

Lee County Government 2025 American Rescue Plan Act Recovery & Resilience Plan

STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS



Annual Report 5

Period Covered: July 1, 2024– June 30, 2025

Due: July 31, 2025

Lee County, Florida
Board of County Commissioners
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American Rescue Plan Act
Lee County, Florida
2025 ARPA Recovery & Resilience Plan
Report Date: July 31, 2025

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I. General Overview

A. Executive Summary

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

The *Lee County's American Rescue Plan Act Recovery & Resilience Plan* is the fifth annual required report. The Plan summarizes Lee County's allocation and expenditure of ARPA funds through June 30, 2025. The Lee Board of County Commissioners' process to determine how funds would be used involved a broad array of information gathering, discussions, and planning. Participants in the process included County departments, small business and public interest groups, non-profit organizations, public health entities, education providers, and the public. The resulting priorities were discussed and finalized through the Board's public meeting process, which reflects "government in the sunshine principles.". As required, the Board was careful to approach each project design, implementation, and execution with equity in mind especially for underserved communities—with equal access to funding opportunities for projects and equal eligible access to services provided by the funds.

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

Table 1. Lee County Approved Allocations by Expense Categories Table

Expense Categories	Allocated Funding	Percent of Funding
Public Health	\$28,176,846	19%
Negative Economic Impacts	\$39,490,063	26%
Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity	\$32,989,857	22%
Infrastructure	\$99,199	0.1%
Revenue Replacement	\$48,241,146	32%
Administrative	\$678,438	0.5%
American Rescue Plan Funds	\$149,675,549	100%

B. Uses of Funds

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

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



Public Health (EC 1): \$28,176,846 for public health and pandemic response to address needs, including:

- \$16.5 million for the emergency operations expansion project
 - \$9 million for mental health funding to address staffing needs for youth and adult behavioral health services
 - \$111,123 for pediatric mobile vaccine unit targeting children and families with transportation challenges
 - \$58,607 for sheriff traffic and security detail at testing sites
 - \$2.5 million for nonprofit public health/human service United Way grants to increase or ensure the continuation and expansion of direct services to the community
-



Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2): \$39,490,063 to respond to negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency, including to households and small businesses:

- \$12 million for nonprofit human services grants to increase or ensure the continuation and expansion of direct services to the community
 - \$7.5 million for affordable housing projects to increase housing availability
 - \$4.5 million for food distribution service organizations
 - \$3 million for workforce training and certifications to improve employment opportunities and financial security
 - \$1.6 million to support nonprofit childcare providers to increase childcare unit availability
 - \$3 million for nonprofit capacity building (United Way)
 - \$3 million for homelessness prevention and assistance
 - \$2 million for small business resiliency grants to provide economic relief from the negative economic impact of the pandemic
 - \$1.6 million for extended learning and afterschool programs for youth to address academic, social, and emotional needs
 - \$400,000 to provide small business and nonprofit technical assistance to address the negative economic impact of COVID-19
 - \$180,000 to aid tourism and hospitality businesses
-



Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity (EC 3): \$32,989,857 to provide public health capacity in the public sector, including:

- \$6.9 million for Lee County Public Safety – Emergency Medical Services to address staffing shortages and deficiencies
 - \$26 million for pandemic engaged Paramedics and EMTs
-



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

- No Premium pay projects
-



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

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



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

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

8



Administrative (EC 7): \$678,439 million for ARPA administrative expenses (4% of total Lee County ARPA allocation)

- \$127,221 Lee County, through a competitive solicitation, secured a management consultant to assist with administration of the ARPA funding received
 - \$550,000 million Lee County added Grant Management positions
-

C. Promoting Equitable Outcomes

This section has been removed for the 2025 reporting as it is no longer a requirement from US Treasury.

D. Community Engagement

Lee County ARPA Project Collaborators

70+ Nonprofits

Three Universities &
The School Board (Adult Ed)

The Public Health System | The Sheriffs Office

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

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

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

Human and Veteran Services Community Engagement

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

Economic Development Community Engagement

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

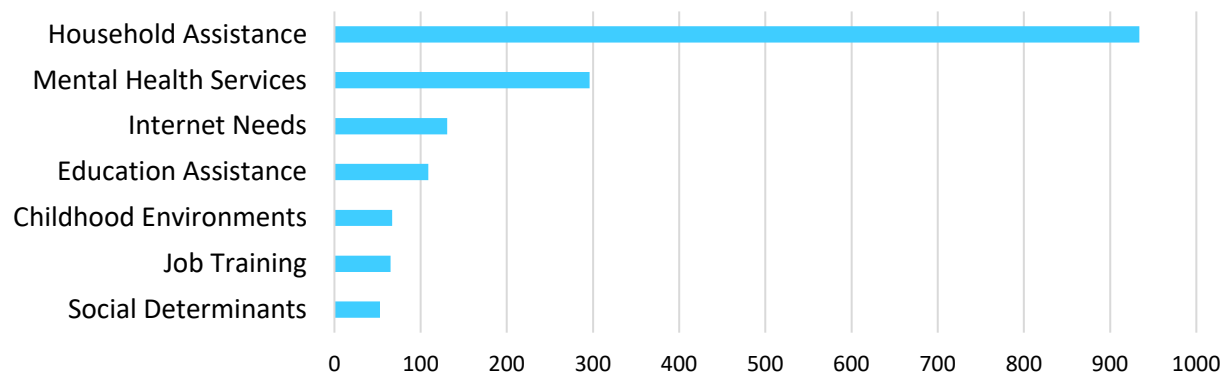
2. Public Survey—Impacts of COVID-19 on Households, Businesses and Non-Profit Agencies

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

Survey Data Highlights

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

Summary Responses Grouped: Household Impacts



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

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

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

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

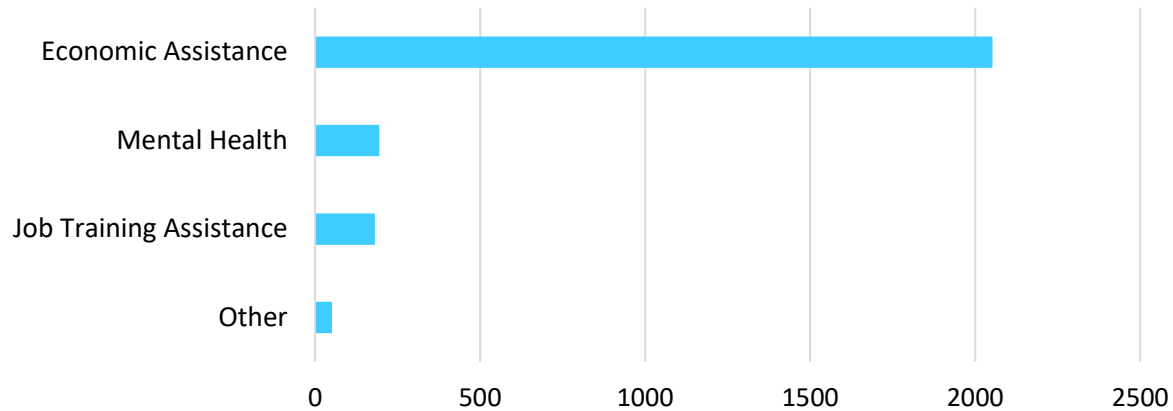
Childhood Environments: Problems finding or paying for childcare

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

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

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

Summary Responses Grouped: Workplace Impacts



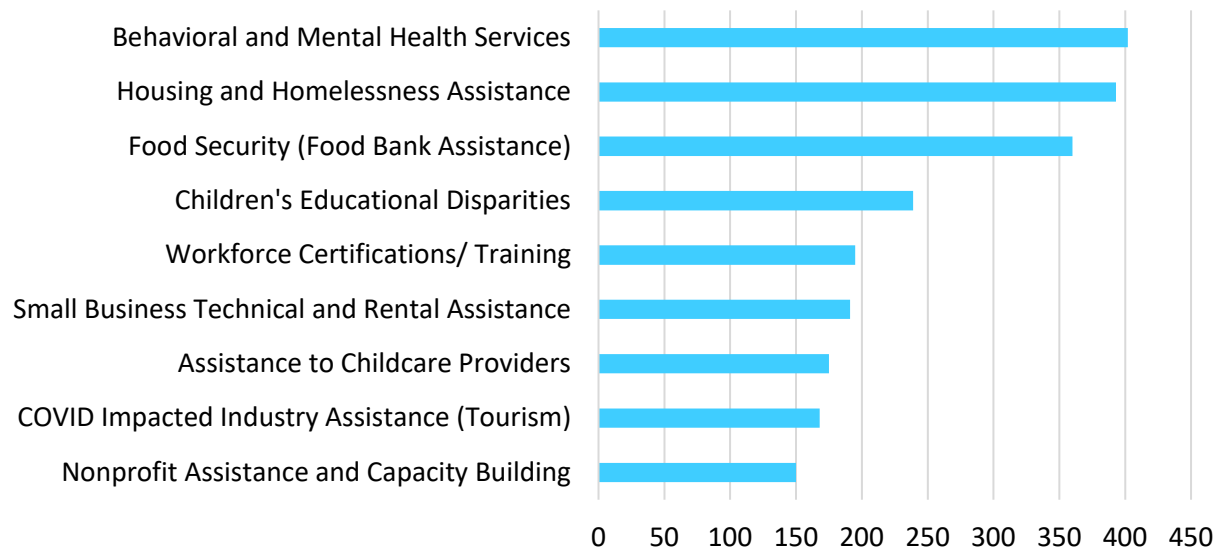
NOTES: Economic Assistance: Problems paying commercial rent/mortgage, suppliers, vendors, or workers. Problems hiring and retaining workers, decreases in sales and overall financial position negatively affected, additional expenses due to COVID.

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

Job Training Assistance: Problems finding qualified workers.

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

Summary Response Totals: Top 3 Most Important Areas



3. Public Meetings

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

The Lee Board of County Commissioners held an ARPA planning workshop in September 2021 to identify Phase One projects. At the regular board meeting on October 19, 2021, following public discussion the Board approved the Phase One projects. Phase Two projects were approved following discussion in a public meeting on March 1, 2022. On June 21, 2022, May 26, 2023, March 5, 2024, August 20, 2024 and December 3, 2024 the board updated its allocations in the various expenditure categories.

4. Selection of Subrecipients

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

5. Information Sharing

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

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

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



ARPA Expenditure Dashboard

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

\$149.7M

ARPA Grant Funding

[ARPA Expenditure Dashboard](#)

REPORTS DUE TO U.S. TREASURY


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


Interim Report (One Time)


Project & Expenditure Reports (Quarterly)

Recovery Plan Performance Report (Annual)

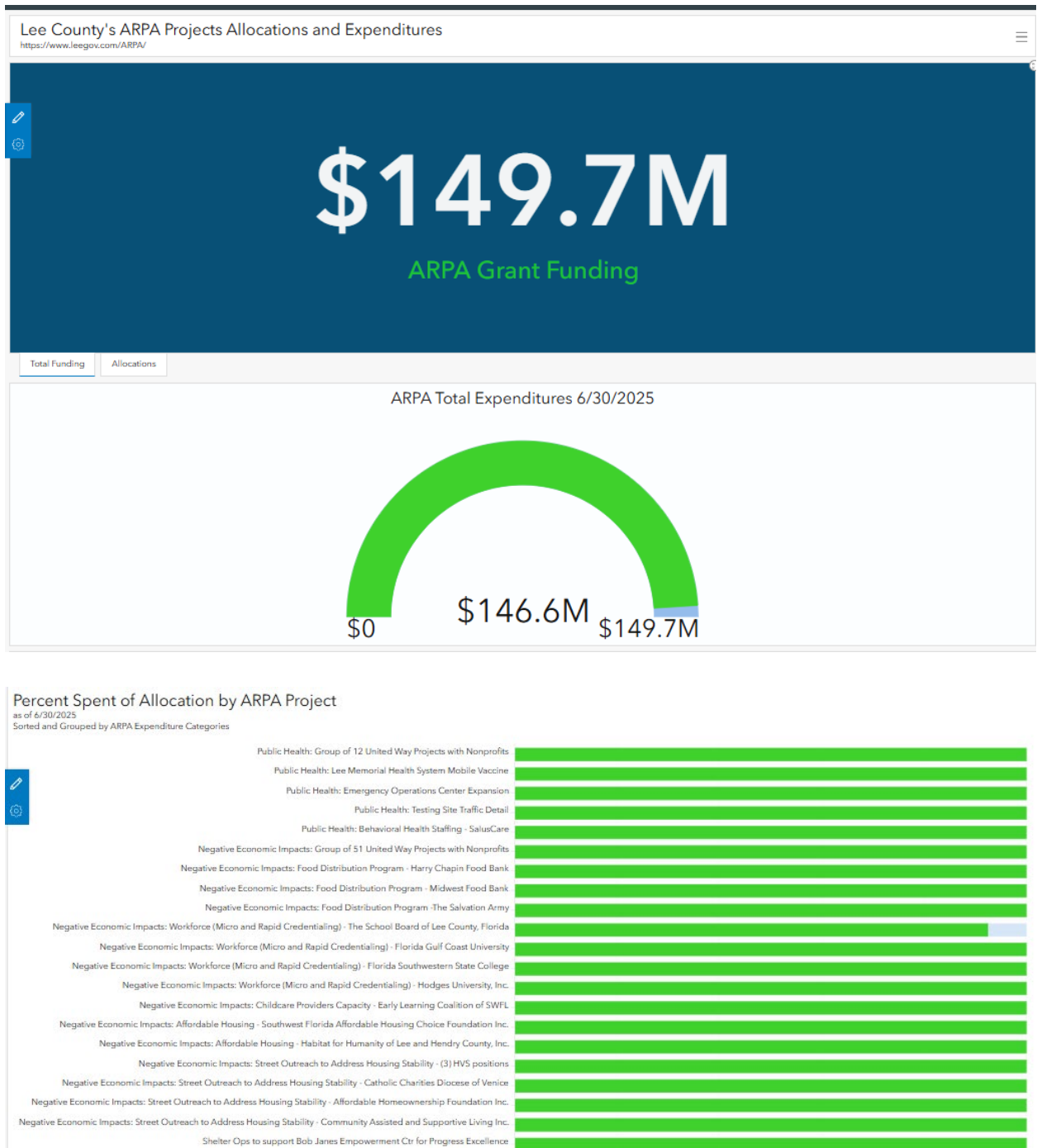
INFORMATION & RESOURCES


[US Treasury, Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds](#)


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


[United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades and Okeechobee Counties](#)

(b) Expenditure Dashboard





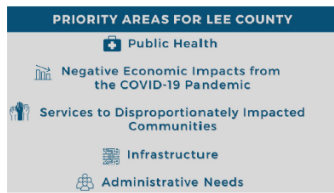
(c) Press releases can be reviewed within the Meetings and Documentation section of the Lee County ARPA webs site. [Meetings & Documents \(leegov.com\)](http://www.leegov.com/ARPA)

Samples:

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

(d) Social Media and Newsletter samples:





American Rescue Plan

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

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



American Rescue Plan Act

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

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

[Learn More](#)



ARPA Plans

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

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



Lee County COVID-19 Community Impact Survey

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

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

Impacts of COVID-19 on Households, Businesses and Non-profit Agencies Complete the survey below to share your pandemic impacts and feedback for ARPA recovery and resilience planning. <https://survey123.abn18.com/>



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

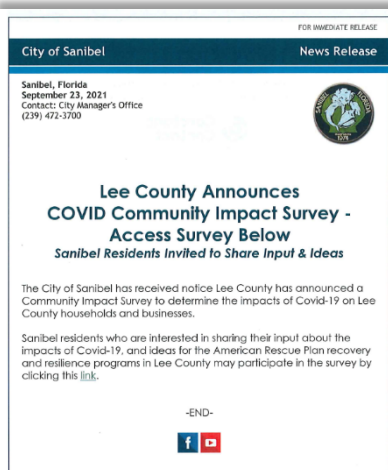


Lee County received \$149 million under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to respond to adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

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

[Visit leegov.com/ARPA](https://www.lee.gov.com/ARPA) for more information.



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



(e) Earned Media Samples:

November 2, 2023 – WGCU

Going up! Lee County breaks ground for addition to EOC

October 5, 2023 – WGCU

Expansion groundbreaking set for Lee County Public Safety Center

August 18, 2023 – WGCU

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

July 31, 2023 – WGCU

Moore About Business: How Goodwill used ARPA funds in SWFL

July 10, 2023 – WGCU

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

Feb 23, 2023 – NBC-2

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

Feb 14, 2023 – US Department of Treasury

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

Feb 3, 2023 – WGCU

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

July 7, 2022 0 WGCU

June 23, 2022 – NBC-2

Upgrades and additional affordable housing coming to Lee County

April 28, 2022 – ABC7

Local universities add additional courses after money donated by Lee County

April 28, 2022 – WINK news

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

April 27, 2022 – Fox4 news

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

April 27, 2022 – ABC7

Local universities add additional courses after money donated by Lee County

March 19, 2022 – News-Press

Lee to fund homeless services, workforce training

March 2, 2022 – News-Press

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

September 21, 2021 – NBC-2

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

6. Project Specific Examples of Community Engagement

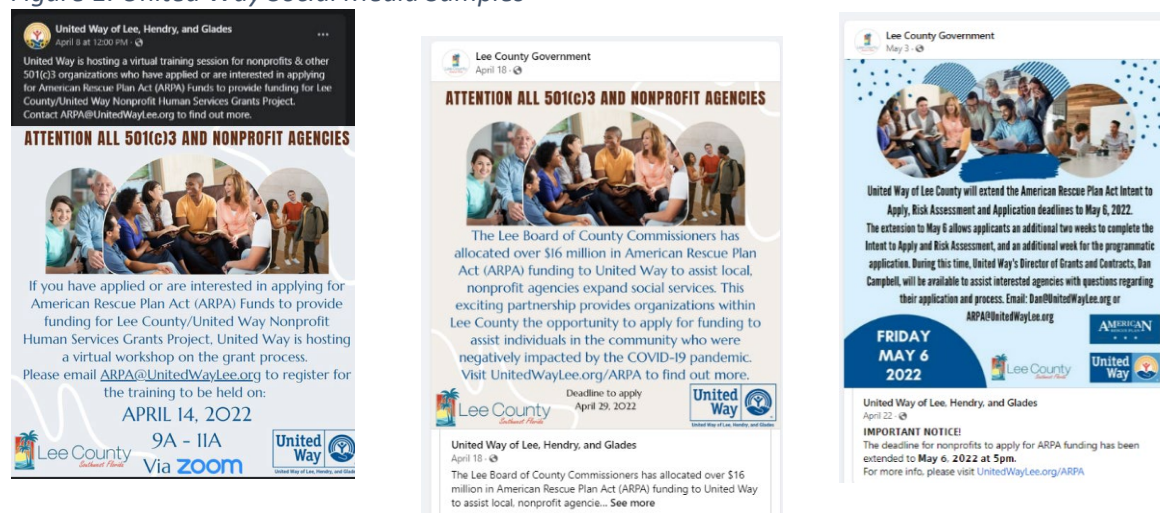
Community Engagement Sample - United Way Project

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

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

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

Figure 1. United Way Social Media Samples

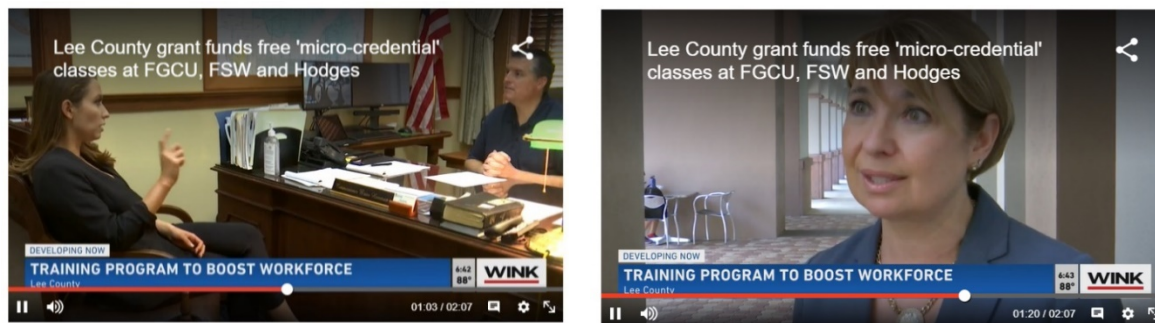


Community Engagement Samples - Workforce Training and Certification

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

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

Figure 2. News Clip Workforce Training



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

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

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





Community Engagement Samples - Aid to Tourism, Travel or Hospitality

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

E. Labor Practices

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

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

Table 2. Labor Practices Project Table

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

F. Use of Evidence

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

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

Table 3. Evidence Plans for Lee County Subrecipients

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

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

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



**United Way
of Lee County**

Table 4. Evidence Plans for United Way Subrecipients

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

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

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

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

II. Performance Report

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

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

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

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

A. ARPA Program Management Summary (June 30, 2025)

Table 5. ARPA Project Phases

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

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

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

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



**United Way
of Lee County**

Table 6. ARPA Project Phases for United Way Subrecipients

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

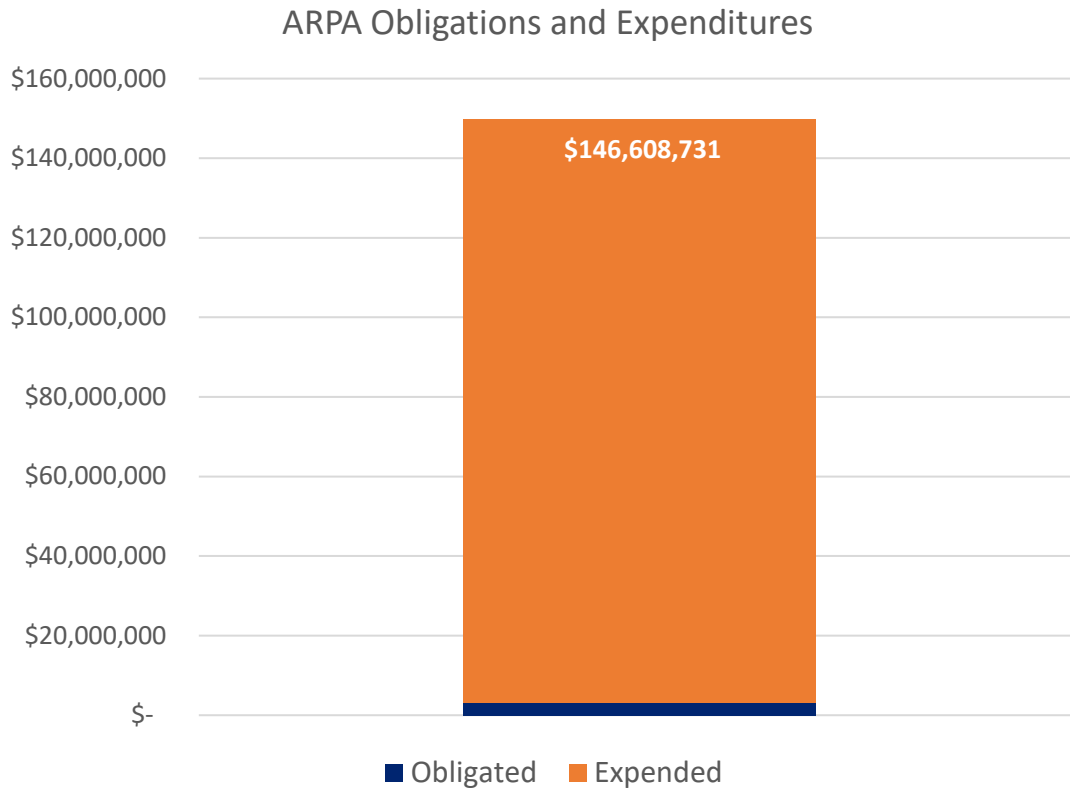
Expenditure Categories (ARPA)	Subrecipients of United Way - Project Title	Project Concept Impact Evaluation & Eligibility	Board Approved Allocation	Definition & Project Planning	Launch & Execution	Performance & Monitoring	Project Close
2.10	Better Families and Better Jobs - Better Together	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓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

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

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

B. Expenditure Summary

Figure 4. Lee County ARPA Expenditure Summary



Expense Categories	Allocated Funding	Expenditures
Public Health	\$28,176,846	\$28,176,846
Negative Economic Impacts	\$39,490,063	\$39,466,638
Public Health-Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity	\$32,989,857	\$32,989,857
Infrastructure	\$99,199	\$99,199
Revenue Replacement	\$48,241,146	\$45,197,753
Administrative	\$678,438	\$678,438
American Rescue Plan Funds	\$149,675,549	\$146,608,731

III. Project Inventory

As of June 30, 2025, the Lee County Board of County Commissioners has allocated the American Rescue Plan Act – Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to projects as listed below.

1. Public Health

Assistance to Households

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

Project ID: ARPA-PH011A

Funding Amount: \$111,123

Status of Completion: Complete

Total Project Expenses: \$111,123

Project Duration: April 1, 2021 – September 20, 2022

Project Expenditure Category: 1.1 COVID-19 Vaccination

Project Overview:



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

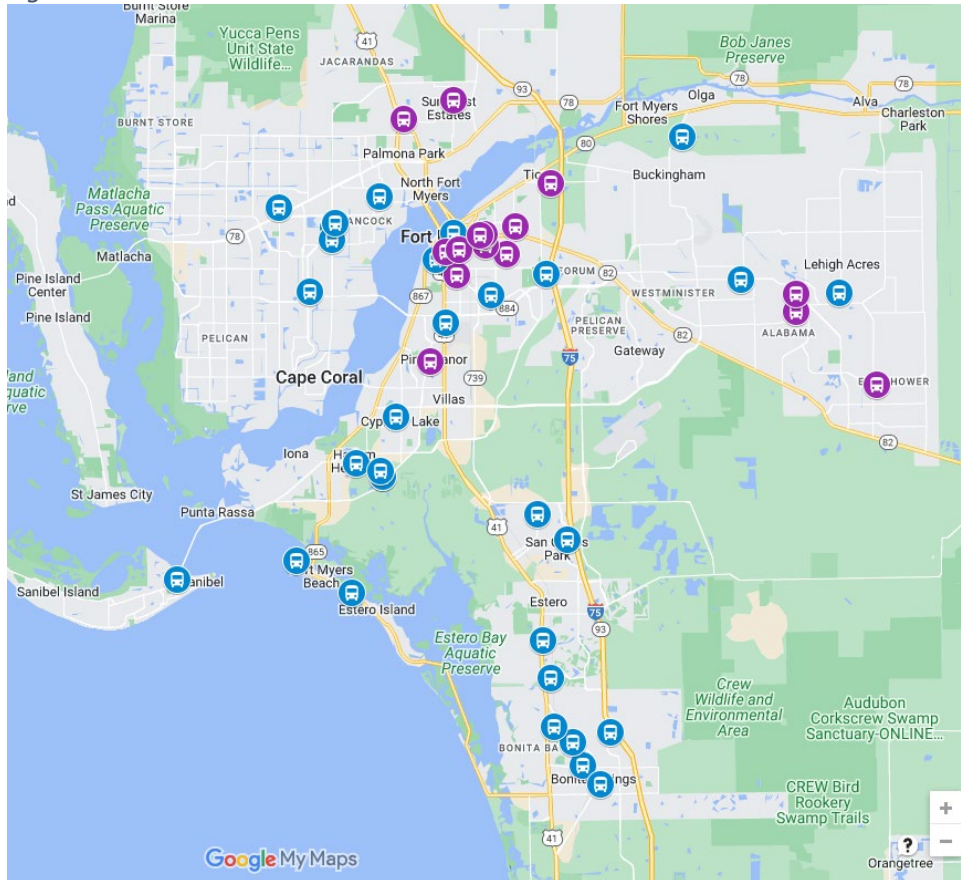


Project Demographic Distribution:

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

Lee County Location Summary

Figure 5. Lee Health Mobile Vaccine Unit Locations



 Mobile Vaccine Location;
  Mobile Vaccine Location in a QCT



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

Performance Measured to Date:

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

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Increase access to vaccination sites.

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

Success Comments:

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

1.4 Emergency Operations Center Expansion Project

Project ID: ARPA-PH014A

Funding Amount: \$16,457,918

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$16,457,918

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

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

Project Overview:

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

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



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

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

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

- Project status as a % complete.
 - **100% Complete. State Funds will be utilized followed by ARPA funding.**
- Projected/actual construction start date:
 - **Projected Start Fall 2023.**
- Projected/actual initiation of operations date (month/year)
 - **November 2, 2023 Groundbreaking**
- Location
 - **2675 Ortiz Ave, Fort Myers, FL 33905**

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

Project ID: ARPA-PH017A, Lee County Sheriff

Funding Amount: \$58,607

Status of Completion: Complete

Total Project Expenses: \$58,607

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

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

Project Overview:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Project ID: ARPA-UW111A

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

Funding Amount: \$400,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$400,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 1.11 Community Violence Intervention

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Justice for Families project a partially ARPA-funded expansion of an existing program that will provide training to improve the community's response to domestic violence, increase and improve resources for domestic violence victims and survivors, and increase safety for survivors and their families. The main activities of the project include (a) providing domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and victimization training to Patrol Officers, courts, judicial personnel, and volunteer; (b) providing funding for operational staff salaries; and (c) collaborating with Clerk of Courts and other judicial system to provide after hours and weekend.



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

ACT has a 44-year history of providing services to victims of domestic violence and their children and survivors of sexual assault and human trafficking in Lee County. Some of the services provided are evidence based but some of the services we will be providing will produce information that will be used as evidence producing. This grant has allowed us to hire staff for this project and to implement the Justice for Families Task Force which now includes more than 25 agencies that may have contact with victims of domestic violence and/or their children including Fort Myers Police Department to create a Domestic Violence Unit within their agency. Additionally, We worked closely Lee County Clerk of Court to created policies and procedures on after-hours assistance by our agency for Injunctions for Protection when there is a lethal case. We could not have done all we did without this funding that truly made a difference. This project will continue. We have new partners, new processes, a new dedicated unit and more education provided to more than 25 partners.

Community Engagement:

Since the last annual report:

September 2024: We made contact with 46 victims of domestic violence and provided a variety of information and assistance including crisis intervention, safety planning, referrals, and counseling. We worked with the Clerk of Courts Chief to complete the after-hours emergency Injunctions for Protection protocol which is now finalized. As you are aware, the Justice for Families meets quarterly and last year determined their needed to be a sub-committee to review fatalities from domestic violence. The goal is to not point fingers but to see what services were used, look at all of the processes from before the

incident and after the death to see what may have been missed, what we could do better, what we need in services, etc.

December 2024: We work primarily with the Clerk of Courts Chief, and our Justice for Families meets quarterly.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Increase crisis intervention, safety planning and/or counseling resources for domestic violence victims and their families.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	Two (2) training sessions per year (6 total) provided for designated Clerk of Courts staff member(s) to provide on-call assistance related to Injunction for Protection orders outside of regular business hours.	Project Target	8
		Achieved to Date	10
		Percentage	125%
2)	100 victims of domestic violence and/or related crimes will file for Injunction for Protection orders remotely from the secure ACT location using the e-Notarization system by the end of the grant.	Project Target	100
		Achieved to Date	80
		Percentage	80%
3)	200 clients will receive crisis intervention, safety planning, and/or counseling services by the end of the grant.	Project Target	200
		Achieved to Date	200
		Percentage	100%

Outcome Statement 2:		Increase victims of domestic violence utilization of available safety services.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	Complete 16 specialized domestic violence training sessions with law enforcement and judicial personnel by the end of the grant cycle	Project Target	16
		Achieved to Date	41
		Percentage	256.3%
2)	8 meetings will be held for the Justice for Families taskforce by December 31st, 2024.	Project Target	8
		Achieved to Date	8
		Percentage	100%

Success Comments:

2024: With this funding we were able to partner with not only Fort Myers Police Department but the Lee County Clerk of Court and other agencies. Recently one of our successes was meeting with the Clerk of Court, Fort Myers Police Department, Lee County Sheriff's Department, Court Administration to set up protocols for after-hours and weekend Injunctions for Protection. The process would work when law enforcement arrives to a domestic violence call they would do a lethality assessment with the victim. If it is determined the case is lethal, they would ask the victim if they wished to obtain an emergency Injunction for Protection. If the victim agreed, the officer or detective would contact ACT immediately and let us know they will be bringing the victim in to apply for the IFP. Upon arrival to ACT, our staff would set them up on our private computer and assist them with logging into the Clerks after-hours portal to complete the request for the IFP. Once completed and sent, our staff would call the on-call clerk informing them that an emergency application has been sent. The on-call clerk would then notify the on-call judge that the application is being sent to the on-call judge. Once the on-call judge reviews the paperwork, if he/she decides to issue the Injunction for Protection, the on-call judge would sign off and immediately forward it to the warrant division of the Lee County Sheriff's Office that is monitored 24/7. LCSO would in turn pick it up and attempt to serve the IFP.

Behavioral Health

1.12A Behavioral Health Staffing Recruiting and Retention

Project ID: ARPA-PH112A, SalusCare

Funding Amount: \$9,000,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$9,000,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 1.12 Mental Health Services*^

Project Overview:



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





Project Demographic Distribution:

Gender – Client Demographic			
Timeframe	Male	Female	Not Reported
Q1 2022	3310	4272	
Q2 2022	3125	3507	39
Q3 2022	3137	3437	19
Q4 2022	3030	3426	11
Q1 2023	3171	3573	9
Q2 2023	3204	3616	22
Q3 2023	3454	3692	3
Q4 2023	3274	3490	4
Q1 2024	3343	3534	3
Q2 2024	3521	3767	8
Q3 2024	3428	3464	4
Q4 2024	3209	2958	1

Age – Client Demographic			
Timeframe	0-17	18-59	60+
Q1 2022	1757	5216	1157
Q2 2022	1435	4222	1018
Q3 2022	1388	4199	1006
Q4 2022	1209	4180	1078
Q1 2023	1205	4340	1208
Q2 2023	1424	4258	1159
Q3 2023	1387	4598	1164
Q4 2023	1398	4261	1109
Q1 2024	1472	4314	1094
Q2 2024	1434	4728	1134
Q3 2024	1341	4635	1120
Q4 2024	1238	3883	1046

Race/Ethnicity - Client Demographic	Q1 22	Q2 22	Q3 22	Q4 22	Q1 23	Q2 23	Q3 23	Q4 23	Q1 24	Q2 24	Q3 2024	Q4 2024
Alaskan Native/American Indian/Other/White	1	0		1			1	1				
Alaskan Native/White	2	1	1		1	1		1				
American Indian	8	10	7	5	4	7	8	7	5	8	8	6
American Indian/Black/African American						1					1	1
American Indian/Black/African American/Unknown	1	0		1	1	1	1	1		1		
American Indian/Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander							1	1	1		1	
American Indian/Multi-racial	1	1										
American Indian/Black/African American	1	1	1									
American Indian/Unknown	5	3	5	5	4	5	4	2	3	3	3	3

Race/Ethnicity - Client Demographic	Q1 22	Q2 22	Q3 22	Q4 22	Q1 23	Q2 23	Q3 23	Q4 23	Q1 24	Q2 24	Q3 2024	Q4 2024
American Indian/Unknown/White	1	0	1		1		1	1	1	1	1	1
American Indian/White	6	5	3	3	4	2	2	1	1		2	3
Asian	19	17	13	11	10	24	14	12	14	15	19	13
Asian/Black/African American			1	1	2	1				1		
Asian/Multi-racial	3	3	2	2	1	1	2	1	2	2	2	3
Asian/Other single race	4	4	4	3	4	3	4	4	4	2	3	4
Asian/Unknown	7	5	2	2	4	2	12	2	1	3	1	2
Asian/Vietnamese					1							
Asian/White	9	8	6	7	6	6	3	2	4	3	4	3
Black/African American	780	639	699	669	587	683	734	744	737	827	787	669
Black or African American					39	15	13	9	2	1		
Black or African American/Black/African American					9	8	3	4		4	2	2
Black/African American/Multi-racial	14	13	13	12	12	10	13	11	15	19	15	13
Black/African American/Multi-racial/White				1			1				4	
Black/African American/Multi-racial/Other single race/White	1	0	1			1	1	1		1	1	1
Black/African American/Multi-racial/Other single race						1	1	1	1	7	2	1
Black/African American/Multi-racial/Unknown	1	0	1		1		1	1	1			1
Black/African American/Multi-racial/White	2	2	1		2	2	1	1	2			5
Black/African American/Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1	1	9	1	1	1			7			
Black or African American/Other single race					1	1	6					5
Black/African American/Other single race	12	11		6	8	9		8			7	
Black/African American/Other single race/White	1	0	1		1		3					1
Black/African American/Other single race/Unknown	0	1	77	1	2	80			1		1	3
Black/African American/Unknown	109	84	67	77	96		73	79	81	92	92	79
Black/African American/Unknown/White			184	2	1	1		1	2	5	3	2
Black or African American/Unknown					2							
Black/African American/White	79	66	9	59	66	61	58	58	56	60	64	55
Multi-racial	232	183	1	148	140	172	217	199	237	214	212	178
Multi-racial/Other (Specify)/White					1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Multi-racial/Other single race	7	7		10	11	11	6	8	9	8	12	11
Multi-racial/Other single race/White	1	1	49	2	1	2	1	2	3	2	4	3
Multi-racial/Other single race/Unknown	1	1	5	1	1	41	1	2	1	2	2	2
Multi-racial/Unknown	74	49	139	49	62		46	51	48	43	51	49
Multi-racial/Unknown/White	5	4	8	3	4	5	6	7	10	9	10	10
Multi-racial/White	161	145		145	144	122	119	129	124	135	128	122

Race/Ethnicity - Client Demographic	Q1 22	Q2 22	Q3 22	Q4 22	Q1 23	Q2 23	Q3 23	Q4 23	Q1 24	Q2 24	Q3 2024	Q4 2024
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	4	7	1	6	6	6	4	4	4	8	7	10
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander/Other single race	0	1	64		1	3	1					
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander/Unknown					1						1	
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander/White	4	1	10	1	2				3	2	2	1
Other (Specify)/White					3	1				1		
Other single race	89	59	4	49	44	60	76	89	57	58	71	53
Other single race/Unknown	13	12	79	10	12	11	12	13	12	7	7	8
Other single race/Unknown/White	6	3	455	1	1	1	4	5	3	5	3	4
Other single race/White	102	87	661	82	99	94	85	83	83	79	82	76
Unknown	768	501	3974	507	600	674	570	558	626	660	603	535
Unknown/White	814	686		691	696	590	591	560	529	517	490	448
Vietnamese					1							
Vietnamese/White					1						1	
White	4781	4044		3873	4035	4081	4444	4091	4167	4469	4386	3781
Not Reported	20	11	35	20	16	37	14		8	17		

Use of Evidence (*Highlights*):

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

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

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

Outcomes: Over the course of this grant, SalusCare was able to reopen 6 Child Crisis Beds and 10 Adult Crisis Beds previously closed due to lack of staffing and availability. The staff vacancy rate went from 22% to under 10% and the turnover rate went from 31% to 9%. This greatly impacts our community by making behavioral health services readily available to anyone in need.

Performance Measured to Date:**Quarterly Data:**

Permanent Staff count

Timeframe	Permanent Staff Count
Baseline (Start)	329
Q1 2022	338
Q2 2022	337
Q3 2022	335
Q4 2022	332
Q1 2023	326
Q2 2023	321
Q3 2023	325
Q4 2023	321
Q1 2024	351
Q2 2024	334
Q3 2024	327
Q4 2024	337

Contractor count

Timeframe	Contractor Count
Baseline (Start)	19
Q1 2022	16
Q2 2022	14
Q3 2022	12
Q4 2022	2
Q1 2023	1
Q2 2023	7
Q3 2023	8
Q4 2023	8
Q1 2024	11
Q2 2024	9
Q3 2024	9
Q4 2024	7

Vacancy

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

Q4 2023	11.75%
Q1 2024	12.56%
Q2 2024	9.6%
Q3 2024	10.3%
Q4 2024	9.98%

Average length of vacancies

Timeframe	Length of Vacancy
Baseline (Start)	180
Q1 2022	180
Q2 2022	180
Q3 2022	170
Q4 2022	160
Q1 2023	100
Q2 2023	150
Q3 2023	120
Q4 2023	135
Q1 2024	90
Q2 2024	75
Q3 2024	74
Q4 2024	78

Number of individual adults and youth served by Treatment Service

Timeframe	Adults	Youth
Baseline FY 2020	15,320	4,166
Baseline FY 2021	14,960	4,353
Q1 2022	7,384	2,258
Q2 2022	6,203	1,847
Q3 2022	5,844	1,672
Q4 2022	-	-
Q1 2023	5,815	1,249
Q2 2023	6,044	1,581
Q3 2023	6,577	1,692
Q4 2023	6,179	1,697
Q1 2024	6,218	1,766
Q2 2024	6,728	1,706
Q3 2024	6,604	1,664
Q4 2024	5,642	1,531

Baker Acts

Timeframe	Adults	Youth
Baseline FY 2020	1,585	582
Baseline FY 2021	1,780	758
Q1 2022	708	348
Q2 2022	514	232

Q3 2022	391	201
Q4 2022	-	-
Q1 2023	-	-
Q2 2023	113	265
Q3 2023	547	254
Q4 2023	529	238
Q1 2024	438	204
Q2 2024	515	250
Q3 2024	282	536
Q4 2024	260	461

Bed Capacity

Year	Bed Capacity
2020 Baseline	29 adult detox until 3/25/2020 20 adult detox beginning 3/25/2020 16 children's CSU, 30 adult CSU 65%
2021 Baseline	20 adult detox 16 children's CSU, reduced to 10 from 4/29/21-6/21/2021; 12/11/2021 – present 30 adult CSU, reduced to 20 from 4/29/21-6/21/2021; 12/11/2021 - present
2024	20 adult detox (licensed) 39 total 16 children's CSU, 30 adult CSU 88%

Turnover Rate (Permanent Staff)

FY	Turnover Rate
2020 Baseline	29.61%
2021 Baseline	30.71%
FY 2024	28.97%
FY 2025	8.80%

Vacancy Rate (Permanent Staff)

FY	Turnover Rate
2020 Baseline	21.64%
FY 2025	9.98%

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

Project ID: ARPA-UW112A

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

Funding Amount: \$91,198

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$91,198

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

Project Expenditure Category: 1.12 Mental Health Services

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



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

Community Engagement:

- All new clients are made aware of available mental health services. LCCSW initiated a bi-weekly online support group, with the first meeting occurring on 4/25/24. Clients are made aware of this group via electronic reminders received via text or email.
- We moved to a new facility in late July and held a grand opening event in August to introduce the community to our new location and all available services. We continued to offer mental health services to all clients.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Increase mental health services for HIV positive individuals and HIV negative individuals on HIV prevention regimens.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	32 unduplicated individuals will receive services	Project Target	32
		Achieved to Date	77
		Percentage	241%
2)	90% of patients participating in individual counseling will receive bio-psychosocial assessment and care plan	Project Target	29
		Achieved to Date	20
		Percentage	69%
3)		Project Target	26
		Achieved to Date	72

Outcome Statement 1:		Increase mental health services for HIV positive individuals and HIV negative individuals on HIV prevention regimens.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
	80% of clients participating in individual counseling will complete at least three counseling sessions	Percentage	277%

Outcome Statement 2:		HIV positive clients participating in individual mental health counseling will have improved health outcomes.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	85% of HIV positive clients participating in mental health counseling will have an undetectable HIV viral load	Project Target	27
		Achieved to Date	104
		Percentage	385%
2)	85% of HIV positive clients participating in individual counseling will continue to receive needed medical care as defined by completing at least 2 encounters with the HIV medical provider in a 12-month period	Project Target	27
		Achieved to Date	68
		Percentage	252%

Success Comments:

In Q4, we began an in person support group. One of our bilingual AHF providers from Broward drove to Ft. Myers to facilitate the group. Attendance was significant and group members all provided very positive feedback on the group itself as well as the facilitator. We will continue to recruit for a Ft. Myers LCSW, as well as offer individual therapy via telehealth. We will continue to offer our monthly in person support group.

