

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) AT A GLANCE



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Cook County Policy Roadmap and the Coronavirus Pandemic

In 2018, the Cook County Offices Under the President (OUP) conducted a strategic planning process that resulted in the release of the [Cook County Policy Roadmap: Five-Year Strategic Plan for Offices Under the President](#). In the Policy Roadmap, OUP identified six policy priorities around which to focus. A central theme is the commitment to ensuring Cook County is a welcoming community and reaches all residents, including those who are often marginalized. We will foster communities that are healthy, vital, safe and thriving, sustainable, smart and open.

Given OUP's role in supporting residents and communities throughout Cook County, the first five policy priorities relate directly to the services provided to residents. To achieve a high standard of efficiency and excellence, the sixth policy priority describes how we deliver services to residents.

Together, these policy priorities create the means to provide innovative and essential services for residents effectively and efficiently and ensure Cook County is an exceptional place to live, work, play and visit.

- **Healthy Communities: Health and Wellness** - Integrating health and social services, addressing the social determinants of health and improving the health and wellness of County employees.
- **Vital Communities: Economic Development** - Creating and retaining jobs, developing industry-sector strategies, supporting workforce training and development, quality housing, safety net services and community and investments in infrastructure.
- **Safe and Thriving Communities: Criminal Justice** - Implementing violence-reduction strategies proven to improve community safety, advocating for sustainable reforms within the criminal justice system and investing in community-based services for residents.
- **Sustainable Communities: Environmental Sustainability** - Prioritizing environmental justice, addressing climate change, investing in clean energy and green jobs and creating equitable access to open spaces.
- **Smart Communities: Public Infrastructure** - Maximizing the benefits of County buildings, improving transportation systems and managing enterprise technology services.
- **Open Communities: Good Government** - Achieving operational excellence by being accountable to residents, investing in the area workforce and continuously improving County services.

Cook County COVID-19 Response and Recovery & CARES Act Funding

In April 2020, Cook County received approximately \$429 million from the U.S. Treasury from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Under the CARES Act, Cook County allocated \$51 million of the relief funds among over 300 local units of government located within Cook County. Allocations to each municipality were determined through an equity lens described in the [Equity Distribution White Paper](#), with factors that included the immediate needs of the municipality to respond to the pandemic, municipal population, municipal median income and municipal public health statistics.

In addition to providing direct support to municipalities, Cook County dedicated CARES Act funding to support residents and businesses hardest hit by the pandemic. Recognizing the magnitude of COVID-19, the Cook County Bureau of Economic Development (BED) took immediate steps to assess the needs of residents and businesses. Armed with this information, we launched the [Cook County Community Recovery Initiative](#), initially funded with \$82 million from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. The funding was revised to \$77 million, after \$5 million was reallocated to support the Cook County Department of Public Health's ongoing COVID-19 mitigation work. In partnership with local, regional, and national organizations, we provided equitable, comprehensive financial relief and critical support services to suburban Cook County residents and small businesses upended by COVID-19.

To support Cook County public health infrastructure, the County allocated more than \$300 million from CARES Act funding to public health and safety payroll, personal protective equipment (PPE), medical supplies, supplemental staffing and technical assistance. These investments through the CARES Act helped close budget gaps for critical public health services and helped the County respond directly to the needs of the community amidst the national public health crisis.

American Rescue Plan Act

On March 11, 2021, President Joseph R. Biden signed the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA). ARPA is an ambitious federal initiative to stimulate the American economy, support residents, and curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Cook County received more than \$1 billion through ARPA. The County managed a robust process to develop a responsible, comprehensive, and equitable spending plan to use ARPA one-time resources to support both immediate recovery needs and long-term transformative initiatives.

Cook County's distribution of this crucial funding will build on the [equity best practices Cook County introduced with the distribution of the CARES Act funding](#) last year.

In addition to Cook County's allocation, municipalities in the County with populations over 50,000 will receive direct funding from the federal government through ARPA. The State of Illinois is responsible for distributing funding to entities with fewer than 50,000 residents.

For its initial ARPA spending plan, Cook County intends to allocate the \$1 billion across three fiscal years, distributing based on the County's six policy pillars. The total funding allocation will include 2021 expenditures to support County operations during the pandemic, and focus on programs, initiatives, and operations in FY2022, FY2023, and FY2024.



FY22 Community Program Initiatives Allocations

Vital Communities			Safe and Thriving Communities		Healthy Communities		Smart Communities	
Small business agenda \$37m		Household assistance & social services \$28m	Violence prevention \$36m		Healthcare \$22m	Mental & behavioral health \$15m		Transportation \$31m
Sector support & regional development \$8m	Housing \$7m	Worker support & workforce development \$7m	Services to justice-involved residents \$16m	Alternatives to incarceration & policing \$3m	Public health education & outreach \$9m	Food security & nutrition \$4m	Digital Equity \$3m	Water infrastructure \$5m
					Sustainable Communities			
					Hazard mitigation & pollution prevention \$15m		Environmental justice \$10m	
					Emerg...			

