



CITY OF COLORADO SPRINGS

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds 2023 Recovery Plan Performance Report



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Colorado Springs (City) received an allocation of \$76,039,132 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) to support COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery efforts in Colorado Springs, Colorado. The Recovery Plan Report responds to the requirements set forth by the United States Department of the Treasury for management and reporting of the SLFRF. The City's plan follows the required format and content requirements identified in the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guide updated in July 2022, and in effect for the 2023 report.

The plan for the City's use of funds was developed through a combination of community input, the City's strategic plan, needs communicated by key stakeholders, as well as identified priorities of City Leadership. The plan promotes a broad response to the pandemic and economic recovery, incorporating support for new and existing businesses, populations of citizens disproportionately impacted by the pandemic including children, families, and seniors, community public health and safety, and other community-wide benefits detailed below.

During 2023, the third annual reporting period, the City executed the following high priority activities utilizing SLFRF funding during the reporting period:

Higher Education Economic Recovery Support (ARP05)

According to the University of Colorado Colorado Springs Economic Forum October 2021 dashboard, Education ranked fourth in Real GMP of all identified sectors in the Colorado Springs Metropolitan Statistical Area. From inception of the pandemic to Quarter 1-2021, the education sector lost approximately 3,000 employees of approximately 29,000 (10% decline) as reported in the same dashboard report.

Additionally, area universities saw a significant decline in enrollment upwards of 22% early in the pandemic, which decreased to approximately 4.5% in late 2020. Although there was subsequently slight recovery in total enrollments, the higher education sector, particularly in Colorado Springs, was a highly impacted industry. The City provided funding to two public institutions of higher education located within City limits to support continued recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly in enrollments.



Digital Equity Grant Program (ARP44)

The City of Colorado Springs believes all Colorado Springs residents should have access to affordable, reliable broadband service, internet-enabled devices, and possess the knowledge to use those devices. Funding from the City's SLFRF allocation was utilized to provide grants to seven local non-profit organizations for purposes of creating a variety of programs to bridge the digital divide in our

community, providing greater digital equity to historically underserved communities across the city. Awards were provided to selected organizations in Quarter 2-2023 with all programs planned to be completed by December 31, 2024.

Survive & Thrive Economic Recovery Grant Program (ARP03)

The City of Colorado Springs, in partnership with Exponential Impact (XI), adapted and used the Survive and Thrive framework to support local small businesses and nonprofit organizations impacted by Covid-19 in their recovery and growth through the allocation of \$1.3 million of SLFRF dollars to support continued economic recovery. During the third reporting period, the City and XI executed the grant program, accepting applications from 254 businesses and awarding grants to 53 of those businesses.

In addition to the aforementioned activities, the City continued to make significant progress toward designing and executing many of the other planned activities included in the [project inventory](#).

The City will work diligently through the upcoming year to continue implementation of the remaining projects and programs included in the plan. As indicated in the prior report, through implementation of the remaining activities the City plans to address:

- ❖ **the lack of affordable childcare** throughout the school year and subsequent summer months, allowing parents in disproportionately impacted communities the ability to secure full-time employment
- ❖ **support to the tourism and education industries**, allowing for continued recovery in those respective disciplines
- ❖ **implementation of efficient and sustainable water infrastructure**, supporting modernization of aged systems resulting in water application efficiency with a goal of achieving a minimum of 20% water savings
- ❖ **implementation of stormwater conveyance infrastructure**, incentivizing the implementation of green infrastructure water quality measures during redevelopment projects within the North Nevada Corridor



"Today I stand here to advance this vision for our city. A vision for an inclusive, culturally rich, economically prosperous, and yes, safe and vibrant city on a hill."

- Mayor Yemi Mobolade, June 6, 2023, Swearing in Speech

USES OF FUNDS

The City is using American Rescue Plan Act SLFRF funds to make strategic investments in targeted sectors enabling our community’s strong and equitable recovery from the pandemic. Strategic priority areas were identified with consideration placed on the following criteria when identifying projects and programs:

- ❖ Direct benefit to the community, particularly those disproportionately impacted by the pandemic
- ❖ Business and economic recovery, including recovery of the tourism sector
- ❖ Investment in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure reducing barriers to future economic development or equitable access to reliable services
- ❖ Ongoing support to the public health response

Throughout development of the plan, City staff considered recommendations provided by broadly represented community groups and stakeholders, funding sources already dedicated to other high priority target areas, and strategic priorities of City Leadership and the City Council. Additionally, consideration was placed on leveraging funding provided by other federal grant programs and partners, as well as those projects or programs for which no other funding was available. The City’s planned allocation distributes funding across every expenditure category designated by the U.S. Treasury Department. This reflects the City’s commitment to maximize the benefits of SLFRF funding and allows us to invest in pandemic recovery efforts in sectors often left out of traditional funding streams. Additionally, uses of funds also align with goals articulated in the City’s [2020-2024 Strategic Plan](#). Developed with broad community input, the Strategic Plan defines City priorities and provides a framework for measuring progress and performance.



Figure 1 SLFRF Allocation Plan Inputs

Investment Strategies

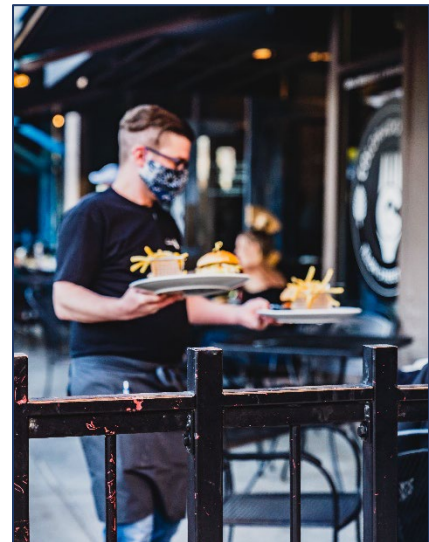
Direct Community Benefit

The City's SLFRF fund allocation strategy is designed to maximize beneficial impact with regards to the specific needs and challenges facing our community. While the impact of SLFRF funding will extend throughout Colorado Springs, significant efforts are targeted to the Southeast quadrant of our city.

Southeast Colorado Springs experiences greater poverty levels and lower economic opportunity compared with the city as a whole. Pandemic trends indicate that Southeast neighborhoods and residents are at risk of disproportionate negative impacts of the pandemic, and thus the majority of the City's SLFRF-funded projects directly and/or indirectly impact the Southeast (see [Promoting Equitable Outcomes](#)). Additional City projects will target income-qualified groups in other locations and investments in Qualified Opportunity Zones.

Business and Economic Recovery

A portion of the City's total SLFRF allocation will directly benefit businesses, workers, and job training programs. The City has provided funding to local subrecipient organizations and recovery programs to issue grants and economic assistance to small, locally owned businesses and nonprofit organizations negatively impacted by the pandemic. Additional funding will support programs providing job training to individuals and industries impacted by the pandemic. Other investments will support recovery for the region's key tourism and travel industry.



Investment in Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure

Infrastructure investments will promote equitable redevelopment and address environmental issues. The city's North Nevada Avenue Corridor will receive an allocation to improve stormwater conveyance solutions within a Qualified Opportunity Zone. Currently, inadequate stormwater infrastructure causes localized flooding and poses a significant barrier to redevelopment and property ownership within the North Nevada Avenue Corridor.

Implementing new infrastructure will mitigate this financial barrier, facilitating an equitable redevelopment that allows for small business ownership and growth in key industries. By providing stormwater conveyance infrastructure, the City will incentivize the implementation of green infrastructure water quality measures during redevelopment projects within the North Nevada Corridor. Environmental benefits will include localized flood mitigation and stormwater conveyance to Monument Creek; the project addresses climate change by providing surface erosion mitigation.

Other SLFRF funded infrastructure projects will replace ageing, inadequate, and outdated irrigation systems managed by the City. Implementing modernized irrigation will achieve a minimum of 20% water savings across impacted systems, helping protect our community's

water resources against emerging threats related to drought, scarcity, and climate change, as well as making progress toward State and regional water conservation goals.

Public Health Response

SLFRF funding also supported immediate pandemic mitigation and public health initiatives by City of Colorado Springs public safety units and staff members. This includes Operation House Call, a collaboration between the Colorado Springs Fire Department, El Paso County Public Health, and community volunteers, to administer vaccines to high-risk and vulnerable homebound residents of El Paso County.