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

Project ID: ARPA-UW112D

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

Funding Amount: \$286,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$286,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 1.12 Mental Health Services

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



Use of Evidence:

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

Support Group Evidence: According to a research article in the Journal of Aging and Health, "The improvement in dementia caregivers' depression levels shows that the support group was effective for reducing caregivers' depression although not effective for relieving their burden of care." Memory Cafe Evidence: According to research by GMC Geriatrics, "Cafés provide a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere where carers can go where they feel supported and accepted. Café attendance often brought a sense of normality to these carers' lives. Carers and those they care for look forward to going and often enjoy both the activities provided and socializing with others. Other highlighted benefits included peer support from

other carers, information provision and support from the volunteer café coordinators." According to a study published by Nursing Clinics of North America, has shown that African American patients seek dementia care if a clinic is conveniently located and families are educated about the distinction between normal aging and signs of disease. The trust that was built in the community through collaboration with African American churches has allowed patients and their families to receive help with memory problems and to feel comfortable in seeking help for other medical problems. By embedding services within a trusted partner in the community, the project will be positioned to reach the target population.

Community Engagement:

- We increased the number of attendees at low income housing sites by partnering with Senior Friendship Centers. We visit immediately following their meal service at selected dining sites which are all low income senior housing locations.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Create a dementia informed community through education, support, and resources.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	90% (36/40) of participants that report they are more skilled in their role as a care partner after taking the course	Project Target	36
		Achieved to Date	111
		Percentage	308%
2)	90% (36/40) of participants that report that they would recommend the course to another caregiver	Project Target	36
		Achieved to Date	112
		Percentage	311%

Outcome Statement 2:		Caregivers seeking and in need of a home visit support will be provided a with home visits to provide emotional support, coaching, education, and resource referrals.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	90% (65/72) of caregivers will be seen by a Dubin Center team member in their home	Project Target	65
		Achieved to Date	355
		Percentage	546%
2)	90% (65/72) of caregivers will receive a referral to a community resource	Project Target	65
		Achieved to Date	247
		Percentage	380%

Success Comments:

Overview

The Memory Cafe program was designed to provide a welcoming and engaging space for individuals at risk of social isolation, particularly those affected by the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Serving

underserved and at-risk communities, the program aimed to bring people together, stimulate cognitive function, and promote socialization in a supportive environment.

Making Connections and Combating Isolation

The program's impact was immediately felt as it brought individuals out of their homes and apartments, offering an opportunity to reconnect with friends or make new ones. Participants engaged in a variety of cognitive and creative activities, such as brain games, puzzles, and crafting, all designed to stimulate the mind and promote social bonding.

"Before attending Memory Cafe, I was stuck at home and didn't have much to look forward to. Now, I can't wait to see my friends and try the fun games and activities each week," said one participant, reflecting the program's success in fostering excitement and anticipation for each event.

Overcoming Challenges and Growing Attendance

One of the challenges faced by the program was increasing attendance. However, the team discovered that providing healthy snacks and water was an effective way to draw people in and encourage them to return. Equally important was ensuring that the activities resonated with the attendees. By actively asking participants about their favorite games, puzzles, and crafts, the team was able to tailor the offerings to meet their preferences, creating a more personalized and engaging experience.

"We felt heard. The activities were exactly what we enjoyed, and that made the whole experience more meaningful," shared another participant, highlighting the program's commitment to inclusivity and participant-centered care.

The Role of ARPA Funding

The ARPA grant funding played a crucial role in the success of the Memory Cafe program. It allowed the team to purchase necessary supplies, such as games, puzzles and craft materials, which were directly requested by attendees. The gratitude and enthusiasm from the participants were evident, and the program saw consistent engagement and positive feedback from the community.

"The ARPA funding made a real difference in what we could offer. It allowed us to create an environment where participants felt truly valued and looked forward to each session," said a program organizer.

Looking Ahead

The success of the Memory Cafe program has set the stage for future expansion. The team is committed to continuing to build on the connections fostered through the program, exploring new ways to engage participants, and reaching even more individuals who could benefit from the social and cognitive stimulation provided by the program. With the continued support of the community and future funding opportunities, the Memory Cafe will remain a vital resource for combating isolation and supporting mental well-being in at-risk populations.

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

Project ID: ARPA-UW112B

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Chrysallis Wellness Center Inc

Funding Amount: \$400,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$400,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 1.12 Mental Health Services

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



Use of Evidence:

Evidence-based practices have been associated with higher quality care and better outcomes (Wallen,2010). According to Chiu et al. (2022), the best way to run an Evidence-based program (EBP) is by defining and integrating the EBP to fit well with existing programs. Prioritizing skills and practices to conform with actual needs is critical. Above all, it is essential to instill interest and impart skill among existing staff.

Community Engagement:

- The Chrysallis Wellness Center (CWC) engaged extensively with the Lee County community to raise awareness about the mental health project funded by ARPA in partnership with United Way. Our comprehensive outreach included visiting primary healthcare providers, contacting various community service organizations, conducting online marketing and advertising campaigns, and writing articles of interest for the community. Additionally, special efforts were made to reach the Spanish-speaking population by contributing regularly to a monthly magazine in Spanish. CWC also organized an open house event, which served as an opportunity to introduce the local community to the center's location and the wide range of services being offered. This event ensured that the community was fully aware of the ARPA/United Way(UW) sponsored program, emphasizing the importance of mental health services in the recovery from COVID-19.
- During July, we began to inform patients that the program was coming to a halt so that we could ensure all participants continued to receive program benefits until the end of their participation. We also informed patients that we would continue seeking funds to meet their mental health services needs at no cost. An outreach case manager has been hired to continue community engagement. The focus of CWC's new outreach campaign is the unmet mental health needs of community members who were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and whose condition has been exacerbated by Hurricane Ian's losses.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		To maximize the participation of traditionally marginalized individuals in accessing Behavioral Healthcare Services in person or via telehealth at no cost.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	Enroll 194 individuals in counseling services during the grant cycle	Project Target	194
		Achieved to Date	207
		Percentage	107%
2)	100% of enrolled individuals will have a psychiatric assessment within the grant period	Project Target	194
		Achieved to Date	211
		Percentage	109%
3)	75% of the enrolled individuals will complete the twelve counseling sessions within the period	Project Target	146
		Achieved to Date	177
		Percentage	121%
4)	75% of the enrolled individuals will complete the twelve counseling sessions within the period	Project Target	146
		Achieved to Date	178
		Percentage	122%

Success Comments:

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

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

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

Project ID: ARPA-UW112C

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

Funding Amount: \$175,000

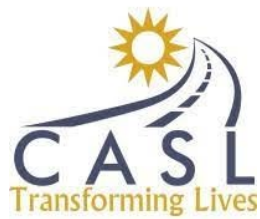
Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$175,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 1.12 Mental Health Services

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



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

Use of Evidence:

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

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

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

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Increase housing stability for individuals with mental health disorders and histories with homelessness.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	79% will show an increase housing stability for individuals with mental health disorders and histories with homelessness.	Project Target	11
		Achieved to Date	1
		Percentage	9.1%
2)	79% will show a decrease in the rate of acute care service utilization (Detox, CSU, ED, Jail) for individuals with mental health disorders	Project Target	11
		Achieved to Date	1
		Percentage	9.1%

Success Comments:

Mariposa Place, our Residential Treatment Center, received its Licensure from AHCA on 8/16/24. We have secured MOUs with Florida Health Centers (FHC) and Centerstone to provide medical and dental services with FHC and mental health and substance abuse services with Centerstone. We have begun receiving referrals from the Lee County Human and Veterans Services and are continuing to follow up on those referrals. We admitted our first resident on 9/27/24.

That resident has completed a psychological evaluation with Centerstone as well as completing a physical with his primary care physician. He has been enrolled and participating in mental health treatment with Centerstone and has been receiving and managing newly prescribed medication. A Service Plan has been completed for the resident and he is working on his service plan goals. In furtherance of those goals he has completed a resume and is working on securing a job. Mariposa staff have ordered a birth certificate for the residents and have submitted an application for SSI. The resident has an MRI scheduled to address a knee issue the resident had prior to admission.

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

Project ID: ARPA-UW112G

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

Funding Amount: \$225,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$225,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 1.12 Mental Health Services

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



Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: Level IV

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

Community Engagement:

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

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Improve the lives of frail seniors so they may stay in their homes as long as possible to avoid early nursing home placement.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	85% Participants will show progress toward meeting one or more identified goals from their comprehensive assessment	Project Target	107
		Achieved to Date	107
		Percentage	100%
2)	85% Participants will show improvement in 1 or more identified problems for their Participant Health Questionnaire	Project Target	107
		Achieved to Date	92
		Percentage	86%

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

Success Comments

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

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

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

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

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

Project ID: ARPA-UW112I

United Way's Project Subrecipient: NAMI Lee County Inc

Funding Amount: \$60,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$60,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 1.12 Mental Health Services

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



United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Lee County Crisis Intervention Team Expansion project is a partially ARPA-funded enhancement/expansion of an existing program whose objective is to provide a training resource to crisis intervention officers to increase in knowledge and understanding and empathy about mental illness, addiction, autism, and Alzheimer's; to reduce arrests, increase jail diversions and lower incidents of use of force,

unnecessary or unwarranted Baker Acts. The main activities of the project include (a) offering classes, class materials, training and continuing education for certification to CIT officers; (b) providing subject matter experts to provide trainings; and (c) providing volunteers, as well as scenario actors and evaluators to support the training.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: Crisis Intervention Team, CIT Program, based on the "Memphis Model," has been spreading across the U.S. and abroad since 1988. A sound CIT program is based on the Best Practice Guide from CIT International in cooperation with leading national organizations that have partnered projects included in the guide: NAMI, the National Council for Behavioral Health and Policy Research Associates, Inc. In addition, more than twenty current and former board members of CIT International weighed in, along with dozens of advocates, mental health professionals and law enforcement from local programs, ensuring the guide reflects best practices from experienced CIT leaders and programs across the US.

Community Engagement:

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

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:	Enhance police officer knowledge of mental illnesses, de-escalation techniques and where to find available local resources to improve the outcomes when encountering people with mental illnesses in crisis.
Goals and Output Measures:	Total

1)	Increase the number of training classes from 2 to 4 per year	Project Target	8
		Achieved to Date	10
		Percentage	125%
2)	Train 80 professional individuals per year	Project Target	160
		Achieved to Date	272
		Percentage	170%
3)	90% (72/80) of trainees will demonstrate increased knowledge as evidenced through pre- and post-testing	Project Target	144
		Achieved to Date	272
		Percentage	189%

Success Comments: Having an additional CIT Training Coordinator that the grant funding provided greatly expanded our ability to provide classes and significantly improved program efficiency and quality. It also allowed us to launch Dispatcher CIT Training that we had been hoping to do for years and the class was a great success. It is evident from the testimonials provided by class attendees that the officers felt they learned a lot, gained many useful skills, formed new community partnerships with the agencies involved, and were far more prepared to deal with encounters with individuals experiencing mental health crisis or dementia.

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

Project ID: ARPA-UW112E

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

Funding Amount: \$404,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$404,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 1.12 Mental Health Services

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



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

https://challengingbehavior.cbcs.usf.edu/docs/pyramid_model_fact_sheet.pdf

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

Community Engagement:

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

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Improve classroom performance in social emotional/infant mental health strategies by teaching the Pyramid Model for Promoting Social Emotional Competence in Infants and Young Children.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	60 classrooms will participate in the Pyramid Model Supporting Developmental & Mental Health program	Project Target	60
		Achieved to Date	129
		Percentage	215%
2)	90% (54/60) of preschool educators will improve their ability to support social emotional/infant mental health needs using the Pyramid Model program on TPITOS scores from pre-test to post-test	Project Target	54
		Achieved to Date	129
		Percentage	239%

Outcome Statement 2:		150 Children served with tier 2 and 3 individualized interventions will show improvement in the three child outcome categories measured after a minimum of 6 months of intervention.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	90% (135/150) of families provided Tier 2 and 3 interventions will report that the interventions have helped their child develop and learn	Project Target	135
		Achieved to Date	161
		Percentage	119%
2)	90% (135/150) of families will report the Pyramid Model interventions and strategies provided at playgroup supported their child's development	Project Target	135
		Achieved to Date	220
		Percentage	163%

Success Comments:

Playgroups:

Playgroups received 100% of parents surveyed report that playgroups supported their child's development.

"My child has improved so much with sitting for a little longer period of a time, speaking a little more and clearer with words. Learned what ways can calm him down which was music. Thank you Playgroups."

-Parent

Developmental Interventions Sessions:

Of the families surveyed 98% report services helped their child and were satisfied with intervention services.

“Since my son started this journey, he has spoken a lot more, and with sign language too. Super thankful he was signing before he could even say some words, but I believe my son will be able to speak with no problem soon enough. Super thankful for this program and our provider.”

-Parent

Infant Mental Health:

100% of preschool providers surveyed found IMH program to be supportive of educators and students, expanded their knowledge to support the IMH needs of students, and would recommend to other providers/preschools.

“The Preschool Infant Mental Health Consultant has been an amazing resource for our students, teachers, and families. Her expertise and advice has been instrumental in helping us to get services for many of our students. She has truly been a partner! We truly looked forward to every visit. Thank you so much for this program. Her expertise has been extremely advantageous for us and more importantly for our students.”

-Preschool Director

1.12 More Hope (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW112F

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

Funding Amount: \$400,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$400,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 1.12 Mental Health Services

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



Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: Clubhouse International

Community Engagement: Hope Clubhouse continues to work on community engagement to create additional awareness for our services. Over the summer we launched a monthly external newsletter and blasted out over 800 postcard mailers. Our annual luncheon is scheduled for 10.10.24 and will include many new businesses and community supporters.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Improve community awareness of Clubhouse Services and increase individuals' access opportunities to Clubhouse Services in Lee County.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	Contact 100 new community contacts	Project Target	100
		Achieved to Date	924
		Percentage	924.0%
2)	25% of new community contacts will become community partnerships	Project Target	25
		Achieved to Date	122
		Percentage	488%
3)	Add 75 new Clubhouse members (clients)	Project Target	75

		Achieved to Date	82
		Percentage	109%

Success Comments:

Daily average attendance at Hope Clubhouse continues to rise with new referrals coming in weekly. Members recently shared that they actually dread the weekends because we are not open. In response to hearing this, we decided to add a social on the last Saturday of each month at the clubhouse. It is called brunch and bingo. This social is free and includes a special brunch menu and the playing of bingo. During the game, winners are able to sign-up for one of our other 5 socials per month for free. Our first brunch and bingo was a huge success and we plan to continue this trend for our incredible members.

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

Project ID: ARPA-UW113A

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

Funding Amount: \$27,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$27,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 1.13 Substance Use Services

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

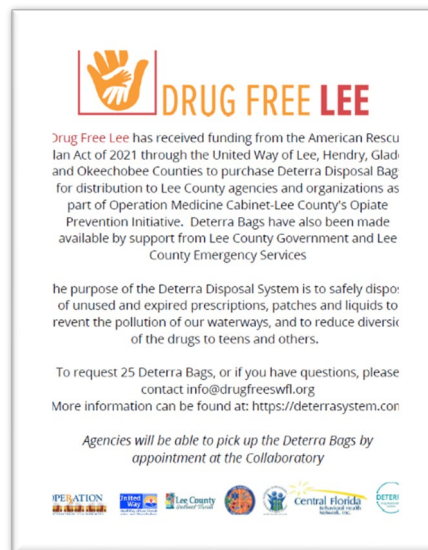


Use of Evidence:

Evidence-based practices: The National Institute for Drug Abuse (NIDA) included this information on their summary of use of Deterra Bags: When consumers became aware of the Deterra System, they were enthusiastic and used the product almost immediately. 91% of all respondents were motivated by concern for the environment, with 45% citing concern about drug abuse or diversion, and 37% citing concern about accidental poisoning. Providers of Deterra were similarly enthusiastic about the System, and indicated high concern for the environment, though a significantly higher percentage of them also cited concern for abuse/diversion and/or accidental poisoning. The activated carbon system was highly effective in adsorbing and deactivating all of the drugs tested, with an average of 89% of API adsorbed within the first

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

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



Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

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

Success Comments:

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

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

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

Project ID: ARPA-UW113B

United Way's Project Subrecipient: The McGregor Clinic

Funding Amount: \$81,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$81,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 1.13 Substance Use Services

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. New service- Peer Overdose Prevention Initiative (POPI) project is a fully ARPA-funded program to Decrease opioid deaths and to be community resource education and drug treatment



options. The main activities of the project include providing (a) capacity training and skills building to target populations, (b) peer navigation and referrals connecting to care/services, (c) Funding for operational staff, and (d) program marketing.

Use of Evidence:

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

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

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

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

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

Community Outreach:



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

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Reduce the number of opioid overdoses in Lee County through education and linkage to community resources.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	250 Persons who use drugs will receive 1 on 1 opioid overdose prevention training	Project Target	250
		Achieved to Date	1215
		Percentage	486%
2)	100 Persons who use drugs will be referred to community resources	Project Target	102
		Achieved to Date	151
		Percentage	148%
3)	340 Naloxone kits will be distributed to persons at risk for opioid overdose**	Project Target	340
		Achieved to Date	1238
		Percentage	364%

Outcome Statement 2:		Reduce the number of HIV acquisitions among persons who use drugs.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	12 Community partners who serve persons who use drugs and those at risk for opioid overdose will receive HIV/STI/Substance Misuse educational sessions	Project Target	12
		Achieved to Date	23
		Percentage	192%

2)	30 Persons who use drugs will receive HIV tests, be informed of their status, and referred to appropriate services along the care continuum	Project Target	30
		Achieved to Date	98
		Percentage	327%

Success Comments:

A key highlight of this work has been the opportunity to provide education to our community partners at Pine Manor, a predominantly Spanish-speaking immigrant community, where many households live below the poverty line. Being invited to share crucial information and education about Narcan's purpose, how it works, and why it is essential to have it in households- has allowed us to connect with residents in a meaningful way. Initially, many residents were unaware of Narcan and its potential lifesaving benefits. At first, there was some resistance, with many expressing confidence that they would never need such a medication. However, after further education they began to understand that Narcan can be used in emergency situations such as accidental overdoses in elderly individuals who may have taken too many medications or children who may access medicine cabinets. This changed their perspective on Narcan and overtime, more residents were actively seeking out information and taking Narcan to keep in their homes for the safety of their families.

2 Negative Economic Impacts

Assistance to Households

2.01 Food Distribution Organizations to Address Food Insecurity

Project ID: ARPA-BNE021A1, Harry Chapin Food Bank

Funding Amount: \$2,750,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$2,750,000



Harry Chapin Food Bank
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA



Figure 6. Food Distribution



Project ID: ARPA-BNE021A2, Midwest Food Bank

Funding Amount: \$1,320,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$1,320,000



Project ID: ARPA-BNE021A4, The Salvation Army

Funding Amount: \$465,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$465,000



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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.1 Household Assistance: Food Programs

Project Overview:

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

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

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

Success Story:

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

Each Friday, it is clear how much this help was needed, with cars lined up as far as the eye could see. Erica, who's been fighting cancer, said the food she receives at Ocean Church is why she's been able to eat during these hard times. "It helps me because I'm going through a hard time," she explained, showing how crucial this support is when life throws curveballs.

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

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

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

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

2.01 Food Distributions (United Way's Project Beneficiary)

Project ID: ARPA-BUW021A

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

Funding Amount: \$225,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$225,000

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

Project Expenditure Category:

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



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

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

Project ID: ARPA-BUW021B

United Way's Project Beneficiary: Meals of Hope

Funding Amount: \$400,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$400,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.1 Household Assistance: Food Programs

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

Success Comments:

Meals of Hope's ARPA project continues to address high levels of food insecurity as a result of COVID-19 and how it continues to have a negative economic impact on thousands of households in Lee County. Families continue to make difficult decisions between feeding their children and paying their inflating rent, grocery bills and utilities. Meals of Hope served over 35,000 adults, children and seniors through its three Lee County mobile food pantries in 2022. Locations include: First United Methodist Church, St.

Mary's Episcopal Church, and Iglesia Pentecostal Peniel Church. Food insecure families depend on our weekly pantries where they receive fresh, frozen and dry food items retail valued at over \$100 each visit.

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

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

Project ID: ARPA-BUW021C

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

Funding Amount: 400,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$400,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.1 Household Assistance: Food Programs

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



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

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

Funding Amount: \$313,100

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$289,675.27 (returned 23,424.73)

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

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

Project Overview:



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

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



Project Demographic Distribution:

Gender

Male	Female	No Response
179	330	1

Highest Level of Education

High School Diploma or GED	Associate degree	Bachelor's Degree	Professional Degree	Graduate Degree
252	33	127	31	67

Income Range

< 15,000	15,000-25,000	25,000-35,000	35,000-45,000	45,000-55,000	55,000-65,000	65,000-75,000	>75,000
176	57	64	64	30	26	25	68

Website: [Upskill Village Home](https://www.upskillvillage.com)

Upskill Village
An Adult Education Micro-Credentialing Program at the School District of Lee County

Through funding provided by the American Rescue Act Plan, Governor Ron DeSantis and local Florida residents have the opportunity to earn a digital micro-credential with no associated monetary cost to the participant. This program is available to all individuals who are eligible for the program.

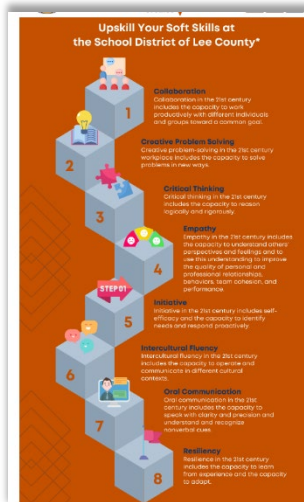
Which Soft Skills Micro-Credentials are Being Offered?

Adult Education at the School District of Lee County is offering soft skills micro-credentialing using Education Design Lab's 21st Century Skills. These 8 micro-credentials are currently being offered by 80+ higher education institutions and 100+ 21st Century Skills.

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

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

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



FREE ONLINE COURSES

In just 12 hours you can master one of our 8 soft skills from the comfort of your own home!

EARN A DIGITAL BADGE IN:

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

JOIN NOW

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Call to Find Out More: 239.335.1546

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER TODAY

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

When are the Soft Skills Micro-Credentials Being Offered?

The first class begins August 31st

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

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

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

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

1. Complete the registration form at: [UPSILLVILLAGE.COM](https://www.upskillvillage.com)
2. A team member from Adult Education will contact you with additional details after you register

- Adult students must be Lee County residents in order to take the class for free

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

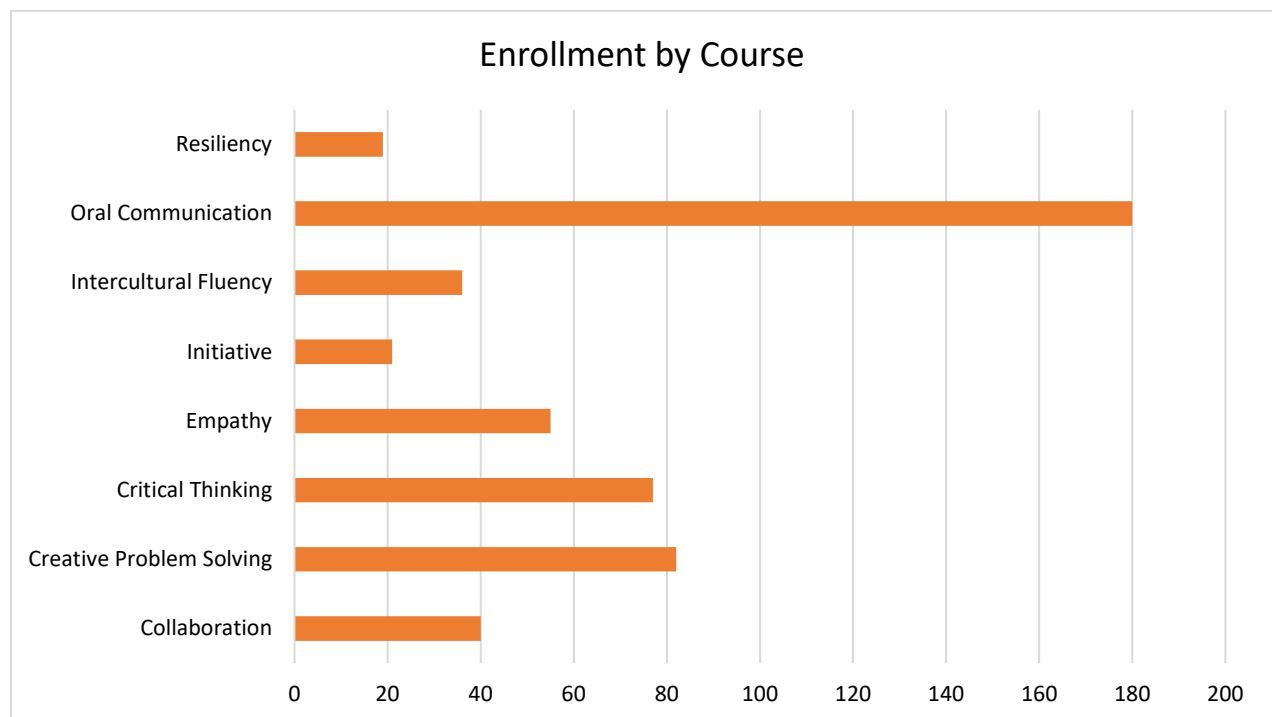
Use of Evidence: Evidence-producing; learning agenda. ARPA workforce training and certification (rapid and micro-credentialing) grantees will have improved employment opportunities.

Performance Measured to Date:

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

Timeframe	Number of students applying for program/class tuition	Number of students receiving program/class tuition
TOTAL	510	510

ARPA Measure: Number of Workers Enrolled in Sectoral Job Training Programs	ARPA Measure: Number of Workers Completing Sectoral Job Training Programs
510	177



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

Funding Amount: \$1,000,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$1,000,000

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

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

Project Overview:



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

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





Project Demographic Distribution:

Gender

Timeframe	Female	Male
Cumulative	55%	45%

Race

Race	Cumulative
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.15%
Asian or Pacific Islander	1.50%
Asian or Pacific Islander	
White/Caucasian	0.45%
Asian or Pacific Islander White/Caucasian	0.30%
Asian or Pacific Islander White/Caucasian Two or more races	0.15%

Black/African American	17.42%
Black/African American Two or more races	0.15%
Black/African American White/Caucasian	0.15%
Other (Not Listed)	7.81%
Other- not listed	0.30%
Two or more races	3.15%
White/Caucasian	56.31%
White/Caucasian, Two or more races, Other (Not Listed)	0.15%
White/Caucasian Two or more races	0.30%
Blank (no response)	11.71%

Ethnicity

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

Household Income

Income Range	Cumulative
\$0-\$24,999	12%
\$25,000-\$49,999	28%
\$50,000-\$74,999	28%
\$75,000-\$99,000	15%
\$100,000-\$124,999	9%
\$125,000-\$149,000	2%
\$150,000-\$174,999	3%
\$175,000 or above	3%

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

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PASSION LED US HERE

2024 | Student and Community Success | Funding for Lee County Residents

Career-Readiness Programs for Lee County Residents

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

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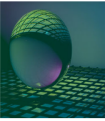



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Enhance your resume AND...

< • • • >

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

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

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

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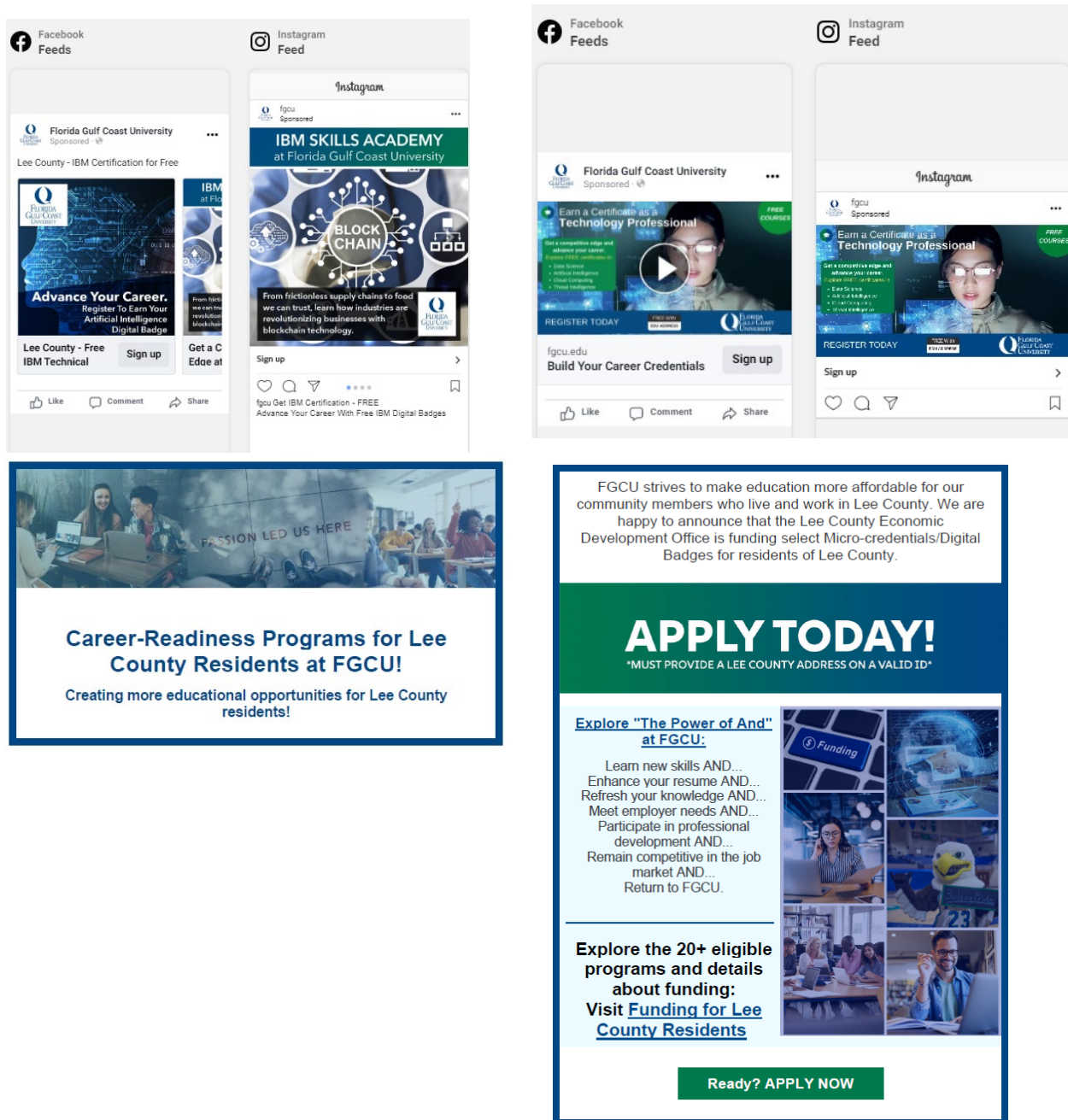
APPLY TODAY!
MUST PROVIDE A LEE COUNTY ADDRESS ON VALID ID

Industry-specific Micro-credentials/Digital Badges:

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

 <p>Fundamentals of Medical Devices Industry Students are taken out of the classroom and connected directly to the health industry through a partnership FGCU has with Alltrix.</p>	 <p>Essentials of Professional Sales Gain insight and build upon Professional Selling material, while better preparing for excellence in an entry-level professional selling position.</p>	 <p>Coming Soon: Emergency Preparedness and Management Learn the competencies and skills desired for emerging professionals in first-responder, healthcare, and social support roles.</p>
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APPLY TODAY!
MUST PROVIDE A LEE COUNTY ADDRESS ON VALID ID



Community Outreach and Engagement

- In addition to increasing the representation across various programs, this quarter's engagement strategy focused primarily on the recruitment of corporate cohorts within the healthcare systems and within aligned industries to the construction management program.
- Next steps for program include continued identification of Lee Health cohorts for programs in Senior Care Partner and the Certified Clinical Medical Assistance program. We have also requested additional members of the Lee Health workforce to record their experiences for

use in future cohorts with a special emphasis on ensuring the individuals featured represent the diversity within the organization.

- Additional outreach strategies to ensure access to these programs include leveraging the support of Lee Health representatives to assist with introductions to others within the Healthcare sector outside the organization, and expansion of strategic recruitment efforts within the organization. These discussions allow Florida Gulf Coast University to increase awareness of these programs that may not otherwise be engaged in professional development initiatives.



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

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

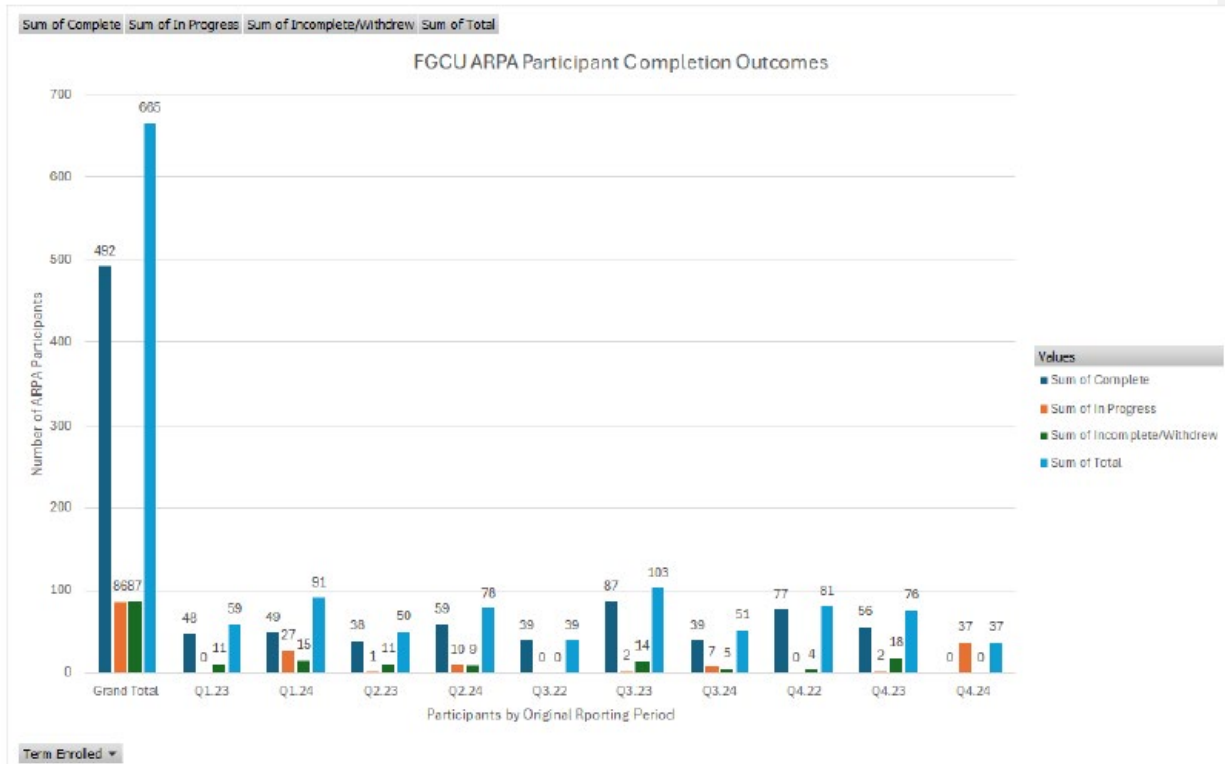
Lee County by targeting industrial and heavy traffic areas where daily commuters would be exposed to the program opportunities available to them.



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

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

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



Performance Measured to Date:

Number of programs available under Workforce Training and Certification Grant (Micro and Rapid Credentialing)	Number of students applying for program/class tuition	Number of students receiving program/class tuition
30	665	578

Program	Completed	In Progress	Incomplete/Withdrew/Dropped	TOTAL Enrolled
BS in Supply Chain Management (30 hours or fewer remaining to graduate)	3	19		22
Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA)	54	45	11	110
Certified Clinical Medical Assistant (CCMA) (Lee County Residents Only)		2		2
Child Development Associate Certification (Lee County Residents Only)	2	2		4

Program	Completed	In Progress	Incomplete/ Withdrew/ Dropped	TOTAL Enrolled
CompTIA™ Certification Training: A+, Network+, Security+		8		8
CompTIA™ Certification Training: A+, Network+, Security+ (Lee County Residents Only)		4		4
CompTIA™ Certification Training: A+, Network+, Security+/CompTIA Pro		4		4
CompTIA™ Certification Training: ITF+, A+, Network+, Security+		2		2
CompTIA™ Certification Training: ITF+, A+, Network+, Security+ (Lee County Residents Only)		7		7
Construction Management Micro-credential	133	1	21	155
Construction Management Micro-credential (IBEW)	14		11	25
Construction Management Micro-credential (Lee County Residents Only)	24	21	5	50
CPIM Learning System + Exam + 2nd Chance Exam with Membership		6		6
EKG Technician (Lee County Residents Only)		2		2
ESOL Endorsement for Current Teachers	9			9
HVAC/R Technician (Lee County Residents Only)		5	3	8
IBM Skills Academy Advanced Level Certification (follows completion of Intermediate Level Certification)	15		1	16
IBM Skills Academy Advanced Level Certification (follows completion of Introductory Level Certification)	1			1
IBM Skills Academy Intermediate Level Certification (follows completion of Foundational Level Certification)	18		1	19
IBM Skills Academy Intermediate Level Certification (follows completion of Introductory Level Certification)	10			10
IBM Skills Academy Practitioner Certification (choose from 8	10			10

Program	Completed	In Progress	Incomplete/ Withdrew/ Dropped	TOTAL Enrolled
technical skills. These programs are 75-80 hours in length)				
IBM SkillsBuild Practitioner Certification (choose from 8 technical skills. (These programs are 75-80 hours in length)	11	1		12
IBM SkillsBuild: Artificial Intelligence Practitioner Practitioner		1		1
Lean Six Sigma (Green Belt)	4			4
Lean Six Sigma (Yellow Belt) (Lee County Residents Only)	11			11
Medical Billing and Coding (Lee County Residents Only)		5		5
Medical Device Industry Micro-credential	2	2		4
Medical Device Industry Micro-credential	1			1
Paralegal Certificate Course		2		2
Paralegal Certificate Course (Lee County Residents Only)	1		2	3
Pharmacy Technician		6		6
Pharmacy Technician (Lee County Residents Only)		1		1
Phlebotomy Technician		2		2
Phlebotomy Technician (Lee County Residents Only)		2		2
Professional Sales	1			1
Professional Sales Micro-credential		1		1
Residential Electrician (Lee County Residents Only)	1	9		10
Senior Care Partner Micro-credential	35	3	1	39
Spanish for Medical Professionals (Lee County Residents Only)	2		1	3
Turfgrass Management Micro-credential	29			29
Turfgrass Management Micro-credential (Lee County Residents Only)	14			14
Veterinarian Technician (Lee County Residents Only)		1		1
Veterinary Assistant (Lee County Residents Only)		5		5

Program	Completed	In Progress	Incomplete/ Withdrew/ Dropped	TOTAL Enrolled
Veterinary Assistant (Lee County Residents Only)- includes an externship		1		1
Workforce Readiness for Healthcare Professionals	16		3	19
Workforce Readiness in Healthcare (Contact Center Cohort)	15			15

Project ID: ARPA-NE210A3, Florida Southwestern State College

Funding Amount: \$1,000,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$1,000,000

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

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

Project Overview:



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

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

Project Demographic Distribution:

Gender

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

Race/Ethnicity

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


Income Range

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

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

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

American Rescue Plan



AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT OF 2021

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

Eligibility Requirements

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

College Credit Programs

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





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

School of Business and Technology

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

School of Health Professions

- Emergency Medical Technician, CCC

Micro-Credentials

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

QuickBooks Certified Users Program

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

Online Programs

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

Scholarship Application for Micro-Credentials

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

Community Engagement

- FSW has worked to inform the community about the ARPA grant via email campaigns, announcements at various community meetings, inclusion in community presentations, and through FSW's Workforce Education newsletter.
- We have shared this information with community partners, including Lee Health, Lee County School District, and the Dunbar Business Advisory group. We have included information about this grant in an FSW publication that reached upwards of 15,000 individuals.

- FSW developed a communication targeted at high school seniors in areas with a lower socioeconomic standing to promote that through the ARPA grant, graduates in Lee County can continue their education in select ARPA-eligible programs at no cost to the student. We presented certificates containing this information at Dunbar High Schools Academy Awards event two years in a row.
- Since this grant, FSW established a Division of Workforce Education and hired (hard dollar funded) positions to support Workforce Education recruitment and scholarships at FSW. We have grown pathways and partnerships since receiving this funding and FSW will continue the work even after the ARPA funding is complete in December of 2024.
- This grant has and will continue to allow residents of Lee County access educational opportunities to gain knowledge and skills needed to advance their career and change their trajectory.