American Rescue Plan Act

Healthy Communities

Health and Wellness

ARPA Initial Allocation Breakdown

Policy Roadmap Goal

Improve the physical, mental and social wellbeing of Cook County residents and communities.

Key Agencies

- Cook County Health (CCH) Cook County
- Department of Public Health (CCDPH)
- Department of Risk Management

ARPA Key Themes and Initial Allocations



1.1 Healthcare - \$21,700,000

ARPA Initial Allocation Breakdown

Contact Tracing Initiative Continuation

The Cook County Department of Public Health will continue conducting COVID-19 contact tracing for congregate settings like nursing homes and schools and other high-risk and high-volume exposures (e.g., factories) until 12/31/2022.

Vaccine Incentives Program

Cook County Health (CCH) will provide a \$100 incentive gift card for any individual who received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine at a CCH community health center or community event hosted by the Cook County Department of Public Health. Additionally, CountyCare will implement a one-time \$25 reward loaded onto a member's Over the Counter (OTC) Rewards Card to buy approved health and personal care items at participating stores.

Medical Respite Center

Cook County Health will improve the health of Cook County Health patients and CountyCare members who are at risk for homelessness by funding supportive housing through the Flexible Housing Pool, provide Medical Respite care to patients who need post-discharge clinical support and are at risk of homelessness, and establish a Homeless Housing Navigation program to intercept at-risk patients in the emergency room to help them apply for longer-term housing options.

1.2 Mental & Behavioral Health – \$15,386,500

ARPA Initial Allocation Breakdown

* **Cook County Behavioral Health Services**

To meet the growing behavioral health needs of Cook County residents, Cook County Health (CCH) proposes transforming its current Behavioral Health footprint to offer a robust menu of mental and behavioral health services and ensure easy access to services of all County residents. The first year will focus on creating and standing up a new Department of Mental Health Services, expanding existing CCH programs, and planning for long term expansions.

* **Behavioral Health Specialists at HACC**

The Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC) will provide full-time behavioral health specialists at all HACC affordable housing properties. Many HACC residents have complex behavioral health needs that threaten their ability to live independently and negatively affect quality of life for themselves and others. This proposal aims to reach some of the County's most marginalized and isolated residents by bringing services directly to them and allowing them to build ongoing relationships with service providers. Consistent service by a trusted professional will help many of these individuals remain stably housed and participate fully in their communities.

Additional Behavioral Health Personnel and Support at Existing Clinics

Cook County Health (CCH) will enhance community behavioral health care and access by adding additional social workers to CCH's Ambulatory Care sites and adding afterhours behavioral health clinics in the community. These additional resources will supplement existing behavioral health resources available at CCH's Ambulatory Care sites and connect high risk patients with the Healing Hurt People program. This enhancement will also serve as a bridge to the transformative project to establish a CCH Department of Mental Health Services.

Sustaining Mental Health Hotline for Suburban Residents

The Cook County Department of Public Health will expand an existing mental health support line in the City of Chicago to provide support and referral for suburban Cook County residents. The hotline will be staffed seven days a week and is expected to field 3,500-4,000 calls per year from suburban Cook. The hotline will provide emotional support; refer callers to mental health treatment, substance use, and other resources; and provide intensive case support for callers with significant needs through its clinical support program. The suburban hotline is funded until May 2023. ARPA dollars will provide for another 19 months of service to suburban Cook County residents.

* *Indicates a Longer-Term or Transformative Initiative*

1.3 Public Health Education & Outreach – \$9,011,666

ARPA Initial Allocation Breakdown

Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund

The Lead Poisoning Prevention Fund supplies funding for the Cook County Department of Public Health's lead program, including some staff costs and all the local investment in lead hazard remediation. The fund was created with Torrens Indemnity Fund dollars. The Torrens fund is now defunct, so no additional investments have been added to support the lead program. Investing ARPA dollars will extend funding for the lead program for an additional three years.

Opioid Overdose and Substance Use Prevention Initiative

The opioid overdose prevention initiative expands on existing prevention activities to address the impact of COVID-19 on opioid and substance use disorder in suburban Cook County. The initiative includes 1) distributing naloxone, especially for people who are justice-involved and are especially vulnerable to overdose; 2) bolstering capacity for harm reduction services in the South and West suburbs where harm reduction non-profits are few and far between; 3) expanding medication-assisted treatment capacity in priority communities; and 4) expanding initiatives to leverage existing and new data sources to inform prevention efforts.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness Expansion

The Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) will expand its Emergency Preparedness and Response Unit. Current funding for this unit comes from federal pass-through dollars and is not at parity with the City of Chicago despite similar population size. This limited CCDPH's ability to respond as effectively to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Suburban Cook County Worker Protection Program

The Suburban Cook County Workers Protection Program will continue to equip employers and workers, including temporary and gig workers, with the information, resources, and supports to minimize the transmission of diseases, including COVID-19, in workplaces. The program will work to advance sustainable tri-directional, worker-centered systems for education, reporting and compliance, and support policy changes that promote worker rights, health, and safety.

