

# AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Recovery Plan

Quarterly Report for the Period Ending September 30, 2022

Mayor Sylvester Turner  
City of Houston



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## Letter from Mayor Sylvester Turner

Dear Houstonians,

As promised, this Administration continues to make public safety our first priority. Thanks to the State and Local Fiscal Relief Funds provided by the Biden- Harris Administration, our One Safe Houston program is making a difference in driving down crime rates and access to guns.

Two programs that I would like to highlight include our Domestic Abuse Response Teams (DART) and our highly successful Gun Buy-Back program.

Given October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the investment in ARPA dollars that Houston has made in our DART program cannot be overstated.

As detailed in this report, our DART program has now assisted over 4,000 victims in the over 30,000 domestic violence incidents handled by the Houston Police Department. Offering direct interventions and support services has driven down the number of domestic violence related homicides as well as the total number of domestic violence incidents. Over three quarters of the victims we have helped are people of color.

Our holistic investment is working and literally saving lives.

But one area remains stubbornly high: violent crime by firearms in domestic violence cases. The data shows we have to address violent crime by firearm, and the next program does just that.

The One Safe Houston Gun Buy-Back distributed nearly \$100,000 in gift cards on Saturday, July 30. The gun buyback was a no questions asked event, with the gift card amount determined by the type and working condition of the gun. HPD will check each gun collected to determine if it was stolen or used in a crime, with HPD destroying all guns that cannot be returned to their rightful owners or not considered evidence in a crime.

- During the July 30<sup>th</sup> gun buyback, Houston Police collected 793 guns, including 281 long guns, and 512 pistols.

The successful event was a collaboration between Mayor Turner, Harris County Commissioner Rodney Ellis, U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, and the Houston Police Department. U.S. Rep. Al Green, Council Member Abbie Kamin and other elected officials and community leaders participated in the event at Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church. The partnership with faith-based organizations was key to the success of this first buy-back program.

The combination of our DART program and initiatives like our Gun Buy-Back program have made a difference in making our neighborhoods safer and empowering residents to partner with the Houston Police Department.

But for the funding from the American Rescue Plan Act, these programs would not be possible. My sincere thanks to everyone who has helped in these efforts.

Sincerely,



Sylvester Turner Mayor



**ARPA**



# Executive Summary

***Because of ARPA, the City of Houston is able to invest over \$53 million in One Safe Houston strategies and programs. But for the funding provided by federal government, these vital investment in public safety would not be possible.***

The secondary effects of the coronavirus pandemic continue to plague the country. Yet the demand for government services at every level continues to increase while inflation threatens to raise the cost of meeting these needs. While the worst of the economic situation may be behind us, the effects will be felt for years.

It cannot be overstated that the State and Local Fiscal Relief Funds from the American Rescue Plan Act have been critical to addressing these impacts. The Biden Administration has provided the resources allowing local governments to take action, especially in the area of public safety. Every city has unique challenges. The flexible funding in ARPA has not only prevented major budgetary cuts and layoffs, but helped fund evidence based solutions that holistically address public safety.

### One Safe Houston

Public safety is the first priority for the City of Houston and Mayor Sylvester Turner. The Houston Police Department (HPD) has over 5,200 officers and is the largest police department in the State of Texas. As such, it receives the largest portion of the \$53 million investment that funds the One Safe Houston program. Other city departments, such as the Houston Parks Department and Houston Health Department, also receive funding under One Safe Houston.

One Safe Houston's largest investment is a \$23 million investment to expand Crisis Intervention programs focusing on behavioral health interventions within the Houston Police Department.

- Crisis Intervention Response Teams (CIRT) and the Crisis Call Diversion (CCD) program are

expanding, which were the top recommendations for crisis intervention by the Mayor's Commission on Police Reform. These programs are outlined in the HPD's 2021 Mental Health Division Annual Report found at <https://www.houstoncit.org/annual-report/>

- Clinician Officer Remote Evaluation (CORE) will equip 80 HPD officers per shift with the ability to offer emergency telehealth via online interactions on tablets. This builds off the very successful program from the Harris County Sheriff's Office that allowed law enforcement with immediate access to mental health professionals while in the community.
- Mobile Crisis Outreach Teams (MCOT) will be providing an option outside of a law enforcement response. Working with the Harris Center for Mental Health and Intellectual Developmental Disabilities, the City of Houston is providing ARPA funding for these response teams for interventions that do not pose a risk to public safety. Harris Center Executive Director Wayne Young is encouraged by the pilot program results and is staffing up MCOT teams to make this deployment for more appropriate medical care available for HPD.

The second largest pot of funding involves overtime for HPD officers. With the help of ARPA dollars, our One Safe Houston plan has already invested almost \$12 million for Overtime for HPD – funding an additional 125 officers per day. The officers have been deployed primarily based on data driven, evidence-based analysis of when and where the most violent crimes are occurring.

At \$9.6 million in funding, the One Safe Houston's Domestic and Sexual Abuse Responses continues to



provide ongoing service first reported in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2021. Domestic Abuse Response Teams (DART) provide specially trained, two-person mobile teams consisting of one HPD officer and one victim advocate responding to “high risk” domestic violence crime scenes.

Finally, the last portion of One Safe Houston with HPD involves an investment in gun buyback programs. On July 30<sup>th</sup>, the City of Houston partnered with Harris County Precinct 1 Commissioner Rodney Ellis’s Office to hold the first event at Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church in the hearth of Third Ward. The event yielded over 700 guns taken off the streets. Even more successful, the October 8<sup>th</sup> Gun Buy-Back will be detailed in future quarterly report.

The Houston Health Department has been allocated \$3 million for the implementation of the CURE Violence and Credible Messengers Programs. This evidence-based model trains and deploys outreach workers and violence interrupters to mitigate conflict on the street before it turns violent.

Additionally, the Houston Health Department will oversee the expansion of the existing Community Re-entry Network Program to the tune of an additional \$1 million. To date, the HHD reentry program has successfully reduce recidivism to 4.2% as compared to the state recidivism rate of 21.4%.

The Houston Parks Department will be staffing up the Park Rangers, who partner with local law enforcement to keep neighborhood parks safe. The \$1.9 million investment from One Safe Houston will fund 15 ranger positions over the next 3 years.

Finally, in order to address the increased volume of cases and decrease staff turnover, the Houston Forensic Science Center was awarded \$3 million in ARPA funding through One Safe Houston on Wednesday, July 27, 2022. This will fund training for new employees, outsourcing toxicology cases to free up personnel, and overtime to reduce backlogs.

## ETHAN

Outside of One Safe Houston, Houston Fire Department’s (HFD) Emergency Telehealth and Navigation (ETHAN) program has been funded for a total of \$867,902.00.

ETHAN has garnered local and national recognition as one of the most innovative large-scale telehealth solutions in modern EMS. To date, it is estimated that the overall healthcare savings by program cost avoidance utilizing ETHAN is over \$27 million dollars. During this COVID-19 Pandemic the calls have increased exponentially, and the ETHAN program has been vital in relieving the demand placed on hospitals. To lose this program now would place an economic burden on hospitals in this COVID-19 environment.

For more than 4 years, with an ever-increasing population of 2.3 million and greater than 300,000 calls for service, the Houston Fire Departments ETHAN program has successfully serviced more than 22,000 City of Houston residents and visitors. During the COVID-19 Pandemic the calls have increased exponentially, and the ETHAN program has been vital in addressing the needs of residents and visitors. The percent of patients cared for away from an emergency department would be greater but for ETHAN being in operation evenings and weekends when clinics are closed.

This community-based mobile integrated healthcare project, along with local and regional partnerships, agencies and collaborations ensure individuals who call 911 with non-emergency complaints would be triaged by telehealth emergency medical physicians who are immediately available and skilled at making rapid triage decisions. ETHAN provides the same exam room experience independent of location and eliminates expensive hospital care to individual patient complaint types, with physician/patient care time of approximately 6 minutes.



# Use of Funds

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While many of the projects the City of Houston has approved for use of SLFRF addresses multiple needs of the community, the City of Houston has broken down the use of funds into the following categories:

- *The Provision of Government Services*
- *COVID-19 Pandemic Response*
- *Public Safety through One Safe Houston*
- *Economic Resiliency and Recovery*

## **The Provision of Government Services**

It is a priority of the City of Houston to continue the provision of high quality government services for all and in all areas of the City. As it was felt across the nation, the City of Houston is still catching up on lost revenue from the pandemic. With that, the City of Houston, in order to maintain its level of government services chose to use the majority of its SLFRF allocation for lost revenue. A smaller portion of the allocation is being used for administrative costs related to the management, oversight, and compliance,

## **COVID-19 Pandemic Response**

The pandemic is not over, and the City of Houston is dedicated to ensuring its employees have necessary PPE and cleaning supplies and to supporting the community in vaccination efforts.

## **Public Safety Through One Safe Houston**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Houston, like others, saw a major uptick in crime. In response, the City implemented the

One Safe Houston plan. This plan has multiple approaches to reducing crime with a specific focus on violent crime. More information on the overall One Safe Houston strategy can be found: [www.houstontx.gov/onesafehouston](http://www.houstontx.gov/onesafehouston).

## **Economic Resiliency and Recovery**

City continues to look to the future through reevaluating and addressing economic resiliency and recovery. This portion of the funding has been dedicated to those populations that were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic and ensures that the necessary resources remain in place for their long-term success.

Each one of these categories are interconnected and work together to ensure that the City of Houston comes out stronger after this pandemic. As the City of Houston continues to evaluate opportunities for use of its SLFRF allocation, the City's foundational goal is to maintain equity in all that it does. By way of example by the Complete Communities initiative by Mayor Sylvester Turner, no project is approved by the administration without there being a proven plan of how the project addresses those needs in the most equitable way.