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

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

Performance Measured to Date:

Number of programs available under Workforce Training and Certification Grant (Micro and Rapid Credentialing)	Number of students applying for program/class tuition (Enrolled)	Number of students receiving program/class tuition
28	453	453

	Programs	Registered
FSW Credit Programs	Accounting Technology Management, CCC	9
FSW Credit Programs	Audio Technology, CCC	3
FSW Credit Programs	Business Analytics, AS	5
FSW Credit Programs	Business Development and Entrepreneurship, CCC	9
FSW Credit Programs	Computer Programming and Analysis, AS	27
FSW Credit Programs	Computer Programmer, CCC	7
FSW Credit Programs	Digital Media/Multimedia Production, CCC	1
FSW Credit Programs	Emergency Medical Technician, CCC	37
FSW Credit Programs	Financial Services Management, CCC	1
FSW Credit Programs	Information Technology Support Specialist, CCC	11
FSW Credit Programs	Network Security, CCC	4
FSW Credit Programs	Medical Information Coder-Biller, CCC	4

FSW Credit Programs	QuickBooks Badge	0
FSW Credit Programs	Real Estate Paralegal, CCC	6
FSW Credit Programs	Risk Management & Insurance Management, CCC	5
FSW Credit Programs	Risk Management & Insurance Management, Badge	0
FSW Credit Programs	Small Business Management, CCC	13
FSW Non-Credit Programs	Accredited Claims Adjuster	1
FSW Non-Credit Programs	AutoCad	1
FSW Non-Credit Programs	Back End Coding Bootcamp	31
FSW Non-Credit Programs	CompTIA A+	2
FSW Non-Credit Programs	Front End Coding	42
FSW Non-Credit Programs	Nurse Refresher/Remedial (direct cost vary based on student enrollment)	62
FSW Non-Credit Programs	Phlebotomy (direct cost vary based on student enrollment)	128
FSW Non-Credit Programs	Project Management Professional (PMP)	15
FSW Non-Credit Programs	QuickBooks	13
FSW Non-Credit Programs	Real Estate Pre-Licensing Course	14
FSW Non-Credit Programs	Six Sigma Green Belt	2

ARPA Measure: Number of Workers Enrolled in Sectoral Job Training Programs	ARPA Measure: Number of Workers Completing Sectoral Job Training Programs
453	271

Success Comments:

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

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

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

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

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

Project ID: ARPA-NE210A4, Hodges University

Funding Amount: \$250,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$250,000

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

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

Project Overview:



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

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

Community Engagement:

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

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

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

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

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

Project Demographic Distribution:

Gender

Female	Male
58%	42%

Race

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

Ethnicity

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

Educational Attainment

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

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

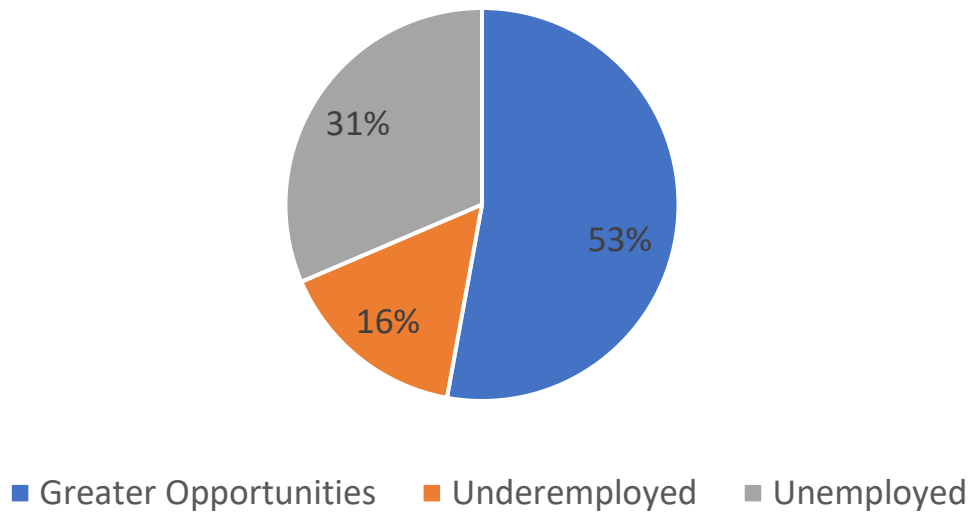
Hodge's will work closely with Lee County EMS, Brewster Ambulance Service, Ambitrans Ambulance, local dentists and dental clinics to provide employment opportunities to students.

Analysis:

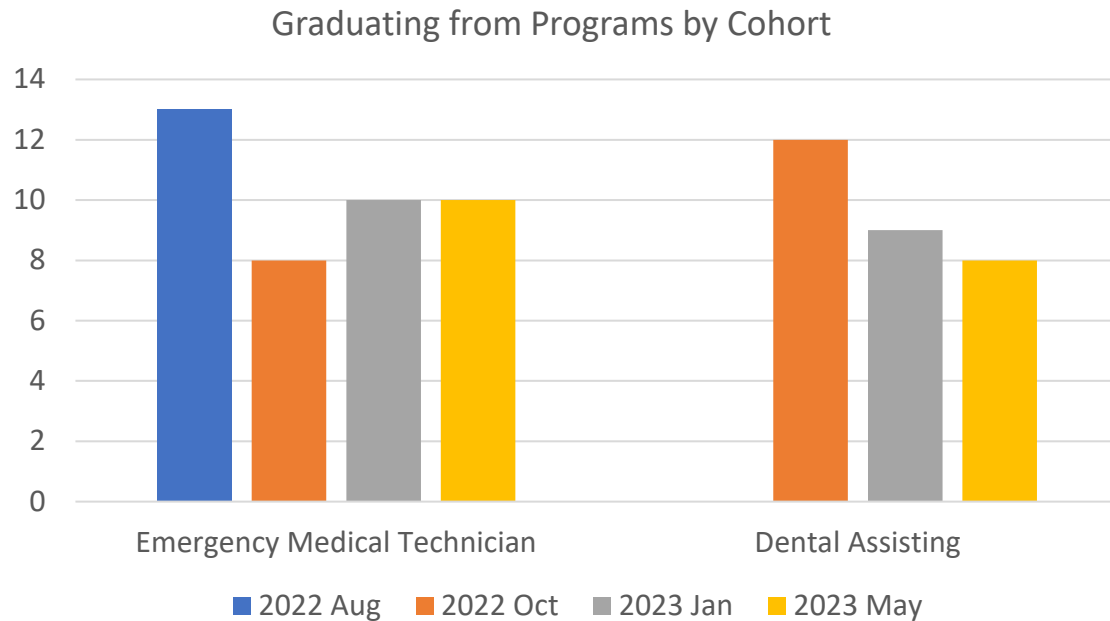
When the program began participants noted their employment status as follows:

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

Employment Status



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



Conclusion:

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

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

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

Performance Measured to Date:

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

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

Performance Outcomes to be Measured:

Participants completing course by program

Participants who improve their job or financial security.

Success Comments:

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

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

Project ID: ARPA-UW210A

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

Funding Amount: \$200,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$200,000

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

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

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

Use of Evidence:

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

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

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

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

- Phase One: Identification and exploration phase defines the scope and nature of the problem and outlines the change which is implemented for the desired modification.
- Phase Two: Develop and Test phase confirms the program's effectiveness during implementation and conducts an evaluation that tests whether the program outputs are trending in the desired direction. The evaluation will be compiled of the total number of children and families that will be served.
- Phase Three: Compare and Learn phase involves implementation of the evaluation to assess whether the intervention created improvements that are attributable to the intervention. The

evaluation will include the families served with phase two. This data will be tracked and compared to child welfare outcomes using publicly available data.

- Phase Four: Replicate and Adapt phase assesses whether similar outcomes and be reproduced by the supported interventions to different populations and across various settings.
- Phase Five: Apply and Improve phase measures sustainable positive results and adaptation to changing circumstances through quality improvement and quality service reviews. Phases four and five will be completed in on-going replication of Better Together.

We will ask the following questions:

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

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

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

Learnings:

We use a secure database to measure success, which maintains records of volunteers, families, case notes, demographic data, and permanency outcomes. We track reunification rates with the state by monitoring family interactions with DCF at 6, 12, 18, and 24 months after completing services. At each milestone, we send a list of names to DCF to determine if families have any open cases, verified findings of abuse or neglect, or children in the system through the Florida Safe Families Network (FSFN). Our programs are designed to help families pinpoint the underlying causes of their problems and offer tailored solutions. It draws on the expertise of professional services and support but is fueled by local volunteers who provide children with safe and nurturing homes, while mentoring parents to unlock their full potential and find jobs. This approach equips families with the necessary tools and support to stay united. Studies have shown that caregivers who receive support from family, friends, neighbors, and communities are more likely to provide their children with safe and healthy homes. Conversely, when caregivers lack support or feel isolated, they may be more susceptible to making poor decisions that can result in neglect or abuse (Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect, 2018, childwelfare.gov).

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

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Improve the resources available to prevent the breakdown of families before Foster Care is necessary.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)		Project Target	100
		Achieved to Date	118

	Recruit 100 Volunteers to serve children and families through hosting or mentoring by the end of the grant cycle.	Percentage	118.0%
2)	Serve 500 children through hosting, mentoring, educational luncheons, outreach, or parents' night out to equip families with the coping tools.	Project Target	500
		Achieved to Date	2214
		Percentage	442.8%

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

Success Comments:

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

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

Project ID: ARPA-UW210B

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

Funding Amount: \$98,334

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$98,334

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

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

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



DRESS FOR SUCCESS®
SW FLORIDA

United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Mobile Boutique and Career Center project is a

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

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: According to researchers, an appropriate appearance that conforms to employers' expectations is a primary criterion for successfully acquiring employment (Fiore and DeLong 1990, Kimle and Damhorst 1997, Turner-Bowker 2001), and appearance has an influence on the perception of employee competency (e.g., Forsythe, Drake, and Cox 1985; Workman 1984). Opinions of business leaders are similar: for example, executives surveyed noted that employees who dress formally advance in their careers more easily than those who do not (USA Today Magazine 2003). The National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) surveyed 457 employers who recruit new college graduates and an overwhelming 92 percent believed a candidate's overall appearance influences their opinion about that candidate.

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

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

holistic, and broad mental representations, whereas concrete processing includes more subordinate and narrow representations."

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

Community Engagement:

Posts on social media.

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

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		To serve women that are actively job searching with interview and/or employment clothing through the mobile boutique.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	300 Unduplicated women will receive either interview preparation assistance or employment clothing from the mobile boutique	Project Target	300
		Achieved to Date	611
		Percentage	204%
2)	75% (225/300) Women will use the Career Center services (resume writing, job search and coaching) offered by the mobile boutique	Project Target	225
		Achieved to Date	239
		Percentage	106%

Success Comments:

On Thursday, November 21, Dress for Success SW Florida took our wow truck to FSW. We dressed 17 young women that day and allowed them to shop directly from the wild truck. The women were excited at our selection and allowed us to address them for their upcoming interviews after their December graduation from FSW. Many of the young women came from challenged backgrounds and were grateful for the clothing we provided to help them land their jobs and prepare them for their future success.

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

Project ID: ARPA-UW210C

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

Funding Amount: \$225,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$225,000

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

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

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

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

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

Community Engagement:

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

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:	ARPA Opportunity Accelerator (OA) participant will increase the number of work ready participants.
Goals and Output Measures:	Total

1)	90% (450/500) Participants that obtained gainful employment	Project Target	450
		Achieved to Date	479
		Percentage	106.4%
2)	95% (475/500) Individuals completing a resume AND mock interview	Project Target	500
		Achieved to Date	490
		Percentage	98%
3)	85% (425/500) Participants with an interview within three months of program completion	Project Target	425
		Achieved to Date	479
		Percentage	112.7%

Success Comments:

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

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

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

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

2.11 Support Non-Profit Childcare Providers to Increase Capacity

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

Funding Amount: \$1,624,357.30

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$1,624,357.30

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

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

Project Overview:



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

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

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

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



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



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



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



Demographic Distribution:

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

Use of Evidence: Evidence-Producing

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

Methodology

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

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

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

Staff Development

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

Recruitment and Retention: Centers reported improved recruitment and retention rates for qualified staff, contributing to the overall quality of early childhood education. Several center

directors utilized grant funds for signing and retention bonuses as well as paying for required background tests and licensure fees.

Facilities Enhancements

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

Access to Affordable Childcare

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

Findings and Conclusion

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

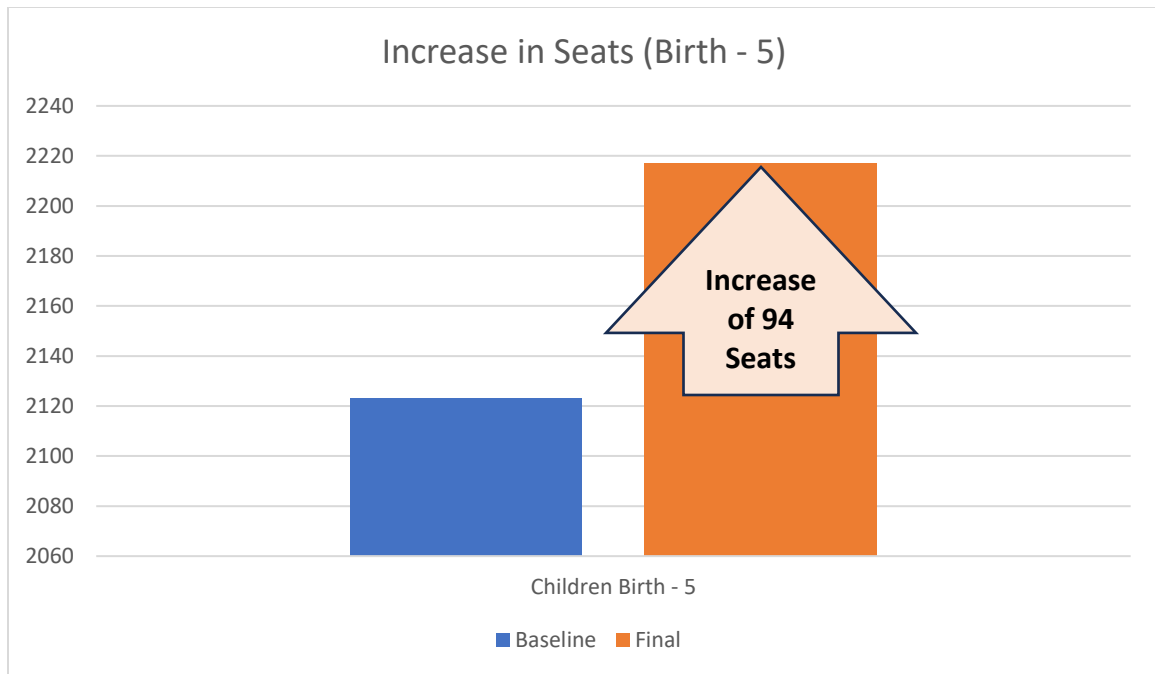
Performance to be Measured:

Measures:

- Number of childcare providers assisted by project
 - **80**
- Number of childcare seats added in high-need areas
 - **94**
- Turnaround time for families who receive School Readiness funding (greater availability)
 - **No current waitlist for School Readiness child enrollment**
- ARPA required measure: Number of children served by childcare and early learning (Pre-school/Pre-K, ages 3-5)
 - **1903**

Performance Outcomes to be Measured:

- Increased availability of childcare



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

Success Comments

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

2.15 Affordable Housing Grants to Nonprofits

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

Funding Amount: \$5,000,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$5,000,000

Project Duration: July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2025

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

Project Overview:



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

Project Demographic Distribution: Data will be reported when available.

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

Performance to be Measured:

- Project status as a % complete.
 - **100%**
- Site preparation completed for **151** redeveloped units of affordable housing.
- Infrastructure improvements completed for **151** redeveloped units of affordable housing.

- Permit readiness for **151** redevelopment units of affordable housing.
- Projected/actual construction start date
 - **Projected April 2023**
- Projected/actual initiation of operations date (month/year)
 - **May 2024 - Demolition**
- Location
 - **Southward Village, 2990 Edison Avenue, Fort Myers, FL 33916**

Performance Outcome to be Measured: Goal = 1 property construction ready for redevelopment of affordable housing in Lee County.



Figure 7. Demolition photo

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

Funding Amount: \$2,500,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$2,500,000

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

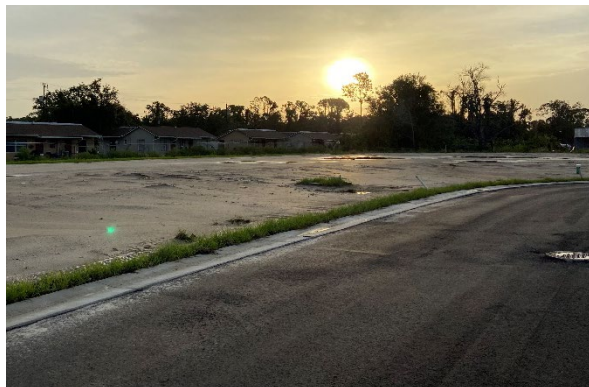
Project Expenditure Category: 2.15 Long-term Housing Security: Affordable Housing*^

Project Overview:



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

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





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

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

Performance to be Measured:

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

Performance Outcome to be Measured:

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

Success Comments:

The \$2,500,000 awarded to Habitat through the County's ARPA Grant allows us to begin building affordable homes in our McNeill Village neighborhood a year ahead of schedule, providing housing for 36 partner families. These funds went toward the installation of vital infrastructure and utilities to make the neighborhood a livable and decent community for its residents. McNeill Village will serve a specific affordable housing need in this part of Lee County. The greatest demand for Habitat affordable housing from the community is in the Cape Coral and North Fort Myers area, and it's evident with 17 wall raisings for 17 selected families already tentative to happen in early 2024. McNeill Village is a convenient location for these future homebuyers as it's close to schools, businesses, LeeTran bus stops and offers easy access to the no-toll North Fort Myers and Edison bridges.

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

Project ID: ARPA-NE216A, Human and Veteran Services positions (3)
Funding Amount: \$583,000
Status of Completion: Completed
Total Project Expenses: \$583,000
Project Duration: January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024
Project Expenditure Category: 2.16 Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons*^

Project Overview:



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

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



Project Demographic Distribution:

Gender

Male	Female
43%	57%

Age

Under 18	18-35	36-55	55+
40%	24%	22%	14%

Race

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

Ethnicity

Hispanic or Latino	Non-Hispanic or Non-Latino
12%	88%

Income Level

Extremely low-income households	Very low-income households	Low-income households	Over 80% Median income households
70%	18%	11%	1%

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

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

Evidence Rating = Scientifically Supported.

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

Performance Measures to Date:

Individuals Served	Households Served
477	245

Households Referred to a Housing Program	Households Referred to a Temporary Shelter
95	34

Project ID: ARPA-NE216B1, Catholic Charities Diocese of Venice

Funding Amount: \$386,371.86

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$386,371.86

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

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

Project Overview:



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

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



Project Demographic Distribution:

Gender

Female	Male
94	163

Ages

Under 18	Ages 18-30	31-65	65+
10	31	142	11

Race

White	Black or African American	Hispanic/Latina/e/o	Other Race
87	125	35	10

Ethnicity

Hispanic or Latino	Not Hispanic or Latino
50	207

Household Size

1	2	3	3+
253			4

Special Needs

Yes	No
7	250

Use of Evidence: *The main sources we have used are the Continuum of Care (CoC) meetings, Client orientations at the hotel where a portion of the homeless population are currently being helped, and direct referrals from the Rapid Rehousing program. As for evidence, the sources previously mentioned are 100% in direct contact with the homeless population, which is the target stipulated in our contract. The Supportive Services program incorporates a stability of income for people that are placed in a rental through Rapid Rehousing or that is at risk of losing their current living place.*

The program continues to follow the SOAR model to assist our clients with applying for Social Security. Our program staff are working diligently to build relationships with the SSA/DDS office staff in order to collaborate on ways to best serve our clients.

Performance Measured to Date:

Timeframe	Case Management Clients	Service referrals by case manager
Cumulative	257	Various – the pantry, food stamps, mainstream vouchers.

Performance Outcomes to be Measured:

- Job and income growth

- Percent of clients that will increase their unearned income (goal 50%):
50% of all clients applied will be approved for Social Security.
- Percent of clients that will maintain their earned and unearned income (goal 50%):
50% of the clients we serve will likely increase their unearned income.

Success Story:

1) Ms. J became a SOAR client in March 2023 through the RRH program. Her SSI case was denied three months prior to receiving SOAR assistance, so she had to reapply. Her SSI case with SOAR assistance was denied in June 2023 due to resources, and this CM worked with her to appeal the decision. After reconsideration, Social Security thought the previous denial was proper under law in September 2023. Ms. J wanted another reconsideration in front of a judge this time, so she had a telephone hearing on June 10, 2024 with CM's presence. After months of waiting and sending additional evidence, her case was approved in late September 2024.

2) A recipient of a bicycle was housed in Cape Coral with her children, she is expecting another child as well. This client was walking to work which would take her about 45min to an hour. With the bike she has been able to cut her commute in half. This allows her more time with her children and less of a struggle to get to work. She is thankful for her bike.

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

Funding Amount: \$163,362

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$163,362

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

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

Project Overview:



Affordable Homeownership Foundation, Inc.
Solving the Puzzle of Homeownership

The Affordable Homeownership Foundation—Increase Street Outreach and Case Worker Staff to Address Housing Stability Needs project is a community nonprofit's existing program to prevent homelessness. The program will be partially funded through ARPA. The program will

use a HUD-established triage process to identify and work with clients to remove barriers that increase the risk of becoming homeless.

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

Program case managers will work with clients to review their income, budgets, credit, and other circumstances to discover and resolve the reasons landlords often discontinue leases. The program will offer a "good renter" class that teaches clients how to communicate with the landlords, especially during



difficulties that may jeopardize their housing. The project will also provide referrals to job retention training.

Project Demographic Distribution:

Gender

Female	Male
262	115

Ages

18-35	36-55	55+
147	120	110

Race

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

Ethnicity

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

Special Needs

Yes	No
3	374

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

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

Evidence Rating = Scientifically Supported.

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

Performance Measured to Date:

Clients Enrolled in the Program Who Obtained Housing

Performance Outcomes to be Measured:

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

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

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

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

- Job and income growth

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

2023 Q3	17	56%	61%	68%
2023 Q4	11	20%	15%	75%
2024 Q1	75	50%	45%	50%
2024 Q2	15	20%	25%	75%

Success Comments

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

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

Funding Amount: \$357,645

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$357,645

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

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

Project Overview:



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

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

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



Project Demographic Distribution:

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

Gender

Female	Male
40	30

Ages

Under 18	Ages 18-30	31-65	65+
0	4	58	8

Race

White	Black or African American	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Other Race
47	13	1			9

Ethnicity

Hispanic or Latino	Not Hispanic or Latino
9	61

Household Size

1	2	3	3+
68	2		

Special Needs

Yes	No
10	60

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

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

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

Evidence Rating = Scientifically Supported.

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

Performance Measured to Date:

Number of people housed (3-year goal: 50)
49

Timeframe	Case Management	Service Referrals/Transportation to Partner Providers
Q2 2022	799	108
Q3 2022	687	111
Q4 2022	567	12
Q1 2023	402	44
Q2 2023	808	66
Q3 2023	1156	158
Q4 2023	597	12
Q1 2024	505	135
Q2 2024	638	106
Q3 2024	549	128

Performance Outcomes to be Measured:

- Job and income growth
 - Percent of clients that remain housed after 6 months (goal 90%): 96%
 - Percent of clients that remain housed after 12 months (goal 85%): 97%
 - Percent of clients that remain housed after 24 months (goal 80%): 100%
 - Percent of clients that will increase their earned income (goal 15%): 96%
 - Percent of clients that will increase their unearned income (goal 80%): 86%
 - Percent of clients that will maintain their earned and unearned income (goal 100%): 96%

2.16 Shelter Operations

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

Funding Amount: \$405,636.71

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$405,636.71

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

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

Project Overview:



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

Project Demographic Distribution:

Gender

Female	Male
31%	69%

Ages

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

Race/Ethnicity

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

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

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

Performance Measured to Date:

- Number of clients provided overnight shelter

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

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

- Number of clients that will receive services

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



Project ID: ARPA-NE216D, Salvation Army

Funding Amount: \$893,520

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$893,520

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

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

Project Overview:

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

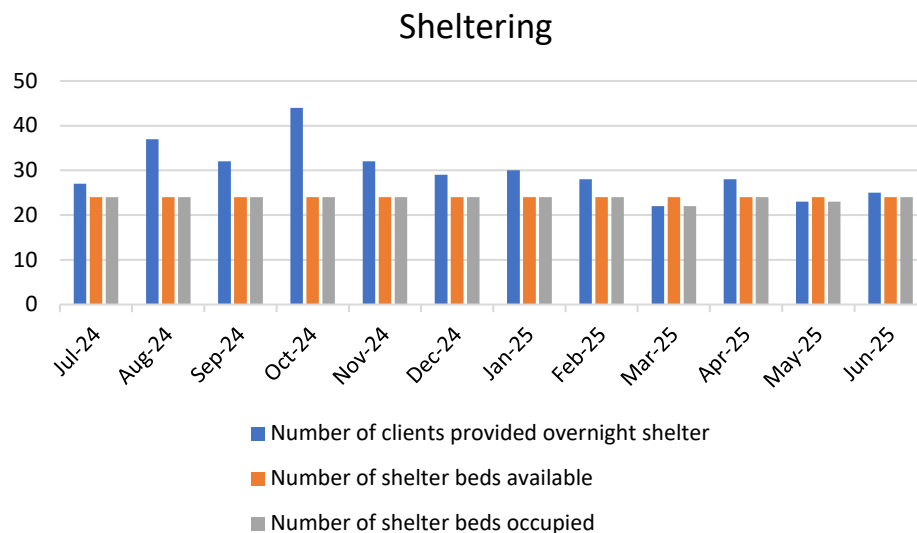


The objective of the Life Navigation program is to respond to the unmet human services need of the community by providing 24 shelter beds per nights. The Salvation Army will use the funding to assist homeless individual adults through life navigation: leveraging services for coaching including nights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

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

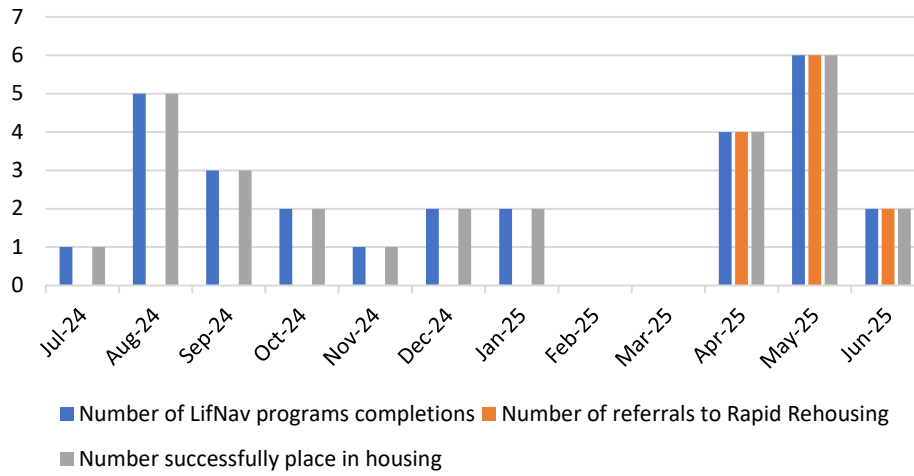
Performance to be Measured:

- Number of clients provided overnight shelter
- Number of shelter beds available
- Number of shelter beds occupied



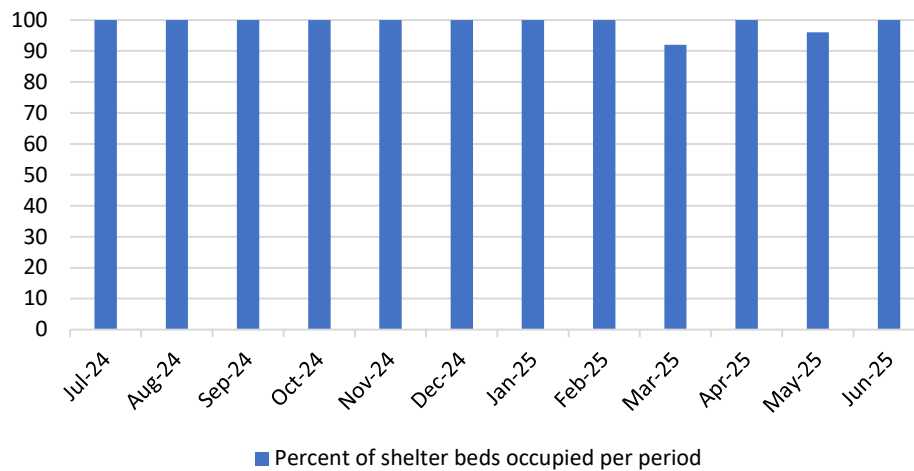
- Number of LifNav programs completions
- Number of referrals to Rapid Rehousing
- Number successfully place in housing

Other Services



- Percent of shelter beds occupied per period

Percent of Beds Occupied



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

Project ID: APRA-UW216A

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

Funding Amount: 400,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: 400,000

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

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



Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The CCDOV Rapid Re-housing Project fully ARPA-funded existing program that will increase the number of individuals and families that can attain and retain affordable housing. The main activities of the project include providing (a) funding for operational staff salaries, computers, mileage, and client database;

(b) services to locate and negotiate housing options for clients; and (c) case management including an initial assessment of clients housing and related needs, develop a transition plan, referrals for support services, and support to apply for other public funding.

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

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

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

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Increase housing stability (ability to retain one's home as primary shelter) for 24 families who are at risk of homelessness.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	24 families retained secure housing	Project Target	24
		Achieved to Date	57
		Percentage	238%
1)	24 housing units secured for the program	Project Target	24
		Achieved to Date	14

Outcome Statement 1:		Increase housing stability (ability to retain one's home as primary shelter) for 24 families who are at risk of homelessness.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
		Percentage	58%
2)	24 families placed in secure housing	Project Target	24
		Achieved to Date	10
		Percentage	42%
3)	90% (21/24) of families demonstrating improved financial stability	Project Target	21
		Achieved to Date	16
		Percentage	76%

Success Comments:

A client was referred to Catholic Charities Rapid Rehousing program while he was in the hospital after an amputation. During the time at the hospital the client and the case managers worked on finding a unit so that he could be released from the hospital as he did not have anywhere to go. He was able to leave the hospital and go directly into his wheelchair accessible unit. He was approved for social security disability so with the subsidized rental assistance he was able to become self sufficient over the course of a little over 1 year.

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

Project ID: APRA-UW216B

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

Funding Amount: \$153,972.35

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$153,972.35

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

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

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



help them navigate public benefits, employment planning, identify affordable housing and other supportive services.

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

(Level III) <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article/authors?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0230896>

Community Engagement:

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

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

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

Success Comments:

The Empowerment Center housed a male who lost his home and job due to COVID. This individual ended up spending time in the hospital due to COVID, almost 90 days. This individual actually called the

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

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

Project ID: APRA-UW216C

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

Funding Amount: \$893,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$893,000

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

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

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



CENTERSTONE

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

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices:

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

Community Engagement:

- Centerstone's HOT team receives their referrals from the Lee County Human and Veteran Services Coordinated Entry program when individuals are experiencing homelessness.
- Additionally, the team conducts outreach efforts to individuals experiencing homelessness in an effort to connect them with community resources.

- Centerstone also assists at the Salvation Army Resource Day Center three days per week to engage individuals in obtaining behavioral health and/or substance use treatment resources.
- Centerstone is a member of the Lee County Homeless Coalition, and both the CoC and Bob Janes Empowerment Center Governing Boards.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Improve availability of case management assistance to improve connection to mainstream benefits and community resources, behavioral health services and substance use treatment.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	Serve 400 participants by end of January 2024	Project Target	400
		Achieved to Date	957
		Percentage	239%
2)	90% (360/400) of participants who receive case management and recommended for program.	Project Target	360
		Achieved to Date	951
		Percentage	264%
3)	90 % (360/400) of participants receiving recovery support services.	Project Target	360
		Achieved to Date	851
		Percentage	236%
4)	80% (320/400) of participants who are matched to available services that will increase housing stability.	Project Target	320
		Achieved to Date	957
		Percentage	299%

Success Comments:

During this quarter one of the many success stories the Housing Outreach and Treatment Team had was the housing of a chronically homeless client who has been homeless for four years prior. The team tirelessly worked with the partnering agency, CASL, and the client to set the client up in an apartment. This is the client's very first apartment and it has been an exciting time for both the client and the team. Watching the joy on the client's face while the client signs a lease for the first time is such a rewarding moment to witness, and is the greatest example of why the housing first approach is so important. While housing the client, the team also has continued to work with the client to provide services that include therapy, medication management, and case management in order to assist the client's personal goals and to maintain stability. It has been through housing and providing additional services that the client has grown and become more stable, and although the client continues seeks guidance, the client has increase independency especially in identifying and meeting the client's own goals and needs.

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

Project ID: APRA-UW216D

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

Funding Amount: \$60,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$60,000

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Increase the emergency financial assistance resources available to veterans.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	150 unduplicated applicants will be reviewed for eligibility quarterly	Project Target	1350
		Achieved to Date	2374
		Percentage	176%
2)	33% (50/150) of the unduplicated veterans will enroll in the program to receive emergency financial support	Project Target	450
		Achieved to Date	973
		Percentage	216%

Success Comments:

Veteran came in to register and arrived by HHV van. This is his first financial request. He does not have family in Florida and if he is evicted he will end up living in the streets. Client is a very young US Navy veteran and was unaware of many VA benefits for which he may be eligible. He has some disability and was able to speak to our DAV weekly onsite rep. DAV agreed to help with his back rent financial request and introduced him to several VA programs for which is eligible. He was assisted through a collaborative effort, Veteran was not evicted. Additionally, Veteran was informed of the additional services he is eligible for including ~ furniture, hygiene and food products and special events. He was reminded that we can get him to our offices/facilities via our bus transportation. Although still without a car, he is doing quite well with his door-to-door sales position.

2.16 Homeless Resource Day Center (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: APRA-UW216E

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Salvation Army

Funding Amount: \$90,045.16

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$90,045.16

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

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



Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Salvation Army Homeless Resource Day Center project is a partially ARPA-funded existing homeless prevention and basic needs services for the homeless. The main activities of the project include (a) providing a menu of service including showers, laundry, meals and coordinated entry; (b) for those at-risk of homelessness, the project will provide assistance with utility, mortgage and rental assistance; (c) funding for operational staff salary; and (d) funding for program supplies.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-producing project with learning agenda - Hypothesis: There will be a reduction in homelessness when we have a central location for those to come that are experiencing homelessness or are on the verge of homelessness to receive services that pertain to their situation. This will remove the barrier of the need to visit multiple locations to have needs met that will help in preventing homelessness or ending it.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Increase the emergency financial assistance resources available to veterans.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	7000 Units of service will be provided to those experiencing homelessness. (Services include showers, laundry, meals, referrals to other community agencies and job search assistance).	Project Target	7000
		Achieved to Date	7725
		Percentage	110.4%

Success Comments:

A women arrived at the HRDC with her five children in need of a place to stay and food to eat. The family was able to complete coordinated entry there and was immediately able to enter into the Center of Hope Family Shelter Unit. She was able to complete Like Skills Classes and update her resume to begin searching for a job. She was able to secure a job at a local restaurant and was able to save up enough money to secure her own housing.

2.16 Rapid Rehousing and Safer Emergency Housing (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: APRA-UW216F

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Society of St. Vincent de Paul South Pinellas, LTD. Db/a/ St. Vincent de Paul Cares

Funding Amount: \$541,277

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$541,277

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

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



Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. SVdP CARES Rapid Rehousing and Safer Emergency Housing Alternative project is a partially ARPA-funded existing program that will provide emergency non-congregate shelter, rapid rehousing services to the homeless. The main activities of the project include providing funding toward: (a) individualized services including case management and wrap around service to meet immediate housing needs; (b) funding for operational staff; (c) operating supplies and computer equipment; (d) employee security (SoloProtect remote worker security device); and (e) food assistance.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: The US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Policy Development and Research has created the Systematic Review of Rapid Rehousing Outcomes Literature under the title "Understanding Rapid Rehousing. This evaluates all the current

research available on the program model to date as it was published on July 7, 2018. While the SEHA program model is new there is quite a bit of research to show that it is promising as a strategy for emergency shelter during the pandemic. The University of Washington published an article titled "Turning hotels into emergency shelter as part of COVID-19 response limited spread of coronavirus, improved health and stability" delves into the strengths of the program model throughout the pandemic.

Community Engagement:

SVdP CARES is an active part of the Coordinated Entry process for receiving referrals for this grant. We are providing outreach to all of our partners on the CoC and to the community by our involvement on the weekly/monthly CoC calls and meetings. SVdP CARES also provides this information to the community as the caseworkers are doing the street outreach with all of our other clients that we serve.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Increase the emergency financial assistance resources available to veterans.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	80% (10/12) of households experiencing homelessness served will exit to permanent housing	Project Target	10
		Achieved to Date	11
		Percentage	110%
2)	30% (4/12) of participants will maintain or increase income by program exit	Project Target	4
		Achieved to Date	18
		Percentage	450%

Success Comments

<Name removed> has been housed with SVdP CARES for two years. The client has struggled with sustainability in the past. She has recently made a lot of progress in her housing stabilization plan. She was able to get caught up on her rental arrears. She spoke to the property manager, and they have agreed to renew her lease on July 31st, 2024. She has been actively working with a Veteran Service Officer to increase her service-connected disability to 100%. She has been proactive in the treatment of her mental health issues that have made her struggle in the past. She is currently being connected to a subsidized voucher with the VA. This connection will take the rent burden off of her. Once that process is complete, she will be able to go back to school and finish her nursing degree.

2.19 Patient Enrollment, Re-enrollment Assistance (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: APRA-UW219A

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Family Health Centers

Funding Amount: \$400,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$400,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.19 Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Patient Enrollment, Re-enrollment Assistance (PERA) project is a fully ARPA-funded expansion of an existing program that helps Medicaid patients/clients increase the use of federal, State, and local assistance programs. The main activities of the project include providing (a) case management and training to help clients navigate federal, state and local assistance programs including Medicaid and Medicare benefits; and (b) funding for operational staff salaries and professional services fees.



Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: Family Health Centers adheres to the CMS certified application counselor model. CMS established certified application counselors as a type of assistance personnel available to provide information to consumers and to help facilitate consumer enrollment in QHPs and insurance affordability programs. (See 45 CFR 155.225.) Family Health Centers has been a Counselor Designated Organization providing certified application counselor services since the initiation of the Affordable Care Act Marketplace. In the Federally facilitated Marketplaces (FFMs), CDOs oversee certified application counselors (CACs) who are trained and able to help consumers seeking health insurance coverage options through an FFM. Organizations that wish to become CDOs designated by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to serve in an FFM must submit an online application and enter into an agreement with CMS. Additionally, Family Health Centers medical social work staff assist patients/clients with the Florida Department of Children and Families Medicaid application process.

Community Engagement:

Family Health Centers provides Medicaid and ACA enrollment and re-enrollment assistance year-round. Many of our enrollment clients are referred to Social Services by Family Health Centers' clinical support staff. The project supervisor assigns staff to clinical sites with the highest number of uninsured patients. The Community Health Workers then provide enrollment and re-enrollment services to patients before and after their medical appointments.

Staff distribute flyers to local housing sites, food markets, gas stations, health fairs, and community events. Community Health Workers and case managers contact patients directly and encourage patients to share the information with their family, friends, and community.

Family Health Center provides informational flyers to community-based organizations and agencies such as the Salvation Army, United Way, Café of Life, local churches, food pantries, and the Lee County School District. Staff also visit the agencies, send emails and attend coalition and networking meetings.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Improve health status of the community by lowering the financial barrier to health care through patient enrollment in Medicaid and CHIP.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	14,500 patients will receive ACA or Medicaid assists by December 31, 2023	Project Target	14,500
		Achieved to Date	109,831
		Percentage	758%
2)	5,000 Medicaid applications will be submitted by December 31, 2024	Project Target	5,000
		Achieved to Date	11,833
		Percentage	237%

Outcome Statement 2:		Improve health status of the community by lowering barriers to social services through patient enrollment and referrals to federal, state, and local assistance programs.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	2,400 Food stamp applications will be submitted by December 31, 2023	Project Target	2,400
		Achieved to Date	4,722
		Percentage	197%
2)	235 ACA applications will be submitted by December 31, 2024	Project Target	235
		Achieved to Date	421
		Percentage	179%

Success Comments:

Newborn: Specialty Care Referral: A case manager, received a referral for an orthopedic surgeon for a baby with congenital foot deformities. As the baby's Medicaid application was in process, the case manager sent the referral to Shriners Hospital in Tampa. Meanwhile, an Outreach and Enrollment Specialist, contacted the hospital's Kidcare team to expedite the application process.

The parent reached out to Tampa Shriners Hospital, which referred them to a location in Georgia for consultation. However, lack of transportation posed a significant barrier to care.

The enrollment specialist reviewed the Medicaid application status, and the baby was finally approved. This approval allowed the baby to be seen locally by an orthopedic surgeon. We promptly contacted the patient to deliver the good news. The patient expressed immense relief and gratitude, sharing that they had been overwhelmed trying to figure out how to travel to Georgia. They were thrilled to learn that a local doctor could see the baby. Overcome with emotion, the patient cried on the phone and thanked us profusely for our assistance.

Medicaid Enrollment and Mandated Reporting:

During an appointment for a Medicaid application, the mother shared with the enrollment specialist that her daughter had been abused. The case manager educated the patient on the need to report to the Department of Children and Families and notified the LCSW for support. She assisted the family with their Medicaid application and supported the mother with submitting a report to DCF. The connection formed with patients and the safe space we provide them allows us to serve beyond just health insurance.

2.19 Autism Continuum of Care (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: APRA-UW219B

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Family Initiative

Funding Amount: \$900,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$900,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.19 Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators

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



Family Initiative

The Autism Continuum of Care project is a partially ARPA-funded expansion of an existing program that will provide education and other resources to families and individual effected by autism. The main activities of the project include providing (a) a menu of services including education, life skills, and vocational training; and (b) funding for operational staff salaries and professional services fees.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: Family Initiative is identified as a best practice site by Texas Christian University in the utilization of Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI). TBRI is an evidenced-based model designed to meet the unique needs of children with both a history of complex developmental trauma and on the autism spectrum. This approach is currently identified by the California Clearinghouse as a Promising Practice through the Families First Prevention Services Act and is identified as the gold standard in serving children. We also utilize Applied Behavior Analysis, Occupational Therapy, and Speech Therapy in our autism continuum of care. Each of these approaches are also evidence based and have a wealth of research and data demonstrating their efficacy. Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) is the gold standard recommended approach for treatment for individuals with autism. This approach is recommended by the US Surgeon General and by the American Psychological Association and is effective with all ages and levels of functioning.

Learning:

The ARPA funding was instrumental in allowing Family Initiative expand access to services for autism families across our region. Due to this funding, the organization was able to add 4 more clinicians and

serve almost 100 more families providing medically necessary clinical services. Further, the funding allowed the addition of community programs to create a full continuum of care serving infants through young adults across the region. These programs include a baby and me program, a young adult group, two parent groups, free monthly caregiver trainings, and a sibling group. The funds also allowed Family Initiative to launch a partnership with the Lee County Tax Collector, creating a jobs program for adults with autism. This partnership has expanded to other businesses, most recently including Lee County. Regarding lessons learned from the data collected, we identified parent training goals can be harder to master. As a direct result of this, we created the monthly caregiver trainings to supplement any direct clinical services. This has already yielded positive outcomes. In closing, Family Initiative would like to thank all those involved in the ARPA process. The funds were literally life changing for autism families here in Southwest Florida.

