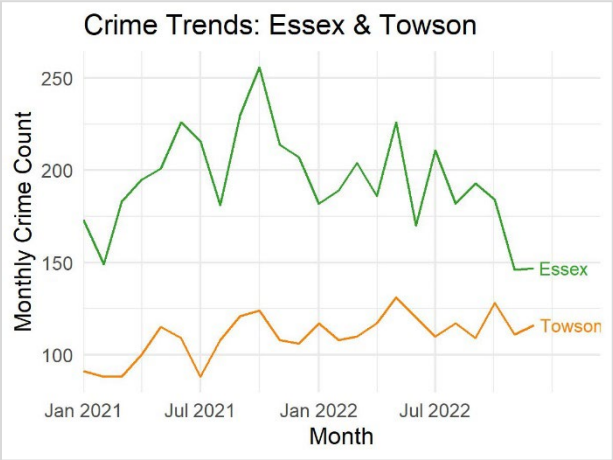
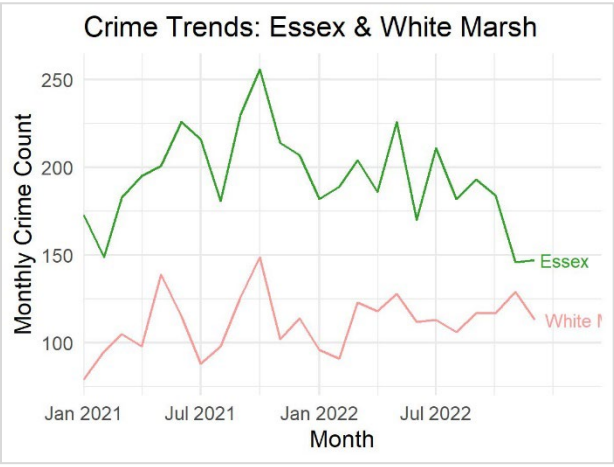



Figure B



Even though Towson is most similar to Essex demographically, the crime trends between the two precincts are not closely aligned (see Figure A) The correlation value is only 0.27 and recent trends show significant differences between the 2 precincts.

White Marsh is second most similar to Essex demographically and shows more similarity with respect to crime trends compared to Towson (see Figure B). However, the correlation value between White Marsh and Essex is approximately 0.399, which is a considerably lower than the highest correlation value with Essex. Dundalk, with a correlation value of 0.636, shows the strongest similarity with Essex in terms of crime trends.

Figure C

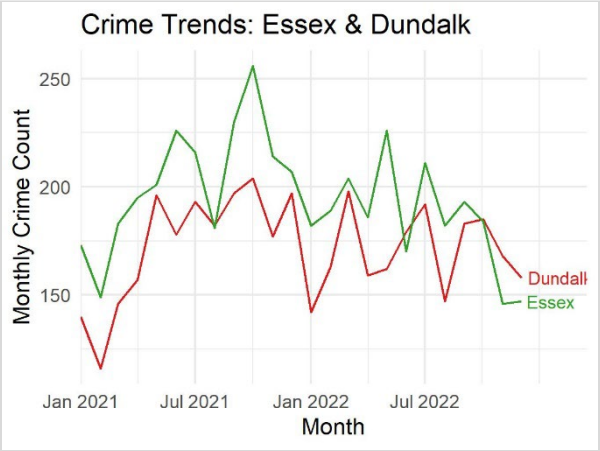



Figure D

| | Essex | Dundalk |
|---|---|---|
| Total Population | 91221 | 75200 |
| White % | 58.3 | 66.8 |
| Black % | 26.8 | 14.9 |
| Hispanic % | 5.9 | 10.5 |
| Two or More Races % | 4.7 | 4.1 |
| Asian % | 4 | 2.8 |
| Other Alone % | 0.2 | 0.5 |
| Amer.Ind./Ak.Native % | 0.1 | 0.4 |
| Hawaiian/Nat.Pac.Isl % | 0 | 0 |

Dundalk exhibits similar peaks and valleys in crime trends throughout the analyzed time period (see Figure C). Both precincts have experienced recent declines in the monthly counts of reported crimes. Although Dundalk is the fourth most similar to Essex demographically, the differences in race and ethnicity percentages are not substantial enough (see Figure D) to justify picking a comparable precinct with much lower crime trend correlation. Therefore, Dundalk will be chosen as the comparable precinct to Essex.

**Timeline:**

Following the project rollout, analysis will be carried out through the second half of 2024 and first half of 2025.

**Project Name:**

Mobile Crisis Team Expansion

**Expenditure Subcategory:**

Expenditure Category 1.11 (Community Violence Interventions)
Expenditure Category 1.12 (Mental Health Services)

**Review Type:**

Literature Review

**Project Overview:**

The Baltimore County Police Department seeks to expand on their current Mobile Crisis Team, a hybrid co-responder model which responds to *mental or behavioral crisis* (MBH) calls with a specially trained police officer and a licensed mental health clinician.

Baltimore County's Mobile Crisis team (MCT) utilizes a co-responder model of a police officer and mental health clinician to respond to calls through Baltimore County's 24-hour Crisis Hotline. Demand on this program has increased massively from its average of 200 calls per month before the COVID-19 pandemic, with the team only able to accommodate 44% of calls at current staffing levels. For this reason, police would like to expand the team to better accommodate community demand and ensure an equitable and efficient distribution of resources to the county.

**Research Overview**

*Introduction*

The base of evidence for Mobile Crisis Teams is primarily based on descriptive study and sparsely populated with quasi-experimental studies. However, these quasi-experimental studies point to promise of Mobile Crisis teams in having increased accuracy in referrals to hospital, without actually raising hospitalization rates. These exact details will be further expounded upon following a brief introduction into a fundamental aspect underpinning the Baltimore County Mobile Crisis Team, which is Crisis-Intervention training (CIT) for police officers in their co-response model.

*Historical Context*

Understanding the history underpinning crisis response is crucial to analyzing the value of the co-responder MCT team for Baltimore County. Crisis Intervention teams such as the Baltimore County MCT are not a new phenomenon. The training underpinning the MCT in Baltimore County is the 'Memphis Model' of Crisis Intervention teams; more specifically, the training MCT police officers receive are in line with the Memphis model. The Memphis model originated following an incident in 1987 In which a young man with history of mental illness was shot multiple times after refusing to surrender a knife, resulting in his death. This man had a history of mental health mental illness, and this prompted an effort to implement a framework for intervening in calls with individuals in mental health crisis (University of Memphis, 2024). The Memphis model is that resulting framework. According to the Memphis model mission statement (Memphis Police, 2024), 'By offering an immediate and humane approach, CIT officers reduce the likelihood of physical confrontations and enhance better patient care'. This history helps

develop a lens to analyze studies on Mobile Crisis Teams when they operate with a police presence as a cornerstone such as the Baltimore County MCT.

*Research Question*

Is there causal evidence for the implementation of Mobile Crisis Teams and impact on 1. Mental Health Crisis call outcomes and/or 2. Enhanced Resource deployment for police department to mental health crisis calls, all calls, or both? In absence of causal connections, does the literature provide a strong enough evidence base to support the federal use of evidence set forth by the U.S Department of Treasury?

**Research Body**

*CIT Training (Watson Et al, 2009)*

Research suggests, on two levels, that the ethos behind the Mobile Crisis Team can provide utility with regards to the mental health needs of the community. Starting with CIT training, Quasi-experimental studies on fundamental aspects of these models have shown positive results with regard to direction to mental-health resources in the community. Independent of exact models, A quasi-experimental study has shown the impact of Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) on Police interventions in Chicago published in 2009. Two districts in Chicago had implemented CIT one year prior to the program going city-wide, allowing an opportunity for research of CIT impacts in areas where the program had been rolled out vs. areas that were in early implementation stages (Watson et al, 2009). The study used a regression analysis to model Crisis intervention training and its impact on three fundamental outcomes: Number of calls Directed to Mental Health or Social Services without arrest, number of calls resulting in contact only, and number of calls resulting in arrest.

*Regression Model - Direct effects*

The Watson Studies regression model demonstrates both direct and simple effects of the independent variables (Including CIT training). The model of direct effects showed a statistically significant increase in direction to mental health resources by CIT officers ($B = .18$, $SE = .07$, $t(95) = 2.23$, $P < .05$), implying the proportion of subjects directed to mental health services was 18% higher among CIT trained officers relative to non-CIT trained officers. As for predicting no contact calls, CIT training of officers did not have a statistically significant direct effect. Interestingly, CIT training did not have a significant direct effect in arrest rates.

*Regression Model – Simple effects*

An important interaction in the model from this model's results was its finding of resistance of individuals having a moderating effect on the impact of CIT trained officers at predicting direction to mental health services. Notably, CIT trained officers are 32% more likely than non-CIT trained officers to refer subjects to services when resistance is 'low', 17% more likely when resistance is 'average', and there was no significant effect when resistance is high between CIT trained and non-CIT trained officers.

Notable interactions were also found in predicting 'contact only' calls. One such interaction was that CIT trained officers' proportion of 'no contact' calls were 26% smaller than non-CIT trained officers facing subjects with above average encounters with weapons.

*Takeaways – research opportunities*

This study provides quasi-experimental evidence that CIT, at the very least, as a promising program with regard to providing individuals in mental health crisis to support services when they are met by a CIT trained officer. This, alongside non-significant findings in the proportion of arrests provides evidence that this program is not leading to higher arrests. Granted, it is also not leading to significantly less arrests.

It is also important to note some of the factors that are not directly taken into account about CIT program operations. It would be useful in future research to investigate different operational components of CIT and their impacts on key metrics like direction to mental health services. With no direct comparison, this study cannot investigate *different* deployment models of CIT, but it can generalize program impact at a generalized, system-wide level. *Mobile Crisis Teams*

First, it should be noted that Mobile Crisis Teams (MCT) are widely used in the United States, with 39 of 50 states having a program as of 1995 (Geller,1995). This same study cataloging use of Mobile crisis teams noted a lack of empirical evidence supporting its efficacy, however, there is a growing base of evidence supporting claims that mobile crisis teams have positive impacts; Including impacts measured from a quasi-experimental study of which will be discussed in the following section.

*Mobile Crisis Partnership in Nova-Scotia: Introduction*

Review of this particular quasi-experimental study is paramount to use of evidence for the Baltimore County MCT because the model studied mirrors the Baltimore County MCT so closely. A study published in October 2010 investigating the before and after impacts of a mobile crisis team with a 24-hour call center staffed with mental health clinicians, alongside a co-responder model of one police officer and one mental health clinician in the field. This configuration is extremely similar in configuration to Baltimore County's implementation.