1.4 Food Security & Nutrition – \$4,484,000

ARPA Initial Allocation Breakdown

Capacity-Building Investments in Food Access Sites

As Cook County responds to the public health and economic crisis, we have a unique opportunity to build a better, stronger more resilient emergency food system that not only copes and recovers in emergency but thrives in a way that it provides stability for anyone in need. This multi-year effort will transform the emergency food system by strategically investing in new food partners where needed and building the capacity of existing partners to serve the communities' needs.

Good Food Purchasing Program

The Good Food Purchasing Program (GFPP) is a procurement strategy that directs institutional food purchasing toward five core values: local economies, environmental sustainability, valued workforce, animal welfare, and nutrition. GFPP provides a metrics-based, flexible framework to assess progress of public institutions as they work to become a recognized Good Food Provider. In 2018, Cook County passed a resolution promoting GFPP. This program can support transforming the local food system into one that is transparent and racially equitable by investing in local food producers and businesses of color and ensuring safe and fair working conditions for frontline food chain workers.

*** Food as Medicine**

Cook County Health (CCH) will expand efforts to identify and address food insecurity among patients, while also improving their health outcomes through the "Fresh Start" program. Fresh Start is a one-stop, whole-person approach to wellness to build and sustain healthy behaviors, which will establish access to healthy foods at CCH facilities, support a multi-disciplinary clinical support team, and provide nutrition education to address patients' dietary needs and manage chronic disease. We will build on the success of other health systems that have established "food pharmacies". CCH will document impact on clinical outcomes, utilization, and behavior change and partner with payers to sustain this work.

*** Urban Farming Initiative Gap Analysis Research**

South Suburban Cook County municipalities contain many areas that have been identified as food deserts, or urban areas in which it is difficult to buy affordable or good-quality fresh food. Initiating or supporting current urban farming projects in these areas will help deliver healthy and sustainable food options while educating community members on sustainable farming practices and composting organics. Cook County will conduct a gap analysis study to get a more in-depth understanding of how to best support current and future initiatives in the short-, medium-, and long-term.

** Indicates a Longer-Term or Transformative Initiative*

Vital Communities

Community and Economic Development ARPA Initial Allocation Breakdown

Policy Roadmap Goal

Pursue inclusive economic and community growth by supporting residents, growing businesses, attracting investment and nurturing talent.

Key Agencies

- Bureau of Economic Development (BED)
- Bureau of Finance (BOF)
- Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership
- Cook County Land Bank Authority (CCLBA)
- Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC)

ARPA Key Themes and Initial Allocations



2.1 Small Business Agenda – \$37,050,000

ARPA Initial Allocation Breakdown

Small Business Grant Program

The Bureau of Economic Development will provide grants to small businesses with less than 20 employees that continue to suffer from the impacts of COVID-19, as well as early-stage businesses formed since the onset of COVID-19. The grants will position businesses for growth and a sustainable path forward. The County will continue to link its small business advising services to receipt of grant funds to maximize the impact of these grants. The program will result in renewed entrepreneurship capacity in the short-term and renewed community wealth in the long-term.

Small Business Assistance Program & One Stop Shop

Launched in response to the challenges small businesses faced in the wake of COVID-19, the Small Business Assistance Program supports a coordinated network of over 30 partners that provide one-on-one business advising, webinars, and recovery grants. The strong network coupled with pairing grants with services made this award-winning program successful and enabled over 65% of technical assistance support to serve businesses owned by people of color. New funding will further build the capacity of partners to deliver services, increase availability of services in suburban Cook, and support the establishment of a Cook County “One-Stop Small Business Service Center.”

Advancing Equitable Recovery in the Southland - Building Capacity in the Southland

The Southland Development Authority (SDA) drives comprehensive, transformative and inclusive economic growth in Cook County’s South Suburbs. Funding will allow the SDA to continue to support the small business growth programs to advance key sectors.

2.2 Household Assistance & Social Services – \$27,700,000

ARPA Initial Allocation Breakdown

Cook County Legal Aid for Housing and Debt

Cook County Legal Aid for Housing and Debt (CCLAHD) helps residents resolve eviction, foreclosure, consumer debt, and tax deed issues pre-court and during the court process. CCLAHD provides free legal aid, mediation services, case management, and connections for tenants and landlords dealing with evictions, property owners who are behind on their mortgage payments or property taxes, and creditors and debtors with issues related to consumer debt. CCLAHD is a partnership between many Cook County agencies and has received national recognition for its innovative approach to eviction prevention and housing stability.