Community Engagement:

- Our agency has engaged a marketing firm to assist us with reaching more of our community and participants. Since the beginning of this project, we have purchased space on two billboards in high traffic areas in Lee County, have bought radio ads on local radio stations, have television spots on local tv and have continued our push through local stories.
- We launched a speaker series open to the public, with our most recent hosting Dr. Temple Grandin, internationally renowned Autism self-advocate and reached thousands locally and beyond in this one event.
- Family Initiative continues to utilize social media to reach our community and participants as well as participate in local media stories surrounding Autism.
- Our team participates in agency fairs, partners with our local university, and provides free training to agencies and organizations around our community about Autism.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Parents of children with autism will improve their ability to manage the problem behaviors (e.g., hitting, kicking, destroying objects) they have identified for their child receiving clinical applied behavior analysis services. **Parent goals are measured by direct observation performed by the Board-Certified Behavior Analyst during in home sessions.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	15 families per quarter will receive ABA services	Project Target	105
		Achieved to Date	105
		Percentage	100%
2)	(14/15) of parents of children receiving ABA services will show an increase in their unique parent goals developed in their child's behavior plan to manage problem behaviors within 6 months of receiving services. **	Project Target	84
		Achieved to Date	84
		Percentage	100%

3)	(11/15) of parents of children receiving ABA services will show mastery of their unique parent goals developed in their child's behavior plan to manage problem behaviors within one year of receiving services. **	Project Target	66
		Achieved to Date	50
		Percentage	75.8%

Outcome Statement 2:		Children with Autism receiving clinical applied behavior analysis services will reduce instances of parent identified problem behavior. *Behavioral goals are measured by direct observation frequency data during all sessions	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	12 children per quarter will be enrolled to receive ABA services	Project Target	84
		Achieved to Date	87
		Percentage	103.6%
2)	50% (6/12) of children receiving ABA services will demonstrate a reduction of behaviors and improvement on their behavioral goals within 6 months of receiving services.	Project Target	36
		Achieved to Date	42
		Percentage	116.7%
3)	90% (11/12) of children receiving ABA services will demonstrate a reduction of behaviors and improvement on their behavior goals within one year of receiving services.	Project Target	66
		Achieved to Date	54
		Percentage	81.8%

Success Comments:

With the support of the funding, we were able to serve an additional 31 families over the last several months. One family came to us with significant need. Their son was struggling significantly, teetering on the precipice of a difficult outcome. He was diagnosed with Autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, and Oppositional Defiance Disorder. His mom shared their family was struggling financially because she had to pick up her son almost daily from school due to his extreme behaviors, so was unable to work, relying on her husband, a first responder, as their only source of income.

When we first met him, his teacher reported he destroyed the classroom daily-throwing chairs, knocking over tables, destroying books, and became aggressive, hitting, and kicking both her daily. His mother reported these same concerns at home and shared how it was impacting his younger brother to the point she did not feel safe in the home.

Our clinicians were able to complete a comprehensive assessment with the boy's family and develop a treatment plan to address the concerns the family and school shared. Through our collaborative efforts, we were able to work alongside his teacher in the classroom and educate her and the staff at school how to best address his behavior in a proactive and positive manner. Additionally, we worked with his parents to provide them strategies to set him up for success. Initially, the work with his parents was only done at our Autism Support Center. His parents were hesitant to allow anyone to enter their home due to the damage their son had inflicted. There was extensive damage within the home, including numerous holes in the walls and broken items. Through developing a trusting relationship, his parents allowed us to come into the home as well and provide support by coaching them through in the moment.

The change in their son has been transformational. He went from a "problem" child who others were afraid of, to the "helper" who always wants to find ways to be of service to others. He has learned strategies to identify when he is triggered and calm himself down before escalating to aggression, destruction, or elopement. This transformation has not only occurred for him, but also for his family. He is able to play appropriately with his brother without getting hurt, his parents are both able to work since he is able to remain in school, and the family's overall quality of life has improved. He has friends he sees every week at our Saturday Autism Social Skills group, his parents have a great relationship with both their sons, and the family has found an extended network of support in Family Initiative. Our team will continue to work with this family to ensure the success we have seen continues and that his parents feel confident in every aspect.

2.19 Free Eye Care Services to Prevent Blindness (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: APRA-UW219C

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Florida Lions Eye Clinic, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$95,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$95,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.19 Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Free Eye Care Services to Prevent Blindness project is a partially ARPA-funded expansion of an existing program that will increase the availability of no cost blind prevention services and resources available to low-income residents. The main activities of the project include providing (a) funding for operational staff salaries, Electronic Medical Record Software, and professional services fees; (b)



diagnostic test and examinations including comprehensive eye exams, visual acuity, refractions, intraocular pressure check, visual exams, diabetic exams, cornea evaluations, cataract evaluations, amblyopia evaluation & treatment, strabismus evaluation & treatment, macular disease evaluation, blood

pressure; (c) therapy including pterygium surgery, chalazion, glaucoma management, conjunctivitis, general eye irritation; and (d) referrals to other medical services including cataracts, retina & macular disease, eye trauma, prescriptions for corrective lenses, and low cost eyeglasses.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: "Vital Signs" study ("Visual Impairment and Mental Health: unmet Needs and Treatment Options", US National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health, 12/03/20) many of the residence in Southwest Florida do not have insurance, many are not able to see a doctor due to the high cost, and the number of people in poverty over the last year has increased. The Clinic meets this need by being the only FREE eye clinic in the state of Florida providing health services to those who meet the qualifications services.

Learning: The outcome to provide a means to increase the number of patients seen at the clinic ensured that patients did not experience permanent vision loss if it was in fact avoidable with treatment. Together with the dependability and expertise of additional doctors and clinic support staff on board, the Clinic's need to send patients out for referral surgery, at a cost significantly higher than the cost to provide services at the Clinic location, continued to decrease over the past year. The Clinic was able to provide services to an increased number of patients this past year due to the increase in paid doctor hours scheduled providing direct services to our patients. Though the Clinic was built on the premise of having volunteer doctors seeing and treating patients, we have learned that hiring doctors to work during the summer and when volunteers are unable, makes a significant impact in the number of patients seen.

Sight can make a difference between a life of poverty and social withdrawal and a life of opportunity and community involvement. Eye diseases also increase the likelihood of social withdrawal, isolation, falls, and mistakes in taking medications.

Community Engagement:

- In order to maximize awareness of the services FLLEC provides to the community, FLLEC has focused on strengthening and increasing the number of partnerships with other agencies in order to educate the public and individuals in need of our services through education and referrals to the clinic.
- FLLEC takes great pride in partnering with the local Lions Clubs to assist with screening events, collaborating with United Way partners and agencies via the attendance of interagency meetings and the Café of Life Interagency meetings in Bonita Springs, working closely and in collaboration with WeCare, Division of Blind Services, the Department of Health and the Florida Lions Foundation for the Blind.
- FLLEC distributes Clinic brochures, has made presentations to clubs and communities, has written press releases and has distributed them to the media at least once a month, published monthly newsletters, set up booths at community events (volunteer events and community awareness events), and by hosting a community awareness event at the clinic. In addition, the Clinic updates social media outlets (Facebook, Instagram, and indeed), posts videos on you tube, and gives tours of the Clinic on a regular basis.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Reduction in blindness through prevention and treatment of eye conditions.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	10% (5133 grant period 2022) Increase from staff hours dedicated to serving low-income residents	Project Target	5134
		Achieved to Date	6242
		Percentage	121.6%
2)	10% (1193 in 2022 grant period) Increase in patients served this current year (report quarterly and annually)	Project Target	1310
		Achieved to Date	1719
		Percentage	131.2%

Success Comments:

A patient suffers from proliferative diabetic retinopathy. During July of 2022 this patient had recently travelled abroad for a family emergency. She explained that she had to remain abroad more than she had initially expected. Due to the constant stress of the emergency and unavailability of food she unfortunately had a retinal hemorrhage that completely occluded her vision. She expressed that she went to the local emergency room and they could not tend to her specific need because of how overburdened the medical facility was due to a flare of Covid cases. She was told that she was going to have to wait to receive a phone call and that could take up to 3 months. She was very upset and felt helpless. She had no other choice but to travel home to resolve the issue. She self-quarantined for 10 days as a precaution then called FLLEC crying and explained that she has not been able to see for the last 2 weeks due to her condition. The patient coordinator took her call and she expedited a visit with our retinal specialist the following day. She underwent diagnostic testing, such as fundus photography and B-scan, to identify hemorrhaging. She received an Avastin injection into her vitreous chamber in both eyes, which decreases neo vascularization that leads to retinal hemorrhaging. She had a post op 2 weeks later and her Visual Acuity had improved by 3 lines. She was very grateful for how quick she was able to receive treatment and how lucky she is to be part of FLLEC.

2.19 Neighborhood Community Centers (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: APRA-UW219D

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Multiple Sclerosis Center of Southwest Florida

Funding Amount: \$194,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$194,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.19 Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Multiple Sclerosis Neighborhood Community Centers project is a partially ARPA-funded expansion of services into Cape Coral, Fort Myers, and Lehigh Acres to



provide mental health services and community training for individuals and families requiring Multiple Sclerosis services. The main activities of the project include (a) onsite mental health counseling; (b) providing social and support groups, mindful meditation, yoga; and art therapy; (c) providing subject matter experts to provide education session for the community; (d) funding for space rental; and (e) funding for operational staff salaries.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-producing project with learning agenda- Hypothesis: Participants mental health assessment scores will improve as a result of participation in MS Community Center services.

Learnings: The program launched in Lee County in 2022, operating in four areas: Buckingham, Cape Coral, Estero, and Fort Myers. A Lehigh Acres location opened in the fall of 2024.

Each location offers programming that consists of exercise or yoga; a support group meeting and mental health counseling; a group luncheon; and art therapy. As a result of the program, participants in the MSCCs achieved the following measurable outcomes: Individuals experienced reduced isolation through social activities and group interaction offered at their weekly local MSCC.

- 90% of registered participants attended the social and therapeutic activities each month
- 80% of participants experienced a 25% improvement in MHI score after 6 months of participation in the program and a 50 % improvement after 12 months. Individuals with MS learned coping skills through education and counseling.
- 80% of registered participants attended support group sessions or participated in individual counseling
- Each participant in a support group and/or counseling gained a 50% improvement in MHI score after 6 months of participation in the program. Individuals with MS learned about MS and disability related resources and how to access them, through monthly guest speakers, in-person workshops, or online webinars, offered through their local MSCC.
- 80% of registered participants received information on MS and disability related resources
- 90% of participants scored above 80% on post workshop tests on the information received after each monthly class

In addition to the above, we have collected testimonials that attest to the fact that new friendships were formed as a result of the connections made at their MSCCs. People said that they their MSCC day is their “favorite day of the week” .

Community Engagement:

- We announced the establishment of our MS Neighborhood Community Centers through our email newsletter, postcard mailing, and social media posts.
- We continue to remind our clients of the ongoing program through the same methods.
- To spread the word to the MS Community we have notified medical professionals who have contact with MS patients, and have asked our clients to share with their contacts.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Individuals with MS will experience reduced isolation through social activities and group interaction.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	90% (144/160) of registered participants will participate in social and therapeutic activities each month	Project Target	144
		Achieved to Date	793
		Percentage	551%
2)	90% (144/160) of participants will gain improvement in MHI score after 6 months	Project Target	144
		Achieved to Date	379
		Percentage	263%
3)	90% (144/160) of participants will gain improvement in MHI score after 12 months	Project Target	144
		Achieved to Date	398
		Percentage	276%

Outcome Statement 2:		Individuals with MS learn improved coping skills through education and counseling.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	50% (80 /160) of registered participants will attend support group sessions or participate in individual counseling	Project Target	84
		Achieved to Date	632
		Percentage	752%
2)	80% (128/160) of registered participants will receive information on MS and disability related resources	Project Target	128
		Achieved to Date	582
		Percentage	455%

Success Comments:

We had our first week of “MS Neighborhood Community Centers” in Fort Myers. Our local members were very thankful to have activities that were close to home. Some can only drive a short distance from home,

a few can get a ride as it is close and others are able to take the local bus services. One member spoke to me about how wonderful it was to be able to drive herself and feel independent again. Other feedback spoke to the services offered at the Community Center. They were thankful to get out and be around other like-minded people, to be able to feel heard and supported, to laughing for the first time in a long time while painting with other non-artistic people. Physical and mental stimulation has been shown to be comparable to some medications. This is all due to the funding for the MS Neighborhood Community Centers. Without this funding, our community of people with MS would not have the ability to get out, engage and learn from us and each other, and discover services that abound in Southwest Florida.

- MS Center client

2.19 Health Improvement with Care (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: APRA-UW219E

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Premier Mobile Health Services Corporation

Funding Amount: \$400,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$400,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.19 Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators

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



project is a partially ARPA-funded existing program to identify and treat individuals who contracted COVID and are still battling residual effects/symptoms. The main activities of the project include (a) funding for operational staff salary and training; (b) hire

and train interdisciplinary team; (c) funding for operational supplies and materials; and (d) providing treatment services.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: Health Improvement with Care (HIWC) is a research and evidence-based project using care models that have proven to be successful with patients in marginalized communities who are living with chronic diseases, mental health, and substance abuse. Premier Mobile Health Services models its care delivery approach after evidence-based process which have been applied in different health care organizations that serve marginalized communities. Advanced research on this approach to care have been recognized as best practice by the American Diabetes Association, American Heart Association. National Institute of Health, Centers for Disease Control, American Medical Association utilizing Levels 1 and 2 of evidence-based research findings. The same approach is incorporated in our care management plan as outlined by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and employed by both public and private entities to conceptualized care.

Community Engagement:

- We had numerous flyers created and distributed in both English and Spanish.

- We advertised throughout the county, participated in many county events.
- Set up our mobile clinic in many different diverse areas.
- Advertised on Facebook and created videos describing our services.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Improve access to resources for people living with long-term COVID symptoms.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	50 individuals with long-term COVID will be seen at the mobile or walk-in clinic by the end of the grant cycle	Project Target	50
		Achieved to Date	63
		Percentage	126.0%
2)	90% (45/50) participants will be referred to community resources	Project Target	45
		Achieved to Date	62
		Percentage	137.8%

Outcome Statement 2:		Increase mental wellness through resources and case management of people living with long COVID symptoms.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	80% (40/50) Demonstrate improved mental wellness as measured by pre and post testing	Project Target	40
		Achieved to Date	23
		Percentage	57.5%
2)	80% (40/50) Individuals will be assigned to a mental health specialist for case management	Project Target	40
		Achieved to Date	19
		Percentage	47.5%

Success Comments:

#1 Since receiving our grant funds, staffing our clinic and obtaining the much-needed equipment to provide our service successfully, we are proud to boast that we have added a second mobile clinic and serve seven diverse communities. In this short six months, we have met our goal of reaching 50 new patients affected with long-term Covid. We have successfully met our goal of referring patients for mental health services when needed. Though we are still collecting solid feedback on the success rate of patients following up with mental health services, we are very optimistic that we are continuing to make a difference and provide proper care and resources. Through our partnership with United Way and Lee County, we have been able to serve a wide portion of our community with the care and dignity that they deserve. There is still much to learn about Covid and its long-term effects on its victims. We are proud to be warriors in the fight against it.

#2 The success story for the final submission is the success of the overall project and how much has been discovered about the effects of long-term COVID-19. During this time, the knowledge and education that

has been experienced by patients and staff alike. So much was discovered that it could become its own study if staffing weren't an issue. Long-term illnesses that commonly presented themselves were not only depression from the loss of jobs or loved ones but also serious cardiac issues, diabetes, and respiratory illnesses. Though the quota of patients was met in the referral for mental health care, Premier staff were also able to save countless lives with cardiac care and referral, diabetic care and nutritional education well as respiratory treatments.

2.19 Free Dental Care for Low-Income (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: APRA-UW219F

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Project Dentists Care of Southwest Florida, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$57,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$57,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.19 Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Free Dental Care for Low-Income project is a partially ARPA-funded expansion of an existing program to dental care to low-income individual and families. The main activities of the project include (a) funding for operational staff salary and training; and (b) funding for office supplies and equipment.



Use of Evidence:

Evidence-based: Dental Hygiene

Community Engagement:

- Collaborations with United Way
- Speaking engagements with the Lee County Dental Society

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		To serve and educate the underserved population with proper oral care.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	100% (1200/1200) of patients that are seen in the clinic receive educational instruction written and demonstrated on proper oral care	Project Target	1200
		Achieved to Date	1072
		Percentage	89.3%

2)	100% (1200/1200) of patients seeking assistance are able to better care for their oral health	Project Target	1200
		Achieved to Date	1092
		Percentage	91%

Success Comments

Having received the ARPA grant has made it possible for the clinic to hire a part-time receptionist who helps with answering phone and schedules patients as well as verifying income qualification 4 days a week. She also checks patients in and out during clinic days and is able to spend more time explaining after care to the patients.

2.19 Integrated Primary Care Behavioral Health (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: APRA-UW219G

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Samaritan Health & Wellness Center, Inc. Dr. Susan Hook

Funding Amount: \$260,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$260,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.19 Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. Integrated Primary Care Behavioral Health project is a partially ARPA-funded existing program that will provide medical care for the Uninsured and underinsured individuals experiencing (a) education on lifestyle changes; (b) chronic disease evaluation and treatment; (c) mental health counseling; (d) addition of addiction services; (e) increased number of nurse practitioners and mental health counselors; and (f) increase support staff including certified medical assistants and office staff. The main activities of the project include (a) providing funding for operational staff salary; and (b) offering a menu of medical services including assessment and treatment for chronic disease, mental health, and additions.



Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: Integrated primary care behavioral health is evidence-based practice, and the outcomes associated with this model of care demonstrate improvement in overall patients' health and wellbeing when they have access to physical and mental health care with the medical providers and mental health counselors located in the same practice, collaborating on patient care as a team.

The American Academy of Family Physicians, Sarina Schrager, MD, MS, reported that "up to 75% of primary care visits include mental or behavioral health components...which includes behavioral factors related to chronic disease management, mental health issues, substance use, smoking or other tobacco use, and the impact of stress, diet, and exercise on health" (AAFP, May/June2021).

Research demonstrates that when patients have access to their primary care provider and their counselor in the same practice, their physical health as well as chronic depression (for example), improves (Balasubramanian BA, Cohen DJ, Jetelina KK, et al. Outcomes of integrated behavioral health with primary care. J Am Board Fam Med. 2017; 30(2):130-139). These patients' scores on mental health surveys, pre and post primary care integrated behavioral health, improve, and they are more likely to return for follow up care and counseling when their healthcare providers work together as a team in one facility.

In another research-based article from The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, the authors reported that "integrated models of primary care and behavioral health can improve normative and process integration; studies have shown that mental and behavioral health team integration produces better health outcomes and lower costs for adults (Archer et al., 2012; Gilbody et al., 2006; Huffman et al., 2014; Katon and Guico-Pabia, 2011; Katon et al., 2010; Reiss-Brennan et al., 2016; Unützer et al., 2013) and improved outcomes for children and adolescents" (Asarnow et al., 2015b; Platt et al., 2018).

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Provide medical care for the uninsured and underinsured individuals experiencing (a) education on lifestyle changes; (b) chronic disease evaluation and treatment; (c) mental health counseling; (d) addition of addiction services.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	600 new unduplicated uninsured/under insured patients served. Patients will have access to medical and mental healthcare	Project Target	600
		Achieved to Date	934
		Percentage	155.7%

Success Comments:

During the funding cycle of the year 2023, over 7,400 patient care visits, including primary care and mental health counseling, were logged. Samaritan Health and Wellness Center now operates two satellite clinics in underserved areas of Lee County: During the funding cycle of the year 2023, over 7,400 patient care visits, including primary care and mental health counseling, were logged. Samaritan Health and Wellness Center now operates two satellite clinics in underserved areas of Lee County: Pine Island and Dunbar communities. This was only possible in part, to the ARPA grant funds. Those who are uninsured and underinsured continue to receive professional, compassionate care from licensed and experienced nurse practitioners and mental health counselors. The number of unduplicated patients continues to grow as more and more people move to the area and find themselves without insurance and without healthcare.

Respectfully submitted, Sue Hook

2.19 Expanding Clinic Hours (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: APRA-UW219H

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Christian Medical Ministries Inc, dba/ SWFL Free-Pain Clinic

Funding Amount: \$225,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$225,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.19 Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Suncoast Community for Pain Recovery is a partially ARPA-funded existing program to expand operational hours to full-time, 5 days a week and contract with non-emergency medical transportation to bring patients to the clinic. The main activities of the project include (a) offering a menu of service to diagnosis and treat pain; (b) providing funding for operational staff salary; and (c) providing funding for transportation contract.



Use of Evidence: Evidence-producing project with learning agenda. The Southwest Florida Free Pain Clinic offers a unique treatment model for low-income, uninsured individuals, by utilizing medical and chiropractic care, massage and physical therapy, acupuncture, modalities, and nutrition, health, and exercise counseling to treat patients' pain at the source without the use of drugs. Patients are treated using a Functional Medicine model - treating the whole person: physical, emotional, spiritual and social. This model creates a path toward healing rather than a path toward prescription drug dependence.

Community Engagement:

- In 2023/Q2 community outreach to build awareness and increase engagement and patient service was a priority. CMM reached out to over 100 churches and launched new collaborations with seven (7) additional community-based nonprofit organizations.
- CMM also partnered with Florida Gulf Coast University and Rasmusson to provide students with internships and clinical experience.
- CMM is looking forward to building upon the new relationships to increase the number of patients served, the scope of patient services, to expand our presence in the community by opening new remote clinic sites.
- Community engagement activities have included enhanced social media use, United Way Partner agency collaboration with WeCare, 211, Partners for Breast Health, Lee Health Faith Community Nurses Organization, Lee Health Outpatient Clinics, Samaritan Health, Lee County Health and Human Services Division, the Collaboratory, Family Health Centers, and local Church organizations. Plans for next quarter include participation in Health Fairs as well as continuing to build community relationships.

- This quarter saw the ending of many projects previously mentioned. First, we are eager to announce our first remote clinic site that will be held at Grace Church in downtown Fort Myers. The official launch date will be announced in the next quarter. Additionally in this quarter, we successfully held our first Golf Tournament Fundraiser, raising over \$20,000 for our clinic. Funds raised went toward our Mobile Clinic Initiative. This was a testament to all the work that was put in by our development director and volunteers. Using what we learned, we are excited to pursue another scramble that will be held in 2025. We have continued to add new student volunteers and have a student intern joining us this summer and next semester as well. We have also added new staff members and volunteers that will aid in giving comprehensive treatment to our patients and will allow us to expand our services to our remote site. We have continued to engage with other non-profit organizations in the community as well.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Improve access to pain relief services for patients suffering with short-term and long-term chronic pain.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	800% (1732 hours) Increase patient contact hours by end of 2024	Project Target	1732
		Achieved to Date	2638
		Percentage	152%
2)	90% (70/78) Of the unduplicated patients will experience short-term pain relief	Project Target	70
		Achieved to Date	82
		Percentage	117%
3)	75% (59/78) Of the unduplicated patients will experience long-term pain relief	Project Target	59
		Achieved to Date	55
		Percentage	93%

Success Comments:

My journey with Christian Medical Ministries began in June 2023, a time when I was at my lowest. I had lost my insurance and the aftereffects of Hurricane Ian had left me exposed to biotoxins. I was struggling with severe joint pain, brain fog, and a multitude of other symptoms. I couldn't walk right, I wasn't sleeping, I couldn't focus or eat properly. My entire system felt broken. I was desperate for help.

One day, by what I believe was divine intervention, I found Christian Medical Ministries while searching the web for a pain clinic. I spoke to Anna, who warmly welcomed me even though I had no insurance. She assured me that I could become a new patient, and from that moment, I felt a glimmer of hope. I truly believe that God guided me to this clinic and allowed Anna to answer my call.

When I first came to the clinic, I met Dr. Gruning, who not only provided me with medical care but also spiritual support. He provided me with more natural treatments, including vitamins, Questran, and a nasal spray, which had no harsh side effects. His reassurance that they would help me if I continued coming gave me the strength to keep going.

My health has undergone a miraculous transformation since coming to Christian Medical Ministries. I went from feeling like I was at 0%—unable to walk, sleep, or concentrate—to now feeling like I’m at 100%. I have gone from being a mess to becoming a miracle.

The staff at Christian Medical Ministries have been a blessing in my life. Lillian prayed with me, and those prayers truly worked miracles. The ministry also offered chiropractic and acupuncture services, which helped me immensely. Shannon took care of all the paperwork, and I never had to worry about anything when I came to the office. Each member of the staff showed incredible patience and care for me in every situation I went through.

Christian Medical Ministries has not only restored my physical health but also strengthened my spiritual well-being. When something good happens to you, you can’t hold that testimony in—I am now a messenger for the Lord, sharing my story to inspire others. I am deeply grateful for everything the clinic has done for me, and I thank God every day for leading me to this incredible place.

2.25 Support Non-Profit, Extended Learning and After-School Programs that Address Educational Disparities

Project ID: ARPA-NE225A, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$227,413

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$227,413

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services*^

Project Overview:

The Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast, Extended Learning and After-School Project is an existing program that will contract with Lee County to build capacity and expand its services in Lee County through the Agency's One to One Mentoring Program. This One-to-One Mentoring Program project will serve local youth through afterschool and summer programming that addresses educational disparities by providing the informed advocacy, guidance, support, resources, referrals, and tools needed to overcome economic and racial barriers and achieve academic, career, and life success. The service results positive outcomes that help at-risk youth remain in school and make academic progress, avoid risky behaviors, overcome barriers to academic success, graduate high school, and achieve higher education. The major activities for this project include (a) mentors assisting students with their homework and studying, and they facilitate reading activities that support the emergence of a love of reading and an improvement in reading proficiency; and (b) developing a friendship based on trust and continuous support and guidance, mentors also address other key risk factors, such as poor academic performance and risky behaviors.





Project Demographic Distribution:

Gender

Timeframe	Female	Male
Q3 2022	99	109
Q4 2022	130	94
Q1 2023	129	137
Q2 2023	141	106
Q3 2023	123	140
Q4 2023	125	130
Q1 2024	140	131
Q2 2024	157	176
Q3 2024	132	123
Q4 2024	179	178

Q1 2025	193	194
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Age

Timeframe	Age 6-11	Age 12-17	18+
Q3 2022	69	119	20
Q4 2022	75	130	19
Q1 2023	96	145	25
Q2 2023	101	123	23
Q3 2023	97	114	52
Q4 2023	96	131	32
Q1 2024	116	129	34
Q2 2024	141	169	29
Q3 2024	86	145	25
Q4 2024	144	188	30
Q1 2025	158	191	44

Race

Timeframe	African American	White or Caucasian	Hispanic	Other	Unknown
Q3 2022	54	67	49	33	5
Q4 2022	59	68	57	35	5
Q1 2023	71	84	69	36	6
Q2 2023	81	66	59	35	6
Q3 2023	92	85	71	4	11
Q4 2023	59	85	67	38	10
Q1 2024	67	100	68	34	10
Q2 2024	91	115	83	40	10
Q3 2024	73	88	59	29	7
Q4 2024	101	111	98	39	13
Q1 2025	118	120	103	45	7

Eligible for Subsidized Lunch

Timeframe	Yes	No
Q3 2022	183	25
Q4 2022	201	23
Q1 2023	242	24
Q2 2023	224	23
Q3 2023	229	34
Q4 2023	217	42
Q1 2024	234	45
Q2 2024	313	83
Q3 2024	182	74
Q4 2024	222	140

Q1 2025	230	163
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Incarcerated Parent or Sibling

Timeframe	Yes	No
Q1 2023	107	159
Q2 2023	102	165
Q3 2023	110	153
Q4 2023	97	162
Q1 2024	108	171
Q2 2024	145	194
Q3 2024	98	158
Q4 2024	136	226
Q1 2025	148	245

Community Engagement:

- BBBSSC provides informational presentations and flyers to teachers, guidance counselors, and administrative personnel, who then refer students in need of mentoring to the One to One Mentoring Program. Mentor Managers obtain parental consent for either community-based or site-based mentoring, and the youth are then interviewed and assessed to determine, address, and meet their unique needs. BBBSSC has a current and annually renewable Interagency Agreement with the Lee County School Board which makes it possible to provide client outreach to marginalized youth in Lee County.
- Staff also provide informational presentations to youth services organizations throughout the community. Additionally, they provide flyers to the YMCA and Boys and Girls Club afterschool programs for youth to bring home. Reaching at-risk, marginalized youth to meet their needs and achieve equity for themselves and their families is a priority for the agency. BBBSSC works with other community agencies to ensure that the at-risk youth of Lee County have the necessary resources to succeed. As part of this coordinated effort, the Agency works with other organizations to gather referrals of youth who would benefit from one to one mentoring services.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: Big Brothers Big Sisters' One to One Mentoring Program is an evidence based program is found here: <https://search.issuelab.org/resource/making-a-difference-in-schools-the-big-brothers-big-sisters-school-based-mentoring-impact-study.html>

Performance to be Measured:

- ARPA Measure: Number of students participating in evidence-based tutoring programs.
 - Number of students served goal annually = 300

Tutoring

Timeframe	Quarterly	Annually
Q3 2022	208	
Q4 2022	224	
Q1 2023	266	

Q2 2023	247	333
Q3 2023	263	
Q4 2023	259	
Q1 2024	279	
Q2 2024	339	402
Q3 2024	256	
Q4 2024	362	
Q1 2025	393	300

Performance Outcomes to be Measured:

- Number of participating students that achieved timely grade level promotion or high school graduation.
 -

Timeframe	Count
22-23 School Year	333
23-24 School Year	395

- At least 85% of the at-risk K-12th grade youth served will achieve timely grade level promotion or high school graduation. Report achievement/ participants annually (end of school year)

Timeframe	Percent
22-23 School Year	100%
23-24 School Year	98% (395 of 402)

Success Story:

A child came into the program at Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast when he was 10 years old. He lives with his sister and mother. While is growing up in a loving single-parent household, his Mom felt strongly something was missing - a strong male role model.

This child had starting counseling in 2nd grade because he expressed interest in suicide due to being bullied as a result of his low reading and math levels. This mother prayed he could have a Big Brother to have conversations about continuing to try, never giving up, and how a positive male role model handles difficult situations.

According to his Mom, the “big brother” has “filled a gap I was not able to fill...he is truly a genuine and caring person.”

Before being matched, the child dreamed of being an engineer, but he felt that was unattainable due to his learning disabilities. Since then, this “big brother” has introduced him to a new world of activities that ignited his curiosity, built his confidence, and fueled his desire to learn! From sports to working on cars to building a set of golf clubs to improving his academic grades, his “big brother” has come a consistent positive role model.

The big brother states that “having the opportunity to be his Big Brother which has helped him far greater than he had ever imagined”.

He is now in the 6th grade, he earns “As” in Reading and Math, and he is going to the State Championship Flag Football Game with his teammates/friends. I will be in the stands cheering them on. The child now has such confidence and drive that he will never give up on his dreams.

Project ID: ARPA-NE225B, Boys and Girls Club of Lee County

Funding Amount: \$260,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$260,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services*^

Project Overview:



The Boys and Girls Club of Lee County, Extended Learning and After-School Project is an existing program that will contract with Lee County to provide high-quality after-school and summer programs, serving kids ages 6-18, designed to build skills and knowledge in the areas of education, health and wellness, sports & recreation, the arts, workforce development, and service & leadership. The project has targeted two Title 1 school locations (Varsity Lakes Middle and James Stephens Elementary) to expand our program, that are in need of afterschool and summer services in their area. The service results positive outcomes with members on track to achieve academic success, demonstrate good character & citizenship and live a healthy lifestyle. The major activities for this project include (a) focus on building skills in core subjects, through reading and STEM programs; and (b) providing mentors to guide youth through social and emotional development.

Project Demographic Distribution:

Gender

Timeframe	Female	Male
Q3 2022	77	95
Q4 2022	7	6
Q1 2023	11	8
Q2 2023	84	82
Q3 2023	99	101
Q4 2023	14	19
Q1 2024	36	36
Q2 2024	122	136
Q3 2024	155	171
Q4 2024	56	74

Race

Timeframe	Black/African American	White or Caucasian	Hispanic	Two or more races	Other
Q3 2022	71	24	42	11	11
Q4 2022	2	4	2	2	3
Q1 2023	5	4	1	2	0
Q2 2023	47	32	48	15	24
Q3 2023	75	37	46	12	31
Q4 2023	19	3	7		4
Q1 2024	35	6	20	3	8
Q2 2024	95	32	77	16	40
Q3 2024	144	45	84	15	40
Q4 2024	74	15	27	5	9

Income

Timeframe	< \$19,999	\$20,000-\$29,999	\$30,000-50,000	\$50,000+
Q3 2022	27	26	24	32
Q4 2022	2	1	4	6
Q1 2023	2	2	8	7
Q2 2023	27	31	53	57
Q3 2023	39	51	54	56
Q4 2023	22	11		
Q1 2024	30	19	15	6
Q2 2024	81	60	62	49
Q3 2024	92	86	70	51
Q4 2024	56	26	19	6

Use of Evidence (*Highlights*):

Research based programs.

Project Learn. Academic Support; Homework Help; Tutoring; Academic Enrichment;

Remedial Education.

Research Basis. Citation: Clark, Reginald. (2002) *Building Student Achievement: In-School and Out-of-School Factors*. Policy Issues, North Central Regional Educational Laboratory, Issue 13.

Research results. Citation: Schinke, Steven, et al. (2000) *Enhancing the Educational Achievement of At-Risk Youth*. Prevention Science, Volume 1, No. 1.

Summer Brain Gain. Academic Enrichment; Literacy; Math Education.

Research Basis.

Web Link: <https://www.metisassociates.com/case-studies/closing-opportunity-and-achievement-gaps-through-out-of-school-time-programs/>

Multiple-year evaluation of Summer Brain Gain is currently underway,

using a study design that includes rigorously matched control groups.
Research Results. Citation: Unpublished; evaluation is underway.

Triple Play. Physical Fitness; Nutrition Education; Recreational Activities.

Research Results. Citation: Gambone, Michelle, et al. (2009) *Promoting Healthy Lifestyles: The Impact of Triple Play on Healthy Eating, Exercise Patterns, and Developmental Outcomes*. Youth Development Strategies, Inc.

Power Hour. Academic Support.

Web link:

https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwiSqeCXpZiAAxVKRDABHcu9BS8QFnoECCgQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.bgca.org%2F-%2Fmedia%2FDocuments%2FCurriculum%2FPowerHour%2FPowerHour_ProgramGuide_ES.pdf&usg=AOvVaw1WberPvZ27GgBGn1Od4r0i&opi=89978449

SMART Leaders. Drug and violence prevention

Research Results. Citation: St. Pierre, Tena L., D. Lynne Kaltreider, Melvin M. Mark, and Kathryn J. Aikin. (1992) *Drug Prevention in a Community Setting: A Longitudinal Study of the Relative Effectiveness of a 3-Year Primary Prevention Program in Boys & Girls Clubs Across the Nation*. American Journal of Community Psychology, Vol. 20, Issue 6.

Passport to Manhood. Character Education

Research Basis. Citation: McLean, K., et al. (2010) Constructing the Self in Early, Middle and Late Adolescent Boys: Narrative Identity, Individuation, and We/I-Being. Journal of Research on Adolescence, Vol. 20.

Performance to be Measured:

- ARPA Measure: Number of students participating in evidence-based tutoring programs.

Timeframe	Quarterly
Q3 2022	172 (summer)
Q4 2022	13
Q1 2023	19
Q2 2023	166 (summer)
Q3 2023	201
Q4 2023	74
Q1 2024	72
Q2 2024	260
Q3 2024	328
Q4 2024	131

- Number of students participating in at least 30 minutes of physical fitness activity.

Timeframe	Quarterly
Q3 2022	172
Q4 2022	13

Q1 2023	19
Q2 2023	166
Q3 2023	201
Q4 2023	74
Q1 2024	72
Q2 2024	260
Q3 2024	328
Q4 2024	131

Performance Outcomes to be Measured:

- 85% of youth who participate in at least 30 minutes of physical fitness activity will increase their physical fitness skills.
 - On average, 80% of members made gains in physical fitness between Pre & Post tests across all club. 84% showed gains at Varsity Lakes. We did find that the other 20% already showed a high proficiency in physical fitness (i.e. student athletes), which was not considered in the original target. Overall, we saw significant improvement in physical fitness. Our goal through both the Triple Play program and fitness challenge is to build healthy habits that support long term healthy lifestyles.
- 85% of measured students will achieve a 2.0 "C" average or higher.
 - For the 23.24 School Year, BGCLC assessed youth across all locations (aggregated data) they achieved 96% achieved 2.0 GPA (or equivalent) or higher and 87% achieved 3.0 GPA (or equivalent) or higher

Success Story:

The Flight Program at Varsity Lakes was our pilot STEM program focused on teaching our youth about flight through hands on, learning activities. Our kids started out with basic construction of planes out of foam boards. They learned about aerodynamics of flight with our volunteers Joe and Grayson, who both have various levels of experience with aviation. The kids were able to practice gliding their planes back and forth, and experiment with trajectory and velocity by placing weight on different parts of the plane to see how it would affect the flight. The kids were also shown a flight simulator so they could experience what it is like to fly. The next step was to build a motor that would allow the kids to fly the planes with a remote control. Overall, it was an exciting, interactive, learning experience that was focused on the science of flight and the career opportunities that exist in aviation. Based on the success of the pilot, the program is being rolled out to additional clubs.

Project ID: ARPA-NE225C, The Heights Center

Funding Amount: \$407,891

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$407,891

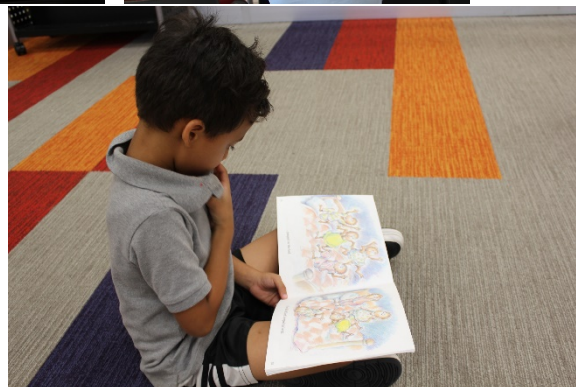
Project Duration: June 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services*^

Project Overview:



The Heights Center, Extended Learning and After-School Project is an existing program that will contract with Lee County to provide high-quality after-school and summer programs, serving kids in kindergarten -eighth grade, designed to provide of remedial and enrichment activities. The project has one location primarily serving the needs of the Harlem Heights community. The service results positive outcomes improved grades in reading/language arts/math; increases in grade levels equivalencies for independent reading passages; improved fluency rates and comprehension skills; improved accuracy in basic mathematical operations and math problem solving. The major activities for this project include (a) schoolwork assistance; (b) specialized programming in in the areas of fitness, science, art, character development, and technology multiple times each month; and (c) special clubs in such areas as music, art, coding, scientific inventions, and sports.



Project Demographic Distribution:

Gender

Timeframe	Female	Male
Q3 2022	65	139
Q4 2022	86	158
Q1 2023	87	158
Q2 2023	104	175
Q3 2023	134	207
Q4 2023	150	219
Q1 2024	43	118
Q2 2024	43	118
Q3 2024	90	120

Ethnicity

Timeframe	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic
Q3 2022	149	55
Q4 2022	179	65
Q1 2023	180	65
Q2 2023	204	75
Q3 2023	251	90
Q4 2023	269	100
Q1 2024	118	43
Q2 2024	150	55
Q3 2024	155	55

Race

Timeframe	Black/African American	White	Multi-Racial
Q3 2022	25	166	13
Q4 2022	30	191	23
Q1 2023	30	192	23
Q2 2023	40	212	27
Q3 2023	53	259	29
Q4 2023	58	269	37
Q1 2024	25	117	19
Q2 2024	34	149	22
Q3 2024	34	154	22

Income

Timeframe	Extremely Low Income	Low Income
Q3 2022	198	5
Q4 2022	238	6
Q1 2023	238	7

Q2 2023	258	21
Q3 2023	320	21
Q4 2023	340	29
Q1 2024	148	13
Q2 2024	188	14
Q3 2024	195	15

Use of Evidence (*Highlights*):

Peer Tutoring and Response Groups. Peer Tutoring and Response Groups works to improve the language and achievement of English Language Learners. The US Department of Education Institute of Education Sciences What Works Clearinghouse reviewed the research evidence and reports studies meeting WWC research design standards. [WWC | Peer Tutoring and Response Groups \(ed.gov\)](#)

Instructional Conversations and Literature Logs. The goal of Instructional Conversations and Literature Logs is to help English Language Learners develop reading comprehension along with English language proficiency. The US Department of Education Institute of Education Sciences What Works Clearinghouse reviewed the research evidence and reports studies meeting WWC research design standards. [WWC | Instructional Conversations and Literature Logs \(ed.gov\)](#)

Leveled Literacy Intervention. Leveled Literacy Instruction is a short-term, supplementary, small-group literacy intervention designed to help struggling readers achieve grade-level competency. The instructional approach allows teachers to match students with texts of progressing difficulty and deliver systematic lessons targeted to a student's reading ability. The US Department of Education Institute of Education Sciences What Works Clearinghouse reviewed the research evidence and reports studies meeting WWC research design standards. [WWC | Leveled Literacy Intervention](#)

PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies). The PATHS Curriculum is a comprehensive program for promoting emotional and social competencies and reducing aggression and behavior problems in preschool through 8th grade students while simultaneously enhancing the educational process. Program effectiveness evaluated through research reviews: Blueprints Model Program, CASEL (Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning), Helping America's Youth Registry (Promising Program), OJJDP (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention) (Exemplary Program), and USDE's Safe, Disciplined and Drug Free Schools (Promising Program)

Performance to be Measured:

- ARPA Measure: Number of students participating in evidence-based tutoring programs.
 - Report quarterly participation.
 - Report the cumulative participation number annually.
- Number of participating students that show an increase in 21st century skills (communication, teamwork, social skills etc.).
 - Report quarterly improvement.
 - Report # of students with skill level increase annually.

- Number of students that show increase in skill level in reading, language arts, math, or science.
 - Report quarterly improvement.
 - Report# of students with skill level increase annually.