The needs of Houstonians, especially the most vulnerable, can change in any one moment, and the City of Houston maintains its commitment to self-evaluation of planned expenses so that the funds can always be reallocated to the areas of most need.





Mayor Sylvester Turner  
CITY OF HOUSTON



Commissioner Rodney Ellis  
HARRIS COUNTY PCT 1

PRESENT

# GUN BUYBACK



Turn in your firearms to receive gift cards.\* No questions asked!



**No privately manufactured guns accepted**

Transport your firearms unloaded and in the trunk of your vehicle.



\*Gift card quantities are limited and subject to availability.

**\$50**

Non-functioning  
firearm

**\$100**

Shotgun  
Rifle, Hunting

**\$150**

Revolver  
Handgun, semi-auto

**\$200**

Rifle, semi-auto

**SATURDAY**

**OCTOBER 8, 2022**

**TIME**

**8:00am - noon**

**LOCATION**

**METRO WESTCHASE PARK AND RIDE  
11050 HARWIN DRIVE  
HOUSTON, TX 77072**

**QUESTIONS?**

contact: (832) 393-6772 or  
[coh\\_policing\\_reform@houston.tx.gov](mailto:coh_policing_reform@houston.tx.gov)



Mayor Sylvester Turner



Rodney Ellis  
COMMISSIONER  
PRECINCT ONE



<https://www.houston.tx.gov/onesafehouston>



# AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT SUMMARY

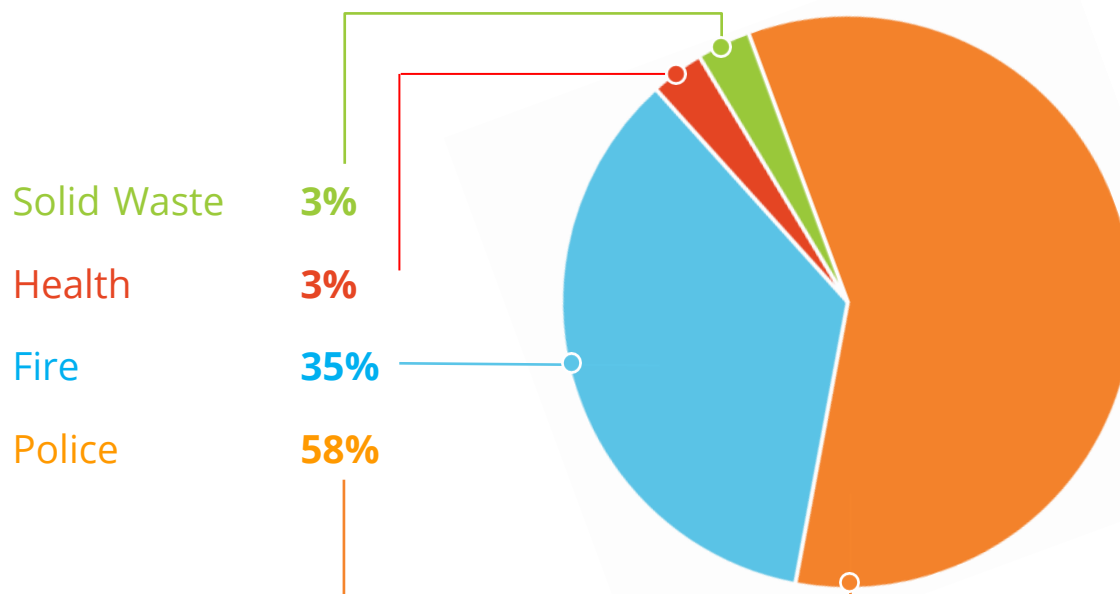


## MAINTAINING GOVERNMENT SERVICES



After the release of the Final Rule by the U.S. Department of Treasury, the City of Houston recalculated its Revenue Replacement projection, the budgeted amount for FY 2021 totals **\$139.436 million** and the budgeted amount for FY 2022 has been budgeted for a total of **\$160.075 million**, making **the new total of budgeted Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (LFRF)** from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for the provision of government services to maintain and sustain critical services is **\$299.511 million**. The total expenditures through this quarterly expenditure report ending on September 30, 2022, totals **\$258.488 million**.

The critical services allocation thus far are as follows:



# ARPA

# Expenditures through Reporting Period

While the City of Houston has approved estimated ARPA SLFRF costs for over \$356,925,643.87 in priority projects, this funding is for multi-year programing, meaning funds will be expended over a period time. Furthermore, many of these projects are going through the required federal procurement process and have not been expensed.

The following section details City of Houston ARPA SLFRF projects that have incurred expenditures. The City has spent \$278,419,155.26 through this third reporting period ending September 30, 2022.

Dept.	Project ID	Expenditure Category	Project Name	Estimated Approved Costs	Expenditures through Sep. 30, 2022
COH	HOU - #011	6.1	Revenue Replacement	\$299,510,716.00	\$258,488,077.47
COH	HOU - #012	7.1	Administrative Expenses	\$7,564,670.00	\$554,255.86
COH	HOU - #031	1.5	Disinfectant	\$50,000.00	\$34,668.50
HPD	HOU - #001	1.12	Crisis Call Diversion (CCD)	\$816,420.00	\$192,611.03
HPD	HOU - #002	1.12	Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (MCOT)	\$11,871,469.00	\$852,589.64
HPD	HOU - #003	1.12	Crisis Intervention Response Team (CIRT)	\$6,152,664.00	\$4,389.00
HPD	HOU - #004	1.12	Clinician-Officer Remote Evaluation (CORE)	\$2,543,625.00	\$255,785.84
HPD	HOU - #005	1.12	Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART)	\$3,615,822.00	\$793,332.36
HPD	HOU - #015	1.12	Victim Service Advocates	\$1,335,843.18	\$356,159.31
HPD	HOU - #018	1.1	Police Security at Testing Facilities	\$722,110.00	\$721,796.82
HPD	HOU - #025	3.1	Violence Reduction and Crime Prevention – Patrol Enhancement	\$13,239,880.00	\$11,935,397.03
HPD	HOU - #026	1.11	Gun Buyback Initiative	\$982,224.00	\$250,320.28
HHD	HOU - #009	1.1	Vaccine Incentive Program	\$3,125,000.00	\$3,089,757.26
HFD	HOU - #014	1.14	ETHAN Personnel	\$4,950,280.00	\$884,095.16
PRD	HOU - #022	1.11	Enhance City Park Security	\$1,915,200.00	\$5,919.70



# ARPA

## *Expenditures Through Reporting Period Continued*

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### **Provision of Government Services**

#### ***Revenue Replacement***

Department:	City of Houston (COH)
Project:	Revenue Replacement (Fiscal Year 2022)
ID Number:	HOU - #011
Estimated Approved Costs:	\$299,510,716.00
Expenditure Category:	Revenue Replacement 6.1 Provision of Govt. Services
Expenditures through Period:	\$258,488,077.47

After the release of the Final Rule by the U.S. Department of Treasury, the City of Houston recalculated its Revenue Replacement projection, which lowered the original budgeted amount of \$198.624 million by \$59.2 million for FY2022. The new total of Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (LFRF) from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for the provision of government services to maintain and sustain critical services is \$139.436 million for FY 22 and \$160,075,000.00 for FY23.

#### ***Administrative Expenses***

Department:	City of Houston (COH)
Project:	Administrative Expenses
ID Number:	HOU - #012
Estimated Approved Costs:	\$7,564,670.00
Expenditure Category:	Administrative 7.1 Administrative Expenses
Status:	Completed less than 50%
Expenditures through Period:	\$554,255.86

This project's estimated approved costs are \$7,564,670. These funds will be used on ARPA-dedicated employee payroll costs and consultation fees.



# ARPA

## *Expenditures Through Reporting Period Continued*

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### **Houston Police Department**

#### ***Crisis Call Diversion (CCD)***

Department:	Houston Police Department (HPD)
Project:	Crisis Call Diversion (CCD)
ID Number:	HOU - #001
Estimated Approved Cost:	\$816,420.00
Expenditure Category:	Public Health 1.12 Mental Health Services
Status:	Less than 50%
Expenditures through Period:	\$192,611.03

#### ***Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (MCOT)***

Department:	Houston Police Department (HPD)
Project:	Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (MCOT)
ID Number:	HOU - #002
Estimated Approved Cost:	\$11,871,469
Expenditure Category:	Public Health 1.12 Mental Health Services
Status:	Less than 50%
Expenditures through Period:	\$852,589.64

#### ***Crisis Intervention Response Team (CIRT)***

Department:	Houston Police Department
Project:	Crisis Intervention Response Team
ID Number:	HOU - #003
Estimated Approved Cost:	\$6,152,664
Expenditure Category:	Public Health 1.12 Mental Health Services
Status:	Less than 50%
Expenditures through Period:	\$4,389.00



**ARPA**

## *Expenditures Through Reporting Period Continued*

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### ***Clinician-Officer Remote Evaluation (CORE)***

Department:	Houston Police Department
Project:	Clinician-Officer Remote Evaluation
ID Number:	HOU - #004
Estimated Approved Cost:	\$2,543,625
Expenditure Category:	Public Health 1.12 Mental Health Services
Status:	Less than 50%
Expenditures through Period:	\$255,785.84

### ***Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART)***

Department:	Houston Police Department (HPD)
Project:	Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART)
ID Number:	HOU - #005
Estimated Approved Costs:	\$3,615,822.00
Expenditure Category:	Public Health 1.12 Mental Health Services
Status:	Completed less than 50%
Expenditures through Period:	\$793,332.36