The Cook County Water Affordability Program

The Cook County Water Affordability Program will provide water utility bill payment assistance to help households suffering from income loss and mounting bills during the pandemic. The program will reduce uncollectable debt for municipal water utilities. The anticipated focus of the program is on communities with a high-water burden, meaning that the household spends a significantly larger portion of their income on the water and sewer bill.

*** Guaranteed Income Program**

The Cook County Guaranteed Income Program will provide recurring monthly unrestricted payments to a to-be-defined set of residents for at least 12 months to improve participants' long-term economic stability. The Guaranteed Income Program builds on the demonstrated success of guaranteed income programs in other jurisdictions in increasing residents' financial stability and improving their health outcomes. Cook County's program will include a research evaluation component to help the County better understand participant impacts.

Veteran Grant Program

The Department of Veterans Affairs will establish a fund to provide grants to community-based veteran service organizations and veteran-owned businesses. The Veteran Grant Program will begin with a seed of \$5 million for grants in the following areas: Program Enhancement; Capital Improvements; and Small Business Development.

(cont'd)

** Indicates a Longer-Term or Transformative Initiative*

2.2 Household Assistance & Social Services – \$27,700,000 (cont'd)

ARPA Initial Allocation Breakdown

* **Abolish Medical Debt**

Cook County will partner with a qualified non-profit organization to purchase and retire the medical debt of income-eligible patients of hospitals located within Cook County who are unable to cover their medical bills. The \$12M program will retire an estimated \$1B in medical debt incurred during the ARPA-eligible period. Eligible recipients will have incomes up to 200% of the federal poverty line or have medical debt that is at least 5% of their household annual income.

* **Cook County Residential Water Conservation and Energy Efficiency Program**

The program will increase housing affordability for residents by reducing utility costs. Specifically, the project identifies residents for home energy and water assessments and implement energy efficiency improvements and water conservation measures (such as window replacement, roof repairs, insulation, air sealing, HVAC improvements, LED lighting, energy-efficient windows and doors, installing low-flow water appliances and repairing leaks). This program will also serve as a jobs program by employing local residents.

* *Indicates a Longer-Term or Transformative Initiative*

2.3 Sector Support & Regional Development – \$8,100,000

ARPA Initial Allocation Breakdown

Suburban Cook County Travel, Tourism, and Hospitality Economic Recovery Initiative

The five suburban State designated Convention and Tourism Bureaus will develop and implement a collaborative recovery action plan to invest in the lodging, dining, entertainment, retail, and small sectors that have been severely impacted by COVID-19.

Cook County Manufacturing Rebound and Recover Programming

With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Cook County partnered with the Illinois Manufacturing Excellence Center (IMEC) to ascertain the impact of this unprecedented situation and the unique challenges experienced by Cook County's manufacturing community due to structural changes to this sector brought upon by the pandemic. We surveyed and connected with over 1,000 manufacturers in suburban Cook County to understand their most pressing needs as a result of the changed landscape. Based upon these findings, IMEC and Cook County will partner to provide a comprehensive set of solutions for county manufacturers to rebound from the pandemic and improve their global competitiveness, focused on production, market growth, technology, and workforce.

*** Cook County Arts and Artists**

The Bureau of Economic Development will develop a Cook County arts and artists program with two major components. An Arts Connection will invest in artists and arts organizations, providing direct arts experiences, giving voice to the County's identity with a focus on the arts and culture assets in suburban Cook. An Arts Integration program infuses the arts into the county's existing plans facilities, programs, and outreach, with a focus on public health and environmental conservation.

Advancing Equitable Recovery in the Southland – Southland Metals Hub

The Southland Development Authority Metals Hub will build on the region's strength in Metals, Machinery and Equipment (MME) manufacturing. The Hub will assist firms address and recover from the pandemic's disruption of manufacturing supply chains and assist in the identification of new ones. The Metals Hub intends to bring MME firms together to enter new markets and leverage existing strengths and capacity to bolster the productivity and growth of metal manufacturing firms in the region.

** Indicates a Longer-Term or Transformative Initiative*

2.4 Housing – \$7,466,667

ARPA Initial Allocation Breakdown

Fixed-Site Emergency Shelter for People Experiencing Homelessness

The Bureau of Economic Development will support organizations within the Cook County Continuum of Care to stand up fixed-site shelter in 5-7 locations to provide health and safety to people in a housing crisis who cannot be diverted from homelessness. These organizations will also provide shelter services to ensure their experience of homelessness is short by reconnecting them to housing and other supports.

Hotel-Based Sheltering

The Bureau of Economic Development will continue the hotel-based sheltering approach implemented during the pandemic, when the existing PADS model of shelter with congregate shelter in rotating church basements was no longer viable. Shelter, meals, and case management will be provided by shelter agencies at various hotels across Cook County. Supportive services will aim to shorten their experience of homelessness by reconnecting them to housing and other supports. Hotel sheltering will decrease over time as the transition to new permanent shelter or other shelter options occurs.