Uses of Funds by Investment Area

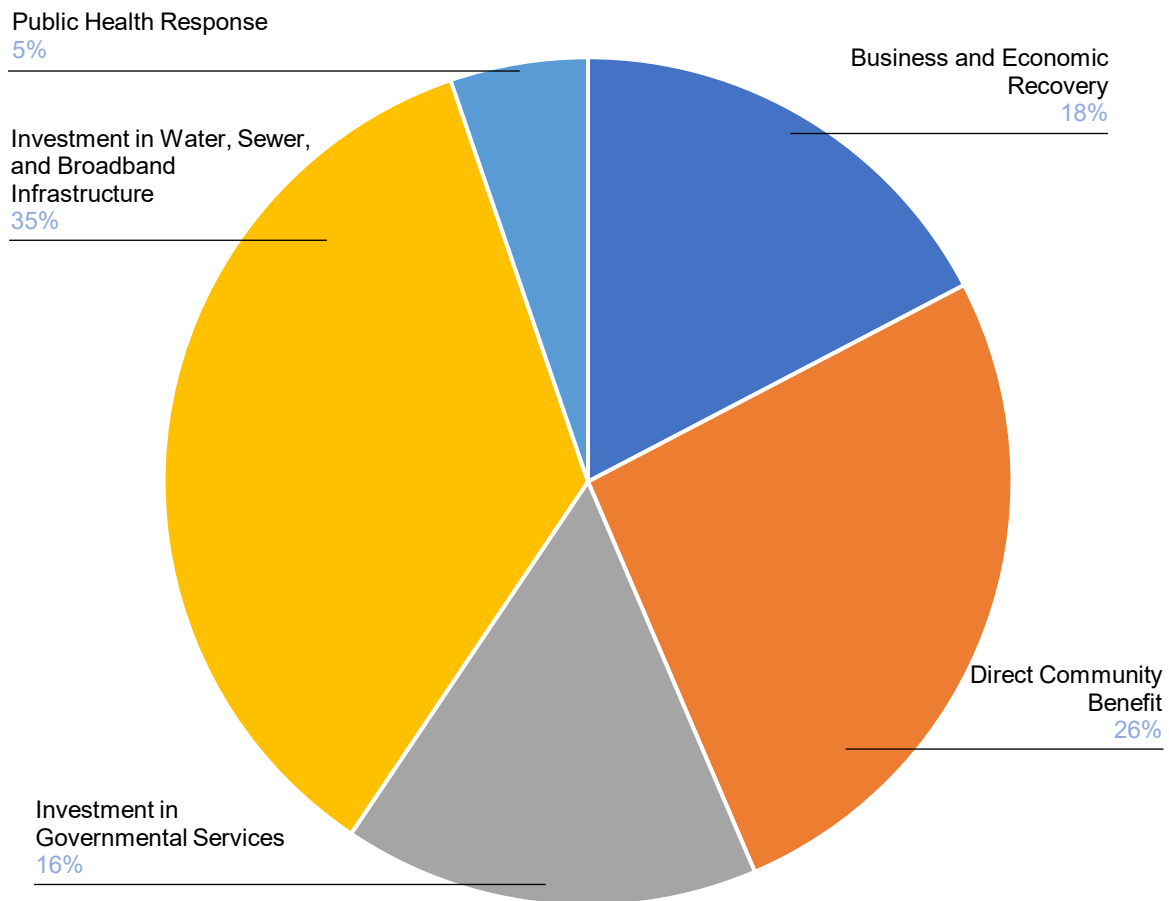


Figure 2 Uses of Funds by Investment Area

A full listing of the uses of funds by SLFRF expenditure category, and a description of how those uses support the communities, populations, and individuals in Colorado Springs, can be reviewed in the [Project Inventory](#) section.

Additional Funding and Partnerships

Affordable Housing

In addition to SLFRF funds, the City is leveraging other sources of funding and strengthening local partnerships to increase impact and build community resiliency. Affordable housing and homelessness are priority issues in Colorado Springs and have been the focus of decades of intensive investment prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic intensified existing issues, and our community is seeing extraordinary need related to housing affordability, rental assistance, eviction prevention, and homeless services.



The City has allocated more than \$111 million in strategic investments as part of a comprehensive effort to achieve an equitable recovery from the pandemic and address previously existing issues. The City’s Community Development Division has engaged in a robust citizen participation process, which has informed priorities, goals, and strategies identified in the City’s [2020-2024 Consolidated Plan](#).

Nearly \$35 million in U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) COVID-19 response and annual allocation funding and more than \$76 million in Private Activity Bonds will enable progress toward Affordable Housing and Homelessness goals. The City receives from HUD an annual entitlement of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnership Program (HOME), and the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), and also received funding from the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERA) for purposes of addressing housing and homelessness in our community.

Colorado Springs Affordable Housing & Homelessness COVID-19 Impact Investment:

CDBG 2020	\$3,079,101	CDBG	\$10,170,147
CDBG-CV 1 (CARES Act)	\$1,811,610	HOME	\$8,858,449
CDBG-CV 3 (CARES Act)	\$2,064,639	ESG	\$6,241,669
CDBG 2021	\$3,214,797	ERA	\$25,779,328
HOME 2020	\$1,532,171	PAB ('19-'21)	\$76,517,376
HOME 2021	\$1,584,300	Total	\$127,566,969
HOME (American Rescue Plan)	\$5,741,978	Housing (87%)	\$111,250,926
ESG 2020	\$257,266		
ESG-CV1 (CARES Act)	\$887,124		
ESG-CV2 (CARES Act)	\$5,097,279		
ESG 2021	\$262,634		
Emergency Rental Assistance (CARES Act)	\$14,391,783		
Emergency Rental Assistance 2 (ARPA)	\$11,387,545		
Private Activity Bonds (2019, 2020, 2021)	\$76,517,376		

Figure 3 Affordable Housing and Homelessness COVID-19 Investment

Disproportionately Impacted Communities

The City is partnering with other entities administering ARPA funding to achieve the greatest impact in priority areas. As an example, Harrison School District 2 (HSD2) received funding from the ARPA through the U.S. Department of Education. A collaborative partnership between HSD2 and the City of Colorado Springs Community Centers will enhance the impact of City projects focused on Southeast Colorado Springs by leveraging both the HSD2 and City SLFRF funds.

Harrison School District 2, serving Southeast Colorado Springs, includes numerous Title 1 schools and schools with large Title 1 populations. Approximately 75% of students in the district qualify for free or reduced lunch. The Out-of-School Time Program will utilize American Rescue Plan Act funding from the U.S. Department of Education to provide wrap-around childcare support for low-income families with elementary school children in the district, supported by Colorado Springs Community Centers staff and resources.

PROMOTING EQUITABLE OUTCOMES

The City of Colorado Springs is investing its SLFRF funds in a series of targeted initiatives to promote a strong and equitable recovery, with special focus on communities and populations disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. These critical investments will help our community make progress toward achieving racial and economic equity goals.

The City is investing SLFRF funding in three projects in Southeast Colorado Springs, which align with broader City strategy for the Southeast (see [Southeast Community Plan](#)) and other efforts by community organizations and citizens. Compared with the City of Colorado Springs as a whole, Southeast Colorado Springs has a higher incidence of poverty, a markedly lower life expectancy, and less access to healthy foods. The 74,000 residents of the Southeast comprise 39% of the city’s Latino population, 49% of the city’s Black population, 40% of the city’s foreign-born population who are not US citizens, and 35% of residents who speak a language other than English (American Community Survey 2019).



The City is partnering with Pikes Peak United Way and Harrison School District 2 to establish a Family Success Center in Southeast Colorado Springs. The center will provide direct services to low-income and marginalized residents of all ages, including tutoring,

financial literacy services, GED courses, and art therapy. Programming will help strengthen quality of life and economic gains for Southeast Colorado Springs families. As of June 30, 2023, Pikes Peak United Way has made significant progress toward design efforts and modifications to the existing facility.

Also targeted to low-income and Southeast residents, the City is using SLFRF funds to expand afterschool and summer childcare programs for underserved populations at its Community Centers. Located in marginalized neighborhoods, the two Community Center facilities in the Southeast and one on the City’s west side serve everyone but focus their efforts on working with under-represented communities and individuals from lower-socioeconomic backgrounds. The centers provide affordable, reduced fee and free services for residents, with approximately 87% of participants qualifying for reduced fee services.

SLFRF funds are being utilized to expand program capacity for Community Centers afterschool and summer programs, providing childcare for low-income families for the 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 school years. This program will promote healthy childhood environments and enable greater economic opportunity for working parents in disproportionately impacted and underserved populations. This project will support low-income families regardless of school district. The above-mentioned program,



referred to as the Community Centers Afterschool and Summer Program, will enhance this project with additional supports targeted to Harrison School District 2 students.

Through June 30, 2023, the Afterschool and Summer Program has supported 201 unique individuals from seven school districts. Most participants attend school in Harrison School District 2 or Colorado Springs School District 11; both districts exceeding 50% of the student population who are eligible for free or reduced lunches. Additionally, participants were disbursed across seventeen zip codes, the majority of which are in Southeast Colorado Springs. The zip codes with the most participants included 80903, 80910, and 80916, with an average household income of \$49,954 between the three. Participant distributions by district is displayed below. Additional metrics can be found in Appendix B: Supporting Programmatic Data.

District	Participants	District % Free or Reduced Lunch
Colorado Springs School District 11	90	54.5%
Harrison School District 2	70	60.6%
Widefield School District 3	19	38.1%
Charter	11	
Falcon School District 49	8	27.8%
Peyton School District 23	2	19.5%
Fountain-Fort Carson School District 8	1	39.4%

Additionally, the City has devoted \$1.8 million toward capital improvements at the three Community Center facilities. These much-needed repairs will help ensure that the Centers

remain safe, vibrant hubs of programming, services, and community spaces for low-income and marginalized residents. As of June 30, 2023, the City's Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department began the process of securing contractors to implement the repairs in the upcoming year.

SLFRF funds will also promote equity through projects [ARP01](#), [ARP03-ARP07](#), and [ARP41-ARP44](#) in the Negative Economic Impacts category. Funding will support business recovery, economic incentives, job creation, digital skills training, and job training initiatives targeting industry, businesses, and workers hit hardest by the effects of the pandemic. The City has issued subawards to qualified organizational partners to distribute funds and provide technical support in a manner consistent with the City's equity strategy. This includes grant distribution with consideration toward outreach and awards to underrepresented groups, structured to ensure an equitable recovery of our community.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The City's use of funds is informed by community engagement, feedback, and input at multiple stages in the project development and selection process. The City employs mechanisms including town hall meetings, requests for resident comments, focus groups, questionnaires, and polls as part of its regular operations. Special emphasis is placed on equitable access to public participation, including strategies to mitigate barriers to participation for groups such as youth, low English proficiency speakers, low-income individuals and families, people with disabilities, and older adults. This has been especially critical in determining community need and allocating funding toward pandemic response and recovery efforts.