### ***Victim Service Advocates (VSA)***

Department:	Houston Police Department (HPD)
Project:	Victim Service Advocates (VSA)
ID Number:	HOU - #015
Estimated Approved Costs:	\$1,335,843.18
Expenditure Category:	Public Health 1.12 Mental Health Services
Status:	Completed less than 50%
Expenditures through Period:	\$356,159.31



**ARPA**

## *Expenditures Through Reporting Period Continued*

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### ***Police Security at COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing Facilities***

Department:	Houston Police Department
Project:	Officer Overtime for Vaccination and Testing Site Security
ID Number:	HOU - #018
Estimated Approved Cost:	\$722,110.00
Expenditure Category:	Public Health 1.1 COVID-19 Vaccination
Status:	Completed more than 50%
Expenditures through Period:	\$721,796.82

### ***Patrol Enhancement – Violence and Crime Reduction***

Department:	Houston Police Department
Project:	Patrol Enhancement – Violence and Crime Reduction
ID Number:	HOU - #025
Estimated Approved Cost:	\$13,239,880.00
Expenditure Category:	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
Status:	Completed less than 50%*
Expenditures through Period:	\$11,935,397.03

### ***Gun Buyback***

Department:	Houston Police Department
Project:	Gun Buyback
ID Number:	HOU - #026
Estimated Approved Cost:	\$982,224.00
Expenditure Category:	Public Health 1.11 Community Violence Intervention
Status:	Completed less than 50%
Expenditures through Period:	\$250,320.28



# ARPA



## *Expenditures Through Reporting Period Continued*

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### **Houston Health Department**

#### ***Vaccination Incentive***

Department:	Houston Health Department (HHD)
Project:	Vaccination Incentive Cards
ID Number:	HOU - #009
Estimated Approved Costs:	\$3.125 million
Expenditure Category:	Public Health 1.1 Vaccination
Status:	Completed over 50% or more
Expenditures through Period:	\$3,089,757.26

This project's estimated approved costs are \$3.125 million. These funds were allocated for the following items:

- \$3,001,950 in 40,026 Visa Gift Cards (\$100 – 20,013 and \$50 – 20,013)
- \$89,757.26 in Service and Freight fees

### ***Houston Fire Department***

#### ***ETHAN Personnel***

Department:	Houston Fire Department (HFD)
Project:	Emergency Telehealth and Navigation Program (ETHAN)
ID Number:	HOU - #014
Estimated Approved Cost:	\$4,950,280.00
Expenditure Category:	Public Health 1.14 Other Public Health Service
Status:	Completed less than 50%
Expenditures through Period:	\$884,095.16



# ARPA

*Expenditures Through Reporting Period Continued*

***Houston Parks and Recreation Department***

***Enhance City Park Security***

Department:	Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD)
Project:	Enhance City Park Security
ID Number:	HOU - #022
Estimated Approved Cost:	\$1,915,200.00
Expenditure Category:	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
Expenditures through Period:	\$5,919.70



**ARPA**

# *Promoting Equitable Outcomes*

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The City of Houston believes that all people must be supported to address the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially those persons and communities that have been underserved and under resourced for decades. Therefore, each ARPA SLRF project champions equity in its desired outcomes by focusing on the most at-risk communities, primarily ones identified in Mayor Turner’s Complete Communities initiative.

The Complete Communities mission is to build one complete city, from recovery to resilience, by giving voice and resources to residents enabling them to thrive. Each of the ten communities are assigned a liaison who attends monthly stakeholder meetings to collaborate on projects and report on department progress on initiative priorities. This initiative’s design aligns with the Biden-Harris administration’s lens on equity, especially as it seeks to revive communities that were disproportionately impacted by Covid-19.

Additionally, the City of Houston has included a “Promoting Equitable Outcomes” explanatory section for each one of its priority projects listed in the “Project Inventory” section of this report. These sections seek to measure the impact and recovery of the hardest hit communities. Moreover, the projects listed throughout this report address increased access to services for residents and businesses located in Complete Communities.

More information on this strategy can be found at:  
[www.houstontx.gov/completemunities](http://www.houstontx.gov/completemunities).



## ARPA

# Community Engagement

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ARPA community Engagement has taken place through three major approaches:

- *Community Meetings with Neighborhoods*
- *Capital Improvement Project and Census Redistricting Meetings*
- *Online Survey*

## **Community Meetings with Neighborhoods**

City Council Members were given the option to include ARPA presentations at their regular town halls. Additionally, the Government Relations team has given presentations to the Super Neighborhood Alliance, the City of Houston's Commission on Women, and City Council.

## **Capital Improvement Plan and Redistricting Meetings**

The City of Houston hosted in-person town hall meetings in each of the Councilmember Districts to discuss the Capital Improvement Plan and redistricting. The ARPA website and survey were included in each redistricting meeting so residents could learn more.

## **Online Survey**

The City of Houston launched an online survey in both English and Spanish. This survey was promoted in every

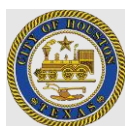
Government Relations newsletter and most City Council member newsletters. Notable results included: An overwhelming majority of respondents felt it very important the City maintain pre-pandemic level of service. Respondents also made it clear they want to see an increase in mental health resources for nonviolent police intervention and support for victims of domestic violence.

Although not listed above, the Mayor's Police Reform Taskforce from 2020 was instrumental in outlining the different projects that are now part of the One Safe Houston Plan and are funded through ARPA SLFRF.

The City also has a webpage dedicated to ARPA SLFRF and regularly updates the website with relevant supporting documentation and news.

[www.houstontx.gov/arpa](http://www.houstontx.gov/arpa)

While these are the major ways that the City of Houston receives feedback on its ARPA SLFRF activities, the Government Relations team takes calls and emails from the public seeking clarification on the ARPA SLFRF project proposal and application process as well as provides presentations whenever community groups ask for them.



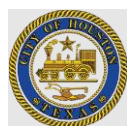
# ARPA

## *Labor Practices*

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The City of Houston does not intend to use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds for infrastructure projects. However, the City has adopted prevailing wage rates for its public works infrastructure projects consisting of the latest prevailing wage rates determined and issued by the U.S. Department of Labor in accordance with the Davis-Bacon Act.

In addition, where required for projects funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the City makes every effort within its disposal to meet the regulatory requirements of Section 3 of the HUD Act of 1968 by developing strategies specifically targeting low- and very-low-income residents and local businesses for economic opportunities, including job training, employment, and contracting opportunities.



**ARPA**

## Use of Evidence

The City of Houston has based all of its interventions on evidence that these types of projects are work as they are intended to. The City of Houston's Recovery Plan has expended on several priority projects under the following expense categories:

Dept.	Project ID	Expenditure Category	Project Name
Police	HOU - #005	Public Health 1.1 Behavioral Health – Mental Services	Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART)
Police	HOU - #015	Public Health 1.1 Behavioral Health – Mental Services	Victim Service Advocates (VSA)
Police	HOU – #018	Public Health 1.1 COVID-19 Mitigation & Prevention – COVID-19 Vaccination	Security for Testing and Vaccination Sites
Police	HOU – #025	Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity 3.1 General Provisions – Public Sector Workforce: Payroll and Benefits for Public Health, Public Safety, or Human Services Workers	Patrol Enhancement – Violence and Crime
Health	HOU - #009	Public Health 1.1 COVID-19 Mitigation & Prevention – COVID-19 Vaccination	Vaccine Incentive Program
Fire	HOU – #014	Public Health 1.14 Other – Other Public Health Services	ETHAN Personnel
PRD	HOU - #022	Public Health 1.11 Community Violence Interventions	Enhance City Park Security



ARPA



## Use of Evidence Continued

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### *Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART) and Victim Service Advocates (VSA)*

DART is a multidisciplinary crisis response team purposed to assist victims of domestic violence by engaging the victim immediately, following a reported incident of domestic violence, in an effort to ensure their safety and provide trauma informed care, with the ability to coordinate and provide emergency services, such as medical care, food, temporary shelter and connections to long-term solutions, counseling, legal help, and compensation; all, of which, precede follow-up and outreach services provided by the Victim Services Division.

The Victim Advocacy Unit initiates follow up on cases involving crime victims via, phone, in person, and through virtual platforms. This follow-up consists of meeting the needs of the victim by offering the appropriate referrals and assistance specific to each victim. The pandemic also made it less likely for victims to seek help because of fear of contracting COVID-19, assumptions that the pandemic would have shut down programs, or the belief that others might need assistance more than they do.

More information can be found: [https://www.houstontx.gov/police/victim\\_services/](https://www.houstontx.gov/police/victim_services/)

### *ETHAN Personnel*

This community-based mobile integrated healthcare project, along with local and regional partnerships, agencies, and collaborations ensure individuals who call 911 with non-emergency complaints would be triaged by telehealth emergency medical physicians who are immediately available and skilled at making rapid triage decisions. ETHAN provides the same exam room experience independent of location and eliminates expensive hospital care to individual patient compliant types, with physician/patient care time of approximately 6 minutes.

Before ARPA funding, for more than 4 years, with an ever-increasing population in the City of Houston and greater than 300,000 calls for service, the Houston Fire Departments ETHAN program has successfully serviced more than 22,000 City of Houston residents and visitors. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, the calls increased exponentially, and the EHTAN program has been vital in addressing the needs of residents and visitors. The percent of patients cared for away from an emergency department would be greater but for ETHAN being in operation evenings and weekends when clinics are closed.



# ARPA

### *Enhancing Park Security*

Park visitation in the City of Houston rose just like parks across the country. Public parks serve an important societal function as recreational spaces for diverse communities of people. The city has also experienced an increase in violent crime as the COVID-19 pandemic continued. The Houston Parks and Recreation Department has experienced an estimated 50% increase in visitors, which has unfortunately increased crime related activities such as illegal dumping, shootings, drugs, stolen vehicles, and other crimes within our parks. Neighborhood parks have seen the most of this increase of crime. By supplementing the Park Rangers with additional staff, parks can better respond to dispatch calls, which doubled from being around 120-205 calls before the pandemic to now between 275-405.