*Nova-Scotia Research Methods*

The Study, published in the Canadian Journal of Psychiatry, studied the impact of the implementation of a Mobile Crisis team in Nova Scotia against a control group that did not receive access to the same resources. Using this methodology, researchers were able to measure changes in four key quantitative variables: number of calls to the 24-hour telephone line, number of mental health calls to the police, number of crisis visits, and the call-to-door time for the integrated team (Kisely et al, 2010). These metrics demonstrated change over time (1, 2 years post-implementation) within the areas of implementation, and statistical tests were conducted on officer time on scene between the treatment and control group to investigate impact of the MCT.

*Results - Quantitative*

When comparing the treatment group to the control group, mean police time on-scene was 136 minutes for the treatment group, and 165 minutes for the control group. At $\alpha = .05$ (threshold observed across entire study), This difference was considered significant ($t = 3.4$, $df = 1649$, $P < 0.001$) according to a student's t-test, *lending credence to the argument that MCT implementation can lead to better delivery of service*. Descriptive statistics of the MCT's performance against itself 1-year post-implementation to 2 years post-implementation were also noteworthy. Compared to 1-year pre-implementation for the intervention area, there was a

statistically significant decrease in police on-scene time 1-year post-implementation (T = 2.9, df = 1854, P .04), and more so 2 years post-implementation (T = 4.1, df = 2323, P < .001). One very important finding is that relative to pre-implementation, 80% of the callers were new to the system.

*Takeaways - Research opportunities*

This study adds to the previously sparse experimental body of evidence for mobile crisis teams. Though not strictly experimental, given the sensitive nature of MCT implementation, quasi-experimental studies are a reasonable standard given ethical concerns of equitable resource distribution for mental health resources. This study gives empirical evidence that MCT's can result in better delivery of mental health resources, connecting with new individuals in need as well as quantitative data indicating healthy performance of the team on these calls.

**Discussion**

There is a wide array of different models of mobile crisis response, some including purely police response, purely mental health clinicians, and some using a co-responder model. Connecting more specifically to Baltimore County's configuration, these two quasi-experimental studies support two fundamental aspects of our system: Crisis Intervention team training of officers, and mobile crisis teams' mode of delivery of service. In tandem, these studies provide evidence that CIT training can help provide officers with the means to handle mental health crisis calls with stronger discernment for opportunities to refer individuals to mental health resources and keep those individuals connected and involved in their communities. The deployment model of these fundamental trainings (namely, mobile as needed determined by a mental health clinician) has an evidence base to support the claim that it is effective in providing outreach to individuals who can be well served by officers with CIT training and licensed mental health clinicians.

**Future research opportunities**

Given the subject matter, strict experimental studies of the impact of CIT training or MCT deployment are very difficult to implement. However, there is certainly room in the literature for there to be studies in long term health outcomes of individuals connected to mobile crisis teams. Much of the data shown in current literature are focused on metrics tied to criminal justice outcomes. An opportunity exists to study downstream impacts of the Mobile crisis team, though this most likely faces the same difficulties causing reliance on quasi-experimental studies.

**Conclusion**

Though Concrete causal connections are hard to draw from the current literature on Mobile Crisis teams, The wide use of them through the United States and Canada provide a baseline of Quasi-Experimental studies with enough supporting evidence to support federal use of evidence standards set forth by the U.S department of Treasury

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Watson AC, Ottati VC, Morabito M, Draine J, Kerr AN, Angell B. *Outcomes of police contacts with persons with mental illness: the impact of CIT*. Adm Policy Ment Health. 2010 Jul;37(4):302-17. doi: 10.1007/s10488-009-0236-9. Epub 2009 Aug 25. PMID: 19705277.

Kisely S, Campbell LA, Peddle S, et al. *A Controlled Before-and-after Evaluation of a Mobile Crisis Partnership between Mental Health and Police Services in Nova Scotia.* The Canadian Journal of Psychiatry. 2010;55(10):662-668. doi:10.1177/070674371005501005

### *Expenditure Subcategory 1.12-Mental Health Services*

**Project Name:**

Cordico Wellness App

**Expenditure Subcategory:**

1-Public Health-1.11-Community Violence Interventions

**Review Type:**

Literature Review

**Project Overview:**

First responders have jobs which put them in front of traumatic scenarios on a day-to-day basis. For this reason, first responders are also seen as a vulnerable population with regards to the development of mental health issues of which experience to trauma is a known factor. Such examples include, but are not limited to: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Anxiety, Depression, etc. Addressing this vulnerability can be complicated due to cultural factors in the fire service, leading to employees being less willing to seek out or accept help. For this reason, the BCoFD is seeking to provide a means of providing mental health (and general) wellness for their employees in a virtual, anonymous manner with the Cordico wellness app. Ideally, this lowers the friction for first responders to seek help while protecting individual's privacy, while also providing a means to aggregate and analyze trends to better serve the workforce and promote better health outcomes for first responders.

**Research Overview**

*Introduction*

Limited empirical research on the direct deployment of app infrastructures, referred to as mHealth, exists in direct connection with first responder health outcomes. However, studies on best practice observation from these apps does exist and is analyzed. For this reason, this research review will analyze the available direct applications, as well as analyze the motivations behind such an intervention in the first place. This research review will first identify first responders as a uniquely situated population in relation to workplace trauma and mental health struggle, identify some of the best practices of the current literature on providing individuals with resiliency from the dangers of their work, and then analyze the current app landscape and whether wellness apps are filling gaps in the delivery of these interventions.

*A Unique Population*

Public safety officers, of which Firefighters and EMS personnel are part of, are uniquely exposed to "Critical Incidents". Critical Incidents are situations which cause public safety personnel "to experience unusually strong emotional reactions which have the potential to interfere with their ability to function either at the scene or later" (Mitchell,1983, p 36). Intuitively, one could assume that public safety officers would be at an increased risk of witnessing critical incidents in their line of work, and this is in fact supported by data. A study in 2018 of public safety personnel in Canada set out to categorize critical incidents and analyze any correlation

between types of critical incidents and mental health pathology. In doing so researchers used a self-reporting survey of public safety workers using the Life Events Checklist for the DSM-5 to gauge exposure to 16 different critical incident types, Different public safety officers had different critical events they were more likely to experience. For example, 89% of surveyed firefighters reported experiencing 11 or more serious fire or explosion incidents, while 83% of paramedics reported experiencing 11 or more serious transportation accidents (Carleton et al, 2018). When controlling for type of public safety officer, nearly every one of the 16 (severe human suffering, fire/explosion, traffic accident) critical incident types had a positive significant relationship with positive screenings for PTSD. It should be noted that for certain types of incidents, there were also significant associations between critical incidence and positive screening of other disorders such as general anxiety disorder and depression.

Given evidence that critical events can impact first responders and their likelihood for positive screenings for mental health conditions, it is also important to understand the breadth of mediating factors for such issues. One study of 325 firefighters in South Korea looks into mediating effects between sleep, resilience, and PTSD. The study used a hierarchical regression model to analyze correlation of the variables at different steps in the process. The final findings were that PTSD correlates with sleep disturbance ($\beta = 0.32$, $p < .001$). When analyzing both PTSD symptoms and sleep disturbance simultaneously, there is a correlation with lower resilience ($\beta = -0.13$, $p < .05$) and ($\beta = -0.17$, $p < .01$) for PTSD and sleep disturbance symptoms respectively). Sleep disturbance has correlation with poorer psychomotor-speed and processing speed, which can impact one's ability to perform their job. This study highlights the very interconnected nature of these issues and how initial resilience is worth building in firefighters as well as a wholistic approach to wellness that aims to mediate mental health as well as areas of an individual's life that could suffer due to it such as sleep and cognitive function.

*Wellness app deployment*

Wellness apps as a means to facilitate resiliency and assist first responders' wellbeing are a relatively new. According to a study by the Journal of Military, Veteran and Family health, both military personnel and first responders have unique stressors that necessitate more tailored resources. Noticing the increase in app-based interventions to bolster resiliency, researchers analyzed the evidence base and subjective quality of the apps with a reviewer and found that the majority of apps that were analyzed were in fact of high quality. This lends credence to the idea that app-based interventions can be useful for first responders and military personnel (O'Toole, 2021). Many of the apps which were deemed to be reputable are actually wellness apps which are sponsored by government agencies, such as "Moving Forward", and "PTSD Coach" by The Department of Veterans Affairs.

*Discussion*

Academic literature on direct impact of mobile health (mHealth) on first responder wellbeing remains sparse, and connections to its potential benefits is best seen in the context of the efficacy of the concepts of intervention which the app developers aim to provide in an accessible, confidential way to their consumers. For example, given that PTSD is a very serious concern for first responders, app features aiming to provide peer support for PTSD, or access to therapy resources in accordance to best practice can be used as evidence that the app is

helping its consumers paired with engagement metrics indicating meaningful engagement with resources.

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## Expenditure Category 2: Negative Economic Impact

### *2.1-Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care*

**Project Name:**

Childcare Provider Grant Program

**Expenditure Subcategory:**

2.1-Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care

**Review Type:**

Literature Review

**Project Overview:**

Baltimore County has set aside $2.5 million of its ARPA funds for county-based childcare providers that have 14 or fewer registered childcare slots

**Research Overview**

*Introduction*

In April of 2021 the Biden administration released $39 billion of American Rescue Plan funds that would go to stabilizing childcare businesses within the United States. Maryland received an allocation of $309.1 million with $2.5 million being awarded to Baltimore County. The County used the same eligibility outlined by the Treasury for childcare providers requiring they have 14 or fewer registered childcare slots. These providers could receive $5,000 in grant funds to support their childcare operations including covering expenses for: purchasing personal protective equipment, rent or mortgage payments, goods and services necessary to maintain or resume child care services amongst other eligible activities.
This grant program supported Baltimore County's childcare providers as the industry continued to recover from impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Keeping these facilities open supported families as they were trying to get back to work during the pandemic.

This nationwide pilot program was well represented with all 50 states participating and only a few jurisdictions opting out. By the end of the program these funds helped stabilize over 200,000 facilities. Baltimore County chose the approach of selecting one main grantee, the Abilities Network, who we then worked with to award smaller grants to child care facilities. The Abilities Network is a nonprofit organization that provides services to individuals with disabilities and families with children. By the end of our grant cycle the Abilities Network had provided grants to 177 providers assisting 947 children and families. Additionally, the providers that were awarded funds were highly concentrated in qualified census tracts and overlap with the Social Vulnerability Index (CDC, HUD) as shown in the maps included below.

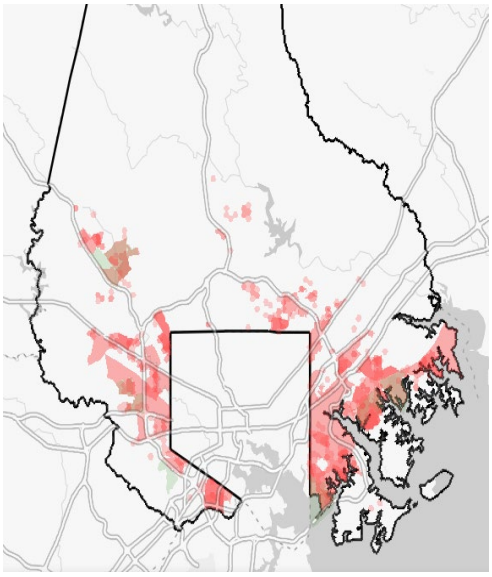

Figure 1.
Baltimore County's ARPA Map which includes Qualified Census Tracts and other vulnerability data.