A summary of proposed projects was presented to the Colorado Springs City Council to provide opportunity for input and feedback from Councilmembers representative of constituents. On a project level, City projects have incorporated community input as follows:



The need for expanded staff capacity for childcare for low-income families was determined by parent and community member feedback and request to the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department. Due to participant feedback, the City has allocated an additional \$100,000 to the program beginning in the second half of 2022.



Stormwater infrastructure improvement projects in the North Nevada Corridor and 30th Street Corridor of Colorado Springs were developed with strategic and inclusive community involvement and communication processes in the planning stage for both projects (see [Renew North Nevada Master Plan](#) and [30th Street Corridor Project Page](#)).



Small business support grants and technical assistance will be developed and distributed with intensive community input and feedback from focus groups, in order build the most relevant program options.



Capital projects are developed by City departments for community benefit utilizing engagement and feedback mechanisms described above. Projects included in the SLFRF plan were prioritized by a city-wide committee through the 2022 budget process.



Water conservation projects align with goals and of the Colorado Springs Utilities Integrated Water Resource Plan and Colorado's Water Plan, both developed with robust community input.

Affordable housing and homelessness priority projects, which are supported by funding sources as shown in [Figure 3](#), were also developed with robust community input. The Community Development Division utilizes the [City's Citizen Participation Plan](#) (CPP), which provides for and encourages public participation and consultation. It emphasizes involvement by residents and the organizations and agencies that serve low/moderate income (LMI) persons in the planning and implementation of community development and housing programs. It was amended in 2020 in response to the need for social distancing, isolating/quarantines, and other emergency public health measures. The CPP is used to gather substantive public input for development of the [Consolidated Plan, Annual Action Plan \(AAP\), Substantial Amendments, and the Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report \(CAPER\)](#).

LABOR PRACTICES

Procurement Practices

Pertaining to infrastructure projects, the City maintains standards for procurement and management of projects, identified in the City's Procurement Rules and Regulations, adopted on January 22, 2019 by City Council Ordinance No. 19-02. The City, through established processes, is responsible for ensuring the procurement of products, commodities, and services in a manner that affords all responsible businesses a fair and equal opportunity to compete on a full and open competition basis, without restricting qualified offerors from participating. It is the policy of the City's Procurement Services Division to make an affirmative effort to solicit and encourage small, minority, women-owned or other small or historically disadvantaged business

participation for City Contracts. The City encourages participation and is willing to provide assistance to interested businesses.

Additionally, to aid in local economic recovery and in compliance with procurement regulations, the City will solicit bids from local suppliers whenever and wherever such competitive local sources exist, and where no sacrifice or loss in price or quality would result. In the event of a tie bid between a local vendor and an out of town vendor, award will be made to the local vendor if all factors, including price, quality, terms, and delivery are determined to be equal.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Programs

Certain City departments have established Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Programs to ensure utilization of small and/or disadvantaged businesses, to track business activities and to provide assistance to such businesses in participating in the City's procurement and contracting process.

USE OF EVIDENCE

City projects implemented with SLFRF funds are designed to support a strong and equitable recovery according to outputs and outcomes described below. The City will build appropriate evaluation methods into project plans as they are developed and conduct evaluations to determine what evidence is needed to measure project success. As necessary, the City will allocate funds to make improvements to data/technology infrastructure, data analytics, and program evaluations.

The City has partnered with trusted community organizations to disseminate Economic Recovery and Incentive Fund grants to small businesses and nonprofit organizations ([project ARP03](#)). The managing partner organization, Exponential Impact, implemented a data-driven approach to application review and grant award decisions to meet designated program goals. Program goals included:

1. Provide an accessible program to accelerate economic recovery,
2. Provide assistance to businesses experiencing lingering negative impacts from the pandemic; and
3. Create and/or retain jobs.

Project [ARP07](#), Community Centers Afterschool and Summer Programs in the Negative Economic Impacts project category, includes evaluation measures consistent with City of Colorado Springs Community Centers standard program measures and SLFRF guidelines. Evaluation methods for Community Centers childcare projects include parent surveys, student attendance tracking, and youth feedback. The data is intended to help inform future collaborative efforts targeted toward low-income parents and children, steering funding toward greatest need and efficacy. The school district will evaluate this program per its own methods to measure benefits for students, families, and the community.

Additional supporting programmatic data can be found in [Appendix B](#).

PROJECT INVENTORY

The current allocation of ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds is as follows:

Project Name	Funding Amount	Project Identifier	Project Expenditure Category
+ 1: Public Health Category			
Vaccine Support Costs	\$21,334	ARP24	1.1-COVID-19 Vaccination
<p><u>Project Overview:</u> The CSFD provided support for vaccine events which served the elderly population, socio-economically challenged individuals, and homebound individuals. Additionally, CSFD supported clinics offered for CSFD and City employees. The public facing vaccine events included events that directly targeted disproportionately impacted populations. Those included an event at the World Arena, providing the 65+ community access to vaccinations. The CSFD also partnered with El Paso County Public Health to support the State Equity Clinic and Operation House Call, serving racially diverse and socioeconomically disadvantage communities, as well as homebound individuals unable to leave their homes to access vaccine clinics.</p> <p><u>Use of Evidence:</u> No evidence-based evaluation will be conducted</p> <p><u>Project Status:</u> Completed</p> <p><u>Performance Report:</u> The project was completed in 2021.</p>			
🏢 2: Negative Economic Impacts Category			
U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Museum	\$3,500,000	ARP01	2.35-Aid to Tourism Travel or Hospitality
<p><u>Project Overview:</u> As a large driver of tourism, the US Olympic and Paralympic Museum (USOPM) was provided funding to cover eligible operating costs, including marketing and payroll, to directly respond to the extreme negative economic impacts experience in the Colorado Springs tourism industry.</p> <p><u>Use of Evidence:</u> No evidence-based evaluation will be conducted</p> <p><u>Project Status:</u> Completed</p> <p><u>Performance Report:</u> The project was completed in 2021.</p>			
Survive & Thrive Economic Recovery Grant Program	\$1,307,677	ARP03	2.29-Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship
<p><u>Project Overview:</u> Provide funding for a business and non-profit recovery grant program via Exponential Impact.</p> <p><u>Use of Evidence:</u> No evidence-based evaluation will be conducted</p> <p><u>Project Status:</u> Completed</p>			

Performance Report: The City’s subrecipient, Exponential Impact (XI), received applications from 254 businesses from diverse communities and backgrounds. Of those 254 applications, 53 applications were approved for funding. Further information can be found in [Appendix B: Supporting Programmatic Data](#).

Higher Education Economic Recovery Support	\$2,000,000	ARP05	2.36-Aid to Other Impacted Industries
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Project Overview: The City is providing funding to two public institutions of higher education located within City limits to support recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. Direct funding can be used for support of operating expenses, marketing, employee payroll, and other eligible categories as defined by the final guidance.

Use of Evidence: No evidence-based evaluation will be conducted

Project Status: Completed

Performance Report: As of Q2-2023, the University of Colorado Colorado Springs fully expended the funds awarded to them, and Pikes Peak State College provided the final invoice, fully expending the funds awarded to them. Funds were used for purposes of marketing, including marketing targeting general education, skilled trades, re-skilling, and up-skilling, economically impacted, military personnel, Hispanic men and women, and traditional high school students.

Community Centers Afterschool and Summer Programs	\$752,000	ARP07	2.11-Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care
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Project Overview: Provide funding for Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services staff to support afterschool and summer programs for underserved populations. Funding is being used to expand existing programs, offering childcare through afterschool and summer programs for the 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 school years.

Use of Evidence: Although performance will be measured, no evidence-based evaluation will be conducted. Performance measures located in [Appendix B: Supporting Programmatic Data](#).

Project Status: Ongoing

Performance Report: During the first summer program, the program served 158 unique children from seven school districts. The summer camp season will conclude in August 2022, at which time the Community Center staff will begin preparing for break week camps. The summer program received positive feedback from participants and families, and thus received an additional allocation of \$100,000 of SLFRF funds to expand the break week and 2023 summer program. As of Q2-2023, the program served 201 unique children.

Aid for Tourism Activities	\$300,000	ARP41	2.35-Aid to Tourism Travel or Hospitality
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Project Overview: As large drivers of tourism, three tourism focused organizations are provided funding to cover eligible operating costs, including marketing and payroll, to directly respond to the extreme negative economic impacts experience in the Colorado Springs tourism industry.

Use of Evidence: No evidence-based evaluation will be conducted

Project Status: Ongoing

Performance Report: As of the conclusion of Q2-2023, the City executed three agreements to the Colorado Springs World Arena, the Fine Arts Center, and Ent Center for the Arts. The Colorado Springs World Arena has fully expended their award.

Digital Equity Program	\$800,000	ARP44	2.4-Household Assistance: Internet Access Programs
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Project Overview: The City believes all Colorado Springs residents should have access to affordable, reliable broadband service, internet-enabled devices, and possess the knowledge to use those devices. To eliminate the digital divide in Colorado Springs, the City’s Office of Innovation will promote existing efforts and pursue new projects to provide affordable and reliable broadband service, internet-enabled devices, digital skills training, and one-on-one technical support.