2.5 Worker Support & Workforce Development – \$6,562,000

ARPA Initial Allocation Breakdown

* Investing in Families and Youth

Cook County will provide support to workforce and training programs that offer young adults quality paid work experiences to explore career pathways in target sectors or provide opportunities for a “community service corps”. The County will also support the expansion of workforce development programs that serve hard to engage populations including people without stable housing, youth in care and graduates of foster care system, people with disabilities, returning residents, and pregnant and parenting youth. Program resources will support residents of suburban Cook County.

Community Conservation Corps

The Forest Preserves along with corps partners will recruit and hire up to 282 adult corps members per year from Cook County who are currently unemployed or under-employed to conduct meaningful conservation work in their local Forest Preserve. Corps members will be deployed in teams of 6 to 10 participants and supervised by experienced Field Leaders who have the technical skills to train and supervise conservation work while providing soft job skills for those new to the work force. A minimum of 75% of participants will gain at least three advanced industry skill certifications.

Supporting Apprenticeships in Suburban Cook

As a designated Apprenticeship Navigator by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Cook County will support the establishment of new apprenticeships or expansions of existing apprenticeships in suburban Cook County. The Bureau of Economic Development will fund eligible partners and Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity intermediaries to sponsor and manage apprenticeship programs, conduct industry engagement, provide technical assistance to businesses, and support apprentices' progress.

* Indicates a Longer-Term or Transformative Initiative

Safe and Thriving Communities

Criminal Justice

ARPA Initial Allocation Breakdown

Policy Roadmap Goal

Create safe communities and an equitable and fair justice system for all residents.

Key Agencies

- Cook County Public Defender’s Office (PD)
- Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security (EMRS)
- Justice Advisory Council (JAC)

ARPA Key Themes and Initial Allocations



3.1 Violence Prevention– \$35,889,166

ARPA Initial Allocation Breakdown

Violence Prevention and Reduction Grant Portfolio

The Justice Advisory Council (JAC) will expand funding for community-based services supporting justice-involved adults or youth, and those at high risk of experiencing violence as either a victim or perpetrator. These resources build upon the existing JAC grants portfolio and are complementary with similar investments made by the State of Illinois, City of Chicago, and philanthropy. Communities served include areas in Chicago and suburban Cook with highest incidents of shootings and homicides as well as justice system involvement. Services include direct street-level intervention, mentoring, basic needs assistance, educational and vocational programming, and behavioral health and wellness support.

Behavioral Health Expansion

The Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) will expand existing mental health and substance use services, treatment, and prevention programs in priority communities in suburban Cook County in part through a community-based grants program in partnership with the Justice Advisory Council. Key areas of focus will include suicide prevention (including school-based screening), counseling and treatment, behavioral health workforce development, and youth-focused programs, including restorative justice and school discipline reform. CCDPH will also hire additional staff including a program coordinator, health educators, an epidemiologist, and a policy analyst to support this work.

*** Strengthening Chicago’s Youth Juvenile Justice Collaborative Expansion**

This project aims to reduce violence and minimize justice involvement of youth who have experienced violence or trauma or are at high risk of exposure to violence. Services include trauma-informed care coordination for 500 justice-involved youth per year over three years, including youth on diversion (arrested for a felony or violent misdemeanor) or youth granted deferred prosecution. Services include intake, assessment, connection to evidence-based programming and pro-social services, emergency assistance, family support services, and post-discharge monitoring. In addition to providing care coordination and direct services for youth and their families, funds will support data tracking and analysis, continuous quality improvement, and developing an evaluation plan.

(cont'd)

** Indicates a Longer-Term or Transformative Initiative*

3.1 Violence Prevention– \$35,889,166 (cont'd)

ARPA Initial Allocation Breakdown

Healing Hurt People Chicago

Healing Hurt People (HHP) is a trauma-informed violence intervention program for survivors of urban intentional violence. HHP works to advance the notion that unaddressed psychological trauma is a key driver of the cycle of violence, fueled by the structural violence of racism and stigma. HHP Chicago's goals are to reduce re-injury, retaliation, and criminal justice involvement by having a positive impact on trauma recovery, mental health, and drug use, and help participants achieve independence, work, education, and create a strong future.

Gun Crime Strategy Unit

The Gun Crimes Strategies Unit (GCSU) embeds Assistant State's Attorneys in six of the most violent police districts in Chicago. Expansion of the Gun Crimes Strategies Unit will allow the Cook County State's Attorney's Office to expand the reach and efforts of the GCSU in order to help combat the rise in violence and shootings within the City and the South Suburbs. These communities have been historically disinvested in and are some of the most impacted by COVID-19. Expanding the GCSU will have a direct impact on public safety and will align with President Biden's directive to increase investigation into gun trafficking and gun traffickers to prevent the further influx of illegal guns in our communities.