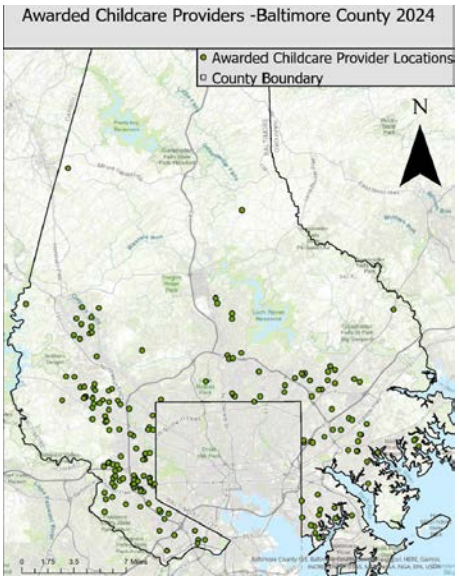


Figure 2.
Childcare Provider Awardees

*Research Overview*

Research in the area of childcare is well documented and spans wide in topics including studies on childcare vouchers, accessibility to affordable childcare programs, the role of childcare in early childhood development and more. Some of the common trends within all the literature reveals that single parents and those with low incomes face particular difficulties given the lack of socioeconomic resources, limited government funding to assist with childcare, and an increasingly volatile employment environment (Howell & Kalleberg 2019). Childcare changes, disrupt a child's routine increasing child and adult stress and can lead to poor self-regulation and behavioral functioning amongst children, making the case for stabilizing centers to reduce unplanned changes to care (McLoyd 1998; Pilarz
and Hill 2017; Yeung, Linver, and Brooks-Gunn 2002) Additionally, childcare centers, at times, struggle to operate given financial constraints. When they must make up for tuition due to increased labor costs and/or enrollment fluctuation, they raise tuition for other students only making it harder for low- and moderate-income households to access childcare (Shager et al. 2023). Childcare instability can also cause problems for parental employment and vice versa. The COVID-19 pandemic made this point excessively clear to the nation. When childcare issues such as sudden closures and reduced hours arose, parents, predominantly mothers, were in turn forced to cut their hours, seek other jobs or, leave the workforce temporarily (Heggeness 2020; Kochhar 2020). These challenges have been particularly felt by Black and Latino parents, who are less likely to have flexible schedules or work from home (Smith and Reeves 2021).

*Research question*

Primary: Should providing assistance to childcare facilities through direct funding be considered a best practice?

*Thesis:*

After reviewing the body of research and evidence base for this intervention, literature documenting the ARPA Childcare Stabilization Grant program does meet the Federal Use-of-Evidence standards and has provided services that are eligible under the 2021 Interim Final Rule for the listed sections: Public Health 1.5 Personal Protective Equipment, Negative Economic Impacts 2.9 Small Business Economic Assistance, Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities and, 3.6 Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care. Furthermore, implementing the childcare stabilization program supports best practices for childcare overall by keeping facilities open and allowing families to have stable and affordable access to childcare.

*Body*

Research around the ARPA Childcare Stabilization Program is very new and is typically in the form of qualitative surveys or reports. There are promising outcomes on the overall impact the program had as well as ideas for policy implications. Largely missing from the literature is the same breadth as other childcare topics in the form of larger empirical studies to look at lasting impacts of the stabilization programs. Still, some states have launched larger qualitative studies which have been summarized below.

Wisconsin's Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Institute for Research on Poverty (IRP) conducted a survey with the state's grantees on their Child Care Counts program (CCC) to capture how facilities were using their funds in their two rounds of their program, how the funds impacted the programs and what the funds were not able to assist with. DCF and IRP disseminated a survey to all grantees collecting information on how Program A (round 1) funds were used and how Program B (round 2) funds would be used and then included open ended questions to capture the impacts of the program as well as shortcomings on the funding. Research staff then created a code book to organize answers within trends. Overall, the sample size of the whole project was 3,092 with 2,626 providers responding to the questions about the impact to the program. The strength of this survey approach was high rates of answers. However, the survey approach also opened the study up to non-response bias which the authors cite as a weakness. The most commonly reported uses of Program A funding (round 1) were for physical operating expenses (e.g., rent, utilities, etc.; 84%); materials and supplies for enhancing program environment and curriculum (76%); covering payroll and benefits (70%); and reducing COVID-19 risk, such as providing PPE or cleaning supplies (66%). The largest impact facilities stated the funding had had been that it allowed them to stay open stabilizing families and childcare staff. Additionally, some of the providers stated they were able to improve the physical environment of centers by paying for repairs,  for staff to take CPR trainings and purchase PPE to keep staff and children healthy (Shager et al. 2023)

CDF and IRP also documented some of the shortcomings of the CCC program including the following: insufficient funds, the duration of funding, time limits to spend funds and restrictions on what funds could be spent on. According to Shager et al. while the funds did assist centers, for some, they were insufficient which required facilities to make tradeoffs and incur costs. The insufficient funds also made it difficult for providers to sustain any of the salary increases they wanted to implement and so some opted for bonuses instead of permanent salary increases. Time limits on spending funds has been a chief complaint from jurisdictions regarding federal relief funds. Childcare providers reported that time limits were extremely restrictive which

hindered their ability to save funds for an emergency expenses that may occur further down the line after the program ended (Shager et al. 2023).

The Center for the Study of Social Policy (CCSP) conducted interviews with families and facilities in Michigan, North Carolina, Mississippi and Arizona and also surveyed 1900 families across the Country. CSSP's study was designed to reach low- and moderate-income families of color as it is this group that is most often impacted by childcare fluctuations. CCSP's interview and survey data shows a snapshot of how families were impacted and focused on the three following areas: expansion of child care assistance to families, making child care more affordable by reducing or eliminating copayments or fees and shoring up safe and nurturing options for families by investing in providers. The last section of their review speaks to the stabilization program and the positive impact the funding had on child care centers. According to Gutierrez, Kashen and Kaverman facilities in both North Carolina and Michigan were able to support personnel costs and meet staffing needs. Funding in North Carolina went to stabilizing 4,205 centers and Michigan stabilized 6,270 supported more than 280,000 children and their families.  Additionally, providers were able to invest in their staff and specifically in North Carolina, they used the funds to build the supply of qualified child care teachers and staff by providing staff bonuses and funding teacher pipeline programs such as apprenticeships, stackable courses and fast-track programs (Gutierrez et al. 2022).

While Baltimore County childcare providers may have experienced much of the same benefits and drawbacks with the childcare stabilization funds, we only collected data on how many providers and children were served so cannot with complete certainty discuss any similar trends mentioned in the studies above.

*Conclusion*

Based on the literature on the benefit to families and children on stable childcare and recent studies on the childcare stabilization grants Baltimore County asserts that the available research presented in this review meets the use of evidence standards.

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### *Expenditure Subcategory 2.18-Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance*

**Project Name:**

Tax Services for Low-Income Residents

**Expenditure Subcategory:**

Expenditure Subcategory 2.18-Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance

**Review Type:**

Literature Review

**Project Overview:**

Baltimore County awarded $60,000 to CASH Campaign of Maryland Inc. to provide free tax preparation for low-moderate income households.

**Research Overview:**

*Introduction*

In August of 2021 Baltimore County awarded $60,000 to the CASH Campaign of Maryland Inc. (Creating Assets, Savings and Hope) to provide free tax preparation services to approximately 200 low- and moderate-income households. These services included assistance for both federal and state returns to households whose income did not exceed $58,000. One of the many impacts from the pandemic, was that some households weren't able to file their 2019 nor 2020 tax returns due to the lack of capacity of Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) programs funded through the IRS with the purpose of providing eligible households with free alternatives for preparing their taxes. While some of the families affected may never have needed to file their taxes due to their income this also cut off their ability to claim the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The EITC is a refundable tax credit for low- to moderate-income working individuals and couples, particularly those with children. The amount of EITC benefit depends on a recipient's income and number of children and, has a phase in, plateau and phase out approach meant to incentivize earnings at lower income levels (Cords, 2008). The tax credit is widely used being received by more individuals and households than TANF and food stamps (Hoynes, 2005). Funding CASH Campaign to provide tax preparation assistance enabled Baltimore County Households to once again be able to claim this tax credit.

During CASH Campaign's grant period they offered two different models to assist clients: 1) traditional in person tax sites model where clients were able to visit by appointment and work with a CASH VITA volunteer and 2) Drop off intake model which allowed clients to make an appointment to review and scan their documents. Once the intake was complete, they were able to work with VITA staff by phone or video call for the remainder of support needed. Between 2021 and 2022, CASH Campaign assisted an estimated 700 individuals with either preparing taxes or providing some type of assistance over the phone. All households served earned less than $58,000 with the average household earning $23,413 in 2021 and $24,742 in 2022. The majority of clients were female,66%, and African American 88%.

While this is the first time Baltimore County's Department of Housing and Community Development funded a VITA site, local governments providing a match to run VITA sites is not a new intervention as VITA sites have been in operation since their creation in 1969.

*Research overview*

Much of the current research on VITA sites have been in relation to the Earned Income Tax Credit. When VITA sites were created in 1969 the sole purpose was to provide a free alternative for low to moderate income households to prepare their taxes. Relative to the EITC, publications have been in the form of reports and evaluations from the IRS and at times reviews on predatory practices of commercial tax preparers. For the purpose of evaluating our CASH Campaign program we have reviewed articles on VITA programs and best practices. This body of literature focuses on the program's creation, partnership with communities and accuracy of prepared tax files. However, missing from the literature are larger empirical studies on VITA sites outcomes for actual tax payers.

*Literature Trends*

The collective patterns reveals that while low- and moderate-income households may benefit from having assistance preparing their taxes, in large, it is the paid preparers who benefit more. These households, many with limited financial knowledge, often times depend on outside assistance to file taxes so they can access the EITC. While some of these individuals may not have to file taxes due to their income, they must file it in order to receive that specific tax credit and commercial companies do not always communicate that there are free services that can help. Additionally, commercial tax prep companies are more densely located in impoverished neighborhoods making them more accessible to clients (Berube, 2004; Dodd et al.,2008).

Those without financial education are also more likely to receive a Refund Anticipation Loan (RAL) which is a short-term loan to a consumer that is based on the amount of the consumer's anticipated tax refund. The tax payer receives funds up to the refund amount minus the interest, tax preparation fee and other fees. The interest on these loans can go up to 700% and on average reduce the EITC by 13% Moreover, the total cost of special fees associated with temporary bank accounts, preparation fees, loan interest and other fees paid by low to moderate income tax preparers made the tax prep industry $1.2 billion from the EITC program in the early 2000's (Lim, DeJohn and Murray, 2012).