Tutoring

Timeframe	Quarterly	Annually
Q3 2022	204	
Q4 2022	151	244
Q1 2023	152	245
Q2 2023	185	279
Q3 2023	183	341
Q4 2023	159	369
Q1 2024	161	371
Q2 2024	205	393
Q3 2024	210	411

Performance Outcomes to be Measured:

- 75% of youth who complete the program will show an increase in 21st century skills such as communication, teamwork, social skills, self-confidence, and analytical thinking.
- Increase in 21st Century Skills

Timeframe	Count	Percent
Q3 2022	118/131	88.5%
Q4 2022	134/151	88.7%
Q1 2023	141/152	92.7%
Q2 2023	149/152	98%
Q3 2023	122/149	81.8%
Q4 2023	132/159	83%
Q1 2024	132/161	82%
Q2 2024	176/205	85.8%
Q3 2024	189/210	90%

- Report base line student skill level in 21st century skills.
- Report rate of youth achievement cumulative for project:
 - **345/411 83.9%**
- 70% of youth who complete the program will increase their skill level in reading, language arts, math, or science.
- Increase in skill level (reading, language arts, math, science)

Timeframe	Count	Percent
Q3 2022	100/131	76.3%
Q4 2022	135/151	89.4%
Q1 2023	138/152	90.8%
Q2 2023	141/152	92.8%
Q3 2023	131/149	87.8%

Q4 2023	131/159	82.4%
Q1 2024	131/161	81.4%
Q2 2024	175/205	85.4%
Q3 2024	172/210	81.9%

- Report base line student skill level in subject areas.
- Report rate of youth achievement cumulative for project:
 - **342/411 83.2%**

Project ID: ARPA-NE225D, New Horizons of Southwest Florida

Funding Amount: \$213,786

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$213,786

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services*^

Project Overview:



New Horizons of SWFL provides high-quality mentoring and school tutoring to kids in grades K-12. The Extended Learning and After-School Project will contract with Lee County to fund a professional development program for organization leaders and to update technology for staff and students. The students served by New Horizons are from low-income households which the primary language spoken is not English and they are struggling academically at the time of enrollment. The service results positive outcomes to improve each child's well-being academically, socially, emotionally, and physically. The major activities for this project include three professional development training programs for club-level and department leaders (a) Learning Differently & Teaching Better: Master Strategies for Improving Outcomes for Disadvantaged Students & Families; (b) Master Teacher Professional Development; and (c) Senior Leadership Training.



Project Demographic Distribution:

Gender

Timeframe	Female	Male
Q3 2022	230	204
Q4 2022	237	207
Q1 2023	239	211
Q2 2023	239	213
Q3 2023	223	181
Q4 2023	224	182

Q1 2024	230	186
Q2 2024	230	186
Q3 2024	225	180
Q4 2024	227	181

Age

Timeframe	0-6	6-13	13-17	17 and older
Q3 2022	8	316	97	16
Q4 2022	6	320	104	17
Q1 2023	4	315	111	22
Q2 2023	2	305	121	24
Q3 2023	8	295	85	17
Q4 2023	5	290	92	20
Q1 2024	4	290	99	23
Q2 2024	2	286	98	30
Q3 2024	6	260	78	23
Q4 2024	5	294	84	25

Ethnicity

Timeframe	Hispanic	Non-Hispanic
Q3 2022	415	22
Q4 2022	422	25
Q1 2023	427	25
Q2 2023	429	23
Q3 2023	392	13
Q4 2023	394	13
Q1 2024	402	14
Q2 2024	404	12
Q3 2024	398	8
Q4 2024	400	8

Race

Timeframe	Black/African American	White	Multi-Racial	Other
Q3 2022	18	406	1	9
Q4 2022	20	412	1	10
Q1 2023	21	415	1	11
Q2 2023	21	391	2	11
Q3 2023	7	377	1	19
Q4 2023	7	379	1	19
Q1 2024	7	384	1	24
Q2 2024	7	384	1	22
Q3 2024	3	378	1	23
Q4 2024	3	378	1	25

Income

Timeframe	Eligible 0-100%	101-130%	Over Income
Q3 2022	364	48	22
Q4 2022	372	50	22
Q1 2023	378	49	22
Q2 2023	378	49	22
Q3 2023	339	49	17
Q4 2023	308	50	17
Q1 2024	349	50	17
Q2 2024	349	50	17
Q3 2024	347	44	14
Q4 2024	349	44	14

Parental Status

Timeframe	1 Parent	2 Parents
Q3 2022	114	321
Q4 2022	115	330
Q1 2023	117	330
Q2 2023	117	335
Q3 2023	92	313
Q4 2023	93	308
Q1 2024	94	316
Q2 2024	94	316
Q3 2024	85	315
Q4 2024	85	316



Photo: Graduating class

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: New Horizons follows an evidence-based model to effective tutoring as reported by the U.S. DOE ("Evidence that Tutoring Works, 2001) that includes: coordination of materials with the classroom, training of tutors and frequent structured tutoring sessions. This, along with

our delivery model of small group instruction and computer-based instruction, allows us to address the educational disparities that exist in the population we serve. New Horizons trains tutors who then receive ongoing support from the staff. Tutoring sessions are well-structured and are held four days per week. The student to tutor ratio is low, generally 1:2 for elementary and 1:6 for middle/high school.

New Horizons focuses on the five essential components of reading as defined by the National Reading Panel: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary development and reading comprehension. Research Citation: Scammacca, Vaughn, Roberts, Wanzek, Torgensen "Extensive Reading Interventions in Grades K-3," FCRR, 2007.

The computerized academic component of the New Horizons of SWFL model uses the IXL online curriculum for our students to achieve measurable outcomes in their reading, language arts, and even some math skills. IXL also gives our staff real time analytics to know where to go and how to help each student. Research Citation: Carlson, D., Borman, G.D., & Robinson, M. (2011). A multistate district-level cluster randomized trial of the impact of data-driven reform on reading and mathematics achievement. Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, 33, 378-398.

Performance to be Measured:

- ARPA Measure: Number of students participating in evidence-based tutoring programs.
- Number of students participating in the program.
 - Report Quarterly Participation.
 - Report Culminative Participation. Annually.

Timeline	Participants
Q3 2022	437
Q4 2022	447
Q1 2023	414
Q2 2023	425
Q3 2023	405
Q4 2023	407
Q1 2024	416
Q2 2024	416
Q3 2024	406
Q4 2024	408

- Number of students that graduate from high school with a plan to work or attend college
 - Report annually the number of students that graduate with the intent to enter the workforce or attend college
 - In the spring of 2024, nine high school seniors (100%) graduated from high school with a plan to work or attend college.
- Number of students that have increased their skill level in reading, language arts, math, or science
 - Report quarterly # of students improved.
 - Report # of students improved (end of program)

Timeline	K-5 Students Enrolled earning C	Middle and Highschool Students Enrolled Meeting Goal GPA	High School Seniors Graduated with Plan to
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	or higher in language arts		enter workforce or attend college
22-23 School year	163	68	11
23-24 School year	137	140	9 (100%)
24-25 School Year	135	52	

- Number of students that have improved their soft skills (communication, critical thinking, life skills)
 - 408 students have been practicing their soft skills through guest speakers, relationship building with volunteers and staff, daily character-building lessons and more.

Performance Outcomes to be Measured:

- 55% of students enrolled in the program will graduate from high school with a plan to work or attend college.
 - *There are 18 high school seniors enrolled in our Lee County program during this period and 100% of them are on track to graduate in the spring of 2025.*
- 70% of youth who complete the program will increase their skill level in reading, language arts, math, or science.
 - 31% of middle and high school students enrolled in Lee County this quarter are meeting our metric goal of a GPA of 2.0 or higher. Final metrics for the 2024-25 school year will be available in August 2025.
 - 56% of Lee County's K-5 students are currently earning a C or higher in language arts. Final metrics for the 2024-25 school year will be available in August 2025.
- 80% of clients who complete the program will be able to improve soft skills (communication, critical thinking, life skills).
 - 100% of students have been practicing their soft skills through guest speakers, relationship building with volunteers and staff, daily character-building lessons and more. Assessments were conducted at the end of the school year to measure student improvement and results will be available in August 2024. Students work daily with volunteer tutors and mentors of diverse backgrounds. They also interact with each other in small groups both at the club and while being transported to and from club locations. Students build relationships with adult role models and learn from their behaviors, including friendliness, confidence and motivation.
 - At the end of the 2023-2024 school year, 81% of Lee County students reported that they listen to others better, can ask others for help and feel more comfortable speaking to adults since attending New Horizons' programs.

Success Comments: A Super Kids Club student <name removed> has shown tremendous progress since he joined the program in kindergarten. In the 2022-23 school year, the child was a fourth-grade student. He has struggled with behavioral issues and it was difficult for him to focus both in school and at the club, which reflected in low grades. Volunteer tutors and staff worked closely with the child to help him focus by exploring various ways to help him learn. This year, the child began to see the fruits of his labor, and his grades increased slowly from August through May. When interim grades were released at school, he

would personally share his new grades with the staff with a smile on his face, something he had never done before. By the end of the year, he had earned all B's! His grades and focus improved so much that he was also able to join an athletic team at school. We are proud of his determination to succeed and look forward to seeing continued success in the 2023-24 school year.

Project ID: ARPA-NE225E, YMCA of SWFL

Funding Amount: \$ 490,910

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$490,910

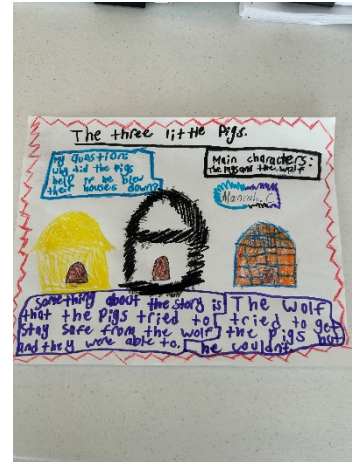
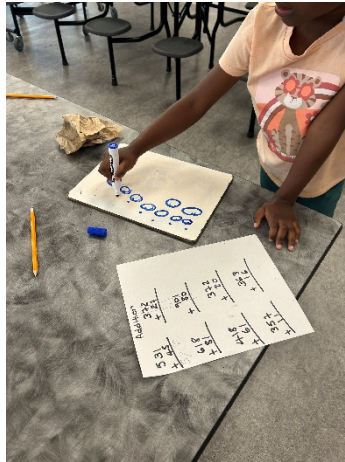
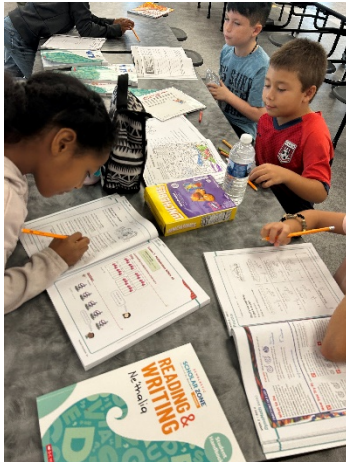
Project Duration: June 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services*^

Project Overview:

The YMCA of SWFL will enhance and expand afterschool and summer programs in four targeted communities within Lee County to reduce educational disparities among elementary and middle school youth (ages five to 14). Y Youth Services (YYS) will enhance educational programming with Power Scholars, an evidence-based reading and math program with proven results. The youth served by the YMCA come from 36 schools and half of those schools are Title I. The service results positive outcomes to improve each child's well-being academically, socially, emotionally, and physically. The major activities for this project include (a) homework assistance (including the BellXcel Power Scholars program); (b) character development; (c) physical activities; and (d) indoor activities with music and art.





Project Demographic Distribution:

Gender

Timeframe	Female	Male	Unspecified
Q1 2023	47%	51%	2%
Q2 2023	42%	56%	2%
Q3 2023	42%	56%	2%
Q4 2023	42%	56%	2%
Q1 2024	47%	51%	2%
Q2 2024	47%	51%	2%
Q3 2024	43%	57%	1%

Participants City

Timeframe	Bonita Springs	Cape Coral	Estero	Fort Myers	Lehigh	N. Fort Myers	Other
Q1 2023	25%	5%	67%	67%	1%	2%	
Q2 2023	16%	11%	10%	47%	9%	1%	6%
Q3 2023	16%	11%	10%	47%	9%	1%	6%
Q4 2023	16%	11%	10%	47%	9%	1%	
Q1 2024	25%		5%	67%	1%	2%	
Q2 2024	25%		5%	67%	1%	2%	
Q3 2024	8%	12%	13%	44%	13%	1%	8%

Race

Timeframe	African American	Caucasian	Hispanic	Other	Unspecified
Q1 2023	14%	31%	11%	17%	27%
Q2 2023	10%	50%	13%	14%	13%
Q3 2023	10%	50%	13%	14%	13%
Q4 2023	10%	50%	13%	14%	13%
Q1 2024	14%	31%	11%	17%	27%
Q2 2024	14%	31%	11%	17%	27%

Q3 2024	11%	45%	15%	17%	12%
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Use of Evidence (*Highlights*): Evidence-based practices:

- BellXcel Power Scholars Evidence Base.
 - Research Citation: <https://www.bellxcel.org/education-research-and-insights/>
- Afterschool Programming Evidence Base
 - Research Citation: Neild, R.C., Wilson, S.J., & McClanahan, W. (2019). Afterschool programs: A review of evidence under Every Student Succeeds Act. Philadelphia: Research for Action.
<https://www.researchforaction.org/projects/afterschoolessa/>
- Summer Learning Loss and Benefits of Summer Learning Evidence Base
 - [Summer learning loss: What is it, and what can we do about it? \(brookings.edu\)](https://www.brookings.edu/research/summer-learning-loss-what-is-it-and-what-can-we-do-about-it/)
 - Research Citation: Atteberry, Allison, and Andrew McEachin. (2019). School's Out: The Role of Summers in Understanding Achievement Disparities.
 - [Every Summer Counts: A Longitudinal Analysis of Outcomes from the National Summer Learning Project \(wallacefoundation.org\)](https://www.wallacefoundation.org/summer-learning/summertime-reading/summertime-reading-2019/)

Performance to be Measured:

- Number of students participating in after-school programming.
 - Report quarterly participation.
 - Report the cumulative participation number annually.
 - Number of Students Served Goal Annually = 340

Timeline	Participants
Q1 2023	245
Q2 2023	217
Q3 2023	204
Q4 2023	244
Q1 2024	235
Q2 2024	260
Q3 2024	196

- Number of students participating in summer programming.
 - Report quarterly participation.
 - Report the cumulative participation number annually.
 - Number of Students Served Goal Annually = 555

Timeline	Participants
Q1 2023	N/A
Q2 2023	858
Q3 2023	951
Q4 2023	N/A
Q1 2024	N/A

Q2 2024	1,064
Q3 2024	728

Performance Outcomes to be Measured:

- The number of students participating in evidence-based tutoring programs
 - Maintain the goals set above for both after-school and summer programming. (Report annually)
- ARPA Measure: Number of students participating in evidence-based tutoring programs.

Timeline	After School	Summer Camp
Q1 2023	100	N/A
Q2 2023	83	248
Q3 2023	90	575
Q4 2023	90	N/A

Timeline	After School	Summer Camp
2024	648	728

Success Story:

“Another counselor and I have been working with a young lady pretty much every morning to help her with her homework. She is Haitian and her home language is Creole. She is fluent in Spanish but does not feel so confident in English. We help her understand her math lessons in Spanish. I have noticed that she doesn't know her times tables at all. We are working with her on the side, and she is making many improvements as it relates to her understanding of her math lessons.”

- Site Coordinator at local middle school.

2.25 EDUCATE! Being Smart is Great (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW225A

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Basic Learning Skills Learning Center, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$138,022.81

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$138,022.81

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services

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



EDUCATE project is a partially ARPA-funded existing program that will improve student school attendance, increase achievement learning gains by at least 20%, increase promotions to the next grade level, and help student to achieve or remain on grade level. The main activities of the

project will include (a) developing Individualized Learning Plans to correct specific Reading or Math deficiencies; (b) administering Pre and Post Assessment to measure student gains; (c) providing after-school Tutoring for K-12; (d) collaborating with parents to develop a unified plan for student progress; and (e) funding for tutor salaries, Online Tutoring Management & Scheduling software from Oases Online database, and supplies.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: Research study has proven that students increase one full grade level with just 20 hours of work MobyMax. MobyMax's research gains the highest ESSA rating - Tier 1 for "Strong Evidence." In the first quarter of 2018, MobyMax conducted a large-scale experimental study with 4,000 students in 230 classrooms across the United States. The results that qualify as ESSA Tier 1 "Strong Evidence" conclusively demonstrate the benefit that comes from finding and fixing learning gaps with MobyMax. The study showed that MobyMax had an effect size of 0.875 for language, and 0.702 for math. Finding and fixing missing skills is a powerful intervention for all students with learning gaps, and BLSLC uses Moby Max to identify deficiencies, develop plans and provide targeted learning for low-income children with barriers to education.

Community Engagement:

Results, goals, and objectives are described as follows:

- 1) Begin an outreach plan developed to raise awareness of Basic Learning Skills Learning Center's (BLSLC) programs and services and to increase the capacity of students served.
- 2) Build brand and increase awareness of programs and services. Begin implementation of a diversified marketing plan (social media, grassroots outreach, community involvement, serving on committees, etc.) to reach a target market, promotional giveaways, give out promo codes for discounts, place signage on school gates of elementary and middle schools, business card magnets, brand your vehicle with car magnets, place ads in newspapers, posters, tv shows. Participate in community fairs, host events (open house, back-to-school fairs and give away school supplies, ice cream, etc., host parenting classes), sponsor

events, write letters to the editor and guest editorials and blogs, press releases, become known as the expert in the field, attend conferences.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Provide tutorial services addressing deficiencies in Reading and Math available to children from very low, low, and moderate-income families in grades K through 12.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	154 unduplicated students will have individualized learning plans developed	Project Target	154
		Achieved to Date	295
		Percentage	192%
2)	Provide 25 hours of tutoring for each of the 154 students (3,850 total hours)	Project Target	3850
		Achieved to Date	3310
		Percentage	86%
3)	50% (77/154) of students completing 20 or more hours of tutoring will improve their scores by 20% (Pre-test and post-test measurements)	Project Target	77
		Achieved to Date	59
		Percentage	77%

Success Comments:

I would like to share the story of my grandson. Despite facing numerous challenges that many adults would struggle with, he has shown remarkable resilience. He has been diagnosed with impulsive ADHD, ODD, PTSD, speech delay, and several learning delays, including issues with eye-hand coordination. Due to these hurdles, he was placed in a Behavioral Intervention class from 1st to 3rd grade, which unfortunately meant he missed out on many essential skills taught in a conventional classroom setting.

In his 3rd grade year, we were introduced to Ms. Valarie from Basic Learning Skills. At that time, he was neither reading fluently nor comprehending what he read. Under Ms. Valarie's guidance, he made significant progress, advancing from not reading at all to reading fluently within a year. As a result, he was mainstreamed into the 4th grade and has since scored nearly at grade level in Language Arts on the Florida FAST testing.

His current success and academic progress would not have been possible without the dedicated support and expertise of Ms. Valarie. Her contributions have been invaluable in setting. My grandson is on a path to success.

2.25 Park Meadows Boys & Girls Club (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW225B

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Boys & Girls Clubs of Lee County, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$288,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$288,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Park Meadow Boys & Girls Club project partially ARPA-funded new program that will increase student academic achievement; improve social, emotional and physical well-being; improve college and career readiness; and improve graduation rates. The main activities of the project include (a) providing a menu of academic support services, youth development services, and workforce development service; and (b) funding for operational staff salaries, software and equipment, rent/lease and utility payments.



Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: Boys & Girls Club of America has designed evidence-based programs that assist youth in reaching their full potential.

- Project Learn: Academic support, homework help, tutoring, academic enrichment, remedial education.
Citation: Clark, Reginald. 2020 Building Student Achievement: In School and Out of School Factors
- Summer Brain Gain: High-yield Project based learning activities designed to reduce summer learning loss
Citation: multiyear evaluation underway, with preliminary results showing improvement in math and reading.
- Triple Play: Physical fitness, nutrition education and recreational activities
Citation: Gambone, Michelle (2009) Promoting Healthy Lifestyles
- SMART Leaders: Drug and violence prevention
Citation: St. Pierre, Tena L.,D. Lynne Kaltreider, Melvin M. Mark and Kathryn J Aikin (1992)
- Drug prevention in a community setting Passport to Manhood: Character Education
Citation: McLean, K et al. (2010) Constructing the self in early middle and late adolescent boys

Community Outreach:

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Lee County opened our newest location for after school and summer programming in June 2022. Since this was a new facility, we used several marketing and communication tactics to inform families about our evidence-based programs designed to assist youth in reaching their full potential and close the educational gaps created by the Covid 19 pandemic.

We created a broad and specialized approach to our communities:

- The reach the broader audience, we leveraged the school messenger platform PeachJar to ensure all parents would receive communication about our new facility.
- We also created flyers that highlighted our programs and services that were distributed at surrounding schools.
- We utilized our PR agencies to highlight our mission and success stories, along with hosting several community events at our new club to build awareness.
- Our more targeted approach leveraged specific community groups, such as Pine Manor Community, and other agencies such as the YMCA, along with the network of agencies the United Way offers.
- Lastly, we used our digital platforms such as social media and our BGCLC website to communicate.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Increase the attendance and engagement of youth at new Park Meadows location to provide a safe environment for youth while they are out of school.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	650 youth enrolled in Park Meadows location program through end of Q3 '24	Project Target	650
		Achieved to Date	1417
		Percentage	218%
2)	85% (553/650) of youth will obtain and/or maintain a GPA of 2.0 or higher as proven by report cards	Project Target	553
		Achieved to Date	312
		Percentage	56%

Success Comments:

#1 We purchased our new Park Meadows facility in May 2022 and turned it around for summer programming, beginning on June 6. Each summer 3 out of 4 youth lack access to high quality summer programs, leaving them at risk for significant summer learning loss. We were thrilled to have 90 youth registered this summer at our new club, with an average daily attendance of 55 youth.

We also partnered with 17 organizations and businesses to bring unique and exciting experiences to our youth. One of our most exciting programs was our marine life study in partnership with the Sanibel Sea School. The curriculum included exploration of various seas life, dissecting a squid, surfing, and multiple trips to Sanibel beach. For many of our youth, this was the first time being on Sanibel Island, their first time at the beach and definitely their first-time surfing. Both parents and youth were thrilled with the experience, which typically costs families \$400 per week.

Other partnerships included Martial Arts classes, which teaches discipline and structure, FGCU basketball camp, which teaches basketball skills and teamwork, and the Sherriff's Youth Academy, which exposed them to career opportunities while building their relationship with local law enforcement.

Our successful opening of our new club, centrally located in Fort Myers, has had a meaningful impact on our youth, their families, and the community. We look forward to continued growth to assist our youth in reaching their full potential and overcoming gaps created by the pandemic.

#2 Meet <name removed>, one of our Teen members at our Park Meadows location. She joined our club in 2022, as a very shy and reserved member. She is an extremely smart young lady, that enjoyed attending the club, but she struggled to find her voice and make meaningful connections. COVID lockdowns and virtual learning has created challenges with our youth's cognitive, social, and emotional development. Our clubs have focused on helping our youth re-build those skills. Through the club experience, she became more involved and was nominated to be a Junior Youth of the Year in 2023. Youth of the Year (YOY) is the Boys & Girls Clubs of America's premier youth recognition program, celebrating the achievements of club members and preparing them for their future. Our Junior Youth of the Year are being introduced to the program and are asked to give a short speech at our YOY event, about what the Boys & Girls Club has meant to them. Unfortunately, her nerves got the best of her, and she could not get through the speech. Although she was upset, the club staff encouraged her to continue the journey and helped her build her confidence. She challenged herself to step out of her comfort zone, work collaboratively and build her leadership skills. This past year she took a leadership role in the club throughout the summer and became active in our Drama Matters and Odessey of the Mind programs. These programs tap into our youth's creativity, problem solving capabilities and presentation skills, through a highly interactive, collaborative process, which has helped build her confidence. The club has been an important part of her story. She is being raised by a wonderful mom; however, her younger brother has autism, so often his needs have to take a priority. The Boys & Girls Club has become a safe, positive place where she feels at home and has additional support and encouragement. Fast forward to this year and she was named our 2024 Lee County Youth of the Year. She has emerged as a vibrant, confident, articulate, young lady capable of accomplishing anything she sets her mind too.

2.25 Help is on the Way (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW225C

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Camelot Community Care, Inc. dba/ Children's Network of Southwest Florida, L.L.C.

Funding Amount: \$300,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$300,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services

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



Help is on the Way project is a fully ARPA-funded existing program that will provide mentoring and trust relationships to the student and their family to help improve the child's school performance and grade matriculation. The project main activities include providing (a) case management including assessment and action planning to help clients locate and implement the appropriate activities for emotional and academic child development; and (b) funds for operational staff salaries, office furniture, computer and communication equipment, and program supplies.

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

As beneficiaries get involved in the program, we would be able to see how they interact with the mentors, how they handle the experiences they are exposed to, and how they deal with conflict and issues in their placements. The outcome should be more placement stability. By reviewing monthly reports, we can develop an overview of the program and make any needed adjustments.

Community Engagement:

- Mass emails with our referral form and program description.
- The program will begin serving children involved in the independent living program.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Maintain placement stability for children in the foster care system.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	33 children will be served per quarter (264 by end of project)	Project Target	297
		Achieved to Date	153
		Percentage	52%
2)	80% of children served will complete the S.T.A.R. Program	Project Target	153
		Completed	47

		Percentage	30%
3)	70% of children will show an increased score from pre-test to post-test on the Rosenberg self-esteem rating scale upon successful completion of the S.T.A.R. mentoring program.	Target	153
		Completed	47
		Achieved	43
		Percentage	28%
4)	70% of parents/caregivers will show an increased score from pre-test to post-test on the “perceived learning behaviors rating scale” upon the child’s completion of the S.T.A.R. Mentoring program	Target	153
		Completed	48
		Achieved	41
		Percentage	27%

Success Comments

A child was referred to our program due to being on the verge disrupting his current living situation with his foster parent due displaying serve problematic behaviors.

The child has been in our program for about 3 months. One of the goals that we were working on with him was his engagement with his peers and his responses to adults and authority figures. We also worked on cause-and-effect situations and problem-solving skills. As a result, we were able to see an improvement in school performance and behaviors at home with his foster parents.

He was since been reunified with his biological family and his mother reports he is doing well. The mentor does continue to check in with him as he adjusts to being back home with his biological family.

2.25 Earn to Learn FL Youth Services (United Way’s Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW225D

United Way’s Project Subrecipient: Earn to Learn FL, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$96,328.24

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$96,328.24

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services

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



United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. Earn to Learn FL provides quality Near Peer Coaching services to low-income, at-risk high school students and first-year, first generation college students. Our near peer coaching model coupled with defined college readiness curriculum improves student's self-efficacy as it relates to personal, academic, and college readiness skills. Earn to Learn FL provides strategic interventions to assist students from all backgrounds to learn about financial planning for college. This financial literacy training assists in removing the perceived financial roadblocks and assists in making college accessible for underrepresented student populations. The main activities of the project include providing (a) Near Peer Coaches for disadvantaged, first generation, and/or minority high school student to serve; (b) postsecondary educational benefits and financial aid training and assistance opportunities; and (c) funding for operational staff salaries, supplies and material, professional services, and facility rent.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: The proposed project is supported by pre-preliminary evidence as defined by the Corporation for National and Community Service. The pre-preliminary evidence distinction is based on delivery of near exact intervention and program approach to over 103 students in Southwest Florida. Earn to Learn FL has provided higher education readiness services since 2016 and is modeled after Earn to Learn in Arizona, an organization with over 10 years of experience. Promising results show trends in higher retention, persistence, completion, and graduation rates for Earn to Learn FL students. Current Earn to Learn FL program data validates that since mid-2016, over 550 Florida students have registered interest in Earn to Learn FL, with over 103 students completing their Personal Finance Training by logging over 309 hours of training. Earn to Learn FL has completed required federal evaluation reports for Assets for Independence (AFI) U.S. Department of Health & Human Services grant program.

The reports include submission of program information, outcomes, and demographic data on enrolled participants. All aspects of the program were closely monitored for the AFI evaluations, including service delivery, operation and measure of success metrics. The proposed intervention is evidence informed based on the results which are tabulated both through the AFI reporting requirements and by internal quality control and organizational effectiveness measurements. On a regular basis, both quantitative and qualitative data is collected. Participants are also invited to provide feedback thoroughbred- and post-surveys.

The proposed program will be adapted from College Possible as evidenced in a Randomized Controlled Trial completed by Harvard University National Bureau of Economic Research, Dr. Christopher Avery in October 2013. The evaluation of the College Possible program includes analysis of low-income precollege and college-aged students who received individual mentoring coaching and college preparation support by near peers in order to achieve outcomes in the areas of enrollment, persistence, and college completion. A study from Dr. Avery, "Evaluation of the College Possible Program: Results from a Randomized Controlled Trial" and an evaluation report, "Assets for Independence Demonstration" completed for AFI-DHS federal grant reporting purpose from October 1, 2016 through September 30, 2017, as well as the Earn to Learn FL data reported for 2016 through Summer 2019 support the pre-preliminary evidence definition.

Learnings:

Local high school students participated in and benefited from personal financial training and near peer coaching during the 2022-2023 academic year, improving student college readiness. While premature program staff departure impacted our ability to measure improved student aptitude, program metrics indicate students were positively impacted by additional post-COVID support for college readiness:

*158 local students (124 students through FGCU partnership, 34 through other Lee County high schools) participated in our program, receiving personal financial training and near peer coaching

*51 local students fully completed our personal financial training program, receiving a personal finance training (PFT) certificate

*22 local students fully completed our program and received a Florida Prepaid College Foundation scholarship plan

*19 students are or will be attending FGCU or FSW during the 2023-2024 academic year

Community Engagement:

ETLFL has participated in community and local education events during this project, including partnering with FGCU and local high schools to support Lee County high school students. Additionally, we have offered workshops and done presentations at community high schools and we engage the community on social media.

Performance Measured to Date:**Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:**

Outcome Statement 1:		Improve student and college readiness personal and academic attitude on the Student Attitude Survey & College Readiness Assessment for ARPA program participants.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	85% (85/100) Students will show improved college readiness personal and academic aptitude	Project Target	85
		Achieved to Date	0
		Percentage	0.0%
2)	50% (50/100) of student enrollees will complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)	Project Target	50
		Achieved to Date	54
		Percentage	108.0%

Success Comments:

A participant entered the Earn to Learn FL program in 2019. She was unsure of how she would attend college without falling into unmanageable debt. She was matched with an Earn to Learn FL Peer Coach, who worked with her on financial literacy. She was guided through Earn to Learn FL's Personal Finance Training curriculum where she learned about various topics related to her long-term financial well-being like how to budget, building credit, and retirement. At Earn to Learn FL, students like this participant become investors in their own educational goals. She took what she learned in Personal Finance Training and opened a savings account with a savings goal of \$500. When she saved \$500 Earn to Learn FL matched her savings goal with a \$4,000 contribution to be used toward her educational goals. This match was

renewed every year until she graduated. She graduated from Florida Gulf Coast University in December 2022 with a Bachelor's degree in Entrepreneurship. She graduated completely debt free. She says, "I don't think I would have been able to do amazing things without the help I received. School would have been completely different, and I would have taken a different path. I am a million times thankful every day." Earn to Learn FL is dedicated to helping students like this participant across Florida pursue their education.

2.25 I WILL Mentorship Foundation Youth Services (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW225E

United Way's Project Subrecipient: "I WILL" Mentorship Foundation Inc.



Funding Amount: \$150,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$150,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. I WILL Mentorship Foundation project is a partially ARPA-funded expansion of an existing program that will offer after school and vocational program. The main activities of the project include (a) increasing access and skills to support the community through E-STEM education; and (b) expanding the capacity of our programs year after year to reach more disadvantaged students.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices:

- E-STEM (environment, science, technology, engineering, and math) based learning
- 21st Century Workforce skills (communication, teamwork, social skills, self-confidence, and analytical thinking).

Community Engagement:

IWMF has created a robust four phase plan to increase community engagement with use of ARPA Funding.

- Phase 1- identify new stakeholders (Women's Legacy, SWFL Tech-Prep, Dunbar High school and Periwinkle group) creating materials and interior structure such as surveys (online database), scheduling, staffing. Phase one is 90% complete with 4 new stakeholders and marketing materials prepared (uniforms, banners, fliers).
- Phase 2 -Set kick off meetings, presentation with identified stakeholders. We currently have within next 3 weeks meeting or presentations with all 4 new stake holders' and start registration.
- Phase 3 - implementation of enhanced services to all stakeholders.
- Phase 4- process improvement , strategic planning of future sessions and reporting to supporters.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Improve access for underrepresented students with academic and technical skills through post-secondary career readiness and hands-on stem training.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	85% (128/150) of the participants will complete the stem training course by end of grant period	Project Target	128
		Achieved to Date	204
		Percentage	159.4%
2)	40% (60/150) of participants will report improved access to academic resources needed in the leading to improved economic improvement	Project Target	60
		Achieved to Date	73
		Percentage	121.7%

Success Comments:

#1 Across the country COVID 19 forced isolation for many teens which created post long term mentally, socially and emotional issues from isolation. A female participant was no exception, her medical concerns created an even longer absence from school than her peers. The parents reached out to I Will Mentorship Foundation (IWMF) for activities that could reduce her isolation but limit exposure. Due to our protocols of limited class size, she was a good fit for our robotics project. In little of no time she was again smiling, engaged at home and enjoying new friends at the foundation. She was now focused breaking engineering stereotypes and gender barriers in STEM. She excelled at the foundation to levels of being hired as an instructor at IWMF to teach our Spark project to elementary students.

#2 I'm excited to share a delightful update from the heart of our STEMCat community—your generous support has directly fueled a transformative journey!

A worried mother, prompted by her son's secretive hint of a 'surprise' from his school, found her way to us, only to receive a call that would change everything. This call wasn't to issue a concern, but to celebrate her 9-year-old's astounding success. With the highest AR (Accelerated Reader) score in his class, he had soared to 100% - a reading level fully caught up to his grade.

This achievement is particularly remarkable considering his brief time with us. Our STEMCat activities, weaving reading into the fabric of scientific discovery, sparked a beacon of curiosity within him. His newfound passion for literature, especially tales sprinkled with magic, has turned pages into doors of adventure and learning.

His story is a testament to the power of nurturing environments and the immeasurable value of your support. What we celebrate is more than a scholastic victory; it's a narrative of transformation, where a hesitant reader turns into an eager learner, and potential unfurls into excellence.

Our joy is immeasurable, and our gratitude to you, boundless. This young mind's journey from uncertainty to achievement mirrors the very ethos of our mission. Stories like his underscore the significant, life-changing work that unfolds here every day, made possible by your belief in our cause.

Thank you for playing a starring role in this and many more stories of growth and resilience. Together, we continue to kindle the flames of knowledge and curiosity that guide our youth toward brighter futures.

2.25 Summer and After-School Programs (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW225F

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$120,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$120,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services

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



United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Junior Achievement Programming is a fully ARPA-funded expansion of an existing program for Title I Schools whose objective is to collaborate with community partner to offer after-school and summer camp programs including

money management, budgeting, saving, credit and debt. The main activities of the project include (a) providing funding for operational supplies; (b) funding for program insurance; (c) funding for computer equipment and Education Manager software; and (d) funding for operation staff salaries and training.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: The curriculum is research-based and aligns with various National Career Development Guidelines (Level III), 21st Century Student Outcomes from the Partnership for 21st Century Skills (Level V), National Council for the Social Studies Curriculum Standards-C3 Framework (Level IV), the Association for Career and Technical Education (Level V), and Common Core Standards/Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (BEST) (Level III).

Community Engagement:

Our communication began with the Lee County School District and to our not-for-profit partners, to let them know as they are able post Hurricane Ian, we would like to expand our JA programs in the Title 1 schools. Also, to partners that directly serve LMI student population. For volunteer recruitment efforts, we have set up information tables at the Heritage Palms Volunteer Fair, Pelican Preserve Volunteer Fair, Pelican Sound Volunteer Fair, and the FGCU service learning fair. We have held meetings with PACE Center for Girls and New Horizons to host summer programs.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		To positively impact youth financial literacy, career and work readiness, and entrepreneurship through in-school and after-school programs.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	210 students will attend educational programs by June 2024	Project Target	210
		Achieved to Date	4391
		Percentage	2091%

2)	65% (136/210) of students will report a positive influence of the program on their use of money, career and work readiness	Project Target	136
		Achieved to Date	188
		Percentage	138%
3)	25 volunteers will be recruited and trained to provide the educational programs	Project Target	25
		Achieved to Date	35
		Percentage	140%

Success Comments

We have a child who is a participant of the Take Stock in Children program, and he attended JA Be Entrepreneurial Creative Problem Solving that began on November 29, 2023. After the class he and his mother stayed and asked several questions of Sean Casey owner/entrepreneur of Twin Cutz. His mother broke the ice by asking Sean about his business specifically, during the presentation Sean had used several examples on how he started his business, from finding the location, creating the correct work environment, and understanding what his clients needed in a barber shop. His mother currently works for Sports Cuts, and they talked about the pros and cons, ending their conversation with an invitation to meet later about future employment with Twin Cutz. Then our participant began asking his questions, his goal is to become an architect, but he had wondered how he could turn that education into an entrepreneurial experience. The child and Sean began brainstorming on the ways an architect is an entrepreneur. In the future, he would like to take his knowledge of architecture and help small businesses successfully build their locations, he wants to ensure he gathers the correct information to build out of the business space that would meet client's future needs and wants. The conversation ended with Sean giving our participant his card if he has future questions. Then the participant turned to JA Staff and asked if he could invite a few friends to attend the next class because he knew they would learn a lot of valuable information, even though they were not part of the Take Stock in Children program.

2.25 Super Kids Club, Tice (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW225G

United Way's Project Subrecipient: New Horizons of Southwest Florida, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$147,591.19

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project \$147,591.19

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Super Kids Club project is a partially ARPA-funded expansion of its K-5 programming, Super Kids Club, to the Tice area in Fort Myers. The program's objective is to provide academic and social training through after-school tutoring, mentoring and character-building lessons to at-risk elementary aged children. The main activities of the project include providing (a) funding for operational staff salaries; (b) funding for operational supplies, computers equipment, software and other IT items; and (c) funding for transportation costs, vehicle insurance, and vehicle maintenance.



Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: The New Horizons model is based on high-quality strategies for effective tutoring as reported in research conducted by the U. S. Department of Education, which includes the coordination of materials with the classroom, training of tutors, and frequent, structured tutoring sessions. (U.S. DOE, "Evidence that Tutoring Works," 2001).

New Horizons focuses on the five essential components of reading as defined by the National Reading Panel: phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary development and reading comprehension. Our program incorporates the elements of effective interventions as determined in the 2007 report by the Florida Center for Reading Research: training in phonological awareness, decoding and word study; guided and independent reading of progressively more difficult texts; and engaging students in practicing comprehension strategies while reading text (Scammacca, Vaughn, Roberts, Wanzek, Torgensen "Extensive Reading Interventions in Grades K-3," FCRR, 2007).

The computerized academic component of the New Horizons of SWFL model uses the IXL online curriculum for our students to achieve measurable outcomes in their reading, language arts, and even some math skills. IXL provides individual learning through their comprehensive curriculum, real-time diagnostics, personalized guidance for the student, and actionable diagnostics. What this provides is content that supports any of the lessons we are working with specifically for each student. IXL can pinpoint where a student's knowledge is and knows exactly where to go to help improve the student's knowledge and understanding. IXL also gives our staff real time analytics to know where to go and how to help each student. This tool is an invaluable component of IXL given the evidence in favor of interim assessments and their effectiveness in promoting learning (Carlson, D., Borman, G. D., & Robinson, M.(2011).

A multi-state district-level cluster randomized trial of the impact of data-driven reform on reading and mathematics achievement. Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, 33, 378-398).

Community Engagement:

We have identified a church partner to host our program and we have made contact with principals at local schools to begin recruitment. Jobs are posted for positions we are hiring for and we have attended at least one job fair. Additional community outreach will commence in Q3, including student recruitment, creating community partnerships, and finding potential volunteer tutors.

We have partnered with Basic Learning Skills Tutoring Center to provide tutors as we continue to recruit volunteers. Additionally, we have attended job fairs and volunteer fairs in Fort Myers for more awareness. We have distributed additional Fliers at Tice Elementary and we are planning a digital strategy.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Improve access to academic, social and character development resources for under-resourced elementary students affected by the learning gap widened by COVID-19.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	Enroll 30 students into the program	Project Target	30
		Achieved to Date	33
		Percentage	110%
2)	80% (24/30) of enrolled students' parents support their child's academic success toward better	Project Target	24
		Achieved to Date	22
		Percentage	91.7%

Success Comments:

Overall, the students at Tice Super Kids Club have shown much improvement in their reading scores on IXL, the reading software used in the computer lab. Students have consistently been practicing diagnostic testing, which allows the program to tailor lessons to the individual. Students are responding to this individualized education, and some students have asked to take books home.

Students are also improving in their confidence and character. One student, for example, received a positive behavior award from his school in December. Throughout the school year, he has been learning about positive behavior and the power of choice at Super Kids Club. He is putting those lessons into action and people are noticing.

2.25 Girls Coordinating Council and Reach Program (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW225H

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Pace Center for Girls, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$250,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$250,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Girls Coordinating Council & Reach project is a partially ARPA-funded existing program to provide therapeutic behavioral health services for at-risk girls to increase their resiliency and protective factors to improve their relationships with families, peers and communities and help them develop the skills to lead productive and engaged lives in the community. The main activities of the project include providing (a) life skills training classes and individual sessions to lead productive and engaged lives in the community; (b) funding for operational staff salaries and training; (c) funding for operational supplies and IT equipment; and (d) funding for occupational license.



Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) and Motivational Interviewing (MI). These evidenced-based practices are part of the Pace Reach Logic Model because of research demonstrating their efficacy with youth. CBT & MI are strength-based, person centered, support autonomy, readiness to change & are goal directed. MI is an engagement approach for relationship building, promoting the girl & family voice, meeting them where they are in their readiness to change, affirming strengths & encouraging autonomy. CBT supports a girl and her family to understand the connection between cognitions, behaviors & emotions & find strength in taking accountability for thoughts and actions - a family-centered approach that is collaborative, goal driven & amplifies individual voices.

Community Engagement:

Outreach events took place at Dunbar high school through attendance and networking at the Art's night. REACH representative met with staff, community members, and families of students. In May REACH presented and participated at the Lee County Mental Health fair connecting with local agencies. In June, REACH met alongside fellow pace staff in engagement with the Florida Repertory theater touring the site and meeting with their staff and students.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Girls that successfully complete the Pace Reach program will improve their relationships with families, peers, and others in their community.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	80% (6/8) of girls that have successfully completed the Pace Reach program will decrease their level of risk or maintain low risk as evidenced scores from the pretest and posttest in the program	Project Target	6
		Achieved to Date	27
		Percentage	450%
2)	80% (6/8) of girls that complete the Pace reach program will have no new involvement in the Juvenile justice system a year after completion of the program as evidenced by the report from the comprehensive accountability report, Department of Juvenile Justice	Project Target	6
		Achieved to Date	31
		Percentage	517%

Success Comments:

In November 2022, a 16-year-old female in the 11th grade self-referred to Pace REACH seeking support for concerns regarding her mental health after living with a chronic medical condition that was diagnosed in 2020. With the onset of her diagnosis her body underwent massive stress and changes that left her feeling disconnected from herself and lead her to pull away from others.