State's Attorney's Office Crime Investigations

This request will assist the Cook County State's Attorney's Office in investigating and prosecuting violent gun crimes. The State's Attorney's Office will use funding to add Investigators to the unit to work with prosecutors (state and federal, law enforcement agencies, etc.) and other stakeholders to help ensure public safety in communities across Cook County.

*** Supporting Education and Employment Development**

The Justice Advisory Council will provide funds to sustain and expand the Supporting Education and Employment Development (SEED) Program. This program is a 13-month pre-plea diversion program for individuals aged 18 to 30, charged with possession with intent to deliver or manufacturing/delivery of a substance. The program provides case management, educational services, trauma-informed and cognitive behavioral interventions, job readiness training, job development and placement, supported employment, and restorative justice activities. The successful completion of the program results in case dismissal and expungement at graduation.

** Indicates a Longer-Term or Transformative Initiative*

3.2 Services to Justice-Involved Residents – \$16,300,000

ARPA Initial Allocation Breakdown

Programs and Services for Domestic Violence Victims and Survivors

The Offices Under the President will administer grants to providers that serve survivors of domestic violence. Domestic violence advocates have requested this funding to support legal resources, mental health resources, and rapid housing resources for domestic violence victims and survivors.

Reentry Housing Resources

The Justice Advisory Council will fund Cook County community-based organizations to provide rental assistance, security deposit assistance, and outreach counseling to justice-involved individuals. The initiative will also explore more effective housing strategies, partnerships and supports to connect these individuals to stable and permanent housing thus helping to reduce recidivism.

Emergency Reentry Vouchers

The Justice Advisory Council will administer emergency re-entry vouchers to assist people leaving Cook County Jail in securing safe housing. Currently, approximately 1,100 people in Cook County are kept behind bars after their release date because they cannot find affordable housing.

*** Public Defender Community Defense Center**

The Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender proposes to develop a Community Defense Center to leverage the success of the Public Defenders Police Representation Unit (PSRU) with the work of community organizations to provide robust legal services to two Cook County communities that have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19, incarceration, and gun violence. The Community Defense Center will seek to partner with and support communities within the two identified neighborhoods with legal services, community empowerment, advocacy and education. The Community Defense Center will work predominantly with African American and Latinx communities in greater Roseland/South Chicago and greater West Garfield Park/Humboldt Park.

** Indicates a Longer-Term or Transformative Initiative*

3.3 Alternatives to Incarceration & Policing – \$3,000,000

ARPA Initial Allocation Breakdown

Justice Reinvestment Plan

The Justice Advisory Council will engage consultants to review Cook County's criminal justice budgets and develop a report with 1) an overview of our current spending; 2) an outline of duplicative efforts or overspending; 3) a strategy to make reductions in criminal justice spending and invest in community; and 4) best practices from jurisdictions that have successfully reinvested criminal justice dollars into public health and community resources.

9-1-1 Alternative Model Study and Strategic Plan

The Justice Advisory Council will engage consultants to develop a report and strategic plan on 9-1-1 alternative response models for Cook County. This includes 1) a comprehensive analysis of Cook County's current 9-1-1 system, 2) best and emerging practices in putting in place alternative responses, and 3) recommendations and a strategic plan on how Cook County may move forward with a new model. The goal of this project is to develop a plan for a response system that both better responds with mental health and other emergency services that do not require a traditional law enforcement response, needs which have been exacerbated during the lengthy pandemic, and to prevent unnecessary involvement of individuals in the criminal justice system.

3.4 Emergency Preparedness & Response – \$350,000

ARPA Initial Allocation Breakdown

Supporting Suburban Cook County municipalities in developing, training on and operationalizing preparedness planning

Through the Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security, this funding will support a vendor to develop planning templates and training resources for Emergency Operations (EOP), Continuity of Operations (COOP), Continuity of Government (COG), and recovery plans for all Cook County departments and municipalities. This effort will engage and strengthen the County's preparedness and resiliency, which has been proven especially important during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sustainable Communities

Environmental Sustainability ARPA Initial Allocation Breakdown

Policy Roadmap Goal

Support healthy, resilient communities that thrive economically, socially and environmentally.

Key Agencies

- Department of Environment and Sustainability (DES)
- Department of Planning and Development (DPD)
- Department of Transportation and Highways (DOTH)
- Forest Preserves of Cook County (FPCC)

ARPA Key Themes and Initial Allocations



4.1 Hazard Mitigation & Pollution Prevention – \$15,000,000

ARPA Initial Allocation Breakdown

Neighborhood Revitalization Brownfield Remediation

Brownfield sites are underutilized or vacant sites that have real or perceived environmental issues that deter their redevelopment. The Department of Environment and Sustainability proposes expanding its current brownfield program, currently limited to a few communities the County received Federal grants to serve, to assess and remediate sites throughout suburban Cook County to promote economic growth and investment through redevelopment. Marketing will be targeted to Environmental Justice communities. Brownfield sites can also be remediated and returned to other productive uses such as open green space, parks, and flood and stormwater retention.