*Best practices*

VITA sites overall are considered a best practice for local jurisdictions to host to assist eligible households in filing their tax returns. Sites hosted at local colleges and universities present an interesting and beneficial opportunity for local jurisdictions. Colleges and universities, especially those with accounting programs have hosted sites using students and professors in accounting departments and at times have included training into credit earning course material to increase accuracy for volunteers during tax time (Miller & Thalacker, 2013). In addition to educational institutions non-profits, as trusted partners in the community, are considered prime for promoting and hosting VITA sites (Lim, DeJohn and Murray, 2012).

*Research Question & Thesis Statement*

Within this review BCSTAT aims to answer the research question of if the available literature supports the claim that VITA sites are a best practice

Thesis: Baltimore County believes that the current literature provides the use of evidence needed to support our claim that the CASH Campaign's VITA program was a best practice and is an allowable expenditure aligned with the 2021 Interim Final Rule under Section 2.13: Other Economic Support.

*Summary of Literature*

In 2019 63.4 million tax payers filed their taxes at commercial tax preparation companies versus only 3.6 that utilized VITA sites (IRS). Tax preparers, especially those who are serving low to moderate income households, may encourage use of RALs or the purchase of ancillary services under the guise of individuals getting their tax return faster. In 2008 63% of RAL customers were EITC recipients and 44% of EITC recipients obtained an RAL (Hiyashi, 2016). While prepares do explain that RAL's are an interest-bearing loan many individuals are solely focused on getting their return faster due to financial constraints and so take out the loan. For clients who don't take out an RAL using a paid preparer is still less than beneficial considering they are still paying for a service that could be free to them at a VITA site.

*Body*

The literature regarding VITA sites discusses satisfaction of client experience, concerns about compliance in preparation and the need for more investment from the IRS to increase sites within communities.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance sites are typically found in community centers, libraries, universities and at times schools. In addition to tax services these sites take the time to connect with clients and also provide other levels of financial education with the goal of increasing financial literacy and hopefully wealth building habits. All volunteers must be trained using the IRS' curricula, pass a tax law examination and comply by the Volunteer Standards of Conduct prohibiting them from taking any donations or payment for their services (IRS, 2009d).

While there are immense benefits in households using VITA sites to prepare their taxes, one of the common critiques within reports is that clients are not as satisfied with their experiences at VITA sites and that there is a higher rate of inaccuracies for taxes filed at these sites. During an audit in 2013 it was found that VITA sites only had a 49% accuracy rate. However, more recently VITA sites have surpassed paid preparers in accuracy (Gupta & Robertson, 2022). Lastly, literature continues to promote the need for more investment from the IRS and local governments, or non-profits, to host and promote more VITA sites. In 2007 only two million tax payers utilized VITA sites when preparing taxes (Price & Smith, 2008). Additionally, in 2004 more than two thirds of low to moderate income households used paid preparers and paid out more than $3 billion in tax prep fees and another $1.5 billion in RAL fees and associated costs (Lim, DeJohn and Murray, 2012). While these numbers are over 20 years old, Gupta and Robertson still report low utilization of VITA sites with less than 2 million utilizing VITA sites in 2022 (Gupta & Robertson, 2022). Research continues to demonstrate the negative impacts of commercial tax preparation services on low-income families such as the additional fees charged to families and, the lack of capacity building in households for true financial stability. We believe that reasons such as these supports the need for additional VITA sites which enable taxpayers not only to keep their full refund but also can equip them with other financial education.

*Conclusion*

Baltimore County's grant award to CASH Campaign for their hosting of a VITA site is in line with best practices. Based on the outcomes reports that provided zip codes for where clients were served, the majority of clients resided in areas that experienced social vulnerabilities pre-dating the pandemic. By awarding this grant, we not only assisted County residents that worked with CASH in claiming their full returns but were also able to ensure they were going to get some level of financial education as well. While CASH Campaign exceeded their original goals for both their general and Spanish speaking market, we believe that VITA sites can be expanded using universities partners within the Baltimore County area. Additionally, there is consideration for better engagement with our New American community. For example, according to the American Community Survey 6% of Baltimore County residents identify as Hispanic yet only 1% of clients served through CASH Campaign's site was (DataUSA). Baltimore County has a diverse population and should implement creative tactics to reach all who would be eligible especially for working with VITA sites and ultimately receiving the EITC.

For Baltimore County's CASH Campaign grant we collected basic data about the number of clients served including the zip code they resided in and the type of services they received. We have not conducted any longer-term analysis to determine accuracy percentages of our VITA site nor any more detailed outcomes of what the refund went towards or how much each return was. While the County may invest in VITA sites moving forward additional topics we should consider researching is placements of sites to ensure that sites are accessible to all parts of Baltimore County and the best communication mediums to promote sites.

We believe that the current literature provides the use of evidence needed to support our claim that the CASH Campaign grant and subsequent program is a best practice and is an allowable expense.

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### *Expenditure Subcategory 2.1-Household Assistance: Food Programs*

**Project Name:**

Food Distribution

**Expenditure Subcategory:**

Expenditure Subcategory 2.1-Household Assistance: Food Programs

**Review Type:**

Literature Review

**Project Overview:**

Emergency Food Operation: After the height of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Baltimore County set aside $1,996,927 of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for a long-term perishable food Request For Proposals (RFP) to address food insecurity and maintain feeding operations. Baltimore County maintained feeding operations at 17 sites within disproportionately impacted communities, all of which were determined to be low-income, have low access to food and have high Social Vulnerability Indexes (SVI). The County released an RFP to seeking a nonprofit and/or vendor to specifically source produce and dairy from local farms and distribute those items based on community need. Food was distributed at these partner sites weekly and or monthly, based on self-reported need through our online request form. Sites were reduced over time based on the reduction in emergency need until the end of the project in January 2023. All distribution partners were connected to potential “mainstream” sources to support sustaining efforts after the ARPA-funded projects ceased.

Community Food Expenditures and Fresh Food Programs: $92,080 of ARPA funds has been allocated to fund food access related activities and/or programs within Health and Human Services (HHS). This funding will support the following:

(Current) Food requests for community events within disproportionately impacted communities. These are done in partnership with HHS programs that serve vulnerable populations. Community schools, faith-based partners and nonprofits are able to make the request for food to the Food Security Coordinator.

(Discontinued) Maryland Food Bank (MFB) Shelf Stable Back up Boxes (BUBs) for COVID positive residents who are isolating.

(Discontinued) Distribution of BUBs within targeted communities to promote vaccination.

Timeline/status: The Emergency Food Operation ran from April 2022 – January 2023. Community Food Expenditures and Fresh Food Programs has been active since July 2022.

**Research Overview**

*Introduction*

This evidence review is primarily concerned with the core components of the project: the Emergency Food Operation and active components of the Community Food Expenditures and

Fresh Food Programs. The discontinued components of the Community Food Expenditures and Fresh Food Programs were targeted toward pandemic-specific public health issues (vaccination and self-isolation), and maintained all best practices and public health guidance circulated during the pandemic emergency.

*Research*

Much of the research on food distribution focuses on the conventional food bank model. This research is applicable to Baltimore County's project, which does not significantly deviate from the conventional food bank supply and distribution model. Research on food banks and similar programs primarily focuses on food insecurity as an outcome of interest, with certain studies also assessing a variety of physical and social health indicators. Research in this area has also assessed the role of community networks and partnerships in food distribution programs. This topic is highly applicable to Baltimore County's approach, which focuses heavily on community partners.

*Research question(s)*

The key research question for this review is: Has the food distribution model adopted by Baltimore County beginning during the pandemic period been shown to produce positive outcomes in terms of food insecurity primarily and relevant health indicators secondarily.

*Thesis*

Based on the body of research surrounding this question, this project should be considered evidence-based for ARPA-SLFRF purposes. Both the underlying direct food distribution principle and community partner implementation approach have been associated with positive health and food security outcomes.

*Review of Evidence*

The effect of food distribution initiatives on a wide range of outcomes has been studied in depth, with increasing interest in this topic following the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic. A 2021 JAMA systematic review and meta-analysis of food distribution research assessed 39 randomized and observational studies involving 170,605 participants. Based on the balance of evidence, the authors identify a statistically significant association between direct provision of food assistance and "reductions in the prevalence of food insecurity" (Oronce et al, 2021, 1). Significantly, 10 studies "examined the association between food insecurity status and interventions where food was provided at a secondary location" (Oronce et al, 2021, 4), providing clear insight into the specific approach adopted in Baltimore County. Similarly to the overall meta-analysis, the authors find that food distribution in secondary sites is "generally associated with reductions in food insecurity (Oronce et al, 2021, 8). Looking again at the overall body of evidence, the systemic review concludes that "providing food or groceries, regardless of setting, has high-certainty evidence that it is associated with reductions in the prevalence of food insecurity" (Oronce et al, 2021, 12). This association between food assistance and reduced food insecurity is clear and provides strong support both to the core concept of direct food distribution as well as the specific Baltimore County approach. Examining research on additional outcomes of interest, including health and health care outcomes, the study's authors find mixed results without statistically significant relationships (Oronce et al, 2021, 13). However, while secondary outcomes of interest are not established as evidence-based in this meta-analysis, the primary

outcome of interest—reduction in food insecurity—exceeds the Federal standard of two or more non-experimental studies with positive findings on one or more intended outcomes.

A prior systemic review on the impact of food banks and food insecurity further strengthens the base of evidence. A pre-pandemic (2016) systemic review published in the Journal of Community Health in 2016 analyzed 35 publications covering food security, nutritional quality, and recipients' needs across food banks in the United States. The majority of these publications involved cross-sectional studies; a longitudinal study, randomized controlled trial, and multiple mixed-methods studies were assed as well. Of the 35 studies, 28 were quantitative (Bazerghi et al, 2016, 733). Across the body of literature, the authors find that food banks play an important role in addressing the immediate issue of food deprivation, but that limitations both to quality and quantity of food available can diminish the impact of food distribution (Bazerghi et al, 2017, 733-40). These conclusions lend further support to Baltimore County's food distribution program, which addresses both shortfalls in quantity and nutritional quality, through the sourcing of produce and dairy from local farms.

Additional individual studies provide further backing. A 2016 longitudinal multilevel study in Canada compared traditional food support programs ("those providing an immediate response to the need for food") against alternative approaches ("those targeting the improvement of participants' social cohesion, capabilities and management of their own nutrition" (Roncarolo, 2016, 1-3). After tracking 450 participants across 136 community organizations for a period of 9 months, the study finds statistically significant reductions in food insecurity among participants in the traditional food programs; participants in alternative programs experienced no statistically significant changes (Roncarolo et al, 2016, 8-11). Although these findings are qualified with the note that the impact of traditional food programs is limited to short-term effects, the authors conclude that "traditional interventions represent an effective food security intervention in short-term, improving both food insecurity status and health of participants" (Roncarolo et a, 2016, 12).