Her condition was unpredictable. Flare ups made physical movement difficult and often resulted in severe fatigue of the muscles in her body, and on occasion paralysis would occur. She had felt angry with her situation, was fearful of falling behind in school and held self-limiting beliefs on what her life could be. She wanted to vocalize her experiences and learn to advocate for herself. She was ready to reconnect with her body, find acceptance in her situation and take the steps to building a life full of possibility. When she referred to REACH services, she was ready for a change

At the time of her enrollment in the REACH program her condition had stabilized, however flare-ups were common. This caused worry and concerns for the girl around graduating since her absences from school were frequent when her mobility was limited. Her therapist encouraged her and supported her communication with her teachers. In doing so, she strengthened her skills to advocate for her needs and showed her school that she was committed to learning. Although she quickly got on track to graduate, school was not the only worry she faced. Her life, impacted by her medical challenges, strained her relationship with herself and others. She withdrew from socializing and held a belief that she was a burden on her loved ones while frequently feeling misunderstood and dismissed by peers since her medical concerns were not "obvious". With the support of her therapist, she developed healthy coping strategies for navigating these feelings. She examined thoughts associated with these beliefs and gained new perspectives on the involvement of others in her life. She established a positive self-concept and explored ways to build relationships while honoring her symptom management needs. Her supports were strengthened as she built a tight, supportive group of like-minded peers whom she found herself being able to confide in. The growth she displayed in building interpersonal skills and relationships was witnessed in her family sessions. Both of her parents and siblings met with her in session as she developed

the strength and courage to assertively and respectfully communicate her thoughts and feelings. Acting with positive intent, she worked through her previously held negative beliefs within the family unit and emerged with a greater bond and felt sense of belonging. In May 2024 she walked across the stage for graduation while her family proudly cheered her on. She envisioned a life of autonomy and began making steps towards that life as her feelings changed from limited to limitless.

In August of 2024, she transitioned out of the REACH program as she looked forward to starting a new chapter in life, moving out of state to prepare for her career. She reported feeling like she could successfully navigate life's challenging situations.

She is celebrated for embracing growth & change by focusing on her strengths to achieve mental wellbeing and successfully complete her course of care.

2.25 Arts, Character and Education or "ACE" (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW225I

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Quality Life Center of Southwest Florida, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$343,508

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$343,508

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Arts, Character and Education "ACE" project is a fully ARPA-funded new program to increase their reading or math skills by one letter grade or maintain an A or B level and to increase positive behavior through afterschool/summer youth program. The main activities of the project include (a) providing tutoring, homework assistance, and age-appropriate character and leadership building activities for children and youth; (b) funding for operational staff salary; (c) providing funding for program curriculum materials; and (d) provide funding for computer equipment for students and operational staff.



Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: Four evidence-based curricula, and one evidence-based Dyslexia screening instrument, are proposed for the intensive tutoring program to be delivered at Quality Life Center:

1.) Envision Mathematics 2020 for students Grades K-5: This curriculum was formerly titled "ScottForesman-Addison Wesley Elementary Mathematics". The program is now owned and distributed by Savvas

Learning Company. The evidence supporting the effectiveness of this curriculum is strong. The Institute of Education Sciences What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) identified three studies of this program that meet WWC evidence standards without reservations. WWC Research Overview
[URL:https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/Docs/InterventionReports/wwc_sfaw_052913.pdf](https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/Docs/InterventionReports/wwc_sfaw_052913.pdf)

2.) Saga Education Math Tutoring Curriculum for Grades 6 - 12: The evidence of effectiveness for this curriculum is strong. Two randomized controlled studies involving more than five thousand students in Chicago public schools demonstrated statistically significant gains on both math achievement test scores and math grades after one year of tutoring.

URL: https://www.nber.org/system/files/working_papers/w28531/w28531.pdfGuryan, J. et. al Not Too Late: Improving Academic Outcomes Among Adolescents; National Bureau of Economic Research; 2021 Cambridge, MA. URL:<https://www.brookings.edu/research/improving-academic-outcomes-for-disadvantaged-students-scaling-up-individualized-tutorials/>Anders, R. et. al. Improving Academic outcomes for Disadvantaged Students: Scaling Up Individualized Tutorials; The Brookings Institution; 2016 Washington DC.

3.) Fountas & Pinell Leveled Literacy Intervention Grades for K-3: The evidence supporting the effectiveness of the Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI) is strong. The What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) identified two studies of LLI that fall within the scope of the Beginning Reading topic area and meet WWC group design standards. Two studies meet WWC group design standards without reservations. LLI had positive effects on general reading achievement and potentially positive effects on reading fluency.

WWC Research Overview

[URL:https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/Docs/InterventionReports/wwc_leveledliteracy_091917.pdf](https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/Docs/InterventionReports/wwc_leveledliteracy_091917.pdf)

4.) READ 180 Grades 4-12: Evidence supporting the effectiveness of the READ 180 program is strong. The What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) identifies nine studies the meet WWC standards without reservations, and six studies meeting WWC standards with reservations. WWC Research Overview
[URL:https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/Docs/InterventionReports/wwc_read180_112916.pdf](https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/Docs/InterventionReports/wwc_read180_112916.pdf)

Community Engagement:

Hosted the first "Q-mmunity Street Fest" for students and families within the community. During this time we hosted a book fair to promote recreational reading and invited representatives from the Lee County Library to join us and sign students up for library cards. This event created the space for us to discuss with community members the importance of academics in all facets and how fun learning can be. We were able to express the expectations and results of our academic program since its implementation, as well as encourage families to sign up to receive services.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Minimize the impact of the COVID pandemic on K-12 student academic achievement in reading and math through afterschool and summer tutoring.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)		Project Target	530

	70% per quarter of students in the ACE tutoring program will achieve or maintain passing grades per School District standards by the end of the grant funding period	Achieved to Date	345
		Percentage	65.1%

Success Comments:

Through the institution of the Academics program, we had the opportunity to advocate for a student and successfully ensure that student was not retained. 'Student A' was at risk at the conclusion of her second grade year and our Academic Specialist Supervisor attend a school meeting in conjunction with the parents to speak with the principal and the student's teacher. Based on grades and test scores, they were encourage her parents to retain her. As their academic advocate, the Academic Specialist Supervisor asked that the school allow Quality Life to develop an academic intervention and petitioned for a grade readiness re-test at the conclusion of the summer. For six weeks the student worked along side an Academic Specialist and received intensive intervention. When she retested before the start of the next school year, she not only passed her readiness test, she excelled and performed above average.

2.25 Youth Success (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW225J

United Way's Project Subrecipient: YMCA Fort Myers

Funding Amount: \$225,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$225,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.25 ,Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services



YMCA OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The YMCA project is a partially ARPA-funded existing program that will provide before school and afterschool programs at additional sites of Camp Estero, Hector A Cafferata ES, Six Mile Charter school, Fort Myers Middle Academy, Lehigh Acres Methodist Church and Lehigh Acres Middle School. The afterschool and summer programming provides academic enrichment and homework assistance, character development, structured outdoor activities for physical activities, healthy snacks, hand-on engaging indoor activities that include music and art, and fun. The Y will add the BellXcel Power Scholars program, English Language Arts and Math support. The main activities of the project include providing (a) the afterschool and summer programming including academic enrichment and homework assistance, character development, structured outdoor activities for physical activities, healthy snacks, hand-on engaging indoor activities that include music and art, and fun. The Y will add the BellXcel Power Scholars program, English Language Arts and Math support; (b) funding for operational staff salary and retention support; and (c) funding for program supplies.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices:

- BellXcel Power Scholars Evidence Base
<https://www.bellxcel.org/education-research-and-insights/>
- Afterschool Programming Evidence Base Neild, R.C., Wilson, S.J., & McClanahan, W. (2019). Afterschool programs: A review of evidence under the Every Student Succeeds Act. Philadelphia: Research for Action. <https://www.researchforaction.org/projects/afterschoolessa/>
- Summer Learning Loss and Benefits of Summer Learning Evidence Base
<https://www.brookings.edu/research/summer-learning-loss-what-is-it-and-what-can-we-do-about-it>
- Atteberry, Allison, and Andrew McEachin. (2019). School's Out: The Role of Summers in Understanding Achievement Disparities.
- <https://www.wallacefoundation.org/knowledge-center/Documents/Every-Summer-Counts-A-Longitudinal-Analysis-of-Outcomes-from-the-National-Summer-Learning-Project.pdf>
- YYS is built using these practices. We will maintain fidelity with the Power Scholars program through regular training and reviews with each site's staff observed implementation.

Community Engagement:

- Advertised directly to students and families through PeachJar, automated phone calls, and emails.
- Collaboration with organizations like S.A.D.D. , I WILL Mentoring Foundation, Beesley's Pawprints and student volunteers from FGCU.
- Leadership is also a part of the Lee County Action Team for Out of School Programming though the Future Makers Coalition and Collaboratory.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Increase likelihood of on-time grade advancement for participants in YMCA Before and After-school enrichment programming at Fort Myers Middle Academy.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	90% (45/50) of children participating in the YMCA program utilizing Power Scholars will show an increase in achievement in math and English language arts score from pre to post test	Project Target	45
		Achieved to Date	3
		Percentage	6.4%
Note: One challenge we faced was receiving test scores back from each child participating in the Power Scholars curriculum.			

Outcome Statement 2:		Improve physical fitness capabilities of participants in VMCA Before and After School Enrichment programming at Fort Myers Middle Academy.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	90% (45/50) of children who are in attendance of the program per quarter (9) will participate in a minimum of 30 minutes of physical activity daily	Project Target	405
		Achieved to Date	465
		Percentage	115%

Success Comments:

A 6th grader moved to America this year to live with his dad. His first language is Creole but had picked up on the English language quickly. When our BASE Coordinator first met him, he was pretty shy and would only want to sit on his computer and be left alone. Lately he has been engaging with multiple other students by playing board games with them or joining in the pick-up basketball games in the mornings. He has been a lot more talkative to both his peers and the counselors.

2.26 Counseling Project (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW226A

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

Funding Amount: \$196,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$196,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.26 Addressing Educational Disparities: Mental Health Services

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Behavioral Health Project is a fully ARPA-funded existing program that will increase the access to outpatient mental health services mental health counseling. The main activities of the project include providing funding for operational staff salaries and mental health services.



Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: The program is based on a model integrating community mental health providers into school systems known as Comprehensive School Mental Health System. This evidenced based model is recognized by SAMHSA.

Community Engagement:

Catholic Charities is working through community partners such as the Lee County Public Schools to promote the program. Behavioral Health services are also promoted through Catholic Charities offices throughout the county to clients receiving a variety of social services.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Increase access to outpatient mental health services for 200 youth or adults.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	200 of youth or adults receiving outpatient mental health counseling	Project Target	200
		Achieved to Date	289
		Percentage	145%
1)	252 of youth or adults receiving mental health assessments	Project Target	252
		Achieved to Date	199
		Percentage	79%
1)	100 of youth or adults successfully complete mental health treatment plans	Project Target	100
		Achieved to Date	22
		Percentage	22%

Success Comments:

A female in her 50s was having a hard time managing her emotions and was experiencing anxiety and depression. She struggled with having healthy communication with others and displaying a positive attitude to situations. She often devalued her achievements and compared her success to others. Over the course of our sessions, dialectical behavior therapy was implemented to help her develop skills to manage her emotions, manage situations without acting on harmful impulses, communicate with others effectively, set boundaries, maintain self-respect and cope with stressful situations. Mindfulness, self-care, validation and radical acceptance were also involved to help enhance self-awareness, focus on the present and to manage discomfort and crisis. Assignments were given to help her track her emotions and impulses to gain awareness of her feelings. Discussion of these feelings and other dialectic behavior techniques were processed in session and encouraged her to apply them to the world. Over the course of our work, she was able to accept herself, manage her emotions to help regulate harmful behaviors, and successful completion of treatment was made.

Assistance to Small Businesses

2.29 Small Business Resiliency Assistance

Project ID: ARPA-NE229A

Funding Amount: \$2,044,091.29

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$2,044,091.29

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.29 Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship^

Project Overview



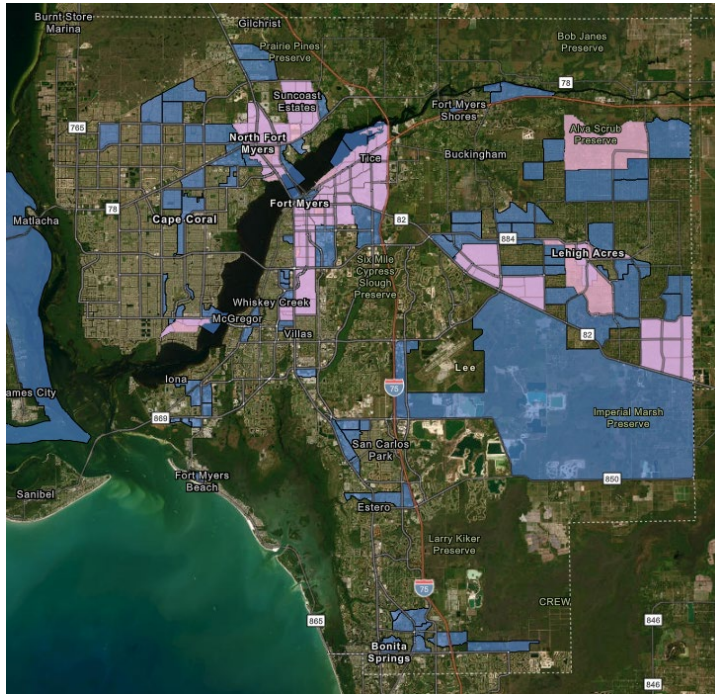
Small Business Resiliency Assistance Grants will help to respond to the negative economic impacts on small businesses and will help them keep their businesses open, protect local jobs, support community recovery, and increase the resiliency of local businesses. The project beneficiaries will be small businesses and charitable nonprofits primary in QCT and low to moderate income designated areas. The program requires applicants to have received technical assistance from at least one of the ARPA-funded Small Business Technical Assistance Subrecipients and to be referred to Lee County Economic Development for a Small Business Resiliency Assistance grant application.

Subrecipient Technical Assistance Provider Referrals for Grant Awards	Count
SCORE	21
Small Business Development Center	41
SWFL Impacts Partners	52
SWFL Regional Manufacturing Association	5

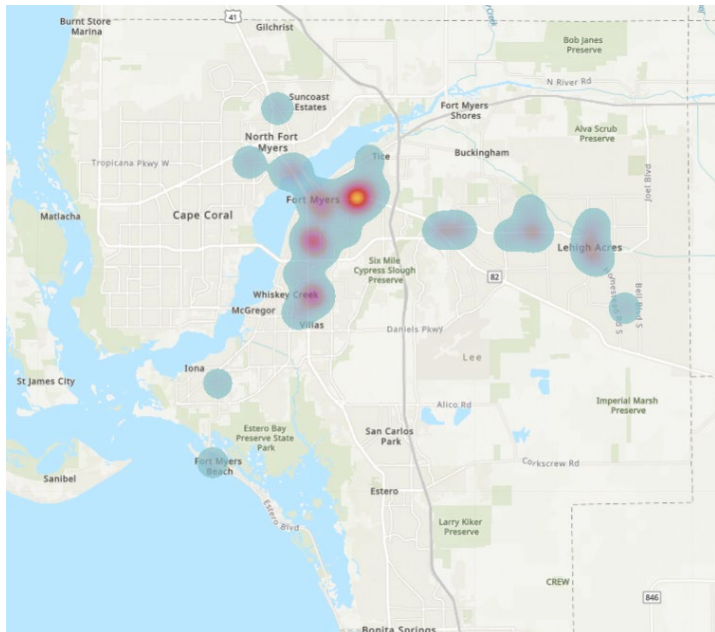
Certifications/Ownership	County
Certified DBE/MBE/WBE and other Minority and Women owned	61

Certifications/Ownership	County
Certified Veteran Owned and other Veteran owned	8

Eligibility Map



Heat Map of Grant Recipients



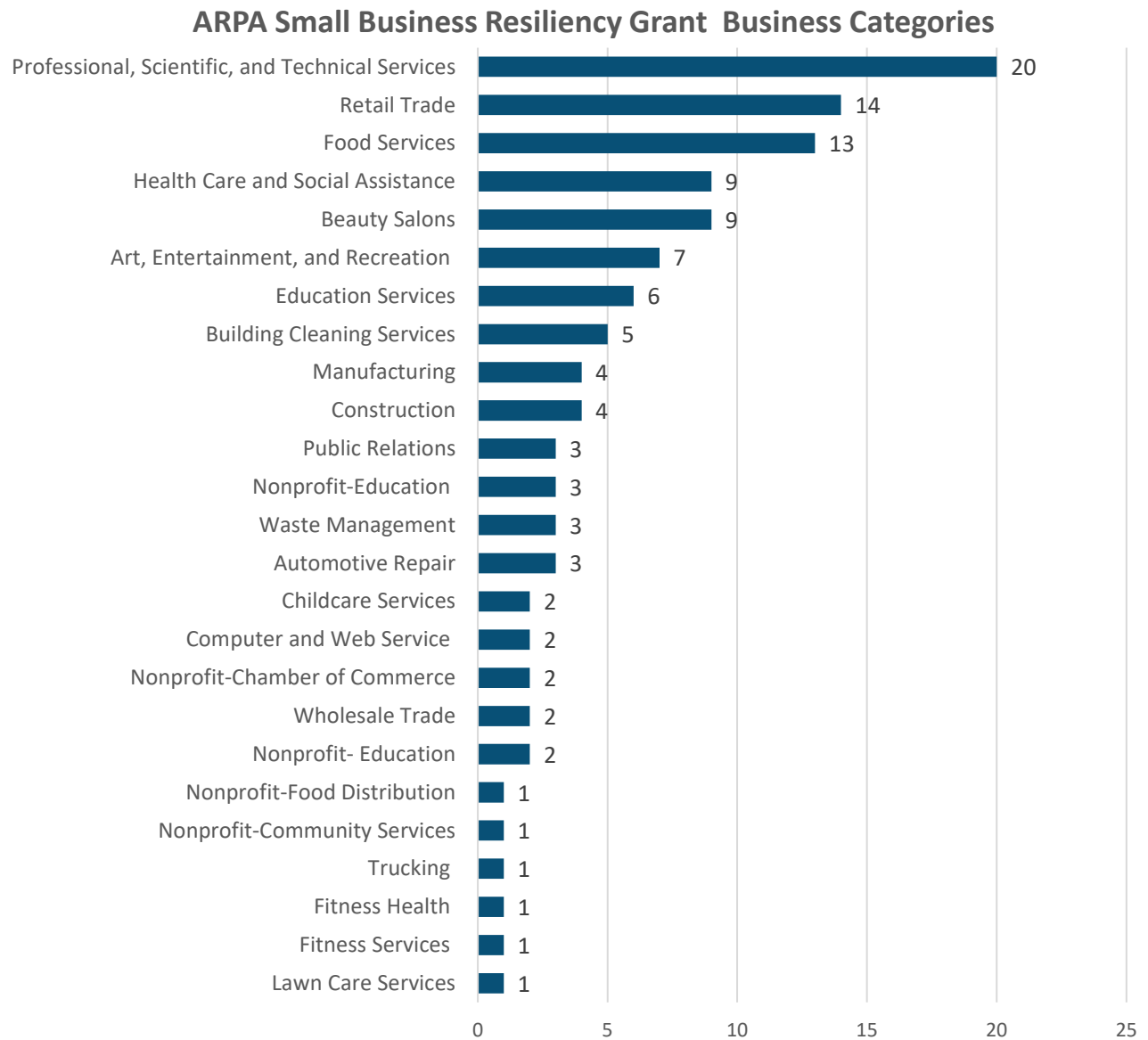
Use of Evidence: This section is not applicable to this project per Treasury Reporting Guidance.

Performance to be Measured:

7/31/2025

211

Number of Small Businesses Awarded Resiliency Grant	Number of Small Businesses Served
119	119



Performance Outcome to be Measured:

Increased economic viability of small business that had been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

2.30 Small Business Technical Assistance

Project ID: ARPA-NE230A1, FGCU Board of Trustees on behalf of the Florida Small Business Development Center (SBDC)

Funding Amount: \$215,500

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$215,500

Project Duration: January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2023

Project Expenditure Category: 2.30 Technical Assistance, Counseling, or Business Planning*^

Project Overview:



The Florida Small Business Development Center, Technical Assistance Project is an existing program that will contract with Lee County to extend its services to small businesses disproportionately affected by COVID-19 by providing technical assistance, counseling, or other business planning services. This project will target businesses in Qualified Census Tracts and in Low-Moderate income designated areas who were impacted by COVID-19 facing financial insecurity, substantial declines in gross receipts, those with less capacity to weather financial hardship, those with less access to credit. The service results in a business assessment to provide individualized and group training in business planning and improvement. The major activities for this project include (a) Triage and Business Needs Assessment; (b) Training; (c) Business Research; (d) Growth Acceleration; (e) International Trade; (f) Government Contracting; (i) Business Continuation; (j) Capital Access Planning; and (k) Organizational Development.

Project Demographic Distribution:

Race

American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black or African American	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	White
1%	2%	25%	1%	71%

Ethnicity

Hispanic or Latino Owned
104 (33%)

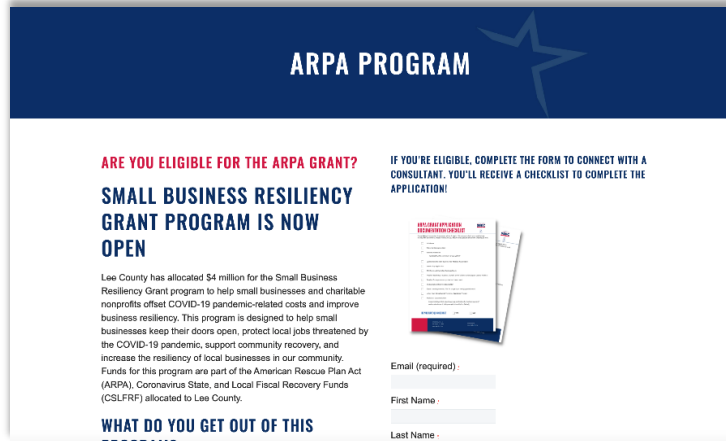
Veterans

Veteran Owned
9

Gender

Female	Male	No Reply	Total
191	118	7	313

Website and Social Media Samples:



ARPA PROGRAM

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR THE ARPA GRANT?

SMALL BUSINESS RESILIENCY GRANT PROGRAM IS NOW OPEN

Lee County has allocated \$4 million for the Small Business Resiliency Grant program to help small businesses and charitable nonprofits offset COVID-19 pandemic-related costs and improve business resiliency. This program is designed to help small businesses keep their doors open, protect local jobs threatened by the COVID-19 pandemic, support community recovery, and increase the resiliency of local businesses in our community. Funds for this program are part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Coronavirus State, and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSLFRF) allocated to Lee County.

WHAT DO YOU GET OUT OF THIS PROGRAM?

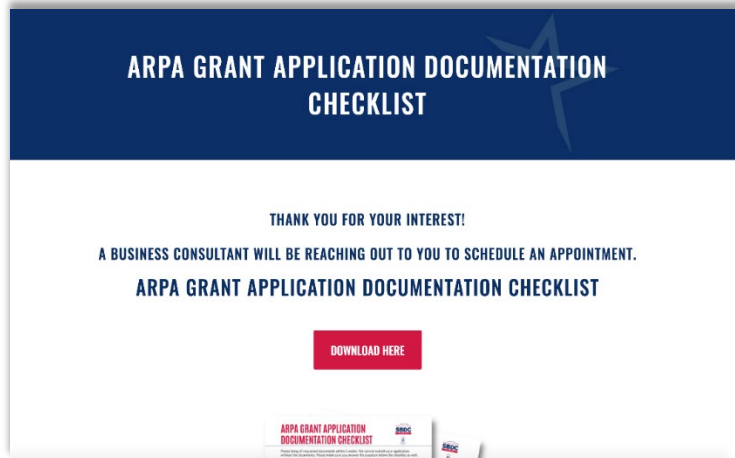
IF YOU'RE ELIGIBLE, COMPLETE THE FORM TO CONNECT WITH A CONSULTANT. YOU'LL RECEIVE A CHECKLIST TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION!

Small Business Resiliency Grant Application Form

Email (required):

First Name:

Last Name:



ARPA GRANT APPLICATION DOCUMENTATION CHECKLIST

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST!

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ARPA GRANT APPLICATION DOCUMENTATION CHECKLIST

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ARPA GRANT APPLICATION DOCUMENTATION CHECKLIST



HAS YOUR BUSINESS BEEN IMPACTED BY COVID-19?

You might qualify for the Small Business Resiliency Grant

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SMALL BUSINESS RESILIENCY GRANT

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DO YOU QUALIFY?

The Small Business Resiliency Grant program helps small businesses and charitable nonprofits offset COVID-19 pandemic-related costs.

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Use of Evidence: Evidence-producing - Learning Agenda Development Statement

The Small Business Development Center at FGCU, Technical Assistance Project, ARPA program activities will be engineered, marketed, and implemented to discover best practices that result in the successful identification of eligible beneficiaries who will receive the business-specific technical assistance and referral to improve business outcomes.

SBDC will engage an evidence-producing learning agenda as part of its ARPA project to build on existing research to identify and formalize best practices that will improve local SBDC operational issues, host institution evaluation, and SBDC metrics. SBDC will annually evaluate its ARPA technical assistance activities and community responses to identify best practices related to operational issues, host institution evaluation, business and partner feedback, output and outcome metrics.

Background

By design, SBDC centers offers support in areas that the host college or university commonly teaches subjects. These areas of support range from initial startup to growth strategies for small businesses. SBDC's offer services that bring together higher education, small business, and government resources. A review of the literature revealed an indirect use of higher education resources (courses) in the form of experiential learning (Cook, Belliveau, and Campbell 2016; Geho and McDowell 2015; Kosnik, Tingle, and Blanton, III 2013; Cook, Campbell, and Kopp 2013), with specific course work (Minifie 2018), and with specific type of clients.

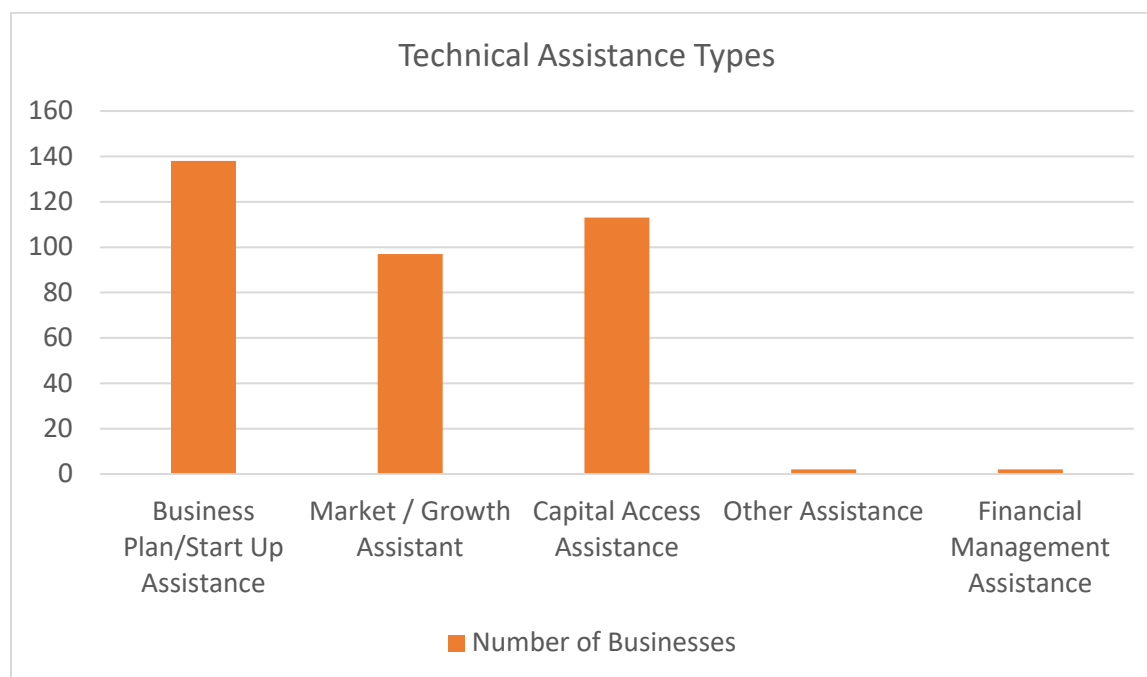
While the benefits of bringing SBDCs into the classroom have been delineated (Knotts 2011; McDowell and Geho 2015), previous research has not addressed best practices of host institutions and their SBDC centers. For universities, understanding best practices could increase experiential learning opportunities for students, enabling students to positively impact their communities, which is important for colleges of business that maintain AACSB International Accreditation (AACSB 2021).

The methodology for understanding the current environment and identifying best practices a survey was developed to evaluate three specific area: SBDC respondents that worked with students from their host institution, respondents who didn't currently with students from their host institution, and general questions for all respondents.

Conclusion

This program enhances the mission of the Small Business Development Center as an educational asset to small businesses. The targeted population of disproportionately disadvantaged businesses encouraged additional outreach to new clients.

Approximately 1,282 hours of technical assistance were logged in the SBDC internal consulting management system for the ARPA program. This time excludes programmatic and process development, professional development associated with the grant, and administrative time (e.g., scheduling meetings with businesses, logging hours of technical assistance in our system, replying to emails, phone calls, and other inquiries, etc.) which are not logged. Businesses were educated on resiliency actions for their unique business needs and referred to the Resiliency Grant when eligible and appropriate. Even if the businesses that did not receive a grant, continued technical assistance and continued ongoing relationships with the SBDC consulting team. These relationships and strengthening of their businesses will prepare them for future challenges. The types of technical services delivered that will help prepare the small business for future challenges included assistance for: business planning/startups, market/growth, capital access and financial management.



Performance Measured to Date:

Number of Small Businesses Applying for Technical Assistance	Number of Small Businesses Recommended for Project Funding through the Lee County Resiliency Grant
352	60

Total Hours Spent with Clients
1,282

ARPA Measure: Number of Small Businesses Served
352

Business Type	Client Count
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	2
Utilities	1
Construction	29
Manufacturing	17
Wholesale Trade	4
Retail Trade	21
Transportation and Warehousing	8
Information	5
Finance and Insurance	8
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	12
Professional, Scientific, Technical Services	37
Administrative Support	26
Educational Services	15
Health Care and Social Assistance	19
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	12
Accommodation and Food Service	14
Other Service	37
Not Set	46

Performance Outcome to be Measured: Increased economic viability of small business that had been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Project ID: ARPA-NE230A2, Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE)

Funding Amount: \$17,214

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$17,214

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.30 Technical Assistance, Counseling, or Business Planning*^

Project Overview:



SCORE's Technical Assistance Project is an existing program that will contract with Lee County to extend its services to small businesses disproportionately affected by COVID-19 by providing technical assistance, counseling, or other business planning services. This project will target businesses in Qualified Census Tracts and in Low-Moderate income designated areas who were impacted by COVID-19 facing financial insecurity, substantial declines in gross receipts, those with less capacity to weather financial hardship, those with less access to credit. The service results in a business assessment and will provide templates and tools to assist small businesses with formalizing their business planning and operations. The major activities for this project include (a) Small Business Mentoring; (b) Business Resource Library; (c) Small Business Development Classes and Workshops including Strategy & Planning, Business Plans/Startup Assistance, Legal Issues, Non-Profit, Buying or Selling a Business, Marketing, Public Relations & Sales, Accounting & Cash Flow and Financing/Capital.

Use of Evidence: Evidence producing - Learning Agenda Development Statement

SCORE, Small Business Technical Assistance project will identify learning opportunities to the use of a network of volunteers, experience business mentors, templates for business planning and operations to help small businesses evaluate their needs and opportunities to grow their businesses. SCORE will evaluate the programs operational issues, beneficiary and partner feedback, output and outcome metrics to identify opportunities for improve to formalize best practices.

Score's objective is to build upon the national research such as the following finding:

- Entrepreneurs in all stages of the business life cycle were most concerned with marketing and sales, with finding new customers being the top concern.
- Other business owners and peers were the primary source of information and advice for small business owners in all stages of the business life cycle.
- Startups rely heavily on part-time workers and independent contractors for job creation, with only 14% obtaining financing and 35% expecting significant revenue growth in the next year.
- Microbusinesses (0-4 employees) contributed the most jobs and hired more new workers in FY 2016, but 65% of them anticipated struggling or stagnating in the next year.

For additional research that may be referenced in the Learning agenda see <https://www.score.org/megaphone-main-street-data-reports>.

Conclusion: Community participation is a central concept for building successful small businesses. With the ARPA funding SCORE was about to increase technical support to both female owned businesses

through their Conference for Women on Strategy and Planning and to Hispanic/Latino business owners through radio and tv marketing on Spanish stations. Continuing to incorporate a variety of outreach methods will strengthen the approach to providing technical assistance, ultimately enhancing the support available to qualified business owners, and promoting economic growth and prosperity in the community.

Performance to be Measured:

Number of Small Businesses Applying for Technical Assistance	Number of Small Businesses Recommended for Project Funding through the Lee County Resiliency Grant
20	20

ARPA Measure: Number of Small Businesses Served
20

Performance Outcome: Increased economic viability of small business that had been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Project ID: ARPA-NE230A3, SWFL Impact Partners

Funding Amount: \$100,000

Status of Completion: Complete

Total Project Expenses: \$100,000

Project Duration: January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2023

Project Expenditure Category: 2.30 Technical Assistance, Counseling, or Business Planning*^

Project Overview:

The SW Florida Impact Partners LLP, Technical Assistance Project, is an existing program that will contract with Lee County to extend its services to small businesses disproportionately affected by COVID-19 by providing technical assistance, counseling, or other business planning services. This project will target businesses in Qualified Census Tracts and in Low-Moderate income designated areas who were impacted by COVID-19 facing financial insecurity, substantial declines in gross receipts, those with less capacity to weather financial hardship, those with less access to credit.



The service will help to identify opportunities to a network of investors, developers, and neighborhood leaders, and identify business opportunities in opportunity zones and CRAs. The major activities for this project will (a) Provide subject matter expertise on business recovery options and act as the conduit between businesses and all local, State, and Federal programs available; (b) Provide consulting for businesses impacted by COVID-19 in targeted areas and consult on topics to accelerate a sustainable to resilient recovery; (c) Perform outreach to businesses in QCT zones and Low to Moderate Income specified

areas, to learn of their ongoing needs, provide support, and refer them to available resources; and (d) Assist in the development of a small business recovery tool kit/curriculum.

Use of Evidence: Evidence Producing - Learning Agenda Development Statement: The Southwest Florida Impact Partners, Technical Assistance Project, will implement a learning agenda to identify best practices that will further its local efforts to provide technical assistance, counseling, and other business planning services. SWFL Impact Partners will evaluate the programs operational issues, beneficiary and partner feedback, output, and outcome metrics to identify opportunities for improve to formalize best practices.

Project Analysis

Through providing technical assistance, several key strategies emerged that supported strengthening the community, expanding owner's knowledge, and access to community resources.

- **Community Engagement Events:** Hosting community engagement events, such as open house events, provides an effective platform for connecting with MBE/DBE business owners. These events offer opportunities for networking, sharing experiences, and understanding the specific challenges faced by businesses in the community.
- **Individualized Support:** Offering individual counseling sessions allows for tailored support that addresses the unique needs of each business owner. This personalized approach fosters trust, engagement, and better outcomes.
- **Access to Information and Resources:** Providing valuable information about professional tools and services, such as upcoming seminars, learning labs, and partnerships with community stakeholders, enhances business owners' understanding and ability to navigate the complexities of running a small business. Access to resources empowers business owners to make informed decisions and seek additional support as needed. An example was, leveraging funding opportunities, such as the ARPA Small Business Resiliency Grant funding, to support community business owners. That demonstrated a commitment to investing in the success and resilience of local businesses. Strategic allocation of resources allows for impactful interventions that address immediate needs and foster long-term sustainability.
- **Ongoing Technical Services:** Recognizing the importance of ongoing support, including needs assessment, grant counseling, consulting, mentoring, coaching, and business development, ensures that business owners receive comprehensive assistance beyond initial engagement. Continuous support is essential for addressing evolving challenges and promoting sustainable growth.

Conclusion

Community participation is a central concept for building successful small businesses. SW Florida Impact Partners focused technical assistance on an individual business owner community-centered approach for helping the owner improve their business. Continuing to incorporate these learnings into future initiatives can strengthen the approach to providing technical assistance, ultimately enhancing the support available to qualified business owners, and promoting economic growth and prosperity in the community.

Performance to be Measured:

Number of Small Businesses Applying for Technical Assistance	Number of Small Businesses Recommended for Project Funding through the Lee County Resiliency Grant
206	52

ARPA Measure: Number of Small Businesses Served
206

SW FL Impact Partners held a community engagement open house event. There were 239 certified MBE/DBE were invited and 30+ attended the event.

Performance Outcome: Increased economic viability of small business that had been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Success Comments

As a Technical Assistance Provider at SW Florida Impact Partners LLP, it was an exciting and joyful accomplishment, when businesses who worked very diligently to get the grant, took care of the required documents, listened to recommendations, and came weekly to complete any task required of them and were good listeners. Technical Assistance fill with joy when they received the ARPA grant funding and this was the first time they had ever received a grant for their business.

Project ID: ARPA-NE230A4, Goodwill Industries of SWFL

Funding Amount: \$50,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$50,000

Project Duration: January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2023

Project Expenditure Category: 2.30 Technical Assistance, Counseling, or Business Planning*^

Project Overview:

The Goodwill Industries of SWFL MicroEnterprise program technical assistance project is an existing program that will contract with Lee County to extend its services to small businesses and nonprofits disproportionately affected by COVID-19. The project will help low-to-moderate-income and disadvantaged individuals start or stabilize their businesses. Services include business classes with feasibility planning, cash flow, and financial access. Participants are assigned a small business mentor who helps participants with business planning and coaching.

The major activities for this project include business counseling, mentoring, and referrals for 1. Small Business Development Classes 2. Small Business Mentoring 3. Business Planning Coaching 4. Small

Business Loan Options 5. Potential Access to small business loan and matching funds. Additionally, the funds will cover professional fees, supplies, marketing for the program, and travel.

Community Engagement and Outreach: Goodwill Industries Microenterprise Institute achieved more enrollments and businesses started in quarter 2 2023. Our efforts in distributing flyers to nonprofits, retail stores, ads on FB increased. We continue to see over the last year the benefits of this program and with funding provided through ARPA grant we are able to add additional class in Fort Myers last year, which contributed to 30 business that were started. Without the funding we would not be able to offer more classes.

Use of Evidence: Evidence Producing – Learning Agenda Development Statement:

Goodwill, Small Business Technical Assistance project, through its MicroEnterprise program, will identify the best practices to help low- to moderate-income and disadvantaged individuals start or stabilize their businesses through small business mentoring, business planning and coaching. Goodwill will engage an evidence-producing learning agenda as part of its ARPA project to identify and build upon best practices that will improve its local MicroEnterprise program. Goodwill will evaluate the program's operational issues, beneficiary and partner feedback, output, and outcome metrics to identify opportunities for improvement to formalize best practices.

Project Analysis

The program provides participants who primarily fall within low to moderate incomes with essential business skills to enhance their chances of success and self-sufficiency. With the support of the APRA funding, 31 participants were able to start or strengthen their businesses after completing the course.

Conclusion

The program identified that participants could benefit significantly from additional one-on-one mentoring sessions, which can improve their confidence and practical application of business concepts. Through providing technical assistance we learned that participants have technical barriers that included no access to high speed internet, transportation barriers, basic computer literacy. It was learned that personalized support and ongoing guidance are crucial in helping entrepreneurs effectively implement the skills learned in the course.

Performance to be Measured:

Number of Small Businesses Applying for Technical Assistance	Services Awarded to Businesses (disaggregate by type, other)
31	0

ARPA Measure: Number of Small Businesses Served
31

Performance Outcome: Increased economic viability of small business that had been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Success Comments

- 1) A graduate of the Cape Coral class in April 2023 – fulfilled a dream she had been chasing for years and in late August it came true with a lot of hard work. She opened her record business in Ft Myers.
- 2) Two graduates for the class, both with a background in cosmetology opened a nail studio in Fort Myers.
- 3) A graduate that completed the MicroEnterprise program in September of 2023 was struggling with branding and pricing of his business that he launched in the summer of 2023. He successfully completed a feasibility plan and marketing plan that helped him create new branding for his herbal slush teas. You can find him at a local market.
- 4) A single mother of two boys and has been baking and creating as a hobby for her son's events. She heard about the MicroEnterprise program from her sister-in-law who graduated from the program 2018. She knew everything about creating delicious treats but wanted to learn the ins and outs of starting and sustaining a small business. She graduated in September. In October launched her business and she immediately started booking events and parties.

Project ID: ARPA-NE230A5, SW Regional Manufacturers Association

Funding Amount: \$16,667

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$16,667

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.30 Technical Assistance, Counseling, or Business Planning*^

Project Overview:



The Southwest Regional Manufacturers Association (SRMA), Technical Assistance Project, is an existing program that will contract with Lee County to extend its services to manufacturers disproportionately affected by COVID-19 by providing technical assistance, counseling, or other business planning services. This project will target businesses in Qualified Census Tracts and in Low-Moderate income designated areas who were impacted by COVID-19 facing financial insecurity, substantial declines in gross receipts, those with less capacity to weather financial hardship, those with less access to credit. The service provides direct resources such as industry networking, local and state advocacy, and local business connections who can assist manufacturing companies impacted by COVID-19 to stabilize and recover. In addition, it provides outside resources of various types, including consulting, training, supply chain network, apprenticeships, and statewide connections to the same group and purpose. The major activities for this project will (a) Perform outreach to disadvantaged manufacturing businesses to learn of their ongoing needs, provide support, and refer them to available resources; (b) act as the conduit between manufacturing businesses and all local, State, and Federal programs available; (c) provide general business counseling by providing guidance through the program for the individual manufacturing business; (d) connect outside solution providers to manufacturers who can provide one-on-one consulting for businesses impacted by COVID-19 and provide solutions to accelerate a sustainable and resilient recovery; and (e) facilitate in-person and online training events speaking on key topics essential to accelerate business resilience and recovery.

Use of Evidence: Evidence Producing - Learning Agenda Development Statement:

The Southwest Regional Manufacturers Association, Technical Assistance Project, will implement a learning agenda to identify best practices that will further its local efforts to provide technical assistance, counseling, and other business planning services. SRMA will evaluate the programs operational issues, beneficiary and partner feedback, output and outcome metrics to identify opportunities for improve to formalize best practices.

Project Analysis

Through the project seventeen (17) businesses received technical assistance. A majority of the businesses completed an assessment. The assessment asked eye-opening questions, as many hadn't thought through the various topics to be prepared for the next business disruption/catastrophe. After the assessment, our goal is to provide resources to enhance their resiliency efforts in the areas they are weaker. The other services that were provided for the manufacturing businesses included: technical service for marketing, financial recovery, supply chain resiliency, growth acceleration, employee training, and performance optimization.

