

Hamilton Township (Mercer County, NJ) Recovery Plan

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

2021 Report



**Hamilton Township (Mercer County, NJ)
2021 Recovery Plan**

Table of Contents

General Overview.....2
Executive Summary.....2
Uses of Funds2
Promoting Equitable Outcomes3
Community Engagement4
Labor Practices4
Use of Evidence4
Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category4-7

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

In July 2021, Hamilton Township officially accepted their American Rescue Plan allotment from the Federal Government. Hamilton is receiving roughly \$17.1 million over the next two years with the first installment already received.

With the growing uncertainty surrounding the continued length of the pandemic, Hamilton's administration and Council put forward a plan that allocates roughly \$6.5 million towards initial needs.

The bulk of this money is going to reimburse the Township salary and wages paid to public health staff and hiring new employees to fill vacant positions. Together these account for over \$2.1 million in reimbursements.

Other major projects include:

\$650,000 for HVAC improvements to municipal buildings open to the public to provide a safe environment for residents.

\$250,000 towards low/moderate income individuals in providing youth outdoor recreation.

\$500,000 towards stormwater relief including purchasing the town's first jet vac truck to help with stormwater projects

\$765,000 in revenue replacement to fund public safety (fire & police) services.

Since this funding was only approved in July 2021, no purchases have been made towards executing them but they set the Township up for near term project completion.

Uses of Funds

Much of the Township's initial allocation of funds will be towards personnel assistance and reimbursements for the Township through funding public health positions and permitting the town to fill vacancies that would have otherwise been unfilled.

Hamilton has placed a strong emphasis on making our use of funds geared towards those most disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. Hamilton has allocated \$250,000 towards youth recreation including \$150,000 to improving parks in areas where there is a large percentage of lower/moderate income households and \$100,000 towards reimbursement of youth recreation fees for kids who qualify for free or reduced lunches. These programs help those in lower socioeconomic situations get outside activities for both social and emotional growth after a long period of isolation since March 2020.

Hamilton has also received funds through our Community Redevelopment Block Grant programs including helping with rental, mortgage and utility assistance, emergency housing vouchers, and funding the supply of PPE for those on low and fixed incomes. As such, at this time we are not using ARP monies for these potential uses.

Hamilton is also using ARP funds to pay for our first Abandoned and Vacant Properties division which is charged with identifying and turning around vacant or abandoned properties so we can improve our neighborhoods and turn many of these properties into affordable housing units.

While the details are available in the attached excel spreadsheet, Hamilton has reserved much of our initial allocation to be flexible as the needs of our Township change over the continued life of this pandemic.

Promoting equitable outcomes

Hamilton recognizes that those who are in our lowest socioeconomic groups have suffered a disproportionate share of negative outcomes as a result of the pandemic. Certainly, reimbursing much of the Town's expenses to date help us keep our revenues and expenses lower to lessen the burden on all of our property tax payers. This is especially important as property taxes are a regressive tax (the same rate is paid by all regardless of income).

Additionally, our Health Department has undertaken hosting clinics throughout town but with a primary focus on our urban and lower socioeconomic sections of town. We understand many residents in these areas have less options for transportation to a vaccine clinic so we have worked to bring the clinics closer to them.

With a growing Hispanic population (5% in 2000; 15% in 2020), Hamilton hired a bilingual employee for our Health Department through a State grant to better communicate with a large segment of our population.

As it relates to Youth recreation, we are creating a project that would reimburse youth recreation fees for non-profit organizations for children who qualify for free/reduced lunches. By removing a cost barrier for children to participate in group youth activities, it provides another avenue for those children to have a better social/emotional learning experience coming out of isolation during the pandemic.

Hamilton has also dedicated significant funds for fighting food insecurity and worked with neighborhood groups including Trenton Area Soup Kitchen (TASK), Hamilton YMCA, Bromley Civic Center, and Wilson Center to distribute free food to those who are food insecure.

Finally, Hamilton is providing funds to the Nottingham Volunteer Ambulance Squad which has volunteers EMT's. Many people are afraid to call for an ambulance due to the high bill they would receive but our Nottingham Volunteer Ambulance Squad does not bill their patients. By providing the Ambulance Squad the tools they need to do their job while removing a potential obstacle to getting appropriate emergency medical care.

Community Engagement

Hamilton is dedicating funds to disseminating information about the programs we are running and the services we can provide. All of these services mentioned above are not worth anything if our residents do not know they exist.

Since our Hamilton Health Department began to host clinics and partner with area non-profits, we have put out flyers in English, Spanish and Haitian-Creole so that our English as a second language communities can learn about the services in their native language.

In addition to partnering with area non-profits, we have also partnered with minority-majority churches to ensure their parishioners know about the services available for them.