Use of Evidence: Although performance will be measured, no evidence-based evaluation will be conducted

Project Status: Ongoing

Performance Report: During the reporting period, the City accepted applications for funding and ultimately awarded grants to seven non-profit organizations in the community. The listing of organizations, and project information can be found in [Appendix B: Supporting Programmatic Data](#).

3. Public Health-Negative Economic Impact Public Sector Capacity

Public Safety Response/Support	\$1,728,666	ARP02	3.1-Public Sector Workforce: Payroll and Benefits for Public Health, Public Safety, or Human Services Workers
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Project Overview: The Colorado Springs Fire Department (CSFD) provided support to the public health response throughout the pandemic, including support provided through medical calls, planning vaccine clinics, and continuity of public safety operations. The funds utilized for this activity directly funded salary and benefits of direct Covid-19 response time by CSFD sworn personnel.

Use of Evidence: No evidence-based evaluation will be conducted

Project Status: Completed

Performance Report: The project was completed in 2021.

4: Premium Pay Category


Public Safety Service Pay	\$2,243,954	ARP16	4.1 Public Sector Employees
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Project Overview: Provide premium pay in a lump sum payment to public safety staff in the Colorado Springs Fire and Police Departments, designated as eligible workers needed to maintain continuity of public safety within the City.

Use of Evidence: No evidence-based evaluation will be conducted

Project Status: Completed

Performance Report: The project was completed in 2021.

 5: Infrastructure Category			
North Nevada Corridor Stormwater Improvements	\$8,300,000	ARP08	5.6 Clean Water: Stormwater
<p><u>Project Overview:</u> Provide partial support to a network of underground storm sewer systems capable of accommodating redevelopment identified in the North Nevada Corridor Master Plan. Projects will be strategically implemented throughout the period of performance with an end goal to improve stormwater conveyance infrastructure. The project will provide surface erosion mitigation. By providing stormwater conveyance infrastructure, the City will incentivize the implementation of green infrastructure water quality measures during redevelopment projects within the North Nevada Corridor. The project addresses climate change by providing surface erosion mitigation.</p> <p><u>Use of Evidence:</u> No evidence-based evaluation will be conducted</p> <p><u>Project Status:</u> Ongoing</p> <p><u>Performance Report:</u> The City's Stormwater Enterprise has awarded two contracts to firms to complete design of the project. Design work is ongoing through Q2-2023.</p>			
30th Street Stormwater Improvements	\$1,000,000	ARP09	5.6 Clean Water: Stormwater
<p><u>Project Overview:</u> Funding to support implementing stormwater related components of the 30th Street improvement project. The project in its entirety will significantly reduce traffic and congestion as visitors enter and exit Garden of the Gods Park. The project addresses climate change by providing surface erosion mitigation.</p> <p><u>Use of Evidence:</u> No evidence-based evaluation will be conducted</p> <p><u>Project Status:</u> SLFRF funding portion completed.</p> <p><u>Performance Report:</u> The SLFRF funded portion of the project, inclusive of stormwater improvements in the corridor, has been completed as of Q2-2022.</p>			
Irrigation System - Patty Jewett Golf Course	\$3,800,000	ARP11	5.8-Clean Water: Water conservation
<p><u>Project Overview:</u> Implementation/replacement of the irrigation system at Patty Jewett Golf Course. This project will support modernization of the aged system, resulting in water application efficiency with a goal of achieving increased water sustainability.</p> <p><u>Use of Evidence:</u> No evidence-based evaluation will be conducted</p> <p><u>Project Status:</u> Ongoing</p> <p><u>Performance Report:</u> The City's Golf Enterprise has awarded contracts to firms to complete design of the project. Design work is ongoing through Q2-2023.</p>			
Irrigation System - Valley Hi Golf Course	\$2,800,000	ARP12	5.8-Clean Water: Water conservation

Project Overview: Implementation/replacement of irrigation system to support water conservation efforts at Valley Hi Golf Course. This project will support modernization of the aged system, resulting in water application efficiency with a goal of achieving increased water sustainability. Implementing modernized irrigation will achieve a minimum of 20% water savings across impacted systems, helping protect our community’s water resources against emerging threats related to drought, scarcity, and climate change, as well as making progress toward State and regional water conservation goals.

Use of Evidence: No evidence-based evaluation will be conducted

Project Status: Ongoing

Performance Report: The City’s Golf Enterprise has awarded contracts to firms to complete design of the project. Design work is ongoing through Q2-2023.

Irrigation System - Cemeteries	\$3,960,000	ARP13	5.8-Clean Water: Water conservation
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Project Overview: Implementation/replacement of irrigation system to support water conservation efforts at City Cemeteries. This project will support modernization of the aged system, resulting in water application efficiency with a goal of achieving increased water sustainability. Implementing modernized irrigation will achieve a minimum of 20% water savings across impacted systems, helping protect our community’s water resources against emerging threats related to drought, scarcity, and climate change, as well as making progress toward State and regional water conservation goals.

Use of Evidence: No evidence-based evaluation will be conducted

Project Status: Ongoing

Performance Report: The City has awarded a contract to Aqua Engineering, Inc. to complete design of the project. Design work is ongoing through Q2-2023.

Irrigation System - replace 40-year-old irrigation systems	\$503,000	ARP14	5.8-Clean Water: Water conservation
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Project Overview: Replace irrigation systems at South Monument Valley Park, Otis Park, and Fine Arts Triangle Monument Valley Park. This project will support modernization of the aged system, resulting in water application efficiency with a goal of achieving increased water sustainability. Implementing modernized irrigation will achieve a minimum of 20% water savings across impacted systems, helping protect our community’s water resources against emerging threats related to drought, scarcity, and climate change, as well as making progress toward State and regional water conservation goals.

Use of Evidence: No evidence-based evaluation will be conducted

Project Status: Ongoing

Performance Report: The City has awarded a contract to Hackworth Consulting, LLC to complete design of the project, and a contract to Timberline Landscaping, LLC to complete installation. Design work is ongoing through Q2-2023.

Colorado Springs Utilities - Water/ Wastewater Projects	\$3,500,000	ARP15	5.11-Drinking water: Transmission & distribution
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Project Overview: Replace aging water main ahead of PPRTA funded project, S. Academy Blvd - Fountain to Drennan, in coordination with City Public Works. The replacement will substantially benefit residents in Southeast Colorado Springs. Compared with the City of Colorado Springs as a whole, Southeast Colorado Springs has a higher incidence of poverty, a markedly lower life expectancy, and less access to healthy foods.

Use of Evidence: No evidence-based evaluation will be conducted

Project Status: Ongoing

Performance Report: The City awarded a contract to Ames Construction for construction for replacement of the water main. Replacement will occur after Q2-2023.

Downtown Stormwater Improvement	\$2,000,000	ARP43	5.6-Clean Water: Stormwater
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Project Overview: Implementation of stormwater infrastructure to support redevelopment projects within the City's downtown. The project will address climate change by providing surface erosion mitigation.

Use of Evidence: No evidence-based evaluation will be conducted

Project Status: Not yet started

Performance Report: As of Q2-2023, the City's Stormwater Enterprise and Economic Development Division is in the process of defining the project scope.

6: Revenue Replacement Category

LART - Tourism recovery	\$1,000,000	ARP06	6.1 Provision of Government Services
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Project Overview: Funding provided to the City's Lodgers and Automobile Rental Tax (LART) Fund to support continued recovery of tourism sector.

Use of Evidence: No evidence-based evaluation will be conducted

Project Status: Completed

Performance Report: Funding in the amount of \$1,000,000 was provided to the LART Fund and the City's LART Citizens' Advisory Committee recommended awards in April 2022. The project is complete.

Fiber connectivity mapping and implementation	\$200,000	ARP10	6.1 Provision of Government Services
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Project Overview: Perform mapping of the City's existing fiber network and provide strategic investment in fiber projects.

Use of Evidence: No evidence-based evaluation will be conducted

Project Status: Ongoing

Performance Report: As of the end of Q2-2023, the City is in the process of completing the mapping effort with the support of a procured consultant. As of Q2-2023, the project is over 50% complete.

Implement Mid-year Compensation Increase	\$4,268,417	ARP17	6.1 Provision of Government Services
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Project Overview: Implement mid-year compensation increases for City employees which was foregone in the 2021 budget due to economic conditions.

Use of Evidence: No evidence-based evaluation will be conducted

Project Status: Completed.

Performance Report: The project was completed in 2021.

City Auditorium	\$2,500,000	ARP19	6.1 Provision of Government Services
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Project Overview: Provide funding to design the renovation of the Colorado Springs City Auditorium in collaboration with the Colorado Springs Community Cultural Collective at City Auditorium to serve as an art and event space in the City's downtown.

Use of Evidence: No evidence-based evaluation will be conducted

Project Status: Ongoing

Performance Report: The Colorado Springs Community Cultural Collective at City Auditorium is in the process of completing design associated with building improvements. The design process has included significant public input efforts, and architectural and engineering. Information on the project can be found at: <https://communityculturalcollective.org/>.

Rebuild Colorado Springs Senior Center	\$8,000,000	ARP20	6.1 Provision of Government Services
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Project Overview: Provide capital investment for construction of a new senior center, increasing services and support to seniors. Information on the senior center can be found at: <https://ppymca.org/colorado-springs-senior-center>.