As projects develop, more information as to their structure and implementation will be available. For all other projects, see the project inventory section of the report.

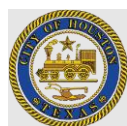


**ARPA**

# Project Inventory

This section provides an overview of projects that have been approved by Mayor Turner.

Dept.	Project ID	Expenditure Category	Project Name	Estimated Approved Costs
COH	HOU - #011	6.1	Revenue Replacement	\$299,510,716.00
COH	HOU - #012	7.1	Administrative Expenses	\$7,564,670.00
COH	HOU - #031	1.5	Disinfectant	\$50,000.00
HPD	HOU - #001	1.12	Crisis Call Diversion (CCD)	\$816,420.00
HPD	HOU - #002	1.12	Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (MCOT)	\$11,871,469.00
HPD	HOU - #032	1.12	MCOT – Two additional Teams	\$1,433,793.00
HPD	HOU - #003	1.12	Crisis Intervention Response Team (CIRT)	\$6,152,664.00
HPD	HOU - #004	1.12	Clinician-Officer Remote Evaluation (CORE)	\$2,543,625.00
HPD	HOU - #005	1.12	Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART)	\$3,615,822.00
HPD	HOU - #015	1.12	Victim Service Advocates	\$1,335,843.18
HPD	HOU - #016	1.12	Emergency Sheltering	\$926,250.00
HPD	HOU - #017	1.12	Forensic Nurses	\$730,712.00
HPD	HOU - #018	1.1	Police Security at Testing Facilities	\$722,110.00
HPD	HOU - #025	3.1	Violence Reduction and Crime Prevention – Patrol Enhancement	\$13,239,880.00
HPD	HOU - #026	1.11	Gun Buyback Initiative	\$982,224.00
HPD	HOU - #033	3.4	Technology Enhancement – 5G Enablers	\$974,533.00
SWMD	HOU - #006	1.14	Homeless Encampment Abatement	\$7,178,306.72
SWMD	HOU - #007	1.14	Anti-Litter	\$1,333,333.00
SWMD	HOU - #008	1.14	Bulk Waste	\$1,466,667.00
HHD	HOU - #009	1.1	Vaccine Incentive Program	\$3,125,000.00
HHD	HOU - #023	1.11	Community Violence Intervention	\$2,500,000.00
HHD	HOU - #024	1.11	Credible Messengers	\$500,000.00
HHD	HOU - #027	2.37	Community Re-Entry Program	\$1,000,000.00
HFD	HOU - #014	1.14	ETHAN Personnel	\$4,950,280.00
HPL	HOU - #019	2.25	Digital Literacy Equity Project	\$3,875,130.00
ARA	HOU - #020	2.36	BARC – Spay and Neuter Program	\$1,000,000.00
OHT&DV	HOU - #021	1.11	Multicultural Domestic Violence Preventative Outreach Strategy	\$3,000,000.00
PRD	HOU - #022	1.11	Enhance City Park Security	\$1,915,200.00
HFSC	HOU - #028	2.36	Case Backlog Funding	\$3,000,000.00
HITS	HOU - #029	3.4	Public Safety Radios	\$10,000,000.00
MYR/MOPD	HOU - #030	2.37	People with Disabilities – Staffing	\$633,634.50



# ARPA

### Provision of Government Services

#### Revenue Replacement

Department:	City of Houston
Project:	Revenue Replacement (FY22 and FY23)
ID Number:	HOU - #011
Estimated Approved Cost:	\$299,510,716.00
Expenditure Category:	Revenue Replacement 6.1 Provision of Govt. Services
Expenditures through Period:	\$258,488,077.47

#### Project Overview

The City of Houston allocated ARPA CSLFRF funding for “Revenue Replacement” in the initial months of Fiscal Year 2022 and has since revised its projection to \$139,435,716.00 after the Treasury’s release of the Final Rule. The FY 2023 revenue replacement is for \$160,075,000.00. The total approved estimated costs is \$299,510,716.00 and the expenditures have been \$258,488,077.47 through September 30, 2022.

This allocation is to provide for the provision of government services due to the COVID-19 public health emergency revenue losses, to maintain and sustain critical services. ARPA has enabled the City to maintain the indispensable services most valued by our residents during this challenging time. The critical services allocation for FY2022 (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022) includes personnel related to the City’s Police, Fire, Health, and Solid Waste Departments, as these departments play a vital and ongoing role in response to the pandemic.

The first transfer from the City’s CSLFRF to the City’s General Fund was in August 2021 for amounts incurred for the month of July and each month thereafter until the full allocation is used. This allows for reconciliations, support documentation gathering, and monthly reports to be finalized prior to the transfer for the “Provision of Government Services” in the City’s financial/ general ledger system. This project’s estimated approved costs are \$258,488,077.47 for fiscal year 2022 and fiscal year 2023. This calculation is based on the Treasury’s Final Rule.



# ARPA

## *Project Inventory Continued*

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### ***Administrative Expenses***

Department:	City of Houston (COH)
Project:	Administrative Expenses
ID Number:	HOU - #012
Estimated Approved Cost:	\$7,564,670.00
Expenditure Category:	Administrative 7.1 Administrative Expenses
Status:	Completed Less than 50%
Expenditures through Period:	\$554,255.86

#### **Project Overview**

The City of Houston has allocated funds to cover expenses related to the administration of the ARPA SLFRF dollars including ARPA-dedicated employee payroll costs and consultation fees. Administration of the grant includes but is not limited to reporting, expenditure tracking, management of priority projects, and verifying eligibility of proposed projects.



# ARPA

## Project Inventory Continued

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### Disinfectant Spray

Department:	City of Houston (COH)
Project:	Disinfectant Spray
ID Number:	HOU - #031
Estimated Approved Cost:	\$50,000.00
Expenditure Category:	Public Health 1.5 Personal Protective Equipment
Status:	Completed Less than 50%
Expenditures through Period:	\$34,668.50

#### Project Overview

The City has maintained an inventory of personal protective equipment in support of efforts to curb the spread of COVID-19. This inventory of PPE is stored in multiple City facilities, and is available for distribution to any department upon submittal of an approved form to the Office of Emergency Management. Although recent draws on the inventory have reduced significantly over the past few months, there is still a significant demand for a few key items such as masks and disinfectant spray. OEM has been successful in replenishing the PE inventory for masks, but TDEM has not provided any relief on the disinfectant spray.

This project will replenish the necessary cans of disinfectant spray to reduce the City's COVID-19 positivity rate and keeping employees safe.

#### Project Demographic Distribution

This project is serving all departments in the City of Houston that require additional disinfectant spray, therefore it cannot be determined whether this program will be serving disproportionately impacted communities.



# ARPA



## *Project Inventory Continued*

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### ***Houston Police Department***

#### ***Crisis Call Diversion (CCD)***

Department:	Houston Police Department (HPD)
Project:	Crisis Call Diversion (CCD)
ID Number:	HOU - #001
Estimated Approved Cost:	\$816,420.00
Expenditure Category:	Public Health 1.12 Mental Health Services
Status:	Completed Less than 50%
Expenditures through Period:	\$192,611.03

#### **Project Overview**

The Crisis Call Diversion (CCD) program is a collaboration between the Houston Police Department, Houston Fire Department, Houston Emergency Center and the Harris Center for Mental Health & IDD, with the express purpose of decreasing the volume of non-emergency mental health-related calls for service for both HPD patrol and HFD emergency medical services and reducing the use of these personnel for non-emergency responses.

Expansion of the existing program to 24-hour coverage will add four more full-time care coordinators and necessary equipment. While the provision of behavioral health services is worthy of investment on its own merits, the program increases the capacity of law enforcement officers to focus on public safety rather than behavioral health issues.

The contract for this project in combination with the Mobile Crisis Outreach Team program was approved by City Council on April 13, 2022 for \$13,480,656.00.

For more information on the Crisis Call Diversion program, please see [www.houstoncit.org/ccd/](http://www.houstoncit.org/ccd/) as well as the 2021 Mental Health Division Annual Report at <https://www.houstoncit.org/annual-report/>

#### **Promoting Equitable Outcomes**

As this program will be City-wide, all needed populations will be served. All first responders are aware that this program is available whenever needed.



# ARPA

## *Project Inventory Continued*

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### Use of Evidence

This program was launched in 2015 after years of studying the nexus between first responders and mental health service calls. In 2017, HPD responded to 37,032 calls for service coded as CIT. Out of those 37,032 CFS, 41% resulted in an “information” only disposition. Research has indicated that a substantial number of these crisis calls may have been handled more effectively by quickly connecting callers who have non-emergent mental health-related issues directly to mental health professionals rather than automatically dispatching police officers and/or EMS personnel. CCD Counselors have helped first responders and the Houston community in such a way that in 2017, CCD counselors handled 7264 Calls-For-Service (CFS).

As it is known that this program effectively provides 911 callers with the correct resources, the evaluation is focused on volume, location, and types of calls, not need. This project is evaluated on a quarterly basis. All funds are being used toward this intervention.

### Project Demographic Distribution, Programmatic Information and Performance Report

As this program launches, information on the types of calls that are being taken and the result of those calls will be recorded and reported on in the annual performance report.



