

Ottawa County, Michigan
Recovery Plan



Ottawa County
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**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

2022 Report

County of Ottawa
2022 Recovery Plan

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

The County of Ottawa received \$56,684,556 from the American Recovery Act State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF). On June 8, 2021, the Ottawa County Board of Commissioners appointed nineteen community members to help guide the distribution of the County's SLFRF allocation. These individuals, who comprise the County's COVID-19 American Rescue Plan Act Advisory Committee, represent a diverse cross-section of individuals from a range of industry-sectors, including but not limited to, local government, charitable foundations, economic development, non-profit, and human-services agencies.

To date the County calculated \$39,742,630 in revenue replacement and the Board of Commissioners approved the use of funds for the provision of governmental services. Through the end of June 2022, \$30,142,778.93 of the SLFRF funds were used to support payroll expenses for the departments that provide public safety services, court services, prosecuting attorney services, and county clerk services.

According to the Department of Treasury Final Rule, recipients are allowed to calculate revenue loss in the upcoming 2 years. The county intends to calculate lost revenue at the end of 2022 and 2023. If the County's revenue loss persists in the upcoming years, the remainder of the SLFRF funds will be used to continue to maintain essential governmental services.

Uses of Funds

To ensure continued delivery of a high level of government services, the County of Ottawa is using the SLFRF for revenue replacement. The Department of the Treasury allows recipients to use the Local Fiscal Recovery Funds for government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. This enables local governments to continue to provide valuable services while avoiding budget shortfalls. The Final Rule allows recipients to calculate the extent of their reduction in revenue as of four points in time: December 31 of 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023. Using the formula provided in the Department of the Treasury's Final Rule, the county calculated lost revenue due to the pandemic during January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020, is \$19,030,058, which represents a 14.6% decline. For the period of January 2021 through December 2021, Ottawa County experienced a reduction in revenue that amounted to \$20,712,572.

To date, the County Board of Commissioners approved 4 projects that fall under the category of revenue replacement:

1. Public Safety payroll, with the allocated budget to date of \$28,708,438, and year-to-date expenditures in the amount of \$20,860,853.37.
2. Court Services, with the allocated budget of \$6,526,116 and year-to-date expenditures totaling \$5,604,001.65.

3. Prosecuting Attorney Services, with the allocated budget of \$2,946,358 and expenses in the amount of \$2,427,031.78.
4. Clerk Services, with the allocated budget of \$1,561,718 and total expenses in the amount of \$1,250,892.13.

Promoting equitable outcomes

Ottawa County focuses on promoting equitable outcomes through the provision of all of its governmental services. The objective in the application of the SLFRF funds to ensure the promotion of the county's mission, which is our commitment to excellence and the delivery of cost effective public services. The Department of Treasury funds were also critical in supporting the following four goals:

1. To maintain and improve the strong financial position of the County.
2. To contribute to the long-term economic, social, and environmental health of the County.
3. To maintain and enhance communication with citizens, employees, and other stakeholders.
4. To continually improve the County's organization and services

Community Engagement

It is Ottawa County's aim to maintain contact with County residents and leaders for the duration of the allocation period in order to remain up to date with the needs and wants of the community in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its negative impacts. Ottawa County has implemented some of the communication techniques and plans on adding more as the allocation period progresses.

In order to involve the community as much as possible in the decision-making process, Ottawa County has decided to form an American Rescue Plan Act Committee. The role of the ARPA Committee is to identify needs within their area of expertise and assist with drafting funding options and priorities for the Board Finance & Administration Standing Committee and the Board of Commissioners. The committee is made up of leaders in the community who have an exceptional grasp on the needs of the people they serve. Each of the nineteen members were selected by the County Administrator and Board of Commissioners based on their area of knowledge and the organization they are a part of. Some organizations include those that focus on housing, economic development, nonprofit assistance, and governmental affairs.

In addition to the Committee's contribution, Ottawa County encourages public comment during the meetings of the Board of Commissioners and its Committees. We've also added an option to submit public comment online.

Though we intend to spend the SLFRF funds on the provision of governmental services, the Board of Commissioners is still collaborating with the ARPA committee in the event the funds are not exhausted with the revenue loss category. The goal is to identify projects aimed at reducing negative economic impact in the community that will allow to bridge the current economic recovery while allowing to invest in the future of the County.

Labor Practices

Since Ottawa County is not pursuing any infrastructure projects or capital expenditures with the SLFRF, this section is not applicable.

Use of Evidence

This section is not applicable since the County is intending to use the SLFRF as Revenue Replacement and evidence-based intervention is not used.

Performance Report

Ottawa County is using SLFRF to replace lost revenue which will allow the county to continue to provide a high level of government services. Outlined below in the project inventory showing how the funds are being utilized. The impact of SLFRF will be evaluated using the primary outcome measures set forth in the County's budget document which is published on the County website.

PROJECT INVENTORY

Project X601: Public Safety Payroll

Funding amount: \$28,708,438

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

- *These funds supported the provision of equitable services to protect the safety of life, health, and property of residents and businesses across the County. The impact of SLFRF in supporting the County's committed efforts in providing public safety, justice, and security is measured by the budgeted funds available to the County Sheriff's Department for these explicit, reported public safety purposes. Based on the current costs it is expected that the budgeted amount will be expended by the end of December 2022.*

Project X602: Court Services

Funding amount: \$6,526,116

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

- *These funds supported the provision of equitable court services to the people of Ottawa County. The impact of SLFRF is to support the County's committed efforts in administering justice and applying the law with fairness, equality, and integrity that promotes public accountability for improved quality of life in Ottawa County. The impact will be evaluated using the primary outcome measures set forth in the County's budget document which is published on the County website. Based on the current costs it is expected that the budgeted amount will be expended by the end of December 2022.*

Project X603: Prosecuting Attorney Services

Funding amount: \$2,946,358

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

- *These funds supported the provision of equitable services aimed to preserve and improve the quality of life for Ottawa County residents by promoting lawful conduct and enhancing safety and security through diligent efforts to detect, investigate, and prosecute criminal offenses in Ottawa County. The impact of SLFRF in supporting these County committed efforts will be evaluated using the primary outcome measures set forth in the County's budget document which is published on the County website. Based on the current costs it is expected that the budgeted amount will be expended by the end of December 2022.*

Project X604: Clerk Services

Funding amount: \$1,561,718

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Project Overview

- *These funds supported the provision of equitable services aimed to preserve and maintain public vital records for the citizens of Ottawa County. Services also include providing access to these records to the general public. The Circuit Court Records division of the County Clerk's Office receives and maintains all files for the Circuit Court. The impact of SLFRF in supporting these County committed efforts will be evaluated using the primary outcome measures set forth in the County's budget document which is published on the County website. Based on the current costs it is expected that the budgeted amount will be expended by the end of December 2022.*