Use of Evidence: No evidence-based evaluation will be conducted

Project Status: Ongoing

Performance Report: The City has procured many contracts to support the Senior Center rebuild, including contracts for design, public outreach, relocation, environmental services, cultural resources, and a general contractor. The City has supported current tenants by offering relocation assistance where applicable. The existing Senior Center is now closed with construction expected to begin in August 2023, lasting 18-24 months. The City is maintaining a dedicated webpage to inform the public of project progress, located at: [Senior Center Renovation | City of Colorado Springs](#).

CSPD Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System	\$2,000,000	ARP21	6.1 Provision of Government Services
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Project Overview: Provide funding to implement a new Computer Aided Dispatch system, which will resolve redundant data entry and to make it possible to access real-time information, ultimately enhancing the overall public safety response to the Colorado Springs community.

Use of Evidence: No evidence-based evaluation will be conducted

Project Status: Ongoing

Performance Report: As of the end of Q2-2023, the City's Police Department was in the process of implementing components of the Computer Aided Dispatch system.

Capital Investment in Community Centers	\$1,800,000	ARP22	6.1 Provision of Government Services
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Project Overview: Provide capital investment to Meadows Park, Hillside, and Westside Community Centers to better serve communities in areas impacted by marginalized socioeconomic conditions. Additional information on the services provided by the community center can be found at: <https://coloradosprings.gov/parks/page/colorado-springs-community-centers>.

Use of Evidence: No evidence-based evaluation will be conducted

Project Status: Ongoing

Performance Report: As of Q2-2023, the City awarded contracts for the Westside Community Center roof, HVAC system, and structural study. Minor repairs have been completed at Meadows Park and Hillside Community Centers, however center representatives are currently determining the scope of the remaining work to be completed.

Family Success Center in Southeast	\$1,500,000	ARP23	6.1 Provision of Government Services
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Project Overview: Provide funding in partnership with Pikes Peak United Way and Harrison School District #2 to implement a Family Success Center in southeast Colorado Springs.

Use of Evidence: No evidence-based evaluation will be conducted

Project Status: Ongoing

Performance Report: The City awarded a subrecipient agreement to Pikes Peak United Way to provide funds to the project. As of June 30, 2023, Pikes Peak United Way made significant progress toward design efforts and modifications to the existing facility.

Memorial Park Monument Restoration	\$500,000	ARP25	6.1 Provision of Government Services
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Project Overview: Provide funding to rehabilitate the Veterans Memorial in Memorial Park, which needs repair to restore the overall site to the quality and beauty it deserves.

Use of Evidence: No evidence-based evaluation will be conducted

Project Status: Ongoing

Performance Report: The City's Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Department is currently in the process of procurement for rehabilitation design.

Governmental Safety Programs	\$3,000,000	ARP26	6.1 Provision of Government Services
<p><u>Project Overview:</u> Provide funding to support City investments in community safety measures.</p> <p><u>Use of Evidence:</u> No evidence-based evaluation will be conducted</p> <p><u>Project Status:</u> Completed</p> <p><u>Performance Report:</u> As of July 2022, full funding was allocated to identified expenses.</p>			
Job Training Assistance	\$283,000	ARP40	6.1 Provision of Government Services
<p><u>Project Overview:</u> Job training to individuals or industries impacted by COVID through the Housing & Building Association of Colorado Springs' Careers in Construction program.</p> <p><u>Use of Evidence:</u> No evidence-based evaluation will be conducted</p> <p><u>Project Status:</u> Ongoing</p> <p><u>Performance Report:</u> The City provided an agreement to the Housing & Building Association of Colorado Springs to provide funds to the project. As of Q2-2023, the project is approximately 25% complete.</p>			
Small Business Development Center	\$250,000	ARP42	6.1 Provision of Government Services
<p><u>Project Overview:</u> Support Small Business Development Center (SBDC) operations and programming to provide resiliency training and assistance to small businesses.</p> <p><u>Use of Evidence:</u> No evidence-based evaluation will be conducted</p> <p><u>Project Status:</u> Ongoing</p> <p><u>Performance Report:</u> The City provided an agreement to the SBDC in Q2-2023. Programming will begin in Q3-2023.</p>			
Deal Closing Fund	\$3,000,000	ARP45	6.1 Provision of Government Services
<p><u>Project Overview:</u> Incentivize the creation of new high-paying jobs within the City and establish a performance-based loan and grant program to encourage new businesses and existing businesses growing their employee base to locate or expand their operations in the City to create net new full time permanent jobs in the City. The City will support the fund by providing an initial grant to be used for purposes of making awards and funding a portion of the administrative cost.</p> <p><u>Use of Evidence:</u> No evidence-based evaluation will be conducted</p> <p><u>Project Status:</u> Completed</p> <p><u>Performance Report:</u> The City executed a Grant and Service Agreement with the Center for Community and Entrepreneurial Advancement and provided full funding to establish the fund.</p>			

Survive & Thrive Loan Program	\$1,542,323	ARP46	6.1 Provision of Government Services
<p><u>Project Overview:</u> Provide funding for a low-interest business loan program via Exponential Impact.</p> <p><u>Use of Evidence:</u> No evidence-based evaluation will be conducted</p> <p><u>Project Status:</u> Ongoing</p> <p><u>Performance Report:</u> The City executed an agreement with Exponential Impact (XI) and provided full funding to establish the loan fund.</p>			
Capital Projects Prioritized by Committee	\$7,678,761	ARP27-ARP39	6.1 Provision of Government Services
<p><u>Project Overview:</u> Provide funding for City capital projects, facilities maintenance, security projects.</p> <p><u>Use of Evidence:</u> No evidence-based evaluation will be conducted</p> <p><u>Project Status:</u> Ongoing</p> <p><u>Performance Report:</u> All capital projects were identified in 2021. Projects are in varying stages of completion. A full listing of projects funded with SLFRF revenue replacement funds is included in Appendix A.</p>			

APPENDIX A: CAPITAL PROJECTS FUNDED THROUGH REVENUE REPLACEMENT

Project Name	Funding Amount
Citywide Electronic Signature	\$265,000
Secure Vendor Access	75,000
Fire Alarm System Upgrades	250,000
Recording/Sound Equipment for Municipal Court Courtrooms	235,000
Lightning Detection and Warning Systems	100,000
Prospect Lake Aeration	459,036
CSPD POC Generators	947,500
Cottonwood Creek Tributary	1,900,000
Modular Office Expansion	350,000
Opportunity Zone ADA Sidewalk/Ramp Improvements	1,940,000
Tejon Street Project	400,000
Data Management Program	280,000
Fuel Infrastructure	477,225
Total SLFRF funding allocated	\$7,578,761

APPENDIX B: SUPPORTING PROGRAMMATIC DATA

ARP03 - Survive & Thrive Economic Recovery Grant Program

*Report and graphics provided by Exponential Impact

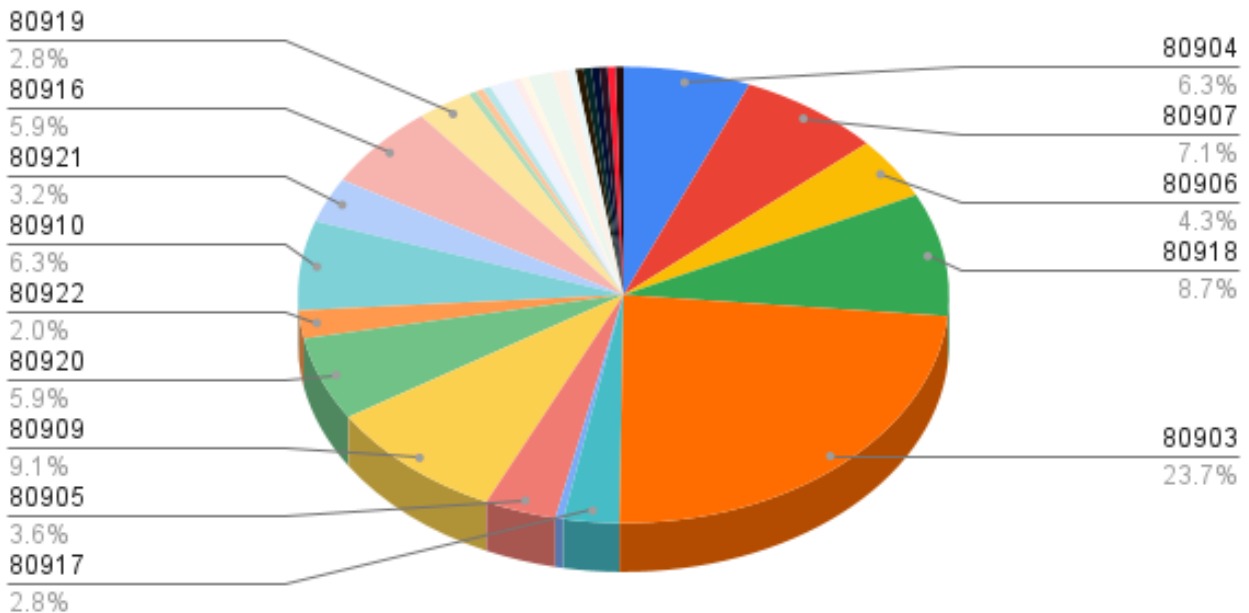
The purpose of this round of Survive and Thrive was to offer “intensive support to companies so they can build their long-term resiliency, create jobs, and increase community cohesion to strongly recover from the pandemic as a city.”

Summary of Applications Received

The 254 applications include businesses from the Colorado Springs area that are from diverse communities and backgrounds.

Survive and Thrive also looked at geographic distribution when considering loan applications and final recommendations. Zip Codes were an influential factor throughout the application process. Participants from the following Zip Codes (primarily located in the southeast and representing areas of greatest poverty - 80904, 80909, 80910, 80916) were given special consideration. The most frequent Zip Codes include: 80903 (60 applications), 80909 (23 applications), 80918 (22 applications), 80907 (18 applications), and 80910 (16 applications).