Finally, two studies from the pandemic and post-pandemic period address the community-partner model of Baltimore County's food program. Tometi and Wise adopt a qualitative approach to investigate the role of nonprofit organizations in addressing food insecurity. Based on interviews with three nonprofits in the Phoenix, AZ, metro area, they observe a central role for nonprofit organizations in the "distribution of food to people in need," filling a gap between government resources and communities, families, and individuals on the ground (Tometi and Wise, 2023, 4-6). Hamel and Harmen's 2023 empirical research on administrative data from the pandemic-era Farmers to Families Food Box assesses the geographic distribution of food delivery locations. The authors conclude, "even if food is delivered equitably on average, government investment in pantries will leave some in-need counties with more food than others simply because some counties have more food pantries than others" (Hamel and Harmen, 2023, 9). Taken together, these two studies support both the Baltimore County reliance on nonprofit, community-level partners to distribute food, as well as the program's adoption of food requests for community events within disproportionately impacted communities, which can overcome limitations in fixed food-distribution locations by allowing areas in need to directly request deliveries.

*Conclusion*

Baltimore County's Food Distribution program is supported by evidence from a large pool of studies. Concerns remain that the impact of this program may be limited to short-term amelioration of food insecurity, and that equity and access issues may remain. Nonetheless, as designed and implemented, the relationship between the County's food distribution model and the positive outcome of reduced food insecurity qualifies as evidence-based under Federal standards.

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### *Expenditure Subcategory 2.2-Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid*

**Project Name:**

COVID-19 Legal Services for Eviction Prevention

**Expenditure Subcategory:**

2-Negative Economic Impacts-2.2-Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid

**Review Type:**

Literature Review

**Project Overview:**

Baltimore County has continuously been investing in Legal Services for Eviction Prevention (LSEP) with ARPA funds since 2020, including Maryland Legal Aid Bureau, the Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland (PBRC) and the St. Ambrose Housing Aid Center (St. Ambrose). The current iteration of this investment funds two non-profits, PBRC and St. Ambrose. Services are offered by both non-profits to tenants who incomes are under 80% AMI and have had evictions filed against them, but also include community outreach, education and engagement.

**A brief summary of project scope according to contract with PBRC is as follows:**

1. PBRC will establish and operate a “Tenant Volunteer Lawyer of the Day” Programto provide legal assistance to tenants impacted by or during COVID-19 who are at risk of eviction or homelessness”. This legal assistance will be offered int the form of “free, day-of-court legal representation to pro se tenants appearing at designated Failure to Pay Rent (FTPR) dockets”. Legal representation is also extended to “tenants with Breach of Lease, Tenant Holding Over, and Rent Escrow cases.
2. PBRC will engage in community outreach and advice by offering the Courtroom Advocacy Project (CAP) Tenant Hotline.

**Combined Data from St. Ambrose and PBRC (August 2021 – June 2024)**

| Metric | Reporting Status |
|---|---|
| **# Calls** | 2,554 |
| **# Instances of Representation Provided** | 3,324 |
| **# of Individuals Receiving Representation** | 2,830 |
| **# Closed Cases** | 2,651 |

**A brief summary of project scope according to contract with St. Ambrose is as follows:**

1. St. Ambrose’s Attorney’s and staff will provide direct housing-related legal services to Baltimore County residents, including providing brief advice on their legal matters, in depth legal counseling and document review, assistance through negotiations, and representation at administrative and judicial proceedings

**Data from St. Ambrose (August 2021 – June 2024)**

- 201 Cases Closed at Brief Advice / Information / Referral
- 41 Cases Closed at Counseling
- 6 Cases Closed at Negotiation
- 6 Cases Closed at Litigation
- 246 Calls Received

The most relevant part of both non-profits work is the aforementioned legal services offered. The scope of work for both Non-Profits includes performance tracking measures, and the reporting of these measures. Both non-profits have been in compliance with quantifying their legal assistance executed.

**Research Overview**

*Project Overview*

Since 2020, Baltimore County Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) has placed an emphasis on Housing Stability. COVID-19 presented never before seen challenges in housing, specifically within Evictions. Both CARES and ARPA funding have been used to combat these issues in a variety of ways, one of which being funding Legal Services for Eviction Prevention (LSEP). LSEP provides access to free legal counsel for eligible tenants at risk of eviction.

*Background Information*

LSEP has vastly expanded throughout the United States in the past 7 years. New York was the first City to codify tenant facing eviction right to counsel in 2017, with 16 other cities following suit. Five states (including Maryland) have also codified LSEP or similar legal aid programs ("Organizing Around a Right To Counsel"). In Maryland, eviction right to counsel was passed on May 28th 2021. Funding for the State's LSEP program was granted in July 2021, providing resources for the program to operate through FY27.

*Research Overview*

Gideon v Wainwright in 1963 found that the 6th and 14th amendment guaranteed the right to counsel in criminal cases. This sparked research unto LSEP where the disparity between legal representation between landlords and tenants was quantified. The 80s and 90s saw further research and pilot projects being completed to investigate the efficiency of providing free legal aid. The need for codified right to legal counsel in housing cases was continually argued for in research throughout the 2000s. Around 2020 is where we see a real spike in the implementation of LSEP by governments. The pandemic presented a great unknown regarding how governments would deal with evictions; thus, these policies were implemented. Currently, we can see the actual effects of LSEP as many Cities / States have reported on the difference that LSEP can make.

*Research Questions*

1. Can LSEP be causally related to improving housing-related court outcomes for tenants?
2. Does LSEP reduce the cost burden placed on local jurisdictions that provide accommodations for evicted persons?

*Thesis*

Upon reviewing evidence for the effectiveness of the right to Legal Counsel, a vast amount of research supports the use of LSEP in improving housing-related court outcomes, and ultimately LSEP's role in decreasing evictions. As described above, Baltimore County's LSEP program closely parallels existing programs throughout the United States, including those programs already evaluated by academic and other researchers. Consequently, the body of evidence backing this intervention render LSEP evidence-based and fully eligible for the use of ARPA funding.

*Research:*

The scope of evidence for LSEP is quite large in relation to other ARPA projects. Research into the effects of Legal Aid on housing in general could likely be used to provide an evidence base for this project but there is a fair amount of both quasi-experimental and descriptive studies done on LSEP specifically. In an attempt to provide both applicable and pertinent research to LSEP in Baltimore County, studies have been selected that provide sufficient evidence into the effectiveness of LSEP in Baltimore County.

*Quantitative Framework*

The first probable randomized experimental study done into LSEP, was a study released in 2001 in the Law and Society review named *The Impact of Legal Counsel on Outcomes for Poor Tenants In New York City's Housing Court: Results of a Randomized Experiment*.

The study set out to be the first experimental research into two specific questions, the first, "Does the provision of legal counsel affect outcomes for low-income tenants in Housing Court, including final judgements, warrants of eviction, and stipulations requiring rent abatement or repairs to the property?", and the second, "Does the provision of legal counsel for low-income tenants produce delays and other inefficiencies for the Court, including a lengthening of the average time required by the Court to dispose of a case and an increase in the number of motions filed?" (Seron et al. 422).

These questions came about in lieu of the state of evictions and housing court at large in 1990s New York. New York has a specialized Housing Court, that only deals with housing (usually rental) disputes. Some 300,000 cases were handled by the Housing Court at this time, 100,000 of which being eviction cases (Galowitz). Of these cases, a somewhat conservative study found that only 21% of tenants were represented by a lawyer, whereas 78% of landlords were represented by a lawyer (Citywide Taskforce on Housing Court). These among other factors led to great conditions for a study of this kind, as the need for something like LSEP was extremely evident.

The study began in 1993 after the Interest on Lawyer Accounts Fund of New York provided funds for The Pro Bono Project against Homelessness. "Attorneys from 17 firms were recruited and received basic training by CLO (Legal Aid Society Community Law Offices in the Society's Volunteer Division) attorneys in the housing code and related matters of litigating in the Housing Court" (Seron et al. 422). An important stipulation to make is that these lawyers needed training in housing code as they were not housing specific lawyers. This will later speak to the effectiveness of having any sort of Legal Aid during eviction cases. A plan of action was developed by CLO's housing attorneys for the volunteer attorneys to follow.

A simple randomized experiment was generated by recruiting about 400 tenants waiting in line at the Clerk's office of Manhattan Housing Court, where half would be the treatment group (those that would receive legal counsel), and half would be the control. Eligibility was granted by CLO attorneys if the tenant was facing eviction, and if they met income eligibility requirements. Eventually, 134 eligible tenants were randomly assigned to treatment and 134 eligible were randomly assigned to control. The cases were overseen by the same three judges, who had a "strong reputation as equitable and fair decisionmakers" (Seron et al. 424).

Among the control group, only 4% sought out their own legal representation, while in the treatment group only 56% of tenants ended up receiving counsel. In turn, the effects of receiving legal counsel should be even greater than what was found in this study. Nine variables were assessed in the results of this study, the most relevant of which showed:

- 28% of control cases showed defaults or failure to appear in housing court, while only 16% of treatment cases did so
- Judgements were issued against 52% of control cases, 32% of treatment cases
- **Warrants of evictions were issued in 43.5% of control cases, 24.1% of treatment cases**

Results were more favorable for the treatment group when using an "instrumental variables (IV) estimation of the effect of legal representation itself on the same outcomes as in Table 2 (the outcomes shown above)" (Seron et al. 428). It's explained that "The findings from this experiment clearly show that when low-income tenants in New York City's Housing Court are provided with legal counsel, they experience significantly more beneficial procedural outcomes than their pro se counterparts. Represented tenants are much less likely to have a final judgment and order of eviction against them and more likely to benefit from a stipulation requiring a rent abatement or repair to their apartment." (Seron et al. 429).