Conclusion

Having manufacturing companies take a 1 to 1.5 hour assessment is a success story in itself! The assessment provides eye-opening questions, as many do not think about the various topics when they think about being prepared for the next business disruption/catastrophe. After the assessment, our goal is to provide resources to enhance their resiliency efforts in the areas they are weak. One of the three companies has contracted with the SRMA to implement a Safety Training Program, which includes Leadership in Safety, First Aid, CPR, and AED, all of which identified as needs due to the assessment.

There are many areas not thought of when creating a Business Continuity plan, if they have one at all.

An outside objective assessment is needed to showcase those unthought-of items. Hopefully the companies will want to fix the vulnerable issues. This process identified the fact that being proactive takes time and resources many manufacturers are not willing put forth until it becomes reactive.

Performance Measured to Date:

Number of Small Businesses Applying for Technical Assistance	Number of Small Businesses Recommended for Project Funding through the Lee County Resiliency Grant
15	5

Technical Service Types	Number of Small Businesses
Assessment of Business needs	14
Growth Acceleration	5
Performance Optimization	1
Employee Training	2
Marketing	7

Supply Chain Resiliency	5
Financial Recovery	6

Note: A single small business may have received service under multiple service types.

ARPA Measure: Number of Small Businesses Served
15

Performance Outcome to be Measured: Increased economic viability of small business that had been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Success Comments

Having manufacturing companies take a 1 to 1.5 hour assessment is a success story in itself! The assessment provides eye-opening questions, as many do not think about the various topics when they think about being prepared for the next business disruption/catastrophe. After the assessment, our goal is to provide resources to enhance their resiliency efforts in the areas they are weak. One of the three companies has contracted with the SRMA to implement a Safety Training Program, which includes Leadership in Safety, First Aid, CPR, and AED, all of which identified as needs due to the assessment.

Assistance to Nonprofits

2.34 Nonprofit Human Services Grant and Capacity Building

Project ID: ARPA-NE234A, Human Services Grant Program, United Way

Funding Amount: \$1,053,354.25 (= \$15,600,000 minus grants to nonprofits)

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$1,053,354.25

Project Duration: November 1, 2021 – June 30, 2025

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)^

Project Overview:



United Way
of Lee County

The United Way Lee County Nonprofit Human Services Grant project is a new ARPA-funded initiative. The project will provide grants to Lee County human services nonprofits to fund direct services and operational enhancements that

will sustain temporary emergency assistance, supportive services, community engagement, and build resiliency. The grants project descriptions are distributed throughout this report under their relevant expense category:

- 1.12 Mental Health Services
- 1.13 Substance Use Services
- 2.01 Household Assistance: Food Programs
- 2.10 Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers
- 2.16 Long-term Housing Security: Services for Unhoused Persons
- 2.19 Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators
- 2.25 Addressing Educational Disparities: Academic, Social, and Emotional Services
- 2.26 Addressing Educational Disparities: Mental Health Services
- 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

The major activities include the administration of the grant program by United Way. The grant program includes a Notice of Funding Available (NOFA) issuance, grant proposal review and preparation to be handed off for evaluation by committees. The evaluation committees will recommend community appropriate project to the Board of Commissioner for review and approval. Subaward agreements will be developed between United Way, as pass-through, and the nonprofits with approved proposals. United Way will distribute funds and monitor their subrecipients.

Use of Evidence: This section is not applicable to this project but is be reported with applicable subawards.

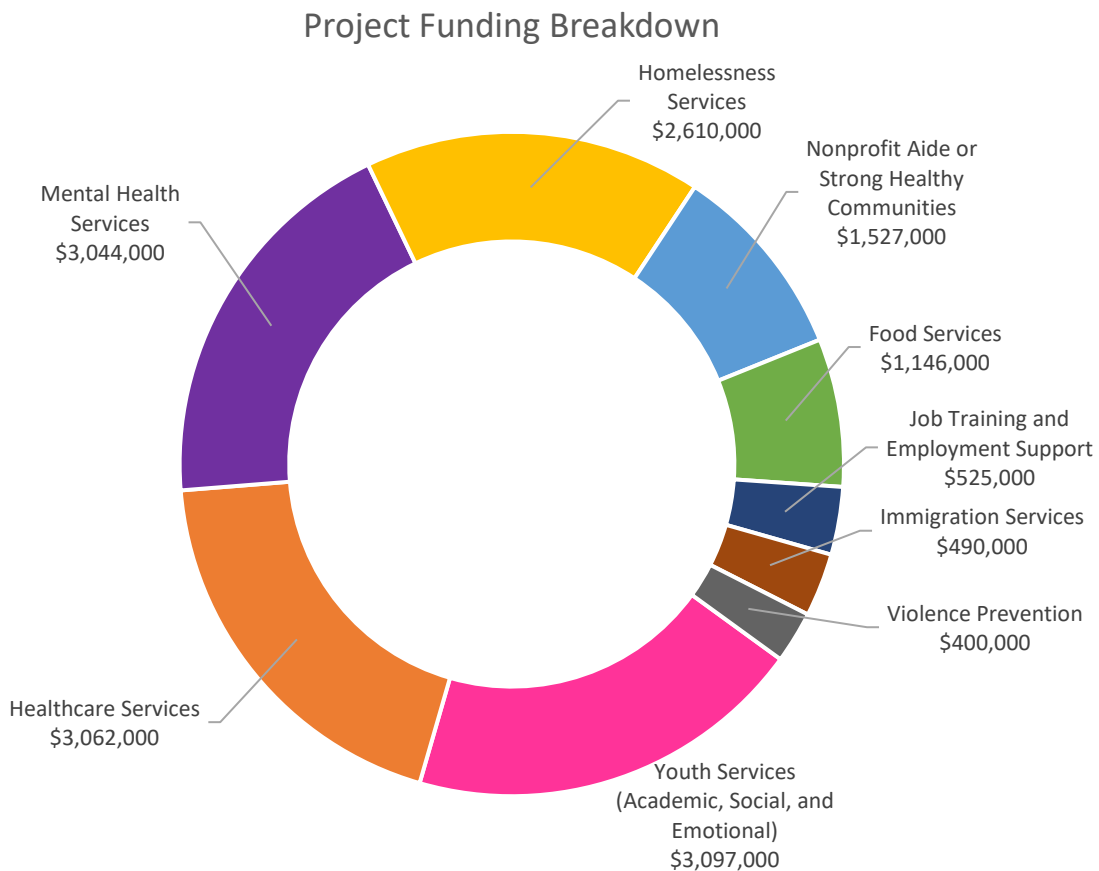
Performance Measured to Date:

Number of Eligible Organizations Applying for Project Funding and Amount Requested	Number of Organizations Awarded Project Funding and Amount Awarded
74 \$78,085,000	60 organization; 63 projects \$14,546,645.75

ARPA Measure: Number of Nonprofits Served
60

Categories of direct services project funding and amount awarded.

Project Category	Active Project Awards
Youth Services (Academic, Social, and Emotional)	\$3,097,000
Healthcare Services	\$3,062,000
Mental Health Services	\$3,044,000
Homelessness Services	\$2,610,000
Nonprofit Aide or Strong Healthy Communities	\$1,527,000
Food Services	\$1,146,000
Other: Civil Legal Aid and Violence Prevention	\$890,000
Job Training and Employment Support	\$525,000



Performance Outcome to be Measured: Increase in services available to community as evidenced through the performance outcomes for each subaward project.

Community Engagement and Success Comments:

Comments on United Way as the administrator of this grant program for nonprofits:

- Lee County Housing Development Corp stated the one-to-one attention along with round the clock question support (including weekends) has helped the Executive Director. The individualized attention has made a difference with ARPA and how she approaches grants in general.
- Impact for Developmental Education's Executive Director said individualized attention, quick response to questions and knowing she has someone who truly cares about the agency's success has been a tremendous help.

Another display of community benefit from ARPA support is the growth in collaborative efforts. Funded Agencies are "organically" coming together to expand service reach and to provide support to those in need. Demographic and geographic (within Lee County only) hurdles are surmounted (at least partially) through multiple agency affiliation. Below are a few specific examples of collaborations brought about via ARPA funding support.

The Jewish Federation has been very busy creating collaborating partnerships.

- The Jewish Federation has started collaborating with the Dr. Piper Center regarding Senior services and Volunteers
- The United Way's Beesley's Paw Prints program is brought in to visit during their Lunch and Learn sessions
- They are working with the VA to provide services to Veterans
- The Jewish Federation has been connected with Hearts and Homes for Veterans as well as Senior Friendship Centers

The Dubin Center has been in discussions with Interfaith Charities regarding the use of Interfaith's new building to hold a Senior Memory Care Café.

Special Equestrians and Family Initiative were introduced to explore possibilities. They have some of the same clients and both have been searching for a client management system that is HIPAA compliant.

Hermanos Unidos began collaborating with Harry Chapin Food Bank as well as Midwest Food Bank to obtain food for their hot meals' food program. This collaboration has significantly reduced the expense of purchasing food and has increased the agency's ability to extend their days from once a month to twice a month.

Project ID: ARPA-NE234B, United Way Recovery Grant Project, United Way

Funding Amount: \$ 3,250,000

Project Duration: November 1, 2021 – December 31, 2026

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$3,250,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)^

Project Overview



**United Way
of Lee County**

The United Way Recovery Grant Project is an ARPA funded enhancement of United Way's existing services. The project will implement strategies to improve business efficiencies, train and develop staff, and integration technologies to improve communication, data management, and data security.

Major activity includes the addition of an Operations Administrator to formalize and oversee health and safety protocols, security, and maintenance of three service facilities, two warehouses, and 15 United Way Houses. Key staff will receive operations specific training to provide more effective leadership and organizational efficiencies. Funds will be used for salaries of 15 staff in various service areas. Fund will also be used to pay for rental space, utilities, and VOIP technology. Funds will be used to purchase equipment that will improve inventory management. The outcome to the enhancements includes formalizing and documenting operational processes, policies, and procedures that facilitate direct service delivery.





Performance Outcomes to be Measured:

Outcome Statement 1:		Agencywide operational efficiencies will improve through program and staff development.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	16 Staff training and leadership development opportunities will lead to enhanced personnel and operational processes. (per Year)	Percentage Completed	119%
2)	Policy/procedure reorganizations will streamline operations, providing clarity and continuity in UW service delivery. (per Year)	Percentage Completed	100%
3)	Train and align organizational leadership positions to better guide/direct service delivery areas.	Percentage Completed	100%

Outcome Statement 2:		Internal operations will be augmented through improved/enhanced communication, data management, and data security through technology integration.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	3 data management systems will be integrated into agency operations (includes staff training and rollout). (per year)	Percentage Completed	100%

Success Comments:

ARPA funding serves to enhance United Way programs, information technology, data management and internal controls, resulting in updated hardware and software to better manage internal processes. New staff hired with dedicated functionality continue to improve and expand service to the community.

We are seeing continued progress in service to the community through all departments. Each program has improved functionality and steadily increases in ability to serve the community and in the actual results of serving the community. The interactivity among Partner Agencies, both new and seasoned, displays a level of collaboration that is fostered through United Way of Lee County and the result of enhanced operations within the United Way.

The productivity within the Gifts In Kind (GIK) program was enhanced through the integration of a barcoding system to fully track donations in and distributions to the community. Recovery from the impacts of COVID-19 and subsequent widespread challenges has driven the need for the GIK program and the extensive warehouse just to meet basic needs. ARPA support has afforded United Way the opportunity to grow in strength, size, quality of service, and as a leader in the nonprofit space. This, in turn, deepened relationships and ultimately provided the best possible service to the community.

The United Way School Resource Center, a division of the Gifts In Kind program, is designed to assist students with essentials to maintain focus on their academic studies. Often these items are associated with school uniforms, footwear, and personal hygiene products in addition to classroom materials. School Counselors and School Social Workers assess the student's individual situation then complete a request for items needed.

- Improved packaging efficiency – optimized packaging methods for more efficiency and sustainability.
- 24-hour order turnaround – when a child is in need, SRC serves to meet that need
- Enhanced Use of Volunteer Support – pre-packaging results in expedited order processing
- Enhanced Warehouse Organization – restructured location to stage items to be used throughout the SRC

The United Way WeCare program has been extremely active assisting those in need of charitable medical services. The delays and cancellations of medical care due to COVID-19 created significant problems for many and the addition of another Patient Care Coordinator has enabled the program to thrive. WeCare serves low-income and/or uninsured individuals. The ARPA funding supported a Spanish speaking patient care coordinator position.

211 Program

During Q2 of 2024, the 211 information and referral program fielded 12,677 calls for assistance. 436 of those were Veteran Assistance calls and were immediately directed to our Mission United department within the 211 program. This was a 33% increase over Q2 of 2022 with 9,526 calls.

2.34 Have a Heart Pets (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW234B

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Cape Coral Animal Shelter Corporation

Funding Amount: \$60,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$60,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. Have a Heart for Pets project fully ARPA-funded existing program that will save low-income individuals and families money and improve emotional health by preventing unnecessary pet euthanasia. The main activities of the project include (a) providing veterinary services at no cost to low-income families; and (b) providing funding for operational staff salaries and veterinary procedures including vaccines, wellness and sick office visits, minor surgeries, x-rays, diagnostic tests, and ultrasound.



Use of Evidence: Evidence-producing project with learning agenda. The need for our services is evident by the fact that, in just two years, we have over 5,000 clients taking advantage of our low-cost veterinary services. This need will continue to grow as our population grows.

Community Engagement:

Our veterinarians and vet technicians are aware of the program and offer it to the clients whose pets are in need of services or medications yet refuse because of financial hardship. We advertise as a low-cost veterinary clinic, which attracts many low-income individuals who seek us out for discounted or free veterinary care.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Increase the number of patients/animals treated in our clinic at no charge to the client due to financial hardship.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	Increase (9) patients/animals treated free of charge in 2022. COMPLETED	Project Target	9
		Achieved to Date	42
		Percentage	466.7%
2)	Increase (by 90) patients/animals treated free of charge in 2023	Project Target	90
		Achieved to Date	96
		Percentage	106.7%
3)	Increase (by 60) of patients/animals treated free of charge in 2024	Project Target	60
		Achieved to Date	60
		Percentage	100%

Success Comments:

#1 Our mission at Cape Coral Animal Shelter is to engage a special bond between people and animals by means of adoption services, medical care, education, and training for the prevention of cruelty and abandonment. This grant has been instrumental in helping us to provide veterinary care to many people that have suffered economic hardship due to the Covid-19 global pandemic. In several cases, our assistance was life or death for the animal. Sasha was brought to us by her owner in extreme pain, lethargic, and her prognosis was not good. Her owner had rescued her but could not afford to have her spayed as she lost her job during Covid. The dog developed pyometra (infected and ruptured uterus) and was hours away from passing. Our vets performed emergency surgery, provided fluids, and sent Sasha home to recuperate. A few weeks later, she returned for a follow up and was happy and healthy. Her owner was so grateful—surely Sasha would have died without this lifesaving surgery which she would never have been able to afford. We have many stories just like this already, and we look forward to many more because of this funding.

#2

We have hundreds of success stories of animals and their families who suffered greatly during the national COVID pandemic. One story that truly stands out is about Angel, who came to us on March 22, 2024. Her owners rescued her from the streets near Fort Myers Beach just before the pandemic. They had every intention of getting her spayed, but both work in the hospitality field and lost their jobs immediately at

the onset of COVID. They loved and cared for Angel the best they could but could not afford to get her the care she needed. Just as things started to look up for the family, they lost their home and everything they owned during Hurricane Ian. Again, Angel's veterinary care was put on hold as the family found a place to live and tried to get their lives back in order. Not once did they ever consider rehoming Angel like many would have done, because they love her very much and she is a part of their family. In March 2024, Angel became very sick and was diagnosed with pyometra—an infected uterus from not being spayed. This condition is deadly and emergency surgery is required immediately to save her life. The family frantically took Angel to two different clinics who told them the surgery would cost approximately \$5,000-\$6,000 and they needed the money upfront. Of course, they did not have the money. They knocked on our door in the late afternoon of that day, visibly broken and in tears. We were Angel's last hope. Our vet and vet team agreed to stay late and perform the surgery as the family waited frantically in our lobby. We are happy to report Angel survived the surgery and is happily enjoying life. The family was forever grateful to CCAS, and we made it a point to let them know we were able to help them because of the very generous ARPA Grant we received. We are truly grateful for this opportunity to help so many people through this grant.

2.34 Deaf and Hard of Hearing Project (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW234C

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Deaf Service Center of Southwest Florida Inc. dba/Sally J Pimentel Deaf and Hard of Hearing Center, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$100,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$100,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. DHHC ARPA Project is a fully ARPA-funded new program that will improve information and training resources available to those effected by person who are deaf or hard of hearing. The main activities of the project include providing (a) individual and group education and Instruction for youth, adults living with hearing impairments and persons of all ages who need instruction in the use of modern assistive technology equipment; and (b) funding for operational project staff salaries, supplies, printing/publication, and client transportation.



Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: Disabled persons are negatively impacted by the COVID pandemic at a rate greater than the general population. Building on this principle, we believe it to be prudent to take the initiative and look for persons with hearing impairments residing in Lee County that are being negatively impacted by the pandemic and assess their need for assistance.

- 1.) A study published by the National Library of Medicine in September of 2021, entitled "Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Communication and Healthcare Access for Adults with Hearing Loss", concluded that adults with hearing loss, cochlear implant users and rural residents experience greater challenges in communication pandemic preparedness, and access to healthcare during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 2.) "The Experience of deaf healthcare professionals during the coronavirus pandemic", (August 2021) concluded deaf Healthcare Professionals felt left behind, isolated and frustrated by a lack of transparent masks and reasonable adjustments to meet their communication and workplace support needs".

Community Engagement: In addition to making phone calls to local businesses, our agency has conducted several community outreaches at the local mall. We have met several new deaf individuals and their families at these community events and shared the different services and programs we offer. We have invited these individuals and their families to our agency and once here asked them to fill out an assessment for their needs. From there we offer them the services they need, whether from our agency or referrals through United Way or other agencies.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Increase the number of needs assessments of deaf and hard of hearing individuals and their families in Lee County.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	1200 contacts will be made with clients, their families, and/or businesses serving same clientele by the end of the grant cycle	Project Target	1200
		Achieved to Date	1301
		Percentage	108%
2)	85% (1020/1200) clientele and/or their families will utilize one or more Agency services by the end of the grant cycle	Project Target	1020
		Achieved to Date	958
		Percentage	94%

Outcome Statement 2:		Minimize the impact of COVID by reducing unnecessary stress and isolation caused by the pandemic in deaf and hard of hearing youth and adults.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	85% (1020 /1200) of participants utilizing one or more of the services will demonstrate increased knowledge of communication abilities, technology, or equal access to increased independence and reduced isolation as indicated by pre and post testing.	Project Target	1020
		Achieved to Date	724
		Percentage	71%

Success Comments:

In the past, many deaf youth in our community experienced the profound isolation of being the only person in their world who used sign language. For one young girl in our Deaf Youth Program, this was her daily reality. At school, she sat alone, unable to connect with her peers because they didn't know how to communicate with her. This isolation was compounded by the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, which left many feeling disconnected, overwhelmed, and depressed.

But thanks to the life-changing skills learned in our Deaf Youth Program, a remarkable transformation has taken place.

Several students from her high school, who also participate in our program, reached out to her, breaking the barrier of isolation she had endured for so long. These students, empowered by the community integration and compassion-building activities they learned with us, took the initiative to make her feel welcome. For the first time, she experienced true belonging at school. They invited her to sit with them at lunch, shared jokes in sign language, and made sure she was included in school activities. The change in her demeanor has been evident—her confidence has grown, and she has begun to thrive in ways she had not before.

The Deaf Youth Program has not only taught these young people essential independent living skills but has also produced a deep sense of empathy and responsibility. These compassionate students now

actively look out for one another, using the lessons learned from our afterschool program to forge strong bonds of friendship and mutual support. The confidence and initiative they gained have changed the course of their lives, as they now understand the importance of helping others and showing kindness.

This success story is a powerful reminder of how the right tools and opportunities can unlock the potential within every child. Our program has created a community of young deaf leaders who look out for each other with compassion and understanding. Thanks to the ARPA-funded program, these students have found a sense of belonging, friendship, and purpose that will carry them into the future.

2.34 Senior Companion Program (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW234D

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Dr. Piper Center for Social Services, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$196,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$196,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Expansion of the Senior Companion Project is a partially ARPA-funded existing program that will improved/maintained independent living for at least 90% of elderly (lower-income 55 years old or older) clients; increase access to service for 95% of elderly clients; and train, retain at least 95% of senior companion volunteers. The main activities of the project include providing (a) volunteer recruiting and training initiatives and make community presentations to faith-based organizations, senior groups, and other community organizations to recruit volunteers; (b) senior companionship services through the program volunteers; and (c) funding operations staff salaries, supplies, advertising/printing/publication, facility rent, and client transportation.



Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: The Senior Companion Program is a federally funded program sponsored through AmeriCorps Seniors. The program has long used evidence to support whether the services provided are having the intended effect. The evidence-based program model addresses the amount of contact or service over a period of time, characteristics of service recipients, methods of quality assurance, training of professional staff and supporting volunteers, standard procedures, and monitoring for fidelity to program model. The evaluation design of the Senior Companion Program is based on Outcomes Based Planning and Evaluation. Outcome-based planning uses program client's needs and desired results as the foundation for designing programs. Outcome-based evaluation is a systematic way to assess the extent to which the program has achieved its intended results. The program focuses on key questions: "How has my program made a difference?" and "How are the lives of the clients better as a result of the program?" The Senior Companion Program follows this method very strictly. Volunteer

coordinators will complete a Client Care Plan before volunteers are assigned to their clients. The Client Care Plan consists of Client's Needs, Activities to meet those Needs, Expected Accomplishments, and Outcomes. The Client's Needs, Activities and Expected Accomplishment are discussed with the volunteers before his/her first meeting with the client. At the end of the fiscal year, the Client Care Plan will be revisited, and the volunteer coordinator will complete the document by listing the "Outcomes." The completed Client Care Plan is used to evaluate the impact of the program.

Community Engagement:

Since July 2024, we've conducted presentations/attended events at Bonita Senior Center, Lehigh Senior Center (Resiliency Roundup), Carriage Village (55+ mobile home community in NFM), the Dunbar Library, and the Collaboratory for the Senior Wellness Expo. We are making connections through faith based organizations in our area to reach more potential volunteers. We continue to maintain our relationship with FMHA, onboarding new volunteers through the low-income senior housing.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Frail homebound elderly clients will have improved capacity for living independently preventing premature institutionalization.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	90% of clients served that remain in their own home	Project Target	640
		Achieved to Date	517
		Percentage	96%
2)	85% Volunteer Retention- Low-income senior volunteers will remain engaged and have an increased sense of purpose and overall quality of life	Project Target	47
		Achieved to Date	38
		Percentage	81%
3)	95% Increased social ties and decreased feelings of loneliness	Project Target	570
		Achieved to Date	481
		Percentage	84%
4)	98% Senior Companion volunteers will receive orientation training upon enrolling in the program and ongoing in-service training to increase their existing level and add new skills	Project Target	54
		Achieved to Date	95
		Percentage	176%

Success Comments:

A senior with sever vision problems has had a Senior Companion for years, recently her companion retired and she was nervous about getting a new companion. We were able to make a match for her with someone who is kind, considerate, and helpful. The new companion was made aware of the hesitation of the client and was able to reassure her that she would be able to help her with her needs and provide transportation to and from appointments like her previous companion did. I received the following text from the participant," I met my new Senior Companion on Monday. I was very nervous. Change is always difficult for me. The one I had before was awesome; he and his wife became like family to me, it was hard for me, but I know he had to concentrate on his own health. My new companion is very nice. I told her

that someday when she goes grocery shopping for herself or someone else; I would like to try shopping for myself. She is agreeable. I just need to get the courage to try! No problems so far!" The Dr. Piper Center is happy to partner with agencies who help provide the funding to manage our great programs!

2.34 Diaper Bank (United Way's Project Beneficiary)

Project ID: ARPA-BUW234E

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Healthy Start Coalition of Southwest Florida

Funding Amount: \$291,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$291,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a beneficiary agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. Healthy Start's Regional Diaper Bank project is a partially ARPA-funded expansion of an existing program to ensure that parents have the diapers and other resources that promote healthy parenting. The main activities of the project include providing (a) funding for operational staff salaries; (b) warehouse rent; (c) funding to develop a diapers bank (surplus); and (d) outreach materials.



Success Comments:

We met <name removed> at a temporary FEMA village when we were distributing diapers with Catholic Charities. Sheri is a young mother of three and was pregnant with her fourth child. She had absolutely no family support and was left homeless. We were able to provide diapers, wipes, baby food, a pack & play and other items. Working with our partners, she and her children were placed temporarily in a Salvation Army shelter. Since Salvation Army is also a Diaper Bank partner, we were able to continue to supply her diapers while she was there. She was enrolled in Healthy Start home visiting services and continues to receive diapers through her home visitor. Again, through community collaboration, she now has a job, a permanent home, a dedicated home visitor and a beautiful new baby girl who will not have to worry about diapers.

2.34 Busing for Veterans (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW234F

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

Funding Amount: \$65,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$65,000



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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. Hearts & Homes for Veterans Bus project is a fully ARPA-funded expansion of an existing program that will improve the client access to services that improve self-worth, community engagement, and self-care. The main activities of the project include funding to provide (a) operational staff salaries; and (b) funding for rent and motel housing lodging, client utilities, furnishing and supplies, vehicle repairs and transportation.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-producing project with learning agenda – Hypothesis: Clients at HHV will more likely follow through with medical appointments and travel to handle problems when provided with transportation.

Community Engagement:

HHV has been advertising on our web site, distributed Flyers and is included in HHV's weekly E-mail blast.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Increase transportation availability to homeless and low-income Veterans and family.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	Enroll 120 Veteran in the transportation program by end of 2024	Project Target	120
		Achieved to Date	308
		Percentage	257%
2)	Provide 240 service trips (30/quarter)	Project Target	240
		Achieved to Date	3496
		Percentage	1457%

Success Comments:

Each day we hope to be able to take Veterans to scheduled doctors' appointments, shopping trips are also planned with stops at Walmart allowing veterans to shop for food and/or needed items. HHV is hopeful that Veterans will make good use of this bus service. This is a trial beginning and adjustments will be made as requirements dictate. Transportation is one of the Top 5 needs requested by our local Veteran community.

One of our new volunteers, with a background as a VA Peer-to-Peer support specialist, was assisting a newly registered client; the client, was a recently relocated National Guardsman from New York. (He had actually been activated twice). He had come to HHV requesting support with his back rent. His wife had been hospitalized and had returned to New York. He lost his job when he was left to care for their two young daughters.

HHV's volunteer Peer Specialist reached out to a Soldier and Family Readiness Specialist with the Florida National Guard, regarding his request for rent assistance. Requested documents were sent to the Family Readiness Specialist, who reached out to one of her contacts - - an American Legion Post in Broward County -- for possible additional financial assistance.

On December 20, 2022, Hearts and Homes for Veterans (HHV) provided the Van, driver, volunteer Peer specialist to escort the Veteran and his two daughters to Delray Beach. The Veteran met with the American Legion Rep and the Board of Directors from Glen Eagle Country Club; Veteran was awarded an \$1800 gift card to go towards his back rent.

2.34 Speed Servin' Angels (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW234G

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Hermanos Unidos Catolicos Brothers and Sisters United

Funding Amount: \$100,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$100,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. Speed Servin' Angels is a fully ARPA-funded new program that will decrease food insecurity for low-income individuals and families. The main activities of the project include providing (a) no-cost hot meal served to weekly at our kitchen/dining site; (b) funding for operational staff salaries; and (c) funding for food and operational supplies, professional services, and food handlers' equipment.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-producing project with learning agenda - Hypothesis: 'If we serve them, they will come,'; we believe the hunger levels/food insecurity of our community population justifies and calls for increased action in our community to serve hot meals to those in poverty, near poverty, and the homeless.

Community Engagement:

Flyers, Community outreach at food distribution sites, and other community sites. Word of mouth also has dramatically increased our outreach to families.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Decrease food insecurity for low-income individuals and families.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	1000 hot meals to low-income individuals and families per quarter (8)	Project Target	8,000
		Achieved to Date	22,564
		Percentage	282%
2)	Serve 300 households per quarter (8)	Project Target	2400
		Achieved to Date	3652
		Percentage	152.2%

Success Comments:

#1 We had this young man come to the meal drive the last three times we held the events. We were very happy we were able to provide a meal for him each time he came through in his time of need. However, we really knew he was grateful when he offered to step in and volunteer at the event!

Not only are we here to provide help to the underprivileged with something as simple as a hot meal, but also to provide a volunteer opportunity to those who feel called to do so.

#2 On the designated day, the hot food drive kicked off with an incredible response from the community. People of all walks of life lined up to receive a hot meal, their faces lighting up with gratitude. Families struggling to make ends meet, homeless individuals, and even the elderly residents living alone were served without discrimination.

2.34 Early Intervention Services (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW234H

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Impact for Developmental Education, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$199,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$199,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Early Intervention Services project is a fully ARPA-funded expansion of an existing program whose objective is to provide early intervention with infants and toddlers to eliminate or reduce the severity of disabilities & developmental delays by providing therapeutic early intervention to at-risk children and their families. The main activities of the project include (a) assessment testing for autism; (b) training for professional service providers; (c) therapeutic Listening & Loaner Program of sensory equipment to loan to parents; (d) providing after school program; and (e) funding for operation staff salaries, computer and other operational equipment.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-producing project with learning agenda – Hypothesis: Early intervention services can change a child's developmental path and improve outcomes for children, families and their community.

Community Engagement:

IMPACT receives referrals from Lee County Schools, Early Steps, Pediatricians, and families who have previously received services. They have a website and a Facebook page.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Early intervention services will assist children and their families overcome developmental delays and achieve their individual goals.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	75 unduplicated children will be evaluated to determine their developmental delays	Project Target	75
		Achieved to Date	74
		Percentage	98.7%
2)	75 unduplicated children will receive an individualized plan of action	Project Target	75
		Achieved to Date	72
		Percentage	96%
3)	75% (56/75) children will reach their developmental goals as written in their individual plan by end of the grant period	Project Target	56
		Achieved to Date	70
		Percentage	125%

Success Comments

IMPACT is truly grateful for the invaluable opportunity to participate in this Grant program. While the journey was filled with a significant amount of hard work, the immense satisfaction derived from being able to serve our community far outweighs any challenges faced.

When Impact was honored with this grant to bolster our ongoing program and support families in need, we swiftly set our plans into motion. Through the implementation of strategic initiatives, we successfully facilitated the adaptation of both our staff and the families we serve to the constantly evolving landscape.

By leveraging telehealth services such as Zoom, we were able to connect with families who preferred remote assistance. Additionally, we were able to revamp our playground equipment, procure new computers for our staff, and acquire essential supplies for evaluations and reports. The provision of therapy equipment and accessories further enhanced our services, while the introduction of a loaner program for therapy equipment catered to families in dire need.

Furthermore, we prioritized the continuous growth and development of our staff by providing them with comprehensive training, ensuring that their skills remain sharp and up-to-date.

None of these remarkable accomplishments could have been possible without the incredible opportunity extended to us, and for that, we are profoundly grateful.

2.34 Serving Our Community (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW234I

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Interfaith Caregivers of South Lee Inc dba/Interfaith Charities of South Lee, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$136,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$136,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

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



United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Serving Our Community project partially ARPA-funded expansion of an existing program whose objective is to decrease food insecurity through an after-school and summer lunch program and to provide a means for tax preparation through VITA. The main activities of the project include providing (a) funding to lease additional space large enough to relaunch and enhance the food distribution program; (b) funding to purchase office furniture and supplies; and (c) funding for operation staff salaries.

Use of Evidence: The project allowed us to provide over 27,000 weekly food distributions to individuals and families in our service area. It also provided a facility for ICSL volunteers to prepare, free of charge, over 1500 tax returns that generated over a \$1,000,000 in tax refunds that came directly back into the community.

Community Engagement:

Communicated on our website, through social media and personal communications.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Decrease food insecurity for disadvantaged people in South Lee County.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	1200 households will receive a weekly food distribution per quarter	Project Target	9600
		Achieved to Date	27,040
		Percentage	282%
2)	125 children will attend the Summer Lunch program by the end of the grant period	Project Target	62
		Achieved to Date	480
		Percentage	774%

Outcome Statement 2:		Increase the financial resources of community residents by preparing tax returns free of charge	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	900 tax returns will be prepared	Project Target	900
		Achieved to Date	1588
		Percentage	176%

Success Comments:

During the duration of this grant, 27,040 food packages were distributed to families in need and 1588 tax returns were prepared.

2.34 Comprehensive Housing Counseling (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW234J

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Lee County Housing Development Corporation

Funding Amount: \$225,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$225,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

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



Comprehensive Housing Counseling project is a partially ARPA-funded expansion of an existing program whose objective is to increase stable housing and avoid eviction/foreclosure for individuals and families. The main activities of the project include providing free housing counseling including Financial Management & Budgeting Counseling (FBC), Pre-purchase counseling (PPC), Mortgage Delinquency & Default Resolution Counseling (DFC), Rental Housing Counseling (RHC) and Home Improvement Counseling (HIC).

Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: HUD's final rule implements the requirement that homeownership counseling and rental housing counseling required under or provided in connection with HUD programs be provided only by organizations approved by HUD under HUD's Housing Counseling Program.

In addition, this final rule implements the statutory requirement that, for an organization to be approved by HUD to participate in HUD's Housing Counseling Program, all counselors employed by the organization that provide homeownership counseling and rental housing counseling must pass the certification examination and become a HUD certified housing counselor.

Lee County Housing Development Corporation has a certified housing counselor and the agency is in compliance with the Final Rule.

Community Engagement:

Outreach efforts are on-going via social media, TV, community events, website and community resource room. Continued collaborations/partnership with local, state and federal partners.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:	Increase housing stability for households impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic. Additional Measurement Tools: LCHDC will utilize client action/work plans, budget/spending plans, case management notes, and follow-up feedback surveys to measure program success.
Goals and Output Measures:	Total

1)	80% (240/300) of renter households served under the program will utilize knowledge gained from housing counseling to either avoid eviction or locate suitable permanent housing as evidenced by execution of a renewal lease agreement, court records (e.g., disposition documents, etc.)	Project Target	240
		Achieved to Date	239
		Percentage	99%
2)	80% (76/95) of homeowner households served will utilize knowledge and counseling efforts to avoid foreclosure or obtain alternative permanent housing (purchase of new unit) as evidenced by a modification agreement or other loss mitigation correspondence issued by the servicer or mortgagee	Project Target	76
		Achieved to Date	56
		Percentage	74%
3)	80% (104/130) of education clients served will increase their knowledge of group education, specifically home buyer education as evidenced by a home buyer education certificate	Project Target	103
		Achieved to Date	103
		Percentage	100%

Success Comments:

A couple in their mid 70s, faced a daunting challenge when the COVID-19 pandemic threatened their stability. With a modest pension and forced to retire due to health issues, they were on the brink of homelessness after struggling to pay rent.

Desperate, they reached out to the Lee County Housing Development Corporation, which provided emergency rental assistance and connected them with food and healthcare resources. A dedicated caseworker guided them in managing their limited income through budgeting workshops.

Today, the couple have emerged stronger and more resilient. They have started volunteering at a local community center, where they share their experiences and help others navigate similar challenges. Their story inspires those around them to seek help and embrace community support, proving that hope can prevail even in the darkest times.

2.34 The Friendly Visitor Program for Seniors (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW234K

United Way's Project Subrecipient: The Lee County Jewish Federation

Funding Amount: \$70,369

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$70,369

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Friendly Visitor project is a partially ARPA-funded new program to recruit and train volunteers to build relationships and visit with seniors to improve their quality of life and community engagement.



The main activities of the project include providing (a) funding for operation staff salaries; (b) funding for program supplies; and (c) senior lunches.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-producing project with learning agenda – Statistics will be used as evidence, provided by the Area Office for the Aging as our main source. There will be ongoing reviews throughout to determine credible information, and to ensure that our practices are the most effective.

Community Engagement:

- We have hosted three Senior Lunches this quarter with a total of 99 individuals who have attended and attendees have been made aware of the program.
- We have partnered with Alliance for Therapy Dogs, Beesley's Paws and Gulf Coast Humane Society to provide Animal Therapy to Senior Living Facilities.
- We have partnered with the VA and Area Agency for Aging to distribute robotic cats/dos to Veterans in Lee County.
- We are making phone calls and sending emails to Senior Living Facilities all around Lee County. Outreach to the general public includes: social media posts, posting information on our website, as well as, notifying Senior Service Centers.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		To increase quality of life by addressing relieving loneliness and isolation for clients in adult living facility.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	Goal 1: Increase awareness of the Friendly Visitor Program with adult living facilities and partner organizations Goal = 42 adult living facilities per year (10 Quarters)	Project Target	124
		Achieved to Date	131
		Percentage	106%
2)	3 partner organizations have an increased awareness of the Friendly Visitor Program	Project Target	8
		Achieved to Date	20

		Percentage	250%
3)	Create 12 monthly lunch programs with topics of discussion and activities. Goal = 12 per calendar year (10 Quarters)	Project Target	30
		Achieved to Date	35
		Percentage	117%

Success Comments:

Pandemic. What's that? We found out when covid hit us all. What to do, where to go, or not go. Life as we knew it was suddenly gone and replaced by mask wearing and solitary activities. Events we attended and people we saw were replaced by loneliness and isolation. We lacked the human contact that keeps all of us going. Two years plus and lo and behold we get vaccinations, and very slowly and cautiously we begin the new normal. Wow, lunch bunch restarts. We see familiar faces, such a joy. We talk to people and meet new friends, the gap we felt is starting to fill up. We are reinvigorated. There is life after covid! We meet lovely and diverse people at lunch bunch. It meets every month and so you have new friends constantly. Lunch Bunch, what a blessing.

Today Rehab the Jewish Federation of Lee and Charlotte Counties all the hard-working volunteers who brought us out of a dark and lonely times to a bring new beginning.

2.34 Immigration Services (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW234L

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Lee County Legal Aid Society, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$490,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$490,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

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



LEE COUNTY
LEGAL AID SOCIETY

United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County.

Lee County Legal Aid's Immigrant Advocacy project is a partially ARPA-funded program that will help immigrants navigate the legal system to gain legal employment and residency. The main

activities of the project include providing (a) funding for operational staff salaries; (b) needs assessment and legal service for immigrants seeking domestic violence and legal aid assistance; and (c) funding for operational supplies.

Use of Evidence: Evidence-producing project with learning agenda - Learning Question is: In what ways does providing civil legal services to immigrants improve their self-sufficiency and economic contribution to their local and state economies? We will include feedback loops through client & community partner surveys to collect data and we will also monitor and collect case related data directly from clients. Our

Theory of Change is based on the assumption that appropriate legal interventions can interrupt cycles of domestic violence and child abuse, neglect, and abandonment. Through community lawyering, outreach, and legal interventions, Lee County Legal Aid empowers immigrant clients and their families by obtaining legal status, rights, a path to economic stability, safe housing, and other basic needs.

Community Engagement:

Networking with DCF, the office of the Guardian ad Litem, Catholic Charities, and the North Fort Myers United Way House. WhatsApp direct cell phone connection to Immigration Attorney's office. Instagram videos created in Creole, posted by our Immigration Attorney. Courtroom appearances for immigration are increasing legal community awareness of the mission, as are speaking engagements in the community. Currently finalizing a marketing/pr contract for interactive web page, social media, print and more speaking engagement presence.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Assist underserved, abused, abandoned, and neglected immigrant children navigate the legal system to gain legal residency.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	25 Unduplicated client consultations	Project Target	25
		Achieved to Date	437
		Percentage	1748%
2)	6 petitions filed by the Immigration Attorney for SIJS (Special Immigrant Juvenile Status) for previously identified clients	Project Target	6
		Achieved to Date	94
		Percentage	1567%

Success Comments:

Our Immigration Legal Team has provided legal assistance to ninety-two individuals since our agency first began offering Immigration services in the Spring of 2022.

We received an approval of Special Immigrant Juvenile Status, a Social Security Card and a Work Authorization Card for our client, who is now 18 years old. <name removed> is an undocumented youth from Guatemala. He came to the United States as an unaccompanied minor at the age of fifteen. He was a runaway youth. He was reported missing after running away from the youth center he resided in. He was found, homeless and inebriated, by the Department of Children and Family investigators. He was placed in foster care. We completed his Special Immigrant Juvenile Status application with Immigration authorities. He now has a lawful status as a Special Immigrant Juvenile, is eligible for Medicaid, can work lawfully, and has a clear pathway to become a lawful permanent resident, once a Visa is available to him.

2.34 Vision Rehabilitation and Support Services (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW234M

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

Funding Amount: \$232,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$232,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. Vision Rehabilitation and Support Services project is a partially ARPA-funded program to serve persons and families with low vision/blindness needs by increasing strategies for independence, providing knowledge of community resources such as paratransit services, employment opportunities, and mental health services and increasing access and knowledge of adaptive devices and assistive technology. The main activities of the project include providing (a) training and referrals for adaptive and assistive technology for those with vision impairment; (b) funding for data management solutions; (c) funding for operational staff; and (d) program marketing.



Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: Lighthouse of SWFL incorporates evidence-based/best practices for vision rehabilitation from Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired (AER); Academy for Certification of Vision Rehabilitation and Education Professionals (ACVREP) for instructional curricula and methods used for vision rehabilitation and support services. References include: Foundations of Vision Rehabilitation Therapy; Foundations of Rehabilitation Teaching with Persons who are Blind or Visually Impaired; Foundations of Low Vision; The Lighthouse Handbook on Vision Impairment and Vision Rehabilitation; Low Vision Rehabilitation; Foundations of Rehabilitation Counseling with Persons who are Blind or Visually Impaired; Foundations of Orientation and Mobility 3rd Edition; Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants; Making Eye Health a Population Health Imperative; Self-Esteem and Adjusting with Blindness Third Edition; The Oregon Project for Preschool Children Who are Blind or Visually Impaired Sixth Edition. Lighthouse of SWFL received accreditation from National Accreditation Council for Blind and Low Vision Services (NAC) in 2016 and is currently renewing accreditation with AER.