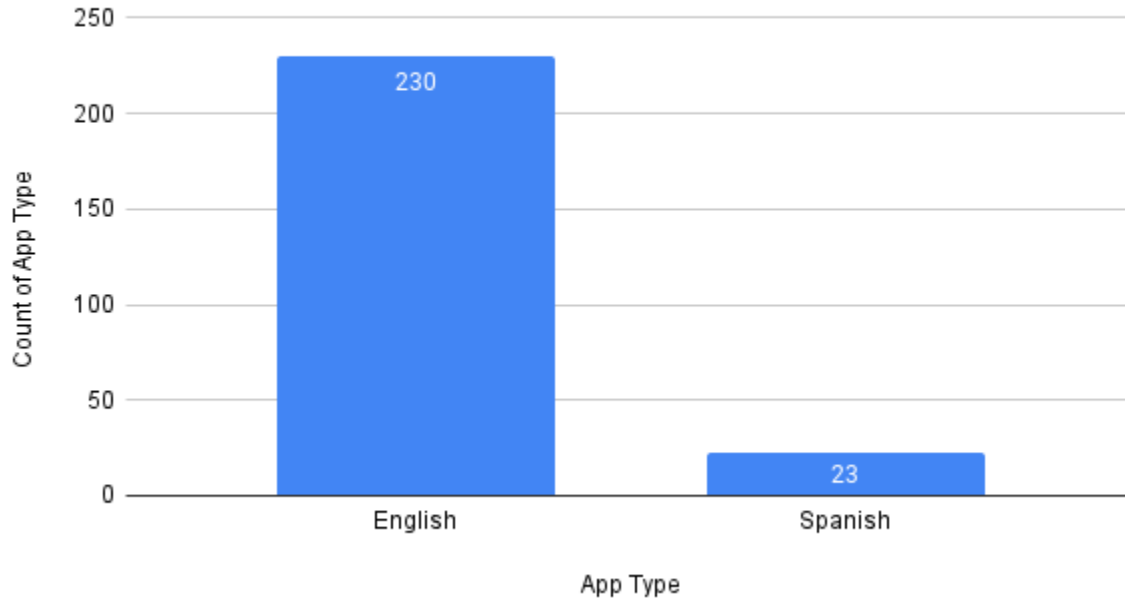
Zip Codes



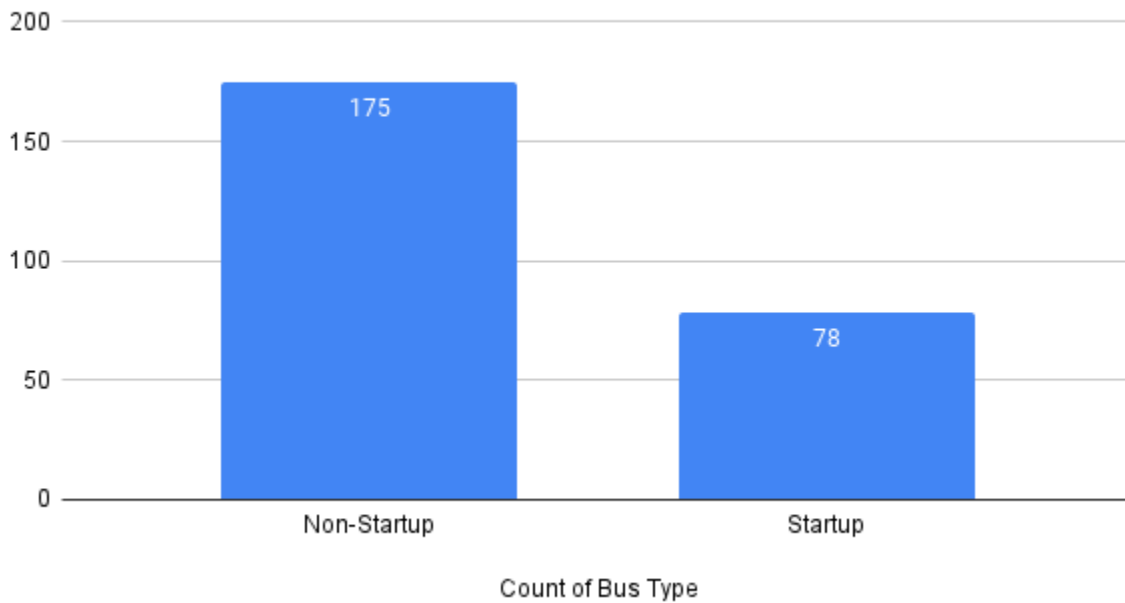
Furthermore, this round of applications included opportunities to submit information in English and Spanish. The breakdown of applications is 230 in English and 23 in Spanish. Furthermore,

the businesses that requested support through Survive and Thrive include 175 non startup companies and 78 that are considered startup companies that developed during the pandemic.

Language of Application



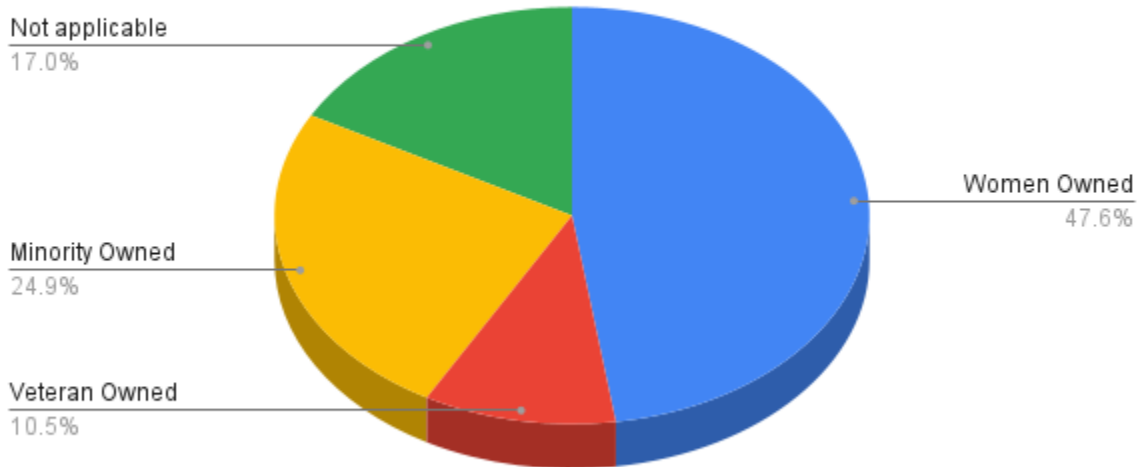
Business Type



The graphic below is a visual representation of the diverse owners of the companies that applied for this round of Survive and Thrive. Please note that overlap is applied and some

companies that are annotated as “Women Owned” may also be included in “Minority Owned” and or “Veteran Owned”. 180 of the companies are considered Women Owned. 95 of the companies are considered Minority Owned. 40 of the companies are considered Veteran Owned. 65 of the companies are considered Not Applicable within the parameters set.

Ownership

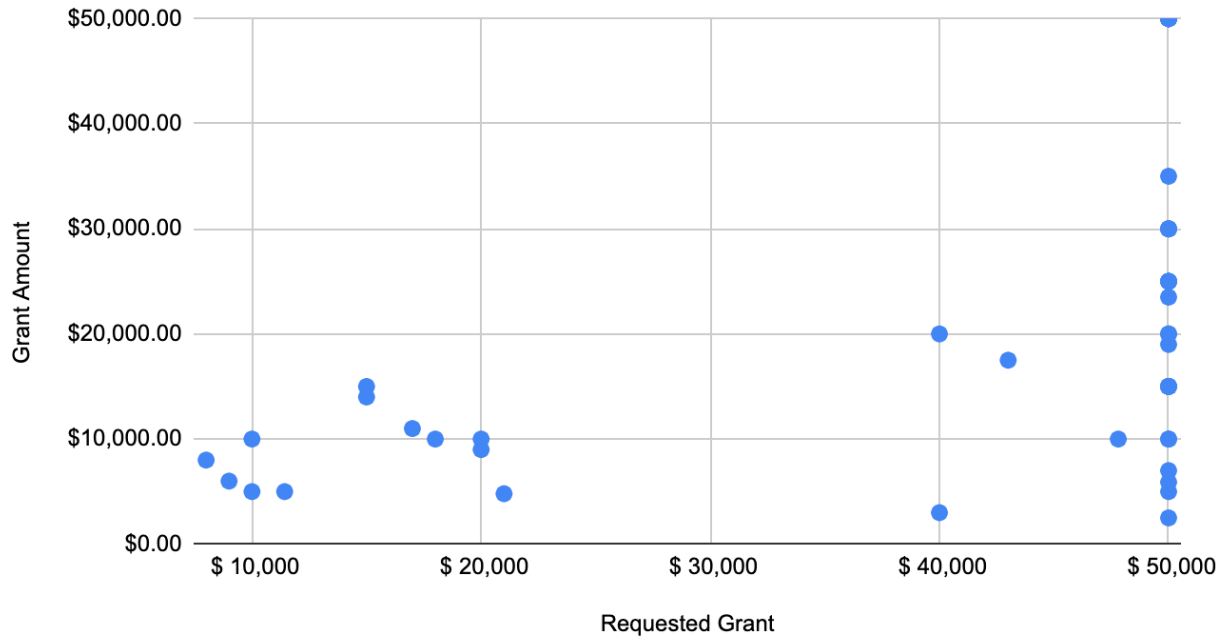


Summary of Applications Approved

This year 53 applications were approved from this round of Survive and Thrive, which is 20.86% of the total applications. This money will be used to support individual companies to recover from the pandemic with the help of Exponential Impact and all its partners. The total funds disbursed to the 53 applications was \$1,201,200 and was an average of \$22,664 per company. The maximum grant awarded was \$50,000 and the minimum grant awarded was \$2,500.