South Suburban Hazardous Household Waste Facility and Satellite Collection Locations

This initiative is for a facility in the south suburbs for residents to properly dispose Household Hazardous Waste (HHW). HHW include items typically present in homes including toxic cleaners, pharmaceuticals, and gasoline/oil and pose serious health and safety concerns and can cause environmental damage. There are no facilities conveniently located for residents of the south suburbs to dispose of HHW, negatively impacting a region already with historically high pollution and open dumping issues. The facility will also serve as a consolidation location for satellite collection events and will be operated through an agreement with Illinois Environmental Protection Agency which will fund ongoing disposal costs.

4.2 Environmental Justice – \$10,000,000

ARPA Initial Allocation Breakdown

Healthy Homes and Deep Energy Retrofit Residential Properties

Currently, children identified as having elevated blood lead levels are referred to the Cook County Department of Public Health and families who qualify for services can receive free lead remediation at the residence. In this extension effort, Healthy Homes inspectors will complete an assessment within these same residences, identify other household health impacts, and address repairs or remediation. Additionally, a free energy assessment will be conducted. Families selected for full program participation will receive grant-covered household enhancements including deep energy retrofits, beneficial electrification, and renewable energy integrated strategies to deliver the greatest cost savings and health improvements.

Smart Communities

Public Infrastructure ARPA Initial Allocation Breakdown

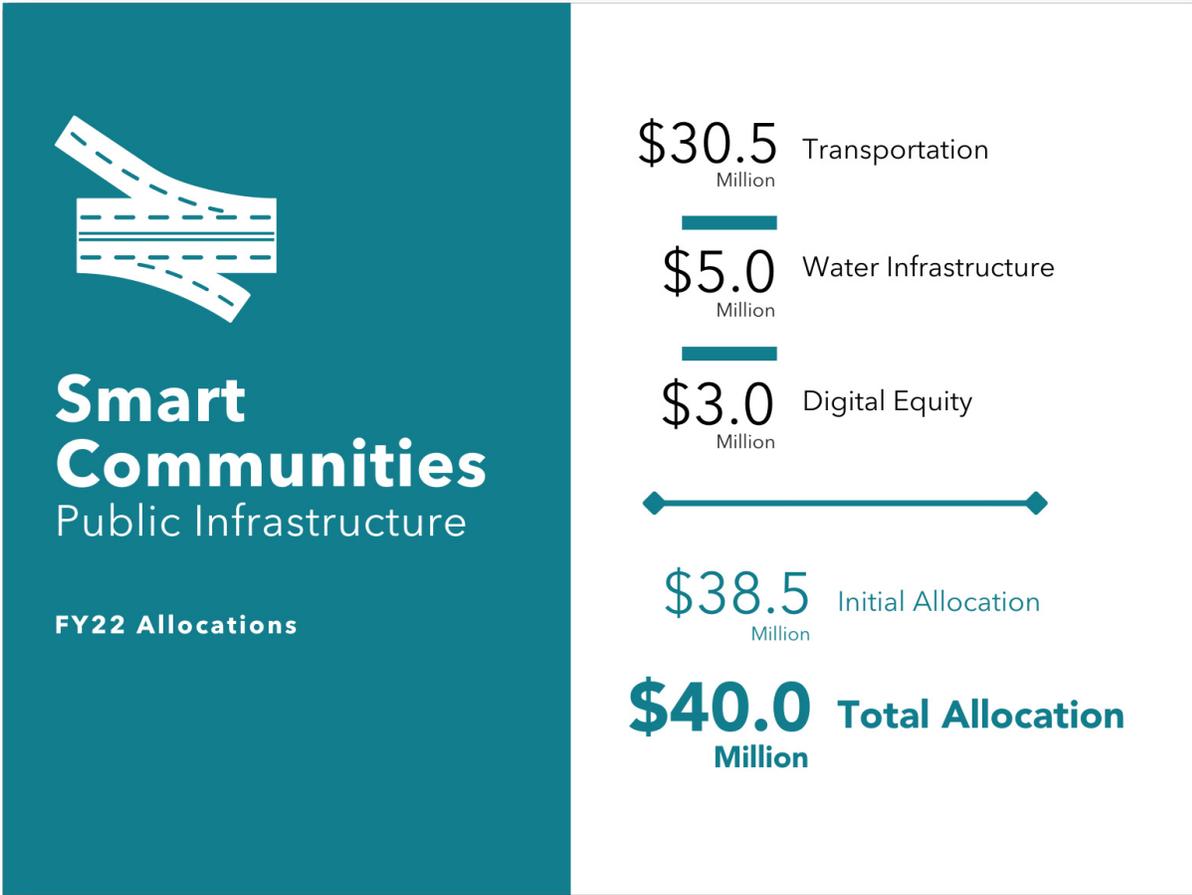
Policy Roadmap Goal

Provide an innovative infrastructure that will change how we live, work and connect.