# ARPA

## Project Inventory Continued

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### **Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (MCOT)**

Department:	Houston Police Department (HPD)
Project:	Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (MCOT)
ID Number:	HOU - #002
Estimated Approved Cost:	\$11,871,469
Expenditure Category:	Public Health 1.12 Mental Health Services
Status:	Completed Less than 50%
Expenditures through Period:	\$852,589.64

#### Project Overview

The Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (MCOT) is an interdisciplinary mobile team composed of psychiatrists, registered nurses, licensed master's level clinicians, bachelor level clinicians, and psychiatric technicians specializing in crisis intervention. Community-based in Harris County, MCOT provides services to children and adults who are experiencing a mental health crisis.

The crisis teams will focus on "rapid response," immediate interventions, not referrals for future treatments. This methodology removes law enforcement from dealing with lower-level mental health calls and connects individuals suffering from a mental illness to services and professionals that can help them most without involving the criminal justice system. MCOT can be deployed by the CCD or called in by officers in the field, allowing for officers to introduce a behavioral health medical intervention. This "hand off" delivers a more appropriate level of care.

The contract for this project in combination with the Crisis Call Diversion program was approved by City Council on April 13, 2022 for \$13,480,656.00.

For more information on Mobile Crisis Outreach Teams, please see the Crisis Services Continuum from the Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD:

<https://theharriscenter.org/Services/Our-Services/Crisis-Services-Continuum>

#### Promoting Equitable Outcomes

As this program will be City-wide, all needed populations will be served. All first responders are aware that this program is available whenever needed.

#### Use of Evidence, Project Distribution, Programmatic Information, and Performance

This intervention will be reevaluating on a quarterly basis on its effectiveness with



# ARPA

## *Project Inventory Continued*

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removing law enforcement in times of mental health crisis. All funds are being used toward this intervention. As this program launches, information on the types of calls that are being taken and the result of those calls will be recorded and reported on in the annual performance report.



**ARPA**

## *Project Inventory Continued*

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### **MCOT – 2 Additional Teams**

Department:	Houston Police Department (HPD)
Project:	MCOT 0 2 Additional Teams
ID Number:	HOU - #032
Estimated Approved Cost:	\$1,433,793.00
Expenditure Category:	Public Health 1.12 Mental Health Services
Status:	Not yet started
Expenditures through Period:	\$0

#### Project Overview

The Mobile Crisis Outreach Team (MCOT) is an interdisciplinary mobile team composed of psychiatrists, registered nurses, licensed master's level clinicians, bachelor level clinicians, and psychiatric technicians specializing in crisis intervention. Community-based in Harris County, MCOT provides services to children and adults who are experiencing a mental health crisis. The City of Houston added two additional MCOT Teams in order to meet the demands of its target population.

#### Promoting Equitable Outcomes

As this program will be City-wide, all needed populations will be served. All first responders are aware that this program is available whenever needed.

Use of Evidence, Project Demographic Distribution, Programmatic Information, and Performance Report  
See HOU - #002 above.



# ARPA

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### ***Crisis Intervention Response Team (CIRT)***

Department:	Houston Police Department
Project:	Crisis Intervention Response Team
ID Number:	HOU - #003
Estimated Approved Cost:	\$6,152,664
Expenditure Category:	Public Health 1.12 Mental Health Services
Status:	Completed Less than 50%
Expenditures through Period:	\$4,389.00

#### **Project Overview**

Crisis Intervention Response Team (CIRT) is specialized program responding to mental health crisis calls in the community. The program pairs a licensed, masters- level mental health clinician with a law enforcement partner. The mobile team responds to 911 dispatch calls and referrals from the Houston Police Department Mental Health Division, Harris County Sheriff's Office Mental Health Unit, and The Harris Center for Mental Health and IDD.

The goal of CIRT is to assess and treat individuals experiencing a mental health crisis to avoid unnecessary incarceration and to utilize the least restrictive means of stabilizing consumers, which includes linkage to outpatient services where indicated promptly and accurately. HPD currently has 12 CIRT units deployed. In order to expand to 24-hour coverage, the program is adding six more teams. The contract for this project was approved by City Council on April 13, 2022 for \$2,388,105.00.

For more information on CIRT teams, please visit the Mental Health Division website for the Houston Police Department at <https://www.houstoncit.org/cirt>

#### **Promoting Equitable Outcomes**

As this program will be City-wide, all needed populations will be served. All first responders are aware that this program is available whenever needed.

#### **Use of Evidence**

Houston's Crisis Intervention Response Team (CIRT) started as a six-month pilot program in March 2008. The pilot was extremely successful, and the program was made permanent later that year.

#### **Project Demographic Distribution, Programmatic Information, and Performance Report**

As this program launches, information on the types of calls that are being taken and the result of those calls will be recorded and reported on in the annual performance report.



# ARPA



## Project Inventory Continued

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### ***Clinician-Officer Remote Evaluation (CORE)***

Department:	Houston Police Department
Project:	Clinician-Officer Remote Evaluation
ID Number:	HOU - #004
Estimated Approved Cost:	\$2,543,625
Expenditure Category:	Public Health 1.12 Mental Health Services
Status:	Completed less than 50%
Expenditures through Period:	\$255,785.84

#### **Project Overview**

The Clinician-Officer Remote Evaluation (CORE) program is a telehealth strategy for responding to mental health crisis calls using a tablet and a HIPAA-approved technology platform to connect a law enforcement first responder with a mental health clinician in the community at the time of the 911 dispatch. The licensed, professional clinicians and a team leader assist the officer at a scene to make a quick, accurate mental health assessment of persons who are in mental health crisis. The clinicians can also access the person's hospitalization history and connect the person with needed resources.

In implementing CORE within HPD, 80 officers per shift will have access to the system at three shifts daily, equal to 240 officers. The program calls for funding seven clinicians to conduct interventions via the tele-med platform. The contract for this project was approved by City Council on April 13, 2022 for \$2,543,625.00.

#### **Promoting Equitable Outcomes**

As this program will be City-wide, all needed populations will be served. All first responders are aware that this program is available whenever needed.

#### **Use of Evidence, Project Demographic Distribution, Programmatic Information, and Performance**

This intervention will be reevaluating on a quarterly basis on its effectiveness with removing law enforcement in times of mental health crisis. All funds are being used toward this intervention. As this program launches, information on the types of calls that are being taken and the result of those calls will be recorded and reported on in the annual performance report.



# ARPA

## Project Inventory Continued

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### ***Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART)***

Department:	Houston Police Department (HPD)
Project:	Domestic Abuse Response Team
ID Number:	HOU - #005
Estimated Approved Cost:	\$3,615,822.00
Expenditure Category:	Public Health 1.12 Mental Health Services
Status:	Completed Less than 50%
Expenditures through Period:	\$793,332.36

#### **Project Overview**

The Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART) program provides for specially trained, two-person mobile teams consisting of one HPD officer and one victim advocate. The teams respond to “high risk” domestic violence crime scenes at the request of the primary responding police unit for the purpose of making on-scene danger assessments. The team then reaches out to the victims to engage and connect them with needed emergency services.

The program also funds officer overtime to deliver warrants, helping address a huge gap in the system, thus dedicating law enforcement resources to apprehend abusers.

The program is currently staffed 5 days a week, 7pm – 3am, with 3 DART units (one DART unit being that of one officer and one victim advocate) and 2 supervisory units. HPD can continue to provide these enhanced responses to the ever-growing issues surrounding domestic violence. Without funding, the DART Program will end once grant funding is exhausted.

#### **Promoting Equitable Outcomes**

As this program will be City-wide, all needed populations will be served. All first responders are aware that this program is available whenever needed.

#### **Use of Evidence, Project Demographic Distribution, Programmatic Information, and Performance**

The data will be reported on in the annual performance report.



# ARPA

## Project Inventory Continued

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### ***Victim Service Advocates (VSA)***

Department:	Houston Police Department (HPD)
Project:	Victim Advocates
ID Number:	HOU - #015
Estimated Approved Cost:	\$1,335,843.18
Expenditure Category:	Public Health 1.12 Mental Health Services
Status:	Completed less than 50%
Expenditures through Period:	\$356,159.31

#### **Project Overview**

The Victim Services Division contains a Victim Advocacy Unit that initiates follow up on cases involving crime victims via phone, in person and through virtual platforms. This follow-up consists of meeting the needs of the victim by offering the appropriate referrals and assistance specific to each victim. The Advocacy Unit also has an On-Call Team, which consists of on-call supervisors, advocates, and officers who respond to media worthy incidents in order to assist the victims and their families directly affected by the incident.

The pandemic environment has also made it less likely for victims to seek help because of fear of contracting COVID-19, assumptions that the pandemic would have shut down programs, or the belief that others might need assistance more than they do. Continued funding of Victim Advocates ensures victims have the support and guidance to connect to available services timely and efficiently.

#### **Promoting Equitable Outcomes**

As this program will be City-wide, all needed populations will be served. All first responders are aware that this program is available whenever needed.

**Use of Evidence Project Demographic Distribution, Programmatic Information and Performance**  
See DART as this program works in conjunction with that initiative.



# ARPA

## Project Inventory Continued

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### Emergency Sheltering

Department:	Houston Police Department (HPD)
Project:	Emergency Sheltering
ID Number:	HOU - #016
Estimated Approved Cost:	\$926,250
Expenditure Category:	Public Health 1.12 Mental Health Services
Status:	Not started yet
Expenditures through Period:	\$0

#### Project Overview

The Domestic Abuse Response Team's objective is to provide essential services to victims of domestic violence, link domestic abuse victims to emergency shelter or alternative housing; provide nutrition and wellness, health and medical services, including medical care, follow-up treatment and essential medications, advocacy and therapy.

The City previously used CARES Act funds to fund emergency shelters or domestic violence victims. HPD will utilize ARPA funding for emergency sheltering expenses for victims of domestic violence. Under the DART initiative, after the forensic medical exam is completed, survivors are offered emergency housing and other supportive services at no charge to ensure survivors' continued safety and long-term stabilization.