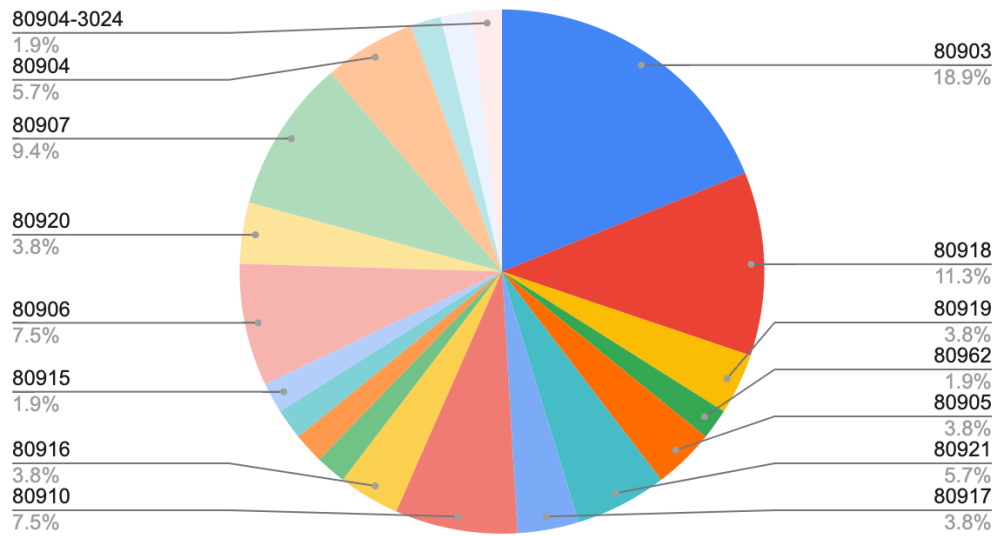
The funding for this program is in high demand which is evident by the total dollar volume of requests compared to the amount of funding available. The total sum of grants requested by these 53 applications was \$ 2,195,231 with an average of \$ 41,419 requested per application. The scatter chart below illustrates the requested grant compared to the grant amount the applicants received.

Approved Candidates: Requested Grant vs. Grant Amount



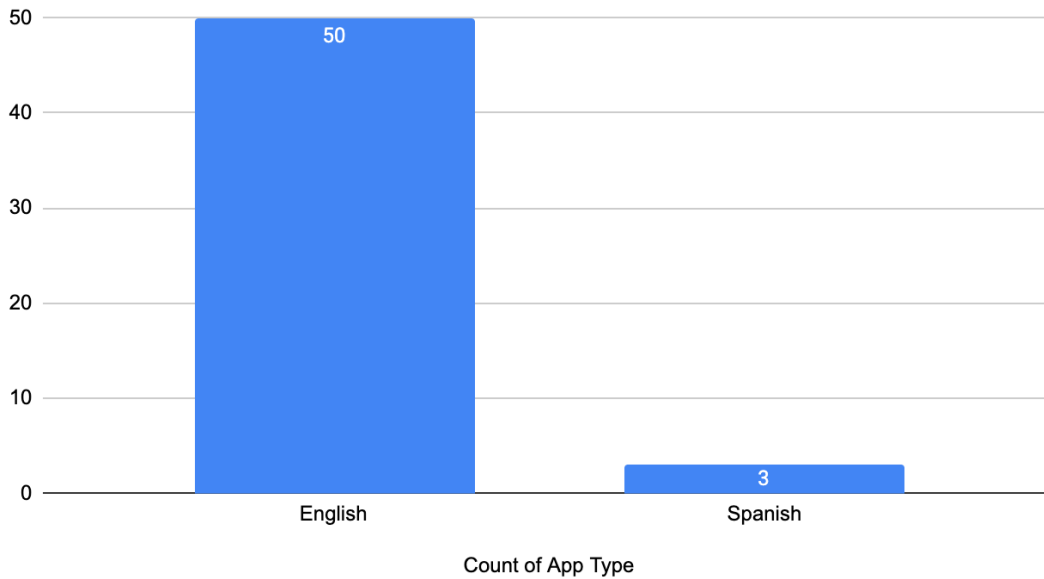
Survive and Thrive looked at geographic distribution when considering loan applications and final recommendations. Zip Codes were an influential factor throughout the application process. Participants from the following Zip Codes (80904, 80909, 80910, 80916) were given special consideration. The most accepted business zip code from the approved applicants was 80903, followed by 80918 and 80907.

Approved Applicants Zip Codes

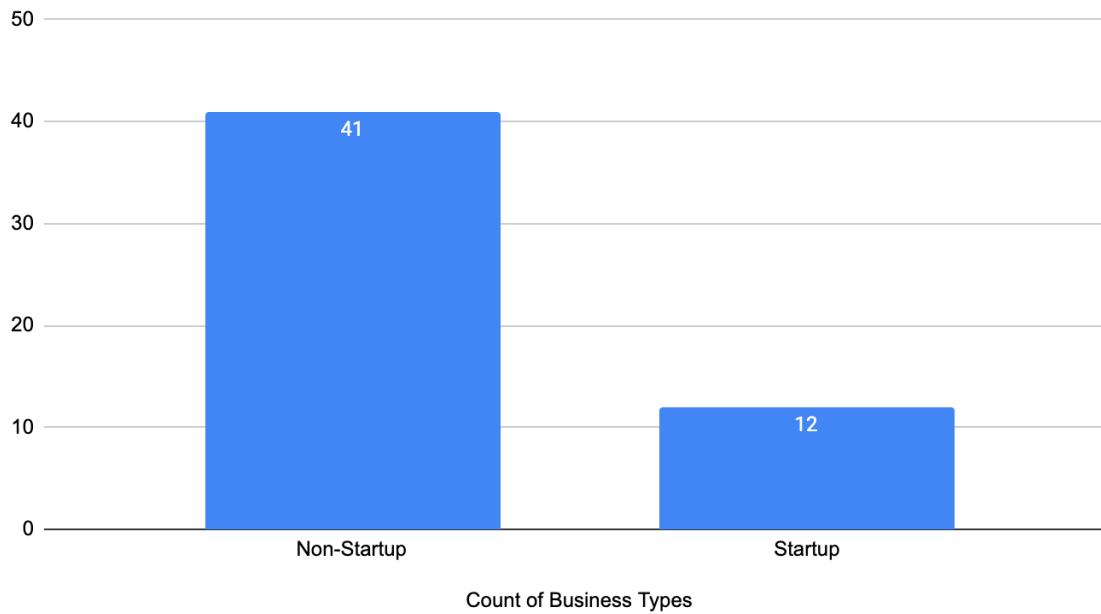


This round of approved applications included opportunities to submit information in English and Spanish. The breakdown of applications is 50 in English and 3 in Spanish; 21% of English applications were approved and 13% of Spanish applications were approved. Furthermore, the businesses that were approved are 41 non startup companies and 12 that are considered start-up companies that developed during the pandemic. 23% of the non-startup companies were approved and 15% of the start-up companies were approved for funding.

Language of Approved Applications

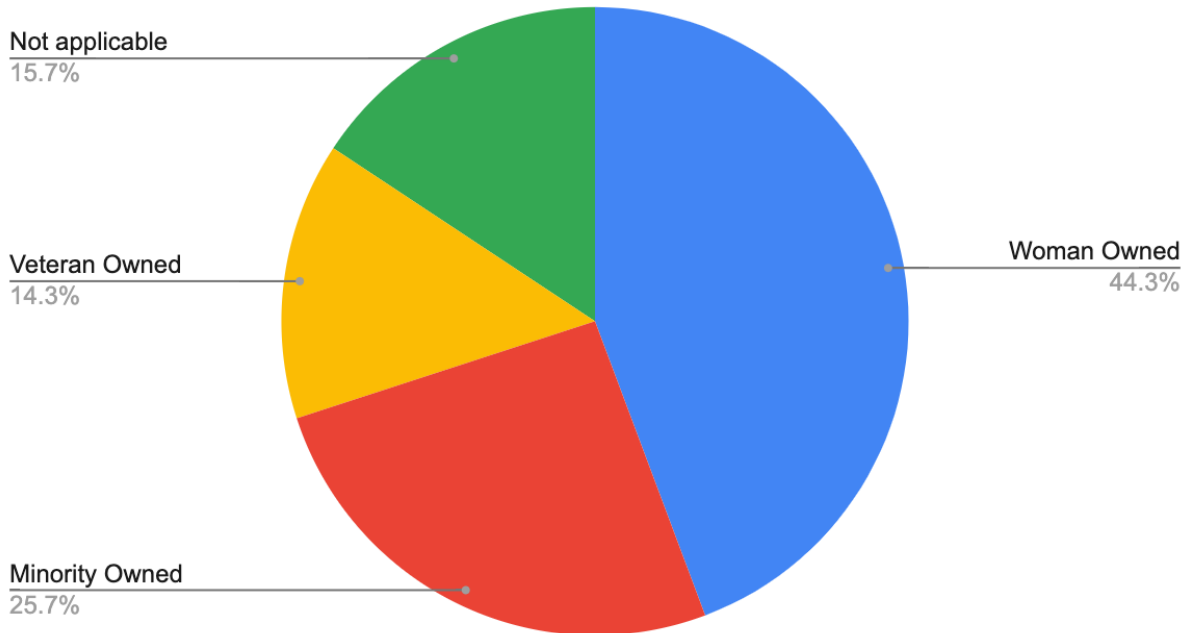


Approved Business Types



The graphic below is a visual representation of the diverse owners of the companies that were approved for this round of Survive and Thrive. Please note that overlap is applied and some companies that are annotated as “Women Owned” may also be included in “Minority Owned” and or “Veteran Owned”. 31 of the approved companies (44.3%) are considered Women Owned. 18 of the approved companies (25.7%) are considered Minority Owned. 10 of the companies (14.3%) are considered Veteran Owned. 11 of the approved companies (15.7) are considered Not Applicable within the parameters set.