Key Agencies

- Bureau of Asset Management (BAM)
- Bureau of Technology (BOT)
- Department of Transportation and Highways (DOTH)

ARPA Key Themes and Initial Allocations



5.1 Transportation – \$30,524,214

ARPA Initial Allocation Breakdown

Invest in Cook Expansion

Invest in Cook is an existing grant program that annually awards \$8.5 million to communities to advance local transportation infrastructure projects that implement the priorities of the County's long-range transportation plan and support economic outcomes. The current demand for this program far exceeds the funding available. The expansion of this program will increase the award amount for broader infrastructure projects over the next three years, yielding an additional \$25 million investment overall.

Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

This initiative involves four components related to increasing access to electric vehicle charging stations throughout Cook County, focusing on where there are currently large gaps in service areas, primarily in the south and west suburbs, through installing 50 Level 2 charging stations, 10 DC fast chargers, 10 Level 2 streetlight charging stations and purchasing one all-electric bus and wireless charger installation to pilot at the Department of Corrections Campus. The initiative will be community driven, increase access for residents in multifamily homes, reduce the locations without an electric vehicle charging station dramatically and greatly increasing the regional charging network.

5.2 Water Infrastructure – \$5,000,000

ARPA Initial Allocation Breakdown

Lead Pipe Removal at Vera Yates Homes and Richard Flowers Homes

This initiative will remove remaining lead water pipes at two Housing Authority of Cook County (HACC) affordable family housing properties: the Vera Yates Homes in Ford Heights and the Richard Flowers Homes in Robbins. This funding will allow HACC to remove all lead pipes at each of these properties, preventing children living at these sites from suffering irreparable, life-long neurological damage associated with lead exposure, and provide all residents of these developments a healthier, safer living environment.

5.3 Digital Equity – \$3,000,000

ARPA Initial Allocation Breakdown

* **Broadband Expansion at HACC Properties**

This initiative will upgrade broadband infrastructure at all Housing Authority of Cook County-owned (HACC) properties. Current network infrastructure can only support 2-3 users at a time and is inadequate to meet the needs of both staff and residents who use the communal computers. This upgrade responds to the increased need for Internet access among HACC residents and staff due to COVID-19 restrictions and will additionally address the digital divide by providing low-income residents access to high-speed Internet.

Digital Equity Planning

To coordinate our long-term digital equity work, Cook County will develop an action plan to evaluate where suburban Cook's digital divide exists and outline solutions. Specifically, this action plan will cover gaps in broadband access, physical connectivity infrastructure, and financial barriers residents face when accessing digital devices and connections. Using best practices, guidance from digital inclusion experts, and insight from internal and external stakeholders, the process will conclude with a final document that provides policy recommendations, along with a detailed action plan, describing detailed initiative plans, including implementing partners, resources identified, timeline, and evaluation metrics.

* *Indicates a Longer-Term or Transformative Initiative*

Open Communities

Good Government

Policy Roadmap Goal

Ensure that Cook County provides responsive, transparent services and develops a thriving, professional workforce that reflects the communities served.

Key Agencies

- Bureau of Finance (BOF)
- Bureau of Human Resources (BHR)
- Bureau of Technology (BOT)
- Office of the President (OOP)
- Office of Research, Operations and Innovation (ROI)

Cook County will support its commitment to Open Communities by using revenue loss to cover eligible expenses for supporting County operations through the pandemic. This includes:

- One-time personnel and non-personnel costs (e.g., pandemic pay and administration cost for ARPA management);
- Building County capacity to meet increased demands and to support ARPA initiatives; and
- Capital improvement projects that would have required debt funding instead.

Organizational Values

Mission

To serve as a good steward of public resources by building equitable and sustainable communities for all residents.

Vision

To be a leader in building vibrant, sustainable and inclusive communities where people want to live, learn, work and play.

Values

Equity, Engagement, Excellence

Diversity and Inclusion Statement

We believe in the dignity and worth of all people and the strength in the diversity of all perspectives. Cook County commits to cultivating equity, inclusion and opportunity within County government and the diverse communities it serves—where we celebrate employees, residents and visitors and welcome diversity of perspectives. Empowered by an inclusive workforce, Cook County is dedicated to equity and fairness in governance—in all its forms—to strengthen and serve our communities to the best of our abilities.



Toni Preckwinkle
Toni Preckwinkle
Cook County Board President

Board of Commissioners

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