

RICHLAND COUNTY
CORONAVIRUS AD HOC COMMITTEE

AGENDA



TUESDAY DECEMBER 17, 2024

3:00 PM

COUNCIL CHAMBERS

Richland County Council 2024-2025



Deirek Pugh
District 2
Vice Chair



Jason Branham
District 1



Gretchen Barron
District 7



Yvonne McBride
District 3



Paul Livingston
District 4



Allison Terracio
District 5



Don Weaver
District 6



Overture Walker
District 8