Labor Practices

All construction projects undertaken by Hamilton will have a prevailing wage requirement. Since NJ law only permits a project labor agreement for projects over \$5 million in construction (and since we are unlikely to have any), we cannot use a PLA.

Hamilton has a strong preference for local workers for local jobs both prior to and after the pandemic.

Use of Evidence

At this time, we are not undertaking any projects that would have a research or evidence based intervention.

Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category

	Category	Appropriated (Planned) Expenditure	Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
1	Expenditure Category: Public Health	3805500	0	0
1.1	COVID-19 Vaccination		0	0
1.2	COVID-19 Testing		0	0
1.3	COVID-19 Contact Tracing		0	0
1.4	Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, etc.)	763700	0	0
1.5	Personal Protective Equipment	141000	0	0
1.6	Medical Expenses (including Alternative Care Facilities)	18000	0	0
1.7	Capital Investments or Physical Plant Changes to Public Facilities that respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency	676700	0	0

1.8	Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)	420600	0	0
1.9	Payroll Costs for Public Health, Safety, and Other Public Sector Staff Responding to COVID-19	1715500	0	0
1.1	Mental Health Services		0	0
1.11	Substance Use Services	70000	0	0
1.12	Other Public Health Services		0	0
2	Expenditure Category: Negative Economic Impacts	874500	0	0
2.1	Household Assistance: Food Programs	60000	0	0
2.2	Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid		0	0
2.3	Household Assistance: Cash Transfers		0	0
2.4	Household Assistance: Internet Access Programs		0	0
2.5	Household Assistance: Eviction Prevention		0	0
2.6	Unemployment Benefits or Cash Assistance to Unemployed Workers		0	0
2.7	Job Training Assistance (e.g., Sectoral job-training, Subsidized Employment, Employment Supports or Incentives)		0	0
2.8	Contributions to UI Trust Funds*		0	0
2.9	Small Business Economic Assistance (General)		0	0
2.10	Aid to nonprofit organizations	105000	0	0
2.11	Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality	5000	0	0
2.12	Aid to Other Impacted Industries	4500	0	0
2.13	Other Economic Support		0	0
2.14	Rehiring Public Sector Staff	700000	0	0
3	Expenditure Category: Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities	440000	0	0
3.1	Education Assistance: Early Learning		0	0
3.2	Education Assistance: Aid to High-Poverty Districts		0	0
3.3	Education Assistance: Academic Services		0	0
3.4	Education Assistance: Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Services		0	0
3.5	Education Assistance: Other		0	0
3.6	Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care		0	0
3.7	Healthy Childhood Environments: Home Visiting		0	0
3.8	Healthy Childhood Environments: Services to Foster Youth or Families Involved in Child Welfare System		0	0

3.9.	Healthy Childhood Environments: Other	250000	0	0
3.10	Housing Support: Affordable Housing	190000	0	0
3.11	Housing Support: Services for Unhoused persons		0	0
3.12	Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance		0	0
3.13	Social Determinants of Health: Other		0	0
3.14	Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators		0	0
3.15	Social Determinants of Health: Lead Remediation		0	0
3.16	Social Determinants of Health: Community Violence Interventions		0	0
4	Expenditure Category: Premium Pay	0	0	0
4.1	Public Sector Employees			
4.2	Private Sector: Grants to other employers			
5	Expenditure Category: Infrastructure	530000	0	0
5.1	Clean Water: Centralized wastewater treatment		0	0
5.2	Clean Water: Centralized wastewater collection and conveyance		0	0
5.3	Clean Water: Decentralized wastewater		0	0
5.4	Clean Water: Combined sewer overflows		0	0
5.5	Clean Water: Other sewer infrastructure		0	0
5.6	Clean Water: Stormwater	500000	0	0
5.7	Clean Water: Energy conservation		0	0
5.8	Clean Water: Water conservation		0	0
5.9	Clean Water: Nonpoint source		0	0
5.1	Drinking water: Treatment		0	0
5.11	Drinking water: Transmission & distribution		0	0
5.12	Drinking water: Transmission & distribution: lead remediation		0	0
5.13	Drinking water: Source		0	0
5.14	Drinking water: Storage		0	0
5.15	Drinking water: Other water infrastructure		0	0
5.16	Broadband: "Last Mile" projects		0	0
5.17	Broadband: Other projects	30000	0	0
6	Expenditure Category: Revenue Replacement	765000	0	0
6.1	Provision of Government Services	765000	0	0
7	Administrative and Other	50000	0	0
7.1	Administrative Expenses	50000	0	0

7.2	Evaluation and data analysis		0	0
7.3	Transfers to Other Units of Government		0	0
7.4	Transfers to Nonentitlement Units (States and Territories only)		0	0