Results from Seron et al. are applicable to Baltimore County's LSEP program. The same group of tenants are being targeted; aid is being administered in largely the same way, to achieve similar goals. The results of our program are likely the same, however we do not have access to recordsf of how many tenants enter court without a lawyer. This could be extremely helpful as we do know the outcomes of eviction cases. However, there are some differences between this study and what is occurring in Baltimore County's LSEP as follows:

- Maryland Legal Services Corporation recently stated that pre-pandemic "more than 22% of Marylanders – approximately 1.3 million people – were already income-eligible for MLSC-funded civil legal services" ("Funding for Civil Legal Aid in Maryland Faces Drastic Decline")
- Percentage of renters is higher in 1990s New York than in current Baltimore County
- Particularly "fair" judges were chosen, this may not reflect the spontaneity of real cases
- Attorneys in this study were not strictly practicing housing law. PBRC and St. Ambrose both have attorneys that practice housing law, such that their efficiency in preventing negative housing outcomes could be greater
- This study did not prove that tenants will not get evicted down the line, only that legal counsel can prevent eviction when it is offered.
- This study did not answer "What specifically did the lawyers do that produced these substantive results?" (Seron et al. 431)

*Close To Home Research*

The Stout Report for Baltimore City was executed by Stout Risius Ross, LLC (Stout) in efforts to prove the effectiveness / applicability of Legal Services for housing cases to Baltimore City. The report draws from over 200 different sources / studies done into Legal Aid. Thus, this report has an extremely high amount of data that is valuable to build the evidence base for LSEP. However, the main pertinence of the Stout report in terms of Baltimore County's LSEP is their analysis of sample cases from the District Court of Maryland in Baltimore City, in an attempt to estimate:

1. "The cost of providing a right to counsel in Baltimore City"
2. "The impact of a right to counsel in Baltimore City"
3. "The cost of eviction to Baltimore City and potential cost savings to Baltimore City if a right to counsel were implemented. "(Stout 60)

While not an experimental study, the Stout report provides a look into the state of evictions in 2019 Baltimore City. A sample of eviction filings were obtained from the District Court of Maryland in Baltimore City in order to first determine how many tenant residents would have a "high likelihood of avoiding disruptive displacement if right to counsel were not implemented (i.e., an estimate of the current number of income eligible tenants with a high likelihood of avoiding disruptive displacement)" (Stout 65). The phrase disruptive displacement used by Stout to include more outcomes than eviction when referring to the consequences of an eviction warrant being issued against a tenant. This allows for a more comprehensive review of said consequences and their economic and social costs. Although there was "132,000 non-payment of rent filings in Baltimore City in 2019" (Stout 61) only a small fraction of these involves unique tenants that would be eligible for free legal counsel. This comes out to about 6900 tenants who would be eligible for legal counsel, eligibility being defined by a number of factors, mainly being those whose:

1. "Landlords are not using eviction filings as a rent collection mechanism". Using eviction filing is an extreme problem in Baltimore City, perpetrated by the cost of filing for eviction only being $30, an unusually low amount (Stout 61)
2. "Are not losing their case by default". Finding these tenants is very difficult, as they did not appear in court (Stout 65)
3. "Would be income eligible" (Stout 65). This was defined by Stout as under 50% of median income.

In the examination of these 6900 tenants, Stout found that "approximately 99 percent of these tenants are currently unrepresented" (Stout 65). This is a huge chunk of renters (17,300 people when considering average household size (Stout 66) that could avoid "disruptive displacement", in other words negative housing consequences as result of eviction filings, with the help of free legal counsel. While this is a significant enough number in itself, Stout attempts to quantify the cost of the affected group receiving legal counsel by considering the costs of the negative externalities of persons being "disruptively displaced". These cost estimates are based off of 2019 Baltimore City pricings, whereas one can assume that Baltimore County would experience similar costs simply due to proximity. Below is a chart detailing the cost savings associated with LSEP.

The Economic Impact of an Eviction Right to Counsel in Baltimore City
Exhibit A - Summary of the Cost of Eviction, Potential Cost Savings, and the Dollar Value of a Right to Counsel

| | | Baltimore City | Maryland | Total | Detailed Calculation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Estimated Annual Emergency Shelter and Housing Program Costs as a Result of Disruptive Displacement [a] | $10,615,735 | N/A | $10,615,735 | Exhibits B.1 and B.2 |
| 2 | Estimated State-Provided Foundational Program Funding for Baltimore City Public Schools Lost | $2,302,578 | N/A | $2,302,578 | Exhibit C |
| 3 | Estimated Annual Transportation Costs Avoided Related to Students Experiencing Homelessness in Baltimore City Public Schools | $2,438,000 | N/A | $2,438,000 | Exhibit D |
| 4 | Estimated Annual Additional Medicaid Spending by Baltimore City Related to Individuals Experiencing Homelessness as a Result of Disruptive Displacement | $1,998,342 | $10,491,298 | $12,489,640 | Exhibit E.1 and E.2 |
| 5 | Estimated Annual Foster Care Boarding and Administrative Costs Paid by Baltimore City as a Result of Disruptive Displacement | $103,229 | $7,638,969 | $7,742,198 | Exhibit F.1 and F.2 |
| 6 | Total Estimated Annual Costs of Disruptive Displacement and Potential Costs Avoided as a Result of a Right to Counsel | $17,457,885 | $18,130,266 | $35,588,151 | |
| 7 | Total Estimated Cost to Baltimore City to Provide a Right to Counsel to Eligible Tenants | $5,704,841 | | $5,704,841 | |
| 8 | Estimated Dollar Value of a Right to Counsel | $3.06 | | $6.24 | |

[a] A portion of the estimated $10.6 million cost of disruptive displacement in Baltimore City related to annual emergency shelter and housing program costs is likely paid by Maryland. However, publicly available data through the Mayor's Office of Human Services budget does not provide the level of detail needed to separate the cost between Baltimore City and Maryland. For presentation purposes, the total $10.6 million is shown as attributable to Baltimore City.

*Figure 1: From Stout Exhibit A*

The 5 categories of costs of disruptive displacement avoided explained briefly are as follows :

1. Emergency Shelter and Housing Programs – Stout estimates 1,444 households that would avoid entering emergency shelter without legal counsel. With an estimated average emergency shelter stay cost as $3,390, avoiding 1,444 emergency housing stays would result in $4.9 million in savings annually for Baltimore County. Stout estimates that 58% of the 1,444 households (838 households) that would theoretically enter emergency shelter would also subsequentially enter a temporary housing program. Temporary housing programs are estimated as having an average stay cost of $6,301, thus savings of $5.3 million annually. An estimated 7% of persons that would enter emergency shelter enter mental/physical health institutions, with an estimated daily cost of $485, thus $440,000 in costs avoided annually. These costs avoided total to **$10.6 million** annually. (Stout 67-70)
2. Baltimore City Schools Public Funding Lost – Stout estimates 346 students in Baltimore City Public Schools (BCPS) "who may be chronically absent because of disruptive displacement. Of these 346 students, Stout estimates that 92% of their households would avoid the high likelihood of disruptive displacement if a right to counsel were implemented in Baltimore City." (Stout 72). Less funding is given from the State of Maryland to BCPS when attendance is lower. A $7,244 estimate is used to quantify the decrease in funding from one student's chronic absenteeism, thus a **$2.3 million** annual loss of funding is estimated due to absenteeism as a result of lack of legal counsel. (Stout 72)
3. Transportation Costs for Students Experiencing Homelessness – The McKinney-Vento act of 1987 gave unhoused students have the to continue attending their school of origin regardless of where they are currently living. This transportation is paid for by local governments. Data from BCPS showed that $10.6 million was spent on this transportation. Stout estimates that 275 students would not be unhoused if legal counsel was implemented, with an estimated per student cost for transportation of $8,855. This totals to **$2.4 million** annually in savings. (Stout 73)
4. Medicaid Spending for In-patient and Emergency Room Care – Stout estimates "average cost of in-patient care and emergency room care per individual experiencing homelessness is $37,906 and $7,602, respectively. Applying per individual costs to the portion of individuals who are experiencing homelessness as a result of disruptive displacement and would have utilized each type of are and are enrolled in Medicaid and then adjusting for non-federal and local portions of Medicaid expenditures results in estimated cost savings to Baltimore City of approximately **$1.6 million** for in-patient care and approximately **$414,000** in emergency room care." (Stout 74-75).

5. Foster Care Boarding and Administrative Costs – Stout estimates 7,162 children at risk of entering foster care due to disruptive displacement experienced by their household. Further estimates show that 285 children would be placed in foster care, with a yearly cost estimate of $29,351. Only “approximately one percent of foster care boarding costs are paid by Baltimore City” (Stout 77), which results in **$84,000** annually in estimated savings for Baltimore County. Stout also estimates **$19,000** in saved annual administrative costs. (Stout 77)

In total, Stout estimates about $17.5 million in savings from these 5 leading categories if a $5.7 million plan to implement right to counsel was executed. There is a variety of other costs savings that could not be quantified, such as employment stability, or better educational outcomes, such that Stout claims this estimate is somewhat conservative. Also, there is a large portion of savings estimated for the state of Maryland, totaling $18.1 million. These cost savings estimates dwarf the cost of a legal counsel program, but would Baltimore County experience cost savings to a similar degree?

While these estimations are compelling, an examination into if these savings were actualized would be more concrete in providing evidence for LSEP in Baltimore County. Post the Stout report, the City of Baltimore enacted an eviction right to counsel for low-income tenants in December 2020. $2.4 Million was to be spent on this program by July 1st, 2023. Furthermore, the state also passed legislation to provide tenants legal counsel in eviction proceedings in October of 2021. Funding of Maryland’s access to counsel program was extended in 2023 to the tune of $14,000,000 It would be possible to estimate the savings brought about by legal counsel with actual data. This type of research would be extremely helpful in determining the amount that Baltimore County should be spending on LSEP.

*Discussion*

It could be argued that Baltimore County’s eviction problem is worse than its counterpart in the city, such that investment in LSEP would be even more beneficial than what was estimated in the Stout report. Baltimore County has historically had the highest failure to rent filings in the State, although it is the third most populous jurisdiction in the state (behind Montgomery and Prince George’s counties). In the most recent period (7/1/23-5/31/24), court data from Maryland DHCD shows that Baltimore County had 49,384 Petitions for Warrant of Restitutions filed, 41,115 Warrants of Restitutions canceled or expired, and 5,006 Warrants of Restitutions resulting in eviction. Baltimore City had had 32,869 Petitions for Warrant of Restitutions filed, 7,533 Warrants of Restitutions canceled or expired, and 3,510 Warrants of Restitutions resulting in eviction. While this doesn’t capture all data (tenant move outs, tenant pays to stay (redemption) after WOR ordered, tenant was illegally evicted, etc. are not included among other things), we still see that Baltimore County had 16,515 more Warrant of Restitution filings, and 1,496 more evictions in the 11-month period. This data also speaks to a problem that is experienced more in Baltimore City, where landlords frequently file Warrants of Restitution as a means to collect rent. Data provided by the District Court of Maryland in 2023 differs somewhat, as they report 4,991 evictions in Baltimore City (in 2023), and 5,005 in Baltimore County. While there is a smaller difference between the jurisdictions, we still see that Baltimore County has a significant number of evictions when compared to Baltimore City. However, this data does not claim to be an accurate reflection of all evictions that occur.