Community Engagement:

Lighthouse of SWFL utilizes Constant Contact to send an electronic newsletter weekly to nearly 800 subscribers, and posts updates, news and photos to our Facebook page every other weekday. We have also begun advertising with LeeTran on two of their paratransit buses that transport passengers throughout Lee County, have instituted the quarterly "ENLIGHTENED" printed newsletter that is mailed to nearly 1,800 supporters, and are frequently invited to attend health fairs such as the recent "Low Vision Expo" at Amavida Resort Retirement Community. Lighthouse of SWFL staff members are often invited to present to Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions and other civic clubs in our area. Tours of our organization are requested

by groups and perspective consumers who have a strong interest in learning more about the wide array of vision rehabilitation and support services we provide. We issue press releases as warranted to the local media for events, such as our free White Cane Day event held each year in October. Currently we are in the process of redesigning and updating our agency website in order to make it more user-friendly and a trusted resource for those seeking information on low vision, blindness and the vision rehabilitation and support services we offer.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Increased knowledge of health and wellness related to vision impairment/blindness	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	Fifty (50) adults and children will participate in vision rehabilitation and support sessions by the end of the grant cycle	Project Target	50
		Achieved to Date	924
		Percentage	1848%
2)	80% (40/50) of clients participating in vision rehabilitation and support services for independent living will report increased knowledge of their health/eye conditions	Project Target	60
		Achieved to Date	763
		Percentage	1271%
3)	80% (40/50) of clients participating in vision rehabilitation and support services for independent living will report increased knowledge of the impact of their health or eye condition on their vision and independence	Project Target	60
		Achieved to Date	763
		Percentage	1271%

Outcome Statement 2:		Increased knowledge of interventions for independence related to blind/low vision	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	80% (40/50) of clients participating in vision rehabilitation classes for assistive technology accessibility will demonstrate increased knowledge of assistive technology apps and tools for blind/low vision	Project Target	60
		Achieved to Date	159
		Percentage	265%

Success Comments:

At Lighthouse, we are committed to empowering individuals with visual impairments to lead independent and fulfilling lives. Recently, our Orientation and Mobility (O&M) specialist had the opportunity to work with a college student navigating the complexities of campus life. This student, new to FGCU, needed to find his classes, the dining area and his way around campus before his classes began one week later. Our O&M specialist provided personalized training, teaching him how to safely and confidently navigate the campus using his white cane. Together, they developed routes to key locations, including his classrooms and dining facilities, enabling him to move around campus independently. Thanks to this support, the student has gained confidence in his mobility skills and is now able to focus on his studies and campus life without the stress of navigating his environment. His story is a testament to the life-changing impact that specialized services like Orientation and Mobility training can have on the independence and success of individuals with visual impairments.

2.34 Transitional Group Home for Young Mothers (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW234N

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Our Mother's Home of Southwest Florida

Funding Amount: \$290,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$290,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Transitional Group Home for Young Mothers project is partially ARPA funded Mentored Living Program to enable full capacity of teen mothers and their babies (ages 11-18) residents living at the home and the expansion of a new facility that will house residents ages 18-21 and their child (10 residential rooms). The main activities of the project include providing (a) funding for program equipment such as beds, cribs, desks and furniture; (b) funding for operational staff salaries; and (c) funding to purchase IT equipment such as a smart board, desktop, laptops and software.



Use of Evidence: Evidence-producing project with learning agenda - Outcomes will be evidence-producing to improve the safety of our young mothers and their child's environment physically, emotionally and psychologically; improve the well-being of each resident. It is estimated that each resident that lives at Our Mother's Home will drop negativity and low self-esteem they arrived with and become self-sufficient. We make a profound difference in the lives of young mothers and their babies. With a place to live, offering wrap-around services, including enrichment workshops and the opportunity to finish school, residents' transition into self-sufficient living and contribute to their community by being a good parent with a job and "pay it back" with volunteer services in the community.

Community Engagement:

For nearly 2 years, Our Mother's Home has been advertising the new facility to the community via eblasts, social media, videos, tours, press releases, etc. We actively engage our donors by inviting them to come see the building, sponsor a room, showing them the plaque for their room, etc. We have begun letting other agencies know that we will be opening a Community Pantry and Education Center for young moms in the community to expand our community footprint.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Improve the safety, well-being and healthy connections of young mothers and their child's environment physically, emotionally, and psychologically while living in the New Transitional Group Home for Young Mothers to become self-sufficient and ready for independence.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	25 unduplicated young mothers will live in the New Transitional Group Home and participate in the Parenting Naturally Skills Training and Life Skills Training	Project Target	25
		Achieved to Date	29
		Percentage	116%
2)	90% (23/25) of young mothers completing Parenting Naturally Skills Training will demonstrate increased knowledge and utilization of learned parenting practices as indicated by pre and post testing.	Project Target	23
		Achieved to Date	32
		Percentage	139%
3)	85% (21/25) young mothers completing life skills training will decrease the occurrence of homelessness when transitioning out of residential group foster care home as assessed by pre and post testing. (Trainings and workshops include Healthy Eating and Nutrition Program, iEmpathize Life Coaching, English as a Second Language (ESOL), finances and budgeting, relationship therapy, normalcy activities, car seat safety and CPR).	Project Target	21
		Achieved to Date	28
		Percentage	133%

Success Comments:

Two of our Independent Living Residents have obtained jobs and one is finishing school and working. She has also obtained her Learner's Driving Permit and enrolled in Behind The Wheel Training. They both will continue in our Independent Living Program when we move into our new facility the beginning of December.

OMH Success Story: <Name removed> came to Our Mother's Home as a timid and shy 14-year-old, who had become pregnant due to sexual abuse within her own family. By age 15, she had given birth to a beautiful little baby girl. Years of trauma had created many behaviors that were inappropriate for her age, along with an unhealthy emotional connection with adult men.

Our Mother's Home provided therapy in many forms, psychological therapy, art therapy, pet therapy, and relationship and sex therapy. <Name removed> was also enrolled in school at the Lee Adolescents Mothers Program so that she could continue her education and bring her child with her to school.

Over the years, <Name removed> has been able to accomplish many things, with the help of the OMH Case Manager and the organization itself. She attends weekly parenting classes and recently completed an additional class called The Parenting Toolbelt.

During COVID-19, Our Mother's Home had to take extra precautions to ensure that all our moms and babies were safe. At one point in time, both <Name removed> and her daughter had COVID. Our staff rose to the challenge of taking care of them. They would put on gowns, gloves, and masks and would bring them drinks, soup, snacks, etc. They would also take their temperature and give them medicine to reduce any fevers. When <Name removed> turned 18, she opted to get the COVID-19 vaccine and Our Mother's Home helped her set up the appointment and take her to the doctor to receive it.

Our Mother's Home has not only provided normalcy for <Name removed> over the last 3 years, but they have also helped her to gain her independence. <Name removed> completed a financial literacy course and was able to open her own bank account. The agency also partnered with Vocational Rehabilitation and was able to get <Name removed> a job, where she currently works as a hostess on the weekends for a local diner. On her 18th birthday, <Name removed> transitioned to the 18+ room at Our Mother's Home. She was given help in applying for food stamps, shown how to ride the city bus, and has now gained her independence. She is actively working on her high school diploma and plans to graduate with honors in December 2022. In September 2022, <Name removed> studied for and passed her Alcohol and Abuse test for her driver's permit and is on her way to getting her driver's license!

2.34 Creating a Strong Healthy Community through Food Assistance Project (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW234OP

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Pine Manor Improvement Association

Funding Amount: \$227,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$227,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. Creating a Strong Healthy Community through Food Assistance Project is partially ARPA-funded existing program to decrease food insecurities by providing a food pantry and various other programs to promote community wellness. The main activities of the project include providing (a) food distribution program and community garden; (b) funding to enhance food storage operations, supplies, and operational equipment; and (c) funding to obtain a CPA review of finances and financial audit; and (d) funding for operational staff salary.



Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices:

- 1) "A systematic review of food pantry-based interventions in the USA," Public Health Nutrition, June 2019, <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/30834852/>.

Fourteen articles evaluating twelve distinct interventions identified from the keyword/reference search met the eligibility criteria and were included in the review. Five were randomized control studies and the remaining seven were pre-post studies. All studies found that food pantry-based interventions were effective in improving participants' diet-related outcomes. In particular, the nutrition education interventions and the client-choice intervention enhanced participants' nutrition knowledge, cooking skills, food security status and fresh produce intake. The food display intervention helped pantry clients select healthier food items. We will use the Pine Manor

food pantry to combat food insecurity and use food pantry-based interventions cited in the review.

2) "A Qualitative Study of Rural Low-Wealth Participants' Experiences with Community Gardens," Journal of Hunger & Environmental Nutrition, Volume 17, 2022 <https://doi.org/10.1080/19320248.2021.1907641> This qualitative study examines how community garden participants experience the effects of participation on fruit and vegetable consumption and health behaviors. Semi-structured interviews and focus groups were conducted with a total of 61 community garden managers and participants in community gardens located in rural, low-wealth communities. Adequate fruit and vegetable consumption is vital as only 12.2% of people aged 18 and older in the United States consumed the recommended amount of fruit and 9.3% consumed the recommended amount of vegetables. Community Garden interventions have been associated with increased access to and consumption of fruits and vegetables. This association has been particularly strong among participants with limited access to food retailers and within low-wealth populations. Community Gardens also may help low-wealth communities cope with the high cost of fruits and vegetables as well as increase food security. We will use methods outlined in this study in our efforts to increase fruit and vegetable consumption for Pine Manor residents.

Community Engagement:

We are currently promoting client services on site at the association building. This includes the food pantry and social services.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Expand the number of clients served by the Pine Manor Improvement Association Food Pantry and nutrition programs offered by the Association.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	30 clients per quarter will participate in cooking/nutrition classes	Project Target	300
		Achieved to Date	77
		Percentage	25.7%
2)	8 culinary kitchen classes will be offered	Project Target	8
		Achieved to Date	12
		Percentage	150%
3)	40 clients will complete the Culinary Kitchen Program	Project Target	40
		Achieved to Date	36
		Percentage	90%

Outcome Statement 2:		Increase the access to social assistance services and medical participation by 5% a year.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)		Project Target	160

Outcome Statement 2:		Increase the access to social assistance services and medical participation by 5% a year.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
	160 clients will participate in medical screenings hosted by the Pine Manor	Achieved to Date	638
		Percentage	399%
2)	Increase from 4,991 to 5,740 individuals with access to social	Project Target	5740
		Achieved to Date	12298
		Percentage	214%

Success Comments:

#1 The Pine Manor Improvement Association installed a gas convection oven, cook & hold oven and mobile heated cabinet in the fourth quarter of 2024 that greatly expanded the capacity of Pine Manor's Commercial Kitchen to prepare and distribute food to the community and enhance its ability to serve as a resiliency hub in times of natural and man-made disaster. It also added three heavy-duty refrigerators in the kitchen to store prepped food for large-scale food distribution.

The new equipment was put to the test on Dec. 14th when the Pine Manor Improvement Association hosted a Christmas dinner with assistance from the Junior League of Fort Myers and Next Level Church and attended by 300 individuals. With the new equipment, Pine Manor was able to cook ten whole turkeys and six hams simultaneously as well as all of the side dishes. Being able to prepare the food on site eliminated the need to transport prepared food to the association and risk possible contamination.

It also was an excellent demonstration of the capabilities of the kitchen as a large-scale food distribution site. The equipment capacity is such that twice as many individuals could be served in an emergency. The convection oven operates with propane, and plans are underway to install a generator for backup power in the kitchen.

An equally important aspect of the project is the benefit the equipment brings to residents participating in Pine Manor's culinary kitchen classes. Gaining experience with this type of equipment found in commercial kitchens is an added plus, building confidence and knowledge for graduates seeking employment in the food industry.

#2 Our partnership with FGCU nursing students and Premier Mobile Services identified several people with dangerously high blood pressure and other life-threatening conditions. The nursing group screened one client whose blood pressure was so high that they urged her to go directly to her doctor or ER. She went to the ER where her high blood pressure was confirmed. She was immediately put on medication. A week later, another client came to the association complaining of a headache and so the resident coordinator asked if she would like her blood pressure taken and she said yes. The nurses checked it and confirmed it was very high. The client suffers from high blood pressure and was on medication. Because of the screening, she called her doctor and went directly to the doctor's office to adjust her medication. While offering medical checkups, Premier Mobile found out that a client was diabetic but had no way of getting the insulin or the equipment that she needed. She also had an open wound and needed wound

care. Premier helped ensure the client received the care she needed. These free screenings are a literal lifesaver for the community.

2.34 Center for Integrated Health and Wellness (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW234Q

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Providence Family Life Center Corporation

Funding Amount: \$100,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$100,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. Center for Integrated Health and Wellness project fully ARPA-funded new program to provide a "one-stop shop" to improve individual and family health and wellbeing. The main activities of the project include providing (a) provide a menu of other support services including transportation, food assistance and digital literacy; (b) funding for operational staff salary and training; (c) funding for the required insurances; (d) funding for operational supplies and technology and office equipment; (e) for provide physical and mental health assessment and health education; and (f) provide financial management education.



Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: Utilizing agency experience and available research, this project supports evidence-based practices and combines them into an integrated model of holistic care tailored to each individual client. Supported by research on the Social Determinants of Health, Providence Family Life Center incorporates research, best practices, and field experience to make positive and sustainable changes in client health and wellbeing.

Healthy People 2030, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Retrieved from <https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/social-determinants-health>

Thakur, N., Lovinsky-Desir, S., Bime, C., Wisnivesky, J. P., & Celedón, J. C. (2020). The structural and social determinants of the racial/ethnic disparities in the US COVID-19 pandemic. What's our role?. American journal of respiratory and critical care medicine, 202(7), 943-949.

Community Engagement:

The Center for Integrated health and wellness services at Providence Family Life Center offers Wellness Wednesdays as a community outreach from 8am - 1pm each Wednesday. The services are promoted using the United Way 211 service and Lee County Human Veterans Services Outreach Coordinators. The services

are also promoted to all Lee County agencies via email. Finally, services are promoted on the agency website at www.providencefamilylifecenter.com

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Increase the number of homeless individuals who apply for and receive SSA benefits using the SOAR model.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	10 SOAR applicants prescreened for SOAR eligibility per quarter	Project Target	100
		Achieved to Date	55
		Percentage	55.0%
2)	10 successfully completed and submitted SOAR applications to SSA on behalf of homeless individuals who meet eligibility requirements per quarter	Project Target	100
		Achieved to Date	43
		Percentage	43%

Outcome Statement 1:		Provide healthcare education for underserved individuals in Lee County.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	Conduct 12 healthcare education classes at Providence Family Life Center	Project Target	12
		Achieved to Date	15
		Percentage	125.0%
2)	10 individuals will attend the healthcare education classes at Providence Family Life Center	Project Target	10
		Achieved to Date	22
		Percentage	220.0%

Success Comments:

Participant A Demographics -Client was directed to Center for Integrated Health and Wellness at Providence family Life Center. Upon initial wellness screening, client demographics included: African American Female, 32 years old, grossly obese client with a history of poor nutrition and foot pain. Client stated that she feared losing her job due to having anxiety. She developed poor healthcare follow-up with primary care physicians and mental health during the Covid-19 pandemic. Other social determinants of health include client had a history of low socioeconomic status, poor financial management, sexual abuse and trauma resulting in mental illness, homelessness and lack of social supports.

Client was referred to the new program “Wellness Wednesdays” at The Center for Integrated Health and Wellness. She had lab services completed at the center in September 2022. During the assessment of data by Health Services Director, client data identified high cholesterol and high levels of sodium in her blood.

After receiving a health evaluation by physician and wellness education counseling by Health Services Director, client developed a health and nutrition plan, in addition to a budget to support healthy eating. Health Services Director was able to help client get back on track with medication management and counseling to reduce anxiety. Client also agreed to participate in all scheduled physician visits and mental health counseling.

Consistent health monitoring by the Health Services Director shows that as of December 2022, client has lost 5 pounds, remains current with medication management, attends counseling sessions, and has been able to maintain employment.

2.34 Mental Health Program (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW234R

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Quality Life Center of Southwest Florida, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$290,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$290,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Mental Health Service Project is a partially ARPA-funded new program to improve community mental health and wellness through training and workshop and treatment. The main activities of the project include (a) providing psychoeducational trainings or workshops for children and families; (b) funding for operational staff salary; and (c) funding for operational equipment and supplies.



Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices:

Mental health counselors will use the following forms of therapy, all of which have a "strong" base of peer-reviewed evidentiary support:

1.) Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4396183/>

<https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubpdfs/trauma.pdf>;

2.) Cognitive Behavioral Therapy <https://effectivechildtherapy.org/therapies/>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3584580/>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6457979/><https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/23988455/>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4610618/><https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6231848/>

3.) Dialectical Behavioral

Therapy<https://effectivechildtherapy.org/therapies/><https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6584278/><https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7376475/>

4.) Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing

Therapy<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5816922/><https://www.emdr.com/research-overview/><https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6106867/>

5.) Solution-Focused Brief Therapy<https://solutionfocused.net/research-in-solution-focused-therapy/><https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5483485/>

6.) Narrative Therapy<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7071554/>

7. Family Systems

Therapy<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5025363/><https://selfleadership.ir/uploads/cf4ac2fe547943f9886d5003c307dbeb.pdf>MaterialsNot

Community Engagement:

Sound Mind Program at Quality Life Center has been focusing on community engagement and acquisitions of new clients and secure referral sources of clients from outside of Quality Life Center. Sound Mind Programs Clinicians and Program Assistant/Case Manager have been heavily engaged in community outreach and either hosting or participating in community workshops. During this quarter a new clinician joined Sound Mind Program staff which has increased the services that we provide tremendously.

The agency will communicate updates of the program through both synchronous and asynchronous methods, such as via email, social media, Flyers, Brochures, Newsletters, QLC Parent Meetings, Website, Tours, Meet & Greet, and Zoom. The frequency of the planned communication about the program will be Bimonthly updates for Newsletters, Monthly updates provided during Parent Meetings, Weekly posts for social media, Weekly updates for emails and phone calls, Biweekly awareness for flyers and brochures, and Monthly Tours and Meet & Greet. The audience in which the program will be in communication with, includes the following: Community Members, Community Businesses/Agencies/Organizations, Schools, Quality Life Center's current staff, students, and student families, Faith Leaders, Civic Leaders, Local Advocates, Neighborhood counsel Representatives, School District Representatives, County Government Agencies, Hospitals and Population Specific Mental Health Agencies.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Increase the availability of therapeutic counseling services including clinical counseling and psychoeducational workshops.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	1,748 units of service in therapeutic counseling (a unit of service is one session of individual or group therapy per participant)	Project Target	1748
		Achieved to Date	3665
		Percentage	210%
1)	45 units of service in psychoeducational workshops (a unit of service is one workshop per participant)	Project Target	45
		Achieved to Date	256
		Percentage	569%

Success Comments:

Overall there were successful outcomes with therapeutic treatment that the clients received as well as successful outcomes with case management services, such as furthering education through GED attainment, gainful employment/workforce retention and criminal record expungement.

Success Story:

A minor child, who experienced multiple forms of trauma and abuse was self-referred to the Sound Mind Program. The client began individual treatment to manage the impact of the experienced abuse and trauma. The client and caregiver reported the client experienced many different symptoms that impacted the client's daily functioning, general positive regard, school, and interpersonal relationships. the caregiver reported the client's symptoms were challenging during COVID. As a result, the client began attending individual and family sessions weekly. As treatment continued, the caregiver and client reported a substantial decrease in symptoms and an increase in coping and grounding skills to manage the impact of trauma and abuse. The client created a picture and provided it to the clinician and reported "thank you

for all that you have done for me” and “thank you for getting me to understand abuse thank you so much”. The caregiver reported “thank you so very much for all that you do for us. They are doing amazing thanks to you”.

Success Story Two:

A young adult, who experienced abuse and unhealthy relationships was self-referred to the Sound Mind Program. The client began individual treatment to manage the impact of the experienced abuse and to learn how to obtain and maintain healthy relationships. The client reported to have experienced many different symptoms that impacted the client’s daily functioning, general positive regard, work, hobbies, family relationships, and interpersonal relationships. The client reported these symptoms were increased during COVID. As a result of the reported symptoms and diagnoses, the client began to attend weekly individual therapy sessions. As treatment continued, the client reported an increase in positive mood, an increase in developed skills to cope and process difficult emotions, and a decrease in self-harming behaviors. The client reported an increase in “good” weeks where in the initial onset of treatment, the client reported no “good” weeks or days. The client’s primary care physician reported “since they started these services, I have seen a drastic positive change. They would never smile and now they smile and laughs during their appointments with me. Whatever you are doing is working. I am so happy they are seeing you”.

2.34 Senior Crisis Intervention Program (United Way’s Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW234S

United Way’s Project Subrecipient: Senior Friendship Centers, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$100,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$100,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. Senior Crisis Intervention (SCIP) project is a partially ARPA-funded existing program will offer crisis food assistance to seniors. The main activities of the project include providing (a) funding for operational staff salary; and (b) funding for operating supplies and equipment.



Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practice: The National Council on Aging completed a study in April 2021 looking at the benefits of receiving public benefits had on older adults. The outcome of the study found that older adults who received financial assistance showed "large reductions in food insecurity and modest to moderate increases in social and emotional wellbeing" (Popham & Silberman, 2021)

Community Engagement:

Recipients that received Emergency and Friendly Food and household necessities bags through the SCIP program were initially targeted for this project. They were assessed for need and were given the ARPA funded supplies. Senior Friendship Centers wants to assure these were going to our high need clients who have little to no other support. Several EHEAP program recipients were made aware and received these funded supplies. We will continue to evaluate community needs through inquiries received to our agency and engage those identified. Moving forward we will work with other programs within SFC (case management, nutrition, and volunteer) to assure our most vulnerable seniors are assisted in getting these types of needs met. Volunteers are aware of project and share with clients they serve.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Increase the ability for seniors to remain independent in their homes through food and household necessities bags.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	600 food and household necessities bags will be distributed to seniors in need each year	Project Target	600
		Achieved to Date	1180
		Percentage	197%
2)	90% (540/600) will report they are able to remain independent in their home by receiving food/household necessities bags	Project Target	540
		Achieved to Date	605
		Percentage	112%

Success Comments:

One of our clients who lives alone went into the hospital. She had been in there for a couple of weeks. One of our volunteers who delivers on that route, was made aware that the client had just been discharged a day prior and was out of supplies to clean the home. The client is on a fixed income and could not afford extra supplies. The client and home health aide were very thankful for the care bag.

2.34 Special Equestrians Therapeutic Horsemanship Program (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW234T

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Special Equestrians, Inc.

Funding Amount: \$53,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$53,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Special Equestrians Therapeutic Horsemanship Program is a partially ARPA-funded existing program to provide a therapeutic horsemanship program which empowers individuals with disabilities through therapeutic horseback riding, therapeutic carriage driving and groundwork (unmounted activities). The main activities of the project include providing (a) a therapeutic horsemanship program; (b) funding for operational staff salary and volunteer recruitment; (c) funding for management software; (d) funding for marketing to create professional horse leader video; (e) funding for program supplies and computer equipment; and (f) funding for professional service.



Use of Evidence: Evidence-producing project with learning agenda - Our project will be evidence producing since it is based on serving more participants with additional volunteers to support the Therapeutic Horsemanship Classes.

Learning: Our increased volunteer numbers and improved volunteer training have been a great help to our instructors and our participants. We have been able to revitalize our volunteer numbers and reorganize our volunteer training.

Seeing the actual numbers of new volunteers each quarter and the number of new trained sidewalkers and horse leaders each quarter has been so helpful in serving our community. The Better Impact Scheduling Software, our new laptop and iPad, our new Volunteer brochure, uniforms and the partial salary support for our volunteer coordinator has been a game changer for Special Equestrians. The ARPA grant brought us into the future at a time, during COVID, when we so desperately needed to improve and increase our volunteer numbers, in order to serve our participants.

The lessons we have learned are that:

1. A paid volunteer coordinator is a key position for our center.
2. Better Impact software has empowered our volunteers who now log their own volunteer hours. This software gives valuable information and feedback for Special Equestrians in new and important areas.
3. With the new resources we have, we are better able to serve participants.

Community Engagement:

- During the month of April, our volunteer coordinator leads a group of FGCU students in a group cleaning and maintenance project at our center. On May 1st, our volunteer software, Better

Impact, launched allowing our volunteers to add their own volunteer hours and choose their own availability.

- In June, we had a group of 26 Keiser University nursing students go through orientation and sidewalker training. They will be with us during the summer, filling a huge void left by our winter visitor volunteers who are not here at present.
- A series of volunteer recruitment posts were made on our Facebook Page in May.
- A volunteer recruitment ad was placed once again (at no charge) in a local magazine, Florida Country.
- The new volunteer brochure was printed and is in use at this time. The new volunteer video was completed and has been launched on Facebook and Constant Contact. It will be used in the volunteer fair in July.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Increase the resource available for the disabled through a therapeutic horseback riding program.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	Recruit and train 9 unduplicated volunteers per quarter to help administer the therapeutic horseback riding	Project Target	90
		Achieved to Date	333
		Percentage	370%
1)	85% (8/9) of volunteers per quarter who successfully complete volunteer orientation and training will develop skills in side-walking and/or horse leading as indicated by a survey given at the end of their training	Project Target	72
		Achieved to Date	260
		Percentage	361%

Success Comments:

During the COVID pandemic in September of 2020, Special Equestrians was in a tough situation. We did not want to use our regular volunteers as sidewalkers with the students because of the threat of the virus spreading when people were close to each other. We chose to ask the parents and relatives to become sidewalkers for their children. The family members were amazing, and they were happy to go through volunteer orientation. Our participant numbers went from 17 to 50 with sidewalker support.

We were extremely grateful to our family members however, not being able to use our regular volunteers for sidewalkers was a huge detriment to our regular volunteer morale. With many of them relegated to disinfecting and cleaning, we lost a large number of volunteers. Some of the volunteers feared COVID and never returned.

By May of 2021, we began allowing our own sidewalkers to volunteer with riders once again. Still, many of our volunteers did not return and our numbers were down quite a bit. It was a struggle each week to fill the needed volunteer spots for sidewalkers and horse leaders. Most weeks, we had to ask the family members to step in, once again. Normally, we like to give our parents a break to network with other parents who are there for their child's lesson.

The ARPA grant opportunity had a great appeal to give our volunteer recruitment new life. With assistance paying for our volunteer coordinator's salary and new ideas being created to assist with

recruitment, we have become energized once again. The volunteer fairs we have attended have been so encouraging and the equipment we purchased has given us a great way of showing people who we are and what we do. Volunteer interest is going up and we are better able to provide the needed class volunteers.

Our Volunteer Recruitment numbers have risen dramatically in the past few months. This improvement is the best success story possible for Special Equestrians.

2.34 Recovery: Food and Tutoring Service (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW234U

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Saint Martin De Porres Outreach Community Ministries Inc

Funding Amount: \$21,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$21,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The St. Martin project is a partially ARPA-funded existing program to provide tutoring and meals to disproportionate populations. The main activities of the project include providing funding toward (a) administering a tutoring and meals program; (b) purchase of books for tutoring; (c) purchase of technology items such as laptops; and (d) rent a mobile classroom facility.



Use of Evidence: Evidence-producing project with learning agenda – Hypothesis: The project will lead to an increased number of people fed through cafe and food pantry and improved school grades among school aged children being tutored.

Learnings: \$4300 was directed to our after school tutoring initiative to significantly enhance our program by purchasing appropriately sized table and chairs, buying 6 new power books, and acquired video and television capabilities. 7 students there are K - second grade. Our instructors are retired teachers who have made helping these students to achieve improvements in reading, math, and in ESL their primary objective. Progress is tracked for each. Though these students attend public schools, all come from families for whom Spanish is the home language. We work to create potential for them to become contributing members of society.

\$16,700 has been allocated to purchase food for homeless and economically disadvantaged people. For many we serve, our meal service M-F is the only source of meals they receive. The food we provide to homeless and economically disadvantaged people sustains them, and our dining area provides a clean safe environment.

Community Engagement:

Word of mouth. We serve a large population of low income to homeless individuals/families.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Improve students reading, math and ESL through the after-school program.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	90% (11/12) participants will show improved scores as evidenced by academic report cards	Project Target	11
		Achieved to Date	24
		Percentage	218.2%
2)	90% (11/12) of youth will maintain passing grades as indicated on their report cards each quarter	Project Target	11
		Achieved to Date	6
		Percentage	54.5%

Outcome Statement 2:		Reduce food insecurity in the homeless population.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	1500 homeless will be fed one hot meal, five days a week by the end of the grant period	Project Target	1500
		Achieved to Date	1784
		Percentage	118.9%

Success Comments

Part of SMDP's ARAP award allocated early in 2023 was a payment toward supporting our after school Initiative. Power books, training materials, videos chairs and tables provide an environment conducive to learning.

Most of our students are preschool to 2 grade and for all, English is a second language. This means that since in school all classes are in English, unless these young students get help outside (SMDP) not only are they "lost in school", but without this tutoring focused on ESL issues they at great risk of falling behind, now and in the future. The ARPA grant has been invaluable in getting these young people off on the right foot.

Only through their developing conversational and written English do these youth have the potential to become self-sufficient members of Society.

2.34 Child Grief Support Services (United Way's Project Subrecipient)

Project ID: ARPA-UW234V

United Way's Project Subrecipient: Valerie's House Inc

Funding Amount: \$280,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$280,000

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

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Overview: The subaward for this project is executed through a subrecipient agreement with United Way as a pass-through of ARPA funding from Lee County. The Child Grief Support Services project is a partially ARPA-funded existing program that provide mental health services including emergency crisis support, ongoing grief support, and mental health counseling. The main activities of the project include providing (a) individual grief counseling as well as group counseling to grieving children and their families; (b) funding for program supplies; (c) funds for lease payments for the facility use; and (d) funding for operational staff.



Use of Evidence: Evidence-based practices: Valerie's House programming is modeled after Dougy Center for Grieving Children and Families- a respected national leader in childhood bereavement. In 1982, Dougy Center developed a model of grief group support for bereaved children that has developed into the standard of grief support in the United States. The theoretical framework of Dougy's model has been successfully substantiated by decades of outcome tracking and more than 500 childhood grief programs across this country operate using this framework.

We rely on the nationally renowned Childhood Bereavement Estimation model to understand how many grieving children are within our service area. These estimations provide information about race and regional disparities that allow us to focus services on reaching underserved and over-affected populations. Additionally, The Adverse Childhood Experience study shows us that when children experience the death of a parent or sibling, they are at a significantly higher risk of suffering from mental and physical health issues, substance abuse, taking their own life, and engaging in criminal activity. That study also shows us that with interventions, those risks can be mitigated. Valerie's House programming aims to mitigate those risks and teach bereaved children that they are not limited by their loss.

A study published by the Journal of Psychology found that families who experienced the loss of a parent or sibling experienced economic challenges for an average of 18 years following the death. Children who experience loss are more likely to be expelled from school, and more likely to drop out of high school. A study published by the National Library of Medicine reports that in a longitudinal study, participants who received bereavement counseling demonstrated a decline in complicated grief symptoms.

Community Engagement:

We continue to raise awareness about Valerie's House, and we are regarded as the community expert regarding childhood grief. We have received participant referrals from local law enforcement, school administrators, United Way, and local funeral homes, and the number of bereaved children we serve

continues to grow. We participated in outreach (tabling events) and shared our services with local churches, rotary clubs, and other community partners.

Performance Outcomes Measured to Date:

Outcome Statement 1:		Reduce the risks associated with childhood grief by ensuring children in Lee County have access to comprehensive grief support services.	
Goals and Output Measures:			Total
1)	750 unduplicated participants will be enrolled in Valerie's House services for grief counseling and/or grief support groups within the grant period	Project Target	750
		Achieved to Date	2471
		Percentage	329.5%
2)	75% (563/750) of participants will demonstrate progress through their grief journey as measured by self-reporting, caregiver reporting, and observation	Project Target	563
		Achieved to Date	477
		Percentage	84.7%
3)	75% (563/750) of participants will demonstrate progress through their grief journey as measured by self-reporting, caregiver reporting, and observation	Project Target	100
		Achieved to Date	62
		Percentage	62%

Success Comments:

Brothers Work Through Their Loss Together

Nothing can break this brotherly bond, not even grief.

<Name removed> age 11, and <name removed> age 9, are consistent members of the Monday night grief group at Valerie's House- Fort Myers. They started coming to group night with their father.

The brothers are grieving the death of their mother, who passed away in April 2020 after losing her battle with cancer. They all found comfort while attending group night at Valerie's House.

"It's important to talk about your feelings because if you don't, it's just going to stay with you until you feel sad," <name removed> said. "When you take it off your mind, you feel relieved."

He also said he enjoys coming to Valerie's House to spend time with friends who understand what he's going through.

Their father is a founding member of Valerie's House dad's group. He is a strong leader in the group and someone that the men can depend on and look to for encouragement.

"Valerie's House has helped us a lot," he said. "We feel their love and that they care about us. I feel relieved because I am no longer afraid to show my emotions."

The family has stuck with Valerie's House through our community's most challenging times. They attended groups with COVID-19 precautions in place, as well as took part in our virtual groups.

Most recently, the three were severely impacted by Hurricane Ian. Valerie's House stepped in to support this family, along with many others. We provided them with a generator and additional supplies after the storm.

The boys said they felt supported knowing that Valerie's House was there for them after the hurricane and that they didn't have to go through it alone.

"I feel happy when I come to Valerie's House," <name removed> said. "I have a lot of friends that make me feel like I'm going to be okay."

Aid to Impacted Industries

2.35 Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality

Project ID: ARPA-NE235A, Digital Infrastructure Recovery Program for Tourism Businesses Experiencing Negative Economic Impact

Funding Amount: \$89,795

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$89,795

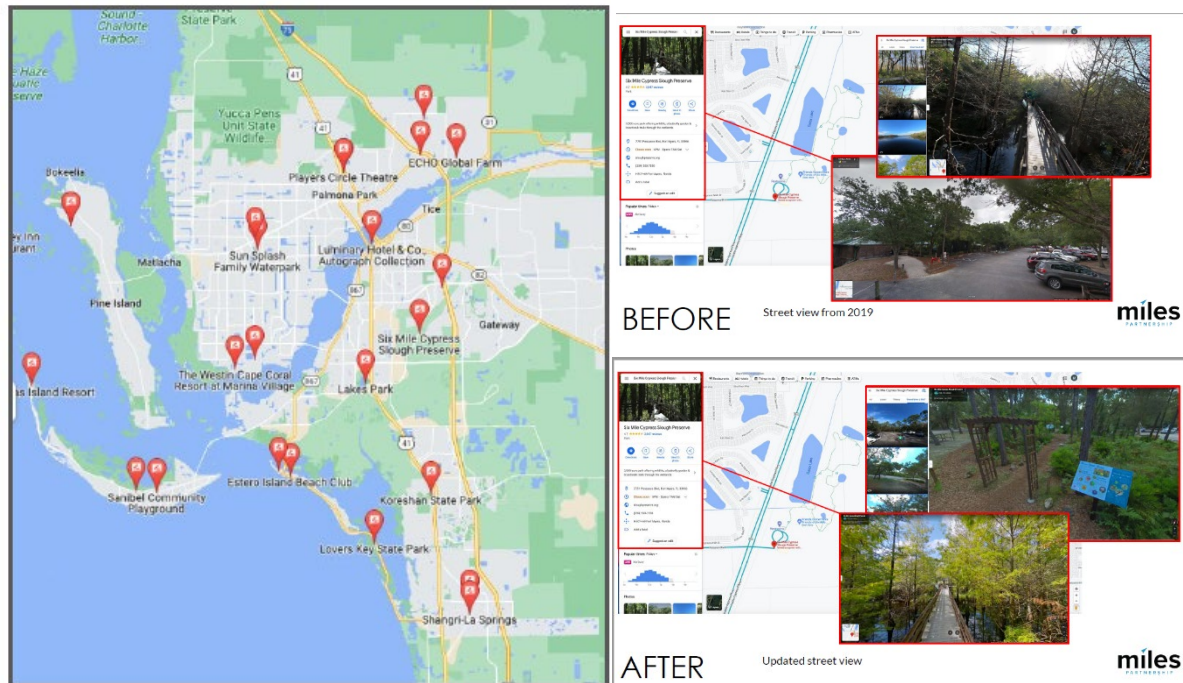
Project Duration: April 1, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Project Expenditure Category: 2.35 Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality^

Project Overview



The Digital Infrastructure Recovery Program is a new, fully ARPA funded, government service of Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau (VCB) to provide a digital destination optimization program. The project is aimed at understanding and measurably improving the completeness, depth, and quality of information available to consumers about Lee County's individual tourism related businesses, through online platforms like Google, Yelp, TripAdvisor, etc. The main activities include providing provide training and technical assistance to local businesses, with actionable "how-tos" and best practices, for up to 90 businesses through hands-on assistance and a series of virtual workshops.



Locations captured in August 22 and sample before and after.

Performance to be Measured:

Number of Businesses Enrolled/Completing the Program	Percentage of Businesses with Complete Profiles Before/After the Program	Measurable Increase in Intent to Visit Businesses Versus Prior to Optimization
61	54%	29%

Project ID: ARPA-NE235D, Incentivize Local Meeting Bookings to Rebound from Neg Econ Impact to Tourism

Funding Amount: \$89,000

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$89,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.35 Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality^

Project Overview:

The Reimbursement Grant to Incentivize Local Meeting Bookings to Rebound from Negative Economic Impact to the Tourism Industry is a new, fully ARPA funded, government service of Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau (VCB) to increase group occupancy and revenue for Lee County hotels that have not recovered from the lack of the meetings and conferences market segment since March 2020. The grant seeks to encourage businesses who plan meetings and conferences to consider Lee County when planning in-person meetings and conferences. Through the program, companies that book a meeting with a Lee County hotel have the opportunity to receive up to \$5,000.00 for the company, association, or organization.

The major activity of the program includes reimbursement of the host company for booking a minimal number of lodging room nights with a peak night of at least 10 lodging rooms, with the exception of sports events, weddings, reunions, group tours or other social events.

Performance Measured to Date:

Number of Participating Organizations	Number of Grant Applications Paid	Total Room Pickup	Total Room Revenue
22	22	9,777	\$2,295,596.82

3 Public Sector Capacity

General Provisions

3.1 Emergency Medical Staff (21)

Project ID: ARPA-PS031A

Funding Amount: \$6,951,004.78

Project Duration: November 2, 2021 – December 31, 2026

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$6,951,004.78

Project Expenditure Category: 3.1 Public Sector Workforce: Payroll and Benefits for Public Health, Public Safety, or Human Services Workers

Project Overview



The pandemic resulted in impacts on Public Safety Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and workload. Staffing impacts include quarantine and isolation orders and fatigue from the 18 months of response, in addition to illness after exposure to COVID-19. EMS Staff have responded to higher-than-normal incident volumes. The EMS workload has increased dramatically, with unique incidents in August 2021 up 31 percent over August 2019 alone. The addition of new EMS positions will allow for increase opportunity for time off without impacting operational readiness. The project will create 21 new EMS positions to address staffing associated with the COVID-19 pandemic (18 EMTs and 3 Lieutenants).

Performance:

- ARPA Measure: Number of government FTEs responding to COVID-19 supported under this authority = 21

3.1 Paramedics and EMT Workforce – Pandemic Engaged Staff

Project ID: ARPA-PS031B

Funding Amount: \$26,038,852

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$26,038,852

Project Duration: July 1, 2021 – April 30, 2022

Project Expenditure Category: 3.1 Public Sector Workforce: Payroll and Benefits for Public Health, Public Safety, or Human Services Workers

Project Overview:



The pandemic resulted in impacts to Public Safety Emergency Medical Services staff and workload. The outcome of this project is to support the staffing costs of those public safety workers engaged in the pandemic response. The major activity cost for this project is salaries for pandemic engaged EMTs and paramedics from Q3 of 2021 through Q2 of 2022.

Performance:

ARPA Measure: Number of government FTEs responding to COVID-19 supported under this authority = 304

4 Infrastructure

Broadband

5.21 Broadband Gap Analysis

Project ID: ARPA-IN521A

Funding Amount: \$99,199

Project Duration: March 25, 2022 – December 31, 2024

Status of Completion: Completed

Total Project Expenses: \$99,199

Project Expenditure Category: 5.21 Broadband: Other projects

Project Overview:

The Broadband Gap Analysis project is a vendor contracted new, fully-ARPA funded, Lee County government initiative to identify the community's broadband needs, gaps in service availability and speed requirements, and to formulate a scope of work and options to address the gaps.



The project involves contracting with a consultant to complete a Broadband Availability and Adoption Gap Analysis.

The project activities will (a) Evaluate existing broadband service capabilities and capacities; (b) Detail where gaps exist between capacity and demand; Identify the demand and assess adoption rates for broadband access; (c) Identify areas that are broadband unserved or underserved, from a broadband capability perspective; with a focus on low-income communities; (d) Review national, state, and local best practices to provide a Board with various options to address Lee County's broadband needs; and (e) Recommend Board options (including cost details) to address the gaps in broadband services that are provided.

Performance to be Measured: The completed reported was shared for planning locally and will also be submitted by the Local Technology Planning Team to the State of Florida's DEO Office of Broadband.

Lee County has developed a broadband website to support the initiative with the State of Florida, and the results from the ARPA funded broadband gap analysis can be found on this project website within the Local Technology Planning Team report. <https://www.leegov.com/broadband>

Revenue Replacement

6.1 Big Carlos Pass Bridge Project

Project ID: ARPA-RR061A

Funding Amount: \$48,241,146

Project Duration: June 2023– December 31, 2026

Status of Completion: Completed more than 50%

Total Project Expenses: \$45,197,753

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview:

The Big Carlos Pass Bridge project includes construction of a new fixed span bridge with a life span of 75 years, includes pedestrian bridge features, a fishing pier, creation of a new barrier reef, and coordination with the water utilities.

Project web page: [Big Carlos Pass – Construction \(bigcarlosbridgeproject.com\)](http://bigcarlosbridgeproject.com)





Performance to be Measured:

- Project status as a % complete. **60%**
- Projected/actual construction start date
 - **June 15, 2023 groundbreaking**
- Projected/actual initiation of operations date (month/year)
- Location
 - **County Road 865 Fort Myers Beach, FL**

6. Administrative

7.1 Consulting Services for Oversight and Compliance of American Rescue Plan Funds

Project ID: ARPA-AD071A, Management Consultant
Funding Amount: \$127,221
Project Duration: December 7, 2021 – December 6, 2024
Status of Completion: Completed
Total Project Expenses: \$127,221
Project Expenditure Category: 7.1 Administrative Expenses

Project Overview:



Services under the contract that may be provided by the consultant include ARPA compliance, reporting, and best-practice operational consulting for County and sub-recipients. Examples may include: Providing technical support for program management including project procurement and compliance; Providing technical support and best practice advice regarding: County and sub-recipient monitoring and management of ARPA fund uses; Project documentation; Tracking project and performance data; Reporting and communication systems for the board, grant sub-recipient and grant fund beneficiaries. Preparing internal and federal reports.

7.1 Administrative Expenses – Human Services

Project ID: ARPA-AD071B, Human and Veteran Services Grant Management Positions
Funding Amount: \$551,217
Project Duration: January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2026
Status of Completion: Completed
Total Project Expenses: \$551,217
Project Expenditure Category: 7.1 Administrative Expenses

Project Overview:



Staff hired to provide grant administration support for the Human Services Department ARPA-related grants. The positions include two Community Impact Coordinators, one Grant Analyst, and one Fiscal Specialist.