#### Promoting Equitable Outcomes

As this program will be City-wide, all needed populations will be served. All first responders are aware that this program is available whenever needed.

#### Use of Evidence Project Demographic Distribution, Programmatic Information, and Performance

As this program launches, information on the types of victims served will be recorded and reported on in the annual performance report. See DART as this program works in conjunction with that initiative.



# ARPA

## Project Inventory Continued

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### Forensic Nurses

Department:	Houston Police Department (HPD)
Project:	Forensic Nurses
ID Number:	HOU - #017
Estimated Approved Cost:	\$730,712
Expenditure Category:	Public Health 1.12 Mental Health Services
Status:	Not started yet
Expenditures through Period:	\$0

#### Project Overview

Domestic violence severely impacts an individual's physical and mental health. DART contracts with forensic nurses to offer on-scene medical forensic examinations at no charge to the survivor. These exams provide critical history about the survivor that can be helpful for community-based advocates and counselors who are supporting the victim's recovery and contribute to the preparation of an evidence-based criminal charge to be presented for criminal prosecution.

Additionally, this initiative will provide relief by the partnership between forensic nurses and law enforcement to serve as a bridge between medicine and the legal system. These exams can take place in hospitals and medical centers administering medical treatments. The COVID-19 public health crisis has brought elevated risk to healthcare providers including in cases of medical forensic exams in hospital settings.

It is vital to have forensic nurses available on-scene of domestic violence incidents to offer access to medical services to victims, many of whom are members of vulnerable populations affected by the pandemic. Forensic nurses provide services by promoting access to health as well as social services to victims of domestic abuse.

The intended outcome of this program is for DART to bring much needed medical support to these victims and relieve hospitals and medical clinics, as well as uncover evidence so police investigators can do their jobs more effectively.

#### Promoting Equitable Outcomes

As this program will be City-wide, all needed populations will be served. All first responders are aware that this program is available whenever needed.

#### Use of Evidence Project Demographic Distribution, Programmatic Information, and Performance

See DART as this program works in conjunction with that initiative.



# ARPA

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### ***Police Security at COVID-19 Testing Facilities***

Department:	Houston Police Department
Project:	Officer Overtime for Vaccination and Testing Site Security
ID Number:	HOU - #018
Estimated Approved Cost:	\$722,110.00
Expenditure Category:	Public Health 1.1 COVID-19 Vaccination
Status:	Completed More than 50%
Expenditures through Period:	\$721,796.82

#### **Project Overview**

During the COVID-19 spike in December 2021, COVID-19 testing sites were overrun with demand. The increased demand required police officer presence and security at City of Houston Health Department COVID-19 testing sites. As of this report, the City is allocating \$722,110 to cover HPD overtime associated with vaccination site security due to the Omicron variant surge.

#### **Promoting Equitable Outcomes**

This program was launched in the areas with the highest trafficked COVID-19 testing and vaccination sites. These locations were often in Complete Communities and other areas of most need.

#### **Use of Evidence, Project Demographic Distribution, and Performance**

As this project served through officer hours at vaccination sites and not direct services to the public, data on the demographics of the clients was not recorded.



# ARPA

## Project Inventory Continued

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### ***Patrol Enhancement – Violence and Crime Reduction***

Department:	Houston Police Department
Project:	Patrol Enhancement – Violence and Crime Reduction
ID Number:	HOU - #025
Estimated Approved Cost:	\$13,239,880.00
Expenditure Category:	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
Status:	Completed More than 50%
Expenditures through Period:	\$11,935,397.03

#### Project Overview

The City of Houston continues to contend with dual public health crises, the One Safe Houston program is a comprehensive violence reduction initiative that links research-based strategies to improve public safety and reduce the harms caused by violent crime. HPD officers work specific details to deter the engagement of violent crime in hot spot neighborhoods. ARPA will fund overtime where the fund are directly focused on advancing community policing strategies in those communities experiencing an increase in gun violence associated with the pandemic. After it success, the City of Houston added an additional \$5 million now totaling \$10,739,880.00 in approved costs.

#### Promoting Equitable Outcomes

While information on where these officers are deployed is sensitive, they are being deployed in crime hot spots throughout the City.



# ARPA

## Project Inventory Continued

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### Gun Buyback

Department:	Houston Police Department
Project:	Gun Buyback
ID Number:	HOU - #026
Estimated Approved Cost:	\$982,224.00
Expenditure Category:	Public Health 1.11 Community Violence Intervention
Status:	Completed less than 50%
Expenditures through Period:	\$250,320.28

#### Project Overview

The Gun Buyback program will give Houstonians a safe and alternative way to surrender unwanted firearms and the city provides compensation for their surrendered firearms. This provides an opportunity to mitigate potential harmful actions of in-home invasions, burglary of motor vehicles, used in violent crimes, and/or access by a minor. Additionally, many people inherit firearms and do not know how to properly dispose of them. Buyback programs are widely supported as a means to reduce firearms within a city.

#### Promoting Equitable Outcomes

Increases in gun crimes have plagued the entire city. This program will stage events in different areas to increase participation and visibility to get the best participation from all communities across the city. The first event is being held in the Third Ward, situated in close proximity to the University of Houston and Texas Southern University, one of the nation's largest historically black universities. The program will be advertised in a variety of media outlets including, but not limited to, social media, radio, newspapers, and podcasts.

Updates on this program and all One Safe Houston programs can be found at [www.houstontx.gov/onesafehouston](http://www.houstontx.gov/onesafehouston).

#### Use of Evidence, Programmatic Information and Performance Report

As this program launches, information on the types of weapons retrieved will be collected and reported in the annual performance report.



# ARPA



## Project Inventory Continued

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### Technology Enhancement – 5G Enablers

Department:	Houston Police Department
Project:	Technology Enhancement – 5G Enablers
ID Number:	HOU - #033
Estimated Approved Cost:	\$974,533.00
Expenditure Category:	Public Health – Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity: Effective Service Delivery 3.4
Status:	Not Yet Started
Expenditures through Period:	\$0

#### Project Overview

The Houston Police Department's Criminal Intelligence Unit (CIU) provides assistance to criminal investigations by helping locate fugitive suspects, kidnapping victims, and meeting other case development needs through the use of pen register data and other related specialty equipment such as cell site simulator (CSS) gear. Pen register data is customer cellular data and location information obtained via a probable cause based court order via the Harris County District Attorney's office and a district judge. The CIU's current set of approved-CSS gear needs to be upgraded to 5G capabilities because the current CSS gear cannot locate a 5G device in most circumstances. This affects CIU's capability to locate felony fugitives and assist in emergency tracking events such as kidnappings.

CSS gear is a critical tool used by CIU to assist investigations. Without the upgraded 5G enablers, CIU live tracking will become less effective because it will only be able to provide generalized location information to investigators instead of exact locations, placing both law enforcement and any victims in peril.

The purchase of upgraded 5G enablers will provide services to victims of gun violence by providing a critical tool to solve gun-related crime.



# ARPA

### ***Houston Solid Waste Management Department***

#### ***Homeless Encampment***

Department:	Solid Waste Department (SWMD)
Project:	Homeless Encampment Abatement
ID Number:	HOU - #006
Estimated Approved Cost:	\$7,178,306.72
Expenditure Category:	Public Health 1.14 Other Public Health Services
Status:	Not yet started
Expenditures through Period:	\$0

#### **Project Overview**

Homeless encampments and services are often in congregate settings, not generally respective of recommended social distancing guidelines, and could facilitate the spread of infection. Because many people who are experiencing homelessness often have underlying medical conditions, they may also be at higher risk for severe disease.

This program initiative will fund weekly cleanups at encampments throughout the city to include needed major remediation activities directed by the City Public Health Authority and Health Department. More than 100 homeless encampment sites have been identified in the City of Houston.

This project is going through the federal procurement process and is set to start in the first quarter of the 2022 calendar year.

#### **Promoting Equitable Outcomes , Use of Evidence, and Performance**

This project is being deployed in the areas with most need in the community and will be evaluated on its effectiveness once it is launched. As this program launches, information on the number of encampments are abated and cleaned will be collected and reported on.



# ARPA

## Project Inventory Continued

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### Anti-Litter

Department:	Solid Waste Department (SWMD)
Project:	Anti-Litter
ID Number:	HOU - #007
Estimated Approved Cost:	\$1,333,333.00
Expenditure Category:	Public Health 1.14 Other Public Health Services
Status:	Not yet started
Expenditures through Period:	\$0

#### Project Overview

Every day, thousands, if not millions, of disposable masks, gloves and sanitizer bottles are used and improperly discarded and disposed. The goal of the anti-litter campaign is to combat, reduce, and extinguish the behaviors.

This project is going through the federal procurement process and is set to start in the first half of the 2022 calendar year.

#### Promoting Equitable Outcomes Use of Evidence, and Programmatic Information and Performance

This project will be launched in areas with most need and persistent litter. As this program launches, information on the amount of litter collected and the number of calls to certain locations will be collected and reported in the annual performance report.



# ARPA

## Project Inventory Continued

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### **Bulk Waste**

Department:	Solid Waste Department (SWMD)
Project:	Bulk Waste
ID Number:	HOU - #008
Estimated Approved Cost:	\$1,466,667.00
Expenditure Category:	Public Health 1.14 Other Public Health Services
Status:	Not yet started
Expenditures through Period:	\$0

#### Project Overview

In the continuing efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, waste streams have increased for City-provided services. With higher set-out rates, the department has experienced an influx of heavy household debris, landscape debris and illegal dumping. Houston's experience is also being reported by other solid waste agencies statewide and nationwide (Solid Waste Association of North America and Municipal Waste Management Association). The department further expects an even larger uptick in bulk waste collection given the current crisis, as a result of the Delta variant of the COVID-19 virus.