Business Owner



ARP07 - Community Centers Afterschool and Summer Programs

The purpose of the SLFRF funded Community Centers Afterschool and Summer Program is to expand existing program capacity, providing childcare for low-income families for the 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 school years. This goal of the program is to promote healthy childhood environments and enable greater economic opportunity for working parents in disproportionately impacted and underserved populations. This project will support low-income families regardless of school district.

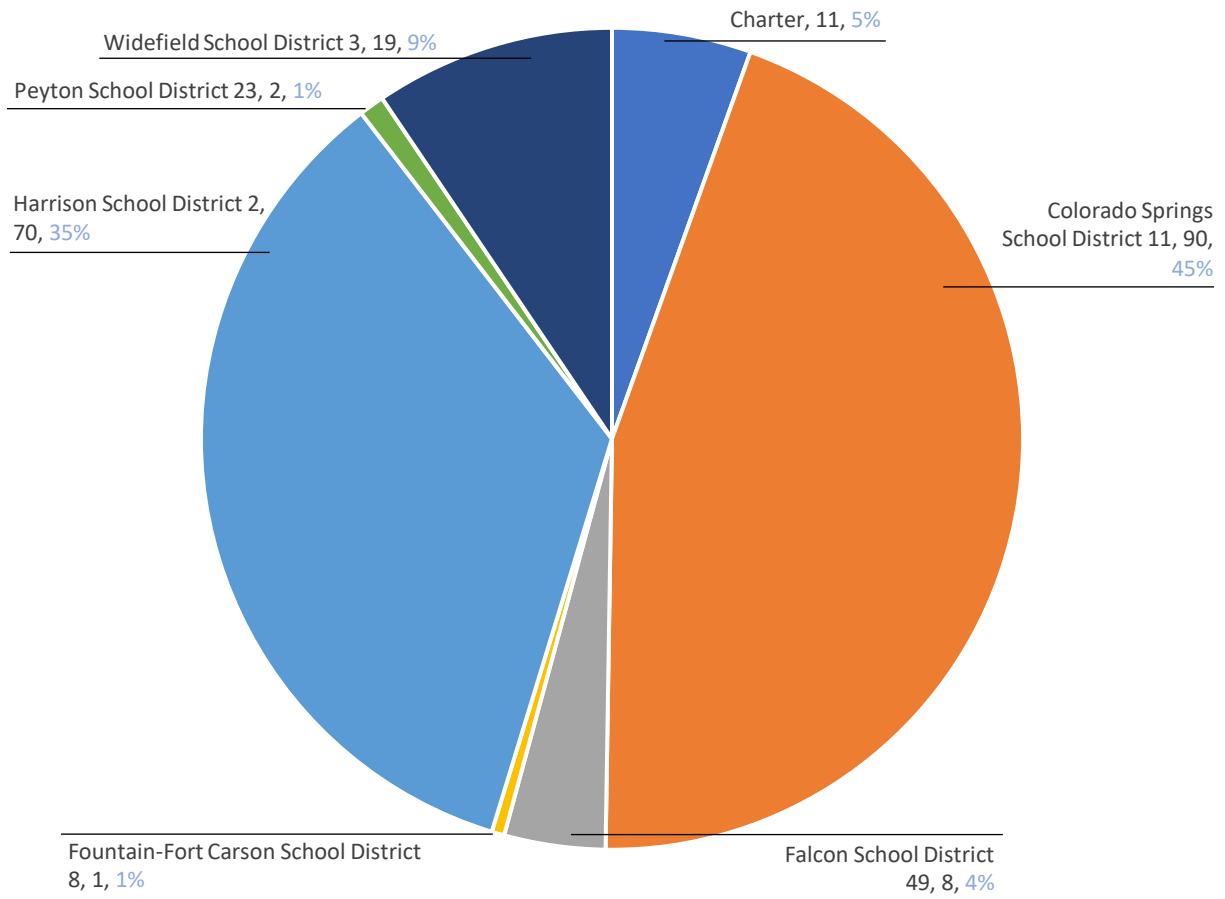
The City is tracking the following data points to measure and evaluate outcomes:

- ❖ Number of unique participants
- ❖ Participant zip code
- ❖ Participant school district



As of June 30, 2023, the program included participants from seven school districts, with the majority of the 201 unique participants attending Colorado Springs School District 11 (90) and Harrison School District 2 (70).

Unique Participants by School District



Coupling this information with the district percentage of students qualifying for free or reduced lunch, 80 percent of the participants attend a school district in which 50 percent or more of the student population are eligible for free or reduced lunch.

“I couldn’t afford to pay for all the programs or to have a sitter. When I came across this program, I was overwhelmed with joy and grateful that not only did my son get to be with other kids and activities daily, but I was able to keep working. The schedule was perfect, my son was very happy, and the staff was incredible! I will be back next year, and I hope that I can help give back in some way. Whether help with food or activities anything I can. This program is amazing, and I thank all of you for the time you put in for these kids. You’ve helped more than you know.”

- Program Parent

The zip codes with the most participation included 80903, 80910, and 80916, with an average household income of \$49,954 between the three. Participants were disbursed across 18 unique zip codes. Participant distributions by district, including the percentage of the student population eligible for free and reduced lunch, is displayed below.

District	Participants	District % Free or Reduced Lunch
Colorado Springs School District 11	90	54.5%
Harrison School District 2	70	60.6%
Widefield School District 3	19	38.1%
Charter	11	
Falcon School District 49	8	27.8%
Peyton School District 23	2	19.5%
Fountain-Fort Carson School District 8	1	39.4%

The City will continue to offer the SLFRF-funded programming through the end of 2024, and plans to seek additional funding to continue the program beyond this timeframe.

ARP44 - Digital Equity Program

Digital equity, according to the National Digital Inclusion Alliance (NDIA), is a circumstance where all individuals and communities have equal and complete capacity in information technology to fully participate in society, the economy, and government, to successfully satisfy their needs and goals for learning, employment, culture, essential services, and other key activities in life.

Residents without reliable internet, connected devices, and adequate digital skills have been inequitably/negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the increased digitization seen in its aftermath. This digital divide limits access to information and opportunities that support health and well-being, financial stability, and community cohesion. Digital equity can only be achieved by addressing and bridging this digital divide.

The City of Colorado Springs, through its Office of Innovation, believes all Colorado Springs residents should have access to affordable, reliable broadband service, internet-enabled devices, and possess the knowledge to use those devices. The City has set aside \$800,000 in SLFRF funding to create a grant opportunity to support and encourage local organizations to create or grow a variety of programs to bridge the digital divide in our community.

Funding from the SLFRF will be utilized to fund the following projects chosen through the Digital Equity Grant review process in 2022:

❖ **Boys and Girls Club of the Pikes Peak Region | \$75,000**

The proposed program helps build foundational technology skills for youth, such as online safety, typing, web search, media collaboration, coding, and gaming. The program also provides digital recognition and certification, allowing youth to track exactly which skills they have gained throughout the program.

- ❖ ***Catholic Charities of Central Colorado*** | \$194,146
The proposed program will help clients use employment resources that involve electronic navigation. This includes things like Zoom interviewing, uploading documents, job searching and creating accounts (email) that are necessary to obtaining employment.
- ❖ ***Centro de la Familia*** | \$46,455
The proposed program will help clients attain English language skills, learn more about accessing their local governments & social resources while also helping them access devices and acquire additional digital literacy skills to participate in community building, the workforce, education, and civic life.
- ❖ ***CommunityWorks*** | \$93,500
The proposed program will provide training and education to participants surrounding basic core competencies of computer literacy, as well as provide supportive services to aid and assist participants in seeking gainful employment through use of technology.
- ❖ ***Pikes Peak Library District*** | \$199,115
The proposed program will extend Wi-Fi signals and install outdoor remote lockers at four library locations throughout the district to improve the circulation of Chromebooks to patrons after hours and access to the Internet.
- ❖ ***Silver Key Senior Services*** | \$95,000
The proposed program is a multi-pronged program to help break through the technology barrier preventing seniors from utilizing computers, tables, smart phones, and the internet to solve life's many challenges.
- ❖ ***Solid Rock Community Development Corporation*** | \$93,500
The proposed program will address digital disparity through implementation of a Digital Community Hub, helping to increase access to computers and the internet, and by also providing digital literacy and skills training.

The City, in partnership with the subrecipients listed above, plans to collect and report extensive programmatic and demographic data including but not limited to total number of individuals and households served, median income level, household structure, race, and ethnicity.

Subrecipient agreements provide funding through December 31, 2024, however the City plans to seek additional funding to continue the program beyond this timeframe.