*Conclusion*

Causal evidence for the implementation of LSEP is established through “The Impact of Legal Counsel on Outcomes for Poor Tenants In New York City’s Housing Court: Results of a Randomized Experiment”. Stout’s work on legal counsel in Baltimore City provides a great amount of evidence for Legal Counsel’s effectiveness and cost-effectiveness in Baltimore County’s closest neighbor. Evidence could be further solidified through an investigation into the impact that large-scale legal counsel is having in Baltimore City. However, there is a breadth of evidence supporting LSEP that was not examined in this piece, such that use-of-evidence standards are met easily. BCSTAT and DHCD have monitored outcomes from both LSEP contractors.

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### *Expenditure Subcategory 2.30-Technical Assistance, Counseling, or Business Planning*

**Project Name:**

Small Business Consultants

**Expenditure Subcategory:**

Expenditure Subcategory 2.30-Technical Assistance, Counseling, or Business Planning

**Review Type:**

Literature Review

**Project Overview:**

This project supports the hiring of a small business resource consultant within the Department of Economic and Workforce Development. This is directed toward addressing the extensive negative impacts of the pandemic on small businesses. Th Small Business Consultant provided small business counseling sessions at 6 libraries locations. These counseling sessions include making referrals to business resources for starting a business and supporting existing businesses.

**Research Overview:**

*Introduction*

This project supports the hiring of two small business resource consultants within the Department of Economic and Workforce Development. The two hires are a small part of addressing the extensive negative impacts of the pandemic on small businesses. More specifically, the small business consultants provided services surrounding entrepreneurship, business planning, resource referrals, finances, grants and loans, follow-up, and information sharing in the White Marsh, Parkville, North Point, Reisterstown, Randallstown and Woodlawn areas. The consultants served 300 individuals in 2023, and as of May 30, 2024, they have served 129 individuals. Many individuals sought assistance with starting a business, while others looked to expand their existing businesses. This project is a pilot program in Baltimore County.  The State of Maryland has programs that provide similar services; however, it seems these resources are paid for by the businesses themselves. On a local level, it seems that peer jurisdictions are not providing similar services.

The key question is whether existing studies supports the hiring of two small business resource consultants. After reviewing the body of research and evidence base for this intervention this project meets Federal Use-of-Evidence standards with a backing of strong evidence. As defined by the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance appendix 2; “[s]trong evidence means that the evidence base can support causal conclusions for the specific program proposed by the applicant with the highest level of confidence. This consists of one or more well-designed and well-implemented experimental studies conducted on the proposed program with positive findings on one or more intended outcomes.

*Body*

A study published in Entrepreneurship Theory and Practice titles T*he Impact Of Consulting On Small Business: A Further Examination,* examined the results of a survey of 126 businesses that received assistance from the University of Utah Small Business Development Center. The study found that “Several data analyses show that the highest percentage of businesses (30.2%) sought assistance to solve existing business problems. A large percentage, 66%, sought help in general business planning and planning for expansion. Of the respondents, 81% were either very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the services they received, and 82% found the recommendations extremely or somewhat helpful. In terms of sales, profit, net worth, and number of employees, manager-owners perceived the consulting as having either a positive effect or no effect on their business.” One drawback is only the abstract was available, and so there are not many conclusions that we can draw from this article. Additionally, mail surveys are not the most reliable method of data collection – even with a response rate of 106 out of 126. Generally, the statistics provided by the abstract align with the conclusions that many researchers have come to, that small business consultants have positive impacts on existing business.

Another article, published in the Mid-American Journal of Business from Western Illinois University, titled *Small Business Consultants: Improving the Delivery of Outside Assistance* sought to improve the efficacy of small business consultants. The Journal conducted a thorough literature review, with articles ranging from 1976 – 1989, to determine their methodology. Based on their literature review, the researchers came to the overall conclusion that outside assistance. They categorize effectiveness into two general themes: “collective economic impact of outside assistance on the small businesses assisted as well as on the state in which they operated… The second dimension examines the impact of outside services on the functional areas of small business. The literature reviewed showed that the delivery of outside assistance is very effective [citations omitted]. ”Under the first category of assistance, researchers found that small businesses that sought consulting experiences as much as  a 43.1% increase in net profits, 21.2% increase in gross sales, and up to 11.65% in overall net worth. The main drawbacks of this article are its age and its scope – namely how its primary conclusions focus on changes that small business consultants can make to increase the efficacy of their services. Contrarily, the literature review provides insights to the wide range of research that had been done at the time. Based on the findings of the research, it seems that the individuals that utilized the consultants to expand their businesses will likely see positive results from those services.

Another study published in the Journal of Small Business Strategy titled “*The Impact Of Public Assistance Programs On Small Businesses:  Strategic Planning, Entrepreneurship Resources Usage, and Market Orientation as Mediating Variables*, looked at a “quantitative empirical longitudinal study of small trade and service businesses that participated in a coaching program initiated by the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Labor in Israel.”  The study came to the overall conclusion that “The direct effect model supports Hypothesis 1 and strengthens previous research findings, such as Chrisman (1999), which claims that the mere presence of public assistance programs is sufficient for establishing a higher level of performance in small businesses.”. It also supposed some of same conclusions as the previous study that there was a marked increase in  This study is highly applicable to the Baltimore County project, because the purpose of the study was to understand the impact of public assistance programs that affect small businesses – which is very similar to the project in Baltimore County. One draw back of this study is takes place out of the United States, so some of the applications may not be relevant in the context of Baltimore County

Overall, research surrounding this topic strongly support the hiring of 2 small business consultants in Baltimore County. While there is not much research that discusses the role of

small business consultants in starting a new business, there is a significant body of research that support the

*Conclusion*

After reviewing the body of research and evidence base for this intervention this project meets Federal Use-of-Evidence standards with a backing of strong evidence. As defined by the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance appendix 2; “[s]trong evidence means that the evidence base can support causal conclusions for the specific program proposed by the applicant with the highest level of confidence. This consists of one or more well-designed and well-implemented experimental studies conducted on the proposed program with positive findings on one or more intended outcomes.

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### *Expenditure Subcategory 2.37-Economic Impact Assistance: Other*

**Project Name:**

Essex Recovery Initiative

**Expenditure Subcategory:**

Expenditure Subcategory 2.37-Economic Impact Assistance: Other

**Review Type:**

Other

**Project Overview:**

A multi-departmental place-based recovery initiative in the Essex community, an area which has been disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Multiple projects reported elsewhere in this report (Automated License Plate Reader, Portable Observation Devices, Firearms Discharge Detection System, Tree Equity, Recycling and Trash Cart Pilot) are overseen by the Essex Initiative Coordinator funded under this project.

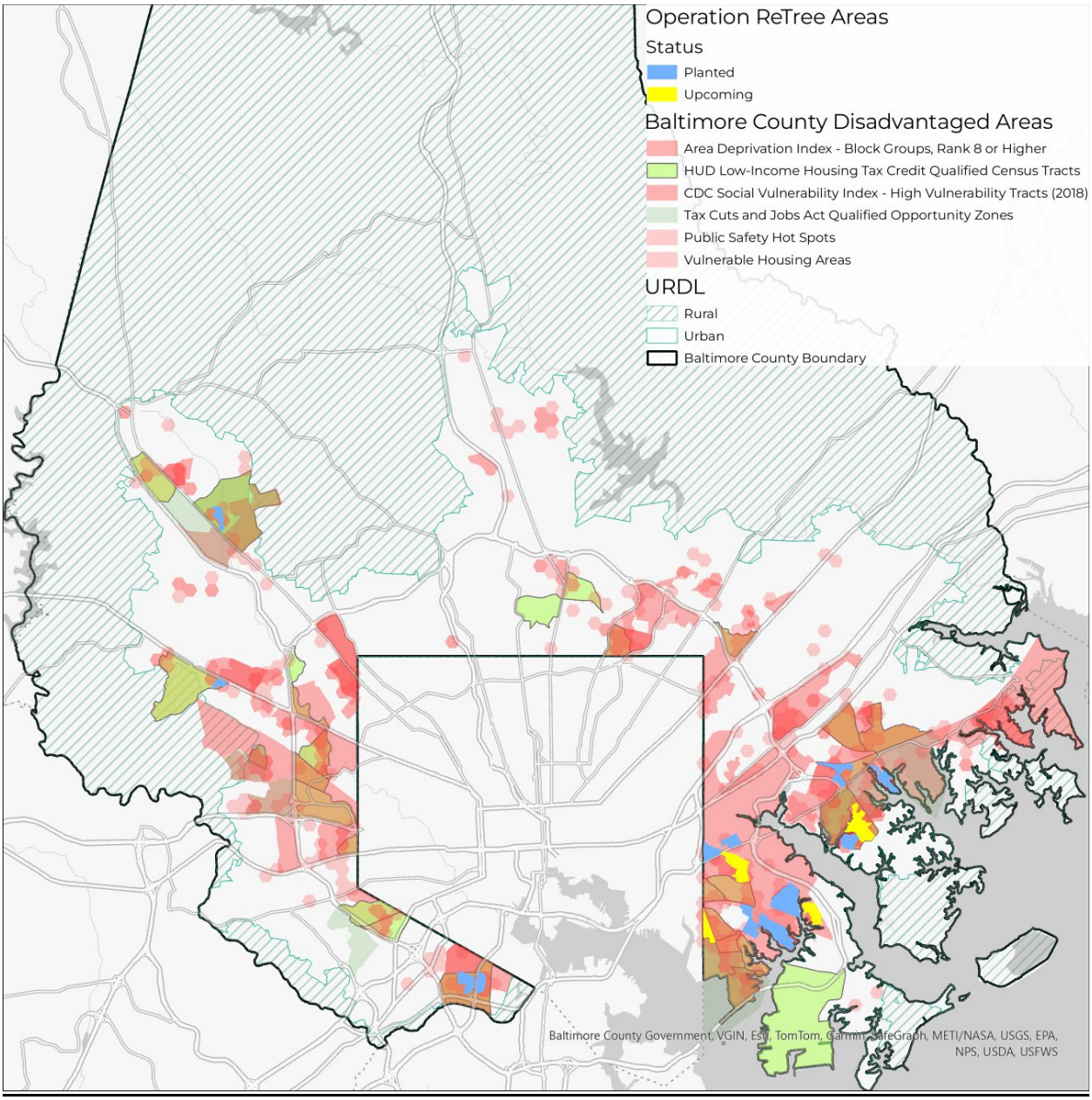
**Research Overview:**

*General Overview:*

While ARPA-funded initiatives in Essex are being tracked individually, general trends of various social, demographic, and economic variables are being established for future comparison. The Baltimore County Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) application contains many data sources within five data domains which can be referenced, and BCSTAT facilitates Stat sessions incorporating upper leadership into the investigation of trends and outliers. Alongside Stat sessions and the SDOH tool, projections and comparisons are made with data from the American Community Survey (ACS) and other federal sources. Research on neighborhood improvement initiatives often spans a wide range of data sources, and BCSTAT continues to research potential measures and metrics as it develops a long-term evaluation plan.