This program initiative will fund additional bulk waste crews to collect bulky material. Funding should be established for up to 22 crews to work up to six days per week. Crews will be placed in high- volume areas of debris generation or clear illegal dumpsites in abused areas of the city.

If the City is unable to provide timely bulk waste service, it creates other public health hazards such as disease vector generation and flooding due to blocked ditches/storm drains. As Houston enters the peak of hurricane season, flood mitigation is a priority given the city's five-year history of significant flood events and the challenges that the City must overcome if homes flood and people are temporarily housed in congregate shelter settings during the pandemic. The projected cost for the Bulk Waste program for FY 2022 is \$1,467,000

Promoting Equitable Outcomes Use of Evidence, and Programmatic Information and Performance As this program launches, information on the amount of bulk waste collected and the number of calls to certain locations will be collected and reported in the annual performance report.



# ARPA

### ***Houston Health Department***

#### ***Vaccination Incentive***

Department:	Houston Health Department
Project:	Vaccination Incentive Cards
ID Number:	HOU - #009
Estimated Approved Cost:	\$3.125 million
Expenditure Category:	Public Health 1.1 COVID-19 Vaccination
Status:	Completed over 50% or more
Expenditures through Period:	\$3,089,757.26

#### **Project Overview**

The incentive-based program focused on groups in zip codes with persistently low vaccination rates in accordance with Houston's COVID Community Vulnerability Index (CCVI) report.

The Houston Health Department (HHD) selected the location where the incentives were provided in hopes that people who are reluctant to be vaccinated might opt to be vaccinated. Patients starting or completing the vaccine series were eligible for the incentive, targeting communities with low vaccination rates and within the vulnerable priority zip codes.

Increasing vaccine uptake will decrease the transmission of the COVID-19 disease and decrease hospitalization admission burden on the public hospital systems. Houston Health Department will focus on the current coverage goal of 70% or more. The project launched on 08/26/2021 and is ongoing.

#### **Promoting Equitable Outcomes , Use of Evidence, and Programmatic Information and Performance**

See the City's annual report of August 31, 2021 for detailed information on this program. If there is an increase in COVID-19 cases that warrants the reinstatement of the vaccination incentive program, more data will be collected and reported on in the annual performance report.



# ARPA

## Project Inventory Continued

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### ***Community Violence Intervention Program***

Department:	Houston Health Department
Project:	Community Violence Intervention Program
ID Number:	HOU - #023
Estimated Approved Cost:	\$2,500,000
Expenditure Category:	Public Health 1.11 Community Violence Intervention
Status:	Not Yet Started
Expenditures through Period:	\$0

#### **Project Overview**

There have been notable spikes of gun violence during the pandemic. This program will address crime challenges in the City and especially in communities where COVID-19 infection rates are high, COVID-19 vaccination rates are low, and the spike in gun violent crimes is apparent. HHD will implement a researched-based Violence Intervention Program that aims to stop the spread of violence in communities by using the methods and strategies associated with public health and disease control.

This program follows a three-pronged health approach to violence prevention: detection and interruption of planned violent activity, behavior change of high-risk individuals, and changing community norms. This program will work in partnership with community-based programs to directly serve those in need by strengthening their skills in mediation, conflict resolution, effective communication, and decision making and cognitive restructuring.

#### **Promoting Equitable Outcomes, Use of Evidence, and Programmatic Information and Performance**

As based on the White House Community Violence Intervention Collaborative, this project will be launched in the areas with highest crime. The project will be evaluating its effectiveness once it launches. As this program launches, information on the types of clients served and their locations will be collected and reported in the annual performance report.



# ARPA

## Project Inventory Continued

### ***Credible Messengers***

Department:	Houston Health Department
Project:	Credible Messengers
ID Number:	HOU - #024
Estimated Approved Cost:	\$500,000.00
Expenditure Category:	Public Health 1.11 Community Violence Interventions
Status:	Not Yet Started
Expenditures through Period:	\$0

#### **Project Overview**

At-risk youth in marginalized neighborhoods who are who are enticed by gangs may fall into violent behavior patterns. This program will provide support e services to this population on the violence continuum receiving referrals from both the community and the Cure Violence program. This program will provide the long-term, sustainable intervention and services to support those impacted or at highest risk for criminal justice and gage involvement or violence.

This program pairs mentors and guides for youth and young adults who are at the highest risk for re-offending or engaging in gang activity for sustained support an intervention. Additionally, this program utilizes specially trained adults with relevant life experiences.

#### **Promoting Equitable Outcomes, Use of Evidence, and Programmatic Information and Performance**

As based on the White House Community Violence Intervention Collaborative, this project will be launched in the areas with highest crime. The project will be evaluating its effectiveness once it launches. As this program launches, information on the types of clients served and their locations will be collected and reported in the annual performance report.



# ARPA

## Project Inventory Continued

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### ***Community Re-Entry Program***

Department:	Houston Health Department
Project:	Community Re-Entry Program
ID Number:	HOU - #027
Estimated Approved Cost:	\$1,000,000.00
Expenditure Category:	Negative Economic Impacts 2.37 Other
Status:	Not Yet Started
Expenditures through Period:	\$0

#### Project Overview

This program services are to support individuals that are released from incarceration. These services includes need-based assessments, evidence-based programming, case management and referrals to partners offering basic needs including financial literacy, food, housing, access to care, transportation and behavioral health.

As of 2020, individuals released faced unprecedented challenges presented by COVID-19 including obtaining necessities such as food and shelter, accessing healthcare and behavioral healthcare, and entering a job market with historically high unemployment.

#### Promoting Equitable Outcomes

This program will assist those recently released to successfully reintegrate back into the community, reduce recidivism, and address current crime challenges in communities where COVID-19 infection rates are high, COVID-19 vaccination rates are low, and the spike in violent crimes is apparent.

This funding will allow the program and its partners to serve recently released individuals with innovative, evidence informed strategies and techniques designed to specifically address the recent wave of violence in targeted communities through, increased outreach in communities where recently released individuals settle, increased workforce development, job opportunities, and retention, increased adequate and safe housing resources, and increased mental and behavioral health resources.

#### Use of Evidence, Programmatic Information and Performance Report

Prior to the pandemic, this program was able to support on average of 500 recently released individuals and showed great success in establishing them with a support network and necessary services. This program will be evaluated once it launches.



# ARPA



### ***Houston Fire Department***

#### ***ETHAN Personnel***

Department:	Houston Fire Department (HFD)
Project:	Emergency Telehealth and Navigation Program (ETHAN)
ID Number:	HOU - #014
Estimated Approved Cost:	\$4,950,280.00
Expenditure Category:	Public Health 1.14 Other Public Health Service
Status:	Completed less than 50%
Expenditures through Period:	\$884,095.16

#### **Project Overview**

For more than 4 years, with an ever-increasing population of 2.3 million and greater than 300,000 calls for service, the Houston Fire Department's (HFD) Emergency Telehealth and Navigation Program (ETHAN) has successfully serviced more than 22,000 City of Houston residents and visitors. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, the calls have increased exponentially, and the ETHAN program has been vital in addressing the needs of residents and visitors. ETHAN has garnered local and national recognition as one of the most innovative large-scale telehealth solutions in modern EMS. The percentage of patients cared for away from an emergency department would be greater but for ETHAN being in operation evenings and weekends when clinics are closed.

The ETHAN program connects emergency medical service (EMS) personnel with patients calling 911 and diverts non-medical-emergency callers to non-hospital care with no-cost cab transportation. This program allows HFD ambulances to be available for true medical emergencies and reduces congestion in local hospital emergency departments.

ARPA SLFRF funding will provide the necessary resources for the continuation of ETHAN and will fund medical personnel. The project launched in January 2022 and approved funding ends June 30, 2022.

#### **Promoting Equitable Outcomes**

This community-based mobile integrated healthcare program promotes equity in all demographic



# ARPA

## Project Inventory Continued

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and geographic areas of the City of Houston:

1. Communities disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 (low-income neighborhoods, minorities, disconnected youth, unemployed veterans and people with disabilities)
2. Negative economic impacted populations and 3) Groups historically and marginalized by health disparities.

The ETHAN project ensures individuals who call 911 with non-emergency complaints will be triaged by telehealth emergency medical physicians who are immediately available and skilled at making rapid triage decisions. Patients who are assessed by an ETHAN physician and confirmed to be non-emergent can be scheduled to local Federally Qualified Clinic (FQHC), home care, primary care physician along with arranged transportation by a taxi cab, self-transport or can home care with no-transport.

The ETHAN program continues to train its First Responders that this is a viable option for non-emergency calls and complaints, so that all residents may receive the benefits needed.

### Use of Evidence

Since its inception, generally 15% of all ETHAN patients were dispositioned or managed away from the emergency department and 9 of every 10 patients avoided using the HFD ambulance for transportation. Shown in patient disposition results during the section during the ARPA ETHAN Reporting for FY22/QTR1.

ETHAN project has demonstrated significant success in increasing EMS efficiency and quality of care; through reduced ambulance transports, reduced on-scene time and management of patients both on-scene and to non-traditional destinations. Shown in patient disposition results during the section during the ARPA ETHAN Reporting for FY22/QTR1.

### Programmatic Data

This project will be measuring and reporting the number of ETHAN Emergency Medicine Physician telehealth visits conducted and the number of patients managed to alternate transportation and/or referred destinations. ETHAN reduces the EMS and Patient contact/exposure time by 53%, as well a novel Public Health mitigation and prevention tool. As this project closed at the end of June, facts and figures are still being measured to understand the impact of the ETHAN program. These details will be included in the in the annual performance report.