*Operation ReTree:*

As trees are planted in eligible areas, the total number of trees and their cost is tracked. In fiscal year 2022, 417 trees were expensed for a total of $247,684.56. In fiscal year 2023, fall outreach materials in the Hawthorne and Lansdowne areas cost $13,858.89. 225 trees were planted in Charlesmont and Colgate, for an additional $188,094.04. In fiscal year 2024, $888,237.66 was spent on outreach as well as fall and spring plantings. Of the balance to be encumbered by 12/31/2024, $1,337,875.15 has been spent and a balance of $162,124.85 remains.




*Trash Cart Pilot:*

The effectiveness of the Trash Cart Program is evaluated using code enforcement violation reports. For each collection route to which carts have been distributed, violations related to rodents, trash, junk, and debris are aggregated and normalized. The aggregated metric, violations per 1000 addresses per sweep, is comparable across different neighborhoods and timeframes. To investigate trends in violations, this metric is compared across Baltimore County before and after the distribution of the trash carts. So far, particularly in Essex, the program is showing promising trends in violation rate.

*Essex Outreach:*

Metrics for the Essex Initiative are tracked via constituent responses to an online survey. The survey is promoted and administered at community events as well, including local farmers' markets, festivals, and holiday celebrations. Feedback is collected on different aspects of living in the community: these topics include safety (and perceived safety), school performance, and Baltimore County Government's performance related to community issues. Trends are investigated as revitalization efforts continue, to ensure that the work is well-received by those impacted.

*ECDC Retail Gap Analysis:*

The Essex Community Development Corporation (ECDC) computed a retail gap analysis across the Essex Boulevard stretch of MD150 (Eastern Boulevard) to identify untapped retail markets in the area. Via market data analysis, business engagement, public sector and community engagement, and strategy workshops, the gaps that were identified include: food and entertainment, small-scale retail, fitness and wellness, and mixed-use retail. Alongside the retail gap analysis was a community pulse survey, which polled constituents on businesses of interest along the corridor.

*Library Social Worker:*

Baltimore County Public Libraries have two social workers who assist library patrons. One social worker is stationed at the Essex Branch location, and the other serves the Central region branches. The social workers keep count of the number of constituents served, which is shared with BCPL. To date, the social workers have served 166 customers total, with 126 customers assisted from June-Sept 2023 at the Essex Branch and 40 customers served from Sept-Nov 2023 across the Central region.

### *Expenditure Subcategory 2.4-Household Assistance: Internet Access Programs*

**Project Name:**

Digital Inclusion - Seniors

**Expenditure Subcategory:**

Expenditure Subcategory 2.4-Household Assistance: Internet Access Programs

**Review Type:**

Literature Review

**Project Overview:**

The Baltimore County Department of Aging will be utilizing ARPA funds to hire a Digital Inclusion Coordinator to establish tools, training, and resources to empower older adults with technology. It will be this position's responsibility to develop partnerships to offer free technology classes throughout the County for older adults. Additionally, the position will research and educate the community on resources to pay for or assist with paying for devices and connectivity. Finally, the position will develop a Helpline where older adults can call or connect via Zoom to get their technology questions answered.

250 iPads (the full amount budgeted for and purchased) have been distributed. Three quarters of technology classes have been held through Senior Planet. Affordable Connectivity Program Application Assistance and Education events are being offered at all 20 Baltimore County senior centers to improve awareness of this new federal free or reduced Wi-Fi program for residents. Tech Support continues to be offered on a weekly basis.

*Research Overview*

*Introduction*

This project comprises a relatively conventional digital accessibility program targeted toward older adults. The core components of the intervention—distribution of technology (iPads), free technology classes, assistance via a helpline, and additional outreach and engagement responsibilities—are in no way atypical or experimental in nature. Consequently, this project should not be viewed as a pilot or innovation, but rather as implementation of an established set of practices.

A wealth of research exists on programs and practices designed to address the digital divide in general, as well as with respect to older adults specifically. Literature is not limited to the United States; European and East Asian researchers have been active in this space for decades. The impact of the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic on the digital divide, senior citizens, and the *intersection of the two, has been similarly explored in depth in the past several years.*

*Research question(s)*

The key research question for this review is: Does the distribution of hardware devices, supported by accessibility and engagement services, result in positive health and wellness outcomes in senior citizens who have been adversely affected by the digital divide (exacerbated by the pandemic)?

*Thesis*

Based on the body of research surrounding this question, this project should be considered evidence-based for ARPA-SLFRF purposes.

*Review of Evidence*

Research on the impact of the digital divide on older adults far predates the pandemic, and studies from the pandemic period and beyond are particularly relevant to this review. A 2010 experimental study examined the effects of a digital inclusion program on cognitive performance in 42 adults aged 60 years older in Brazil. The authors of this study note that "little empirical data about the impact of digital inclusion on cognition among older adults and describe an older body of studies ranging from 1994 to 2009 (Ordonez et al, 2010, 1). This study represented an early attempt to provide quantitative evidence toward an unsettled question. 22 of the 42 total study participants were designated as the experimental group and participated in a digital inclusion workshop, while 20 served as the control group. Experimental group participants received 15 120-minute lessons in the basics of computing. Both groups completed a cognitive test prior to and following the workshops. This cognitive test, the ACE-R, assessed 5 categories: orientation and attention; memory; verbal fluency; language; and visuo-spatial skills (Ordonez et al, 2010, 2). Assessing the results, the authors conclude, "Statistical analyses point out that, after participation in the digital inclusion workshop, [experimental group] members achieved significantly higher scores in the domains of memory, language and visuospatial skills, as well as in the MMSE and in the ACE-R overall score (Ordonez et al, 2010, 3). The authors go on to remark, "the present paper suggests that digital inclusion can represent an important strategy for cognitive enhancement for older adults, which may assist them to continue to perform daily activities independently" (Ordonez et al, 2010, 4).

*Pre-Pandemic Experimental Studies*

The 2010 experimental study strongly supports the digital training and education aspect of this project. Subsequent research lends further support to the model adopted by Baltimore County specifically. In a 2018 study published in the journal Frontiers in ICT, researchers in Mexico compared the effects of in person vs blended digital literacy workshops for older adults. The study's authors note the increasing necessity of digital literacy for older adults in accessing internet-based services (including health, banking, education, and others), alongside growing interest in digital skills among the population of interest (Martinez-Alcala et al, 2018, 2). Highlighting the importance of "increasing older adults' digital competencies, as these grant them a variety of advantages and benefits at a personal and social level," the authors emphasize the importance of identifying effective learning and teaching strategies (Martinez-Alcala et al, 2018, 2). For this study, 98 adults aged 60 and over were divided into two groups. 61 older adults participated in the face-to-face workshop (3 in-person lessons) on digital literacy, while 37 participated in the blended workshop (a mix of in-person and multimedia lessons). Comparing pre- and post- digital literacy assessments between both groups, the authors find digital literacy improvements at the post-evaluation stage for both face-to-face and blended workshops, but note greater improvements for the blended workshops. Blended workshops were associated with overall improvements in ease of use, perceived usefulness, attitude toward using, and intention to use(Martinez-Alcala et al, 2018, 10-14).

The findings from this study lend strong support to the mixture of classes and tech support adopted by Baltimore County. Academic research further supports the final component of this

project: distribution of iPads to seniors. Delello and McWhorter's mixed-method study on the effect of iPad use on social health outcomes in older adults finds that "the use of technology increased knowledge, elicited closer family ties, and led to a greater overall connection to society" (Delello and McWhorter 2015, 1). In-depth interview data collected in a 2015 study on older adults in the southern United States highlighted the role of tablets in helping "increase a sense of connectedness" and fostering digital inclusion among older adults (Tsai et al, 2015, 1). Taken collectively, the consistency of results across the United States and internationally, combined with further research done in this space during the pandemic period, suggests results should be broadly generalizable to this intervention.

*Pandemic Impact*

Research and analysis conducted on similar digital-connectedness programs during and immediately following the pandemic further add weight to the evidence base supporting this intervention. The need for digital equity and access resources for older adults during the pandemic has been documented thoroughly. Stanford University's Moore and Hancock review a wide range of literature on this topic in their 2020 research paper. In particular, while social interaction during the period of social distancing is critical for older adults, this demographic is simultaneously less likely to have access to the necessary digital technologies and skills (Moore and Hancock, 2020, 3-5). Among their recommendations, they encourage governments to "provide supportive communication and resources for older adults as we move toward re-opening" (Moore and Hancock, 2020, 6). More quantitatively, a 2021 study published in the journal JMIR Aging used random sampling to gather data on older adults (a "cross-sectional, population-based, regionally representative survey by using the random-digit dialing method to reach participants aged >65 years who live in British Columbia") (Hasse et al, 2021) 2). Their results identify a positive role of technology in mitigating the negative impact of social isolation during the pandemic, with the authors concluding: "Web-based socialization is the most promising method for mitigating potential mental health effects that are related to virus containment strategies" (Hasse et al, 2021, 8). Significantly, both the availability of technologies such as iPads as well as training and education in using these technologies are identified as key factors to achieving positive mental and social health outcomes (Hasse et al, 2021, 4-6).

The 2020 Technology, Access and Support for Seniors (TASS) project in the York Region of Canada—a joint effort of the United Way, Municipalities of York and Muskoka, and eleven senior-serving organizations—distributed over 400 android tablets preloaded with apps and data to seniors in the community. Survey and interview data collected by York University to assess the project after a minimum of three months of participation finds a range of positive outcomes: "TASS bridged the first, second and third digital divides among seniors; lessened material barriers to digital uptake; sustained seniors' social and emotional health and well-being; sustained seniors' physical health and well-being; facilitated aging in place; and enhanced intergenerational learning and support" (Kamenitz et al, 2020, 13-20). Supplementing this qualitative real-world feedback, a wide-ranging analysis in Spain assessed older adults (over 54 years) participating in technological support service in four settings: nursing homes, senior community centers, university programs for seniors, and adult education programs. A total of 560 participants were sampled and surveyed at random, with quotas of 140 per setting (tirado-Morueta et al, 2021, 1410-1415). Based on statistical analysis of survey results, the authors find that the availability of technical support can balance gaps in the availability of technology caused to age, economic situation and gender (1426). Users who received a high frequency of

support showed a greater probability of demonstrating high-level digital skills (1428). Significantly, “a high frequency of literacy support severely increased” the probability of participants seeking social connectivity online, “helping to balance differences due to status and gender” (1428-29). These findings in Canada and Spain align closely with the goals and structure of Baltimore County’s program—offering both technology access and support to address social wellbeing and digital equity concerns.

*Conclusion*

Baltimore County’s Digital Inclusion program is founded on a large amount of research and evidence dating from prior to the pandemic to the present. The need for this intervention, both independent of and exacerbated by the pandemic, has been well established. Similarly, multiple studies provide evidence that positive social, mental, and behavioral health outcomes are associated with interventions of this kind.

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