# ARPA

## Project Inventory Continued

### Houston Public Library

#### Digital Literacy Equity Project

Department:	Houston Public Library (HPL)
Project:	Digital Literacy Equity Project
ID Number:	HOU - #019
Estimated Approved Cost:	\$3,875,130.00
Expenditure Category:	Negative Economic Impacts 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services
Services Status:	Not yet started
Expenditures through Period:	\$0

#### Project Overview

Developing capacity of Digital Literacy instruction and skill development is critical for the City of Houston to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic. To prepare the workforce for the current and future job markets, the City of Houston Public Library (HPL) provides digital literacy skill education. Additionally, there is a focus to teach these skills in areas that lack access in their homes to digital tools and broadband.

Through the Digital Literacy Equity Project, the Mayor's Office for Adult Literacy will partner with local adult and family literacy providers that meet specified criteria to develop community computer labs geographically located throughout the city to facilitate access to digital and computer literacy within under-resourced communities.

This project also provides Digital Literacy and Digital Equity Navigators which are trained professionals that teach digital literacy to adults and provide sufficient technology support to ensure that the technology in these computer labs are effective

The project will also expand the "Community Tech Kit Initiative" through the City's Library and Office of Complete Communities. The expansion would help learners have a laptop, a computer, and a hotspot for adult learners residing in targeted communities.

#### Promoting Equitable Outcomes, Use of Evidence, and Programmatic Information

As this program launches, information on the types of clients served and their locations will be collected and reported in the annual performance report. This project will start



# ARPA

## *Project Inventory Continued*

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in areas with the most need.



**ARPA**

### Administration & Regulatory Affairs

#### BARC – Spay and Neuter Program

Department:	Administration & Regulatory Affairs (ARA)
Project:	BARC – Spay and Neuter Program
ID Number:	HOU - #020
Estimated Approved Cost:	\$1,000,000.00
Expenditure Category:	Negative Economic Impacts 2.36 Aid to Other Impacted Industries
Status:	Not yet started
Expenditures through Period:	\$0

#### Project Overview

During the pandemic, the stray animal population in Houston erupted as non-profit foster and rescue organizations could no longer hold fundraising events to support feeding and medically sustaining the stray animals, they formerly took in from city streets. In the two years since the pandemic began, rescue organizations and the BARC animal shelter have reached and exceeded the capacity to care for these animals the unabated stray population threatens the health and safety of both people and animals in Houston's most vulnerable communities.

The single best way to begin the control of the stray animal population is a robust low-cost and no-cost spay and neuter program. The approved BARC program will provide targeted spay and neuter initiatives which include microchipping, rabies vaccines, and city registrations. This program will help to decrease the number of stray animals that foster and rescue parts would need to take in.

#### Promoting Equitable Outcomes and Use of Evidence

This program will be launching in areas with the most need in the community. Information will be widespread in areas of low income and those areas with a high stray population.

#### Programmatic Information and Performance Report

As this program launches, information on the number of animals spayed and neutered and their location will be collected and reported in the annual performance report.



# ARPA

### **Mayor's Office of Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence**

#### **Multicultural Domestic Violence Prevention Outreach Strategy**

Department:	Mayor's Office of Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence (OHT&DV)
Project:	Multicultural Domestic Violence Preventative Outreach Strategy
ID Number:	HOU - #021
Estimated Approved Cost:	\$3,000,000.00
Expenditure Category:	Public Health 1.11Community Violence Interventions
Status:	Not Yet Started
Expenditures through Period:	\$0

#### **Project Overview**

The Multicultural Domestic Violence Preventative Outreach Strategy will engage culturally diverse survivors of and those vulnerable to domestic violence who have been and continue to be disproportionately affected by both domestic violence and the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Houston Police Department and local service providers experienced a significant uptick in calls for service and hotline calls during the pandemic, especially when it comes to immigrant, refugee, and communities of color. This outreach effort serves to provide access to information and materials that are culturally specific and sensitive to those belonging to Houston's ethnic and racial minorities.

#### **Promoting Equitable Outcomes and Use of Evidence**

This program will be launched in the areas with the most need and are identified as the greatest risk of domestic violence. The program will be evaluated on a quarterly basis.

#### **Programmatic Information and Performance Report**

As this program launches, information on the types of clients served and their locations will be collected and reported in the annual performance report.



# ARPA

### ***Houston Parks and Recreation Department***

#### ***Enhance City Park Security***

Department:	Parks and Recreation Department (HPARD)
Project:	Enhance City Park Security
ID Number:	HOU - #022
Estimated Approved Cost:	\$1,915,200.00
Expenditure Category:	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
Status:	Not Yet Started
Expenditures through Period:	\$5,919.70

#### **Project Overview**

As park visitation has gone up during the COVID-19 pandemic, so has related crimes such as illegal dumping, gang activity, shootings, drug use and selling, stolen vehicles, and others. Smaller neighborhood parks have seen most of this increase in the City of Houston by at least 30%.

Through the One Safe Houston plan announced by Mayor Turner in February of 2022, there was a call to expand the Urban Park Rangers Dispatch operation. These employees are the first line of defense at the parks in preventing these crimes from occurring and escalating to instances where police officers need to be involved.

#### **Promoting Equitable Outcomes**

These additional park rangers will be dispatched in high crime areas in the City's most underserved communities.

#### **Use of Evidence, Programmatic Information and Performance Report**

As this program launches, information on the number of hours worked in parks across Houston as well as the location will be collected and reported on in the annual performance report.



# ARPA

### ***Houston Forensic Science Center***

#### ***Case Backlog Funding***

Department:	Houston Forensic Science Center (HFSC)
Project:	Case Backlog Funding
ID Number:	HOU - #028
Estimated Approved Cost:	\$3,000,000.00
Expenditure Category:	Negative Economic Impacts 2.36 Aid to Impacted Industries
Status:	Not Yet Started
Expenditures through Period:	\$0

#### **Project Overview**

As crime rates rise, the strain on crime scene investigation units is growing. While there is funding being invested in the front end of preventing crime, these funds are aimed at solving the crime once it happens to get perpetrators off the streets and seek closure for victims. This program will provide funding to the Houston Forensic Science Center for toxicology case outsourcing, overtime for crime scene investigation and firearm investigation staff, and funding for training of new analysts.

A key component of this project is to expand the number of available staff in order to have a long term solution to the case backlog due to COVID-19 employee absenteeism and increase in crime.

#### **Promoting Equitable Outcomes and Use of Evidence**

This project hopes to recruit employees from the areas of most need in the community as well as solves crime in the areas with the highest crime rates. Once this project launches, it will be evaluated for its effectiveness at reducing the case backlog.

#### **Programmatic Information and Performance Report**

As this program launches, information on the number of cases being investigated as well as the number of hours for training additional analysts will be collected and reported in the annual performance report in the annual performance report.



# ARPA



### ***Houston Information Technology Department***

#### ***Public Safety Radios***

Department:	Information Technology Services (HITS)
Project:	Public Safety Radios
ID Number:	HOU - #029
Estimated Approved Cost:	\$10,000,000.00
Expenditure Category:	Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity 3.4 Effective Service Delivery
Status:	Not Yet Started
Expenditures through Period:	\$0

#### **Project Overview**

In service of approximately 2.3 million Houstonians, the Houston Police Department (HPD) responds to more than 1.1 million calls for service and processes more than 450,000 offense reports each year. HITS is working with multiple other City departments to align resources to purchase, program, install, and deploy a new fleet of radios to HPD that meet the specifications given.

#### **Promoting Equitable Outcomes and Use of Evidence**

These radios will be deployed in all areas of the City, serving all constituents.



# ARPA

### Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities

#### Staffing Augmentation

Department:	Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities (MOPD)
Project:	Staffing Augmentation
ID Number:	HOU - #030
Estimated Approved Cost:	\$633,634.50
Expenditure Category:	Negative Economic Impacts 2.37 Economic Impact Assistance: Other
Status:	Not Yet Started
Expenditures through Period:	\$0

#### Project Overview

The COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately impacted people with disabilities; destabilizing access to direct service providers, straining already limited financial resources for a population struggling to survive on a fixed income, and exacerbating the need for affordable and accessible housing. Additionally, people with disabilities, who already faced significant barriers to education, employment, and full community integration pre-pandemic, saw those gaps widen because of the pandemic. The federal government has recently released guidance on recognizing long covid as a disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act, so Houston is just beginning to feel the impacts of a population that has recently acquired disabilities and will be seeking support from governmental and nongovernmental organizations to adapt to their new normal.

Throughout the COVID-19 emergency, MOPD staff have fielded thousands of calls from people with disabilities, direct service providers, family members, and professionals seeking relief and referral services throughout the Greater Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land census statistical area. This demand has strained MOPD's limited staff capacity and has highlighted the need for additional technological solutions to better open, track, and close out case management requests. MOPD is seeking ARPA funds to support our community liaison program in a major way by hiring community liaisons.



# ARPA

## *Project Inventory Continued*

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### Promoting Equitable Outcomes

This program is the frontline to recovery services for people with disabilities in the southeast Texas region. MOPD is the only local government agency of its kind providing case management and referral services to people with disabilities. Since the beginning of the pandemic MOPD has fielded thousands of calls from Houstonians and Texans in general asking for help in every aspect of life, from getting food delivered to their homes as their chronic illnesses prevented them from going to grocery stores at the height of the pandemic to families asking for housing and rent assistance as the vouchers they received early on in the pandemic have since expired. Our constituents have multi-faceted concerns and issues that they already had before the pandemic and those have since gotten exacerbated by Covid-19. Tracking these and logging them requires a sturdy support team.

### Use of evidence Project Demographic Distribution, and Performance

As this program launches, information on the types of clients served, services needed, and their locations will be collected and reported.



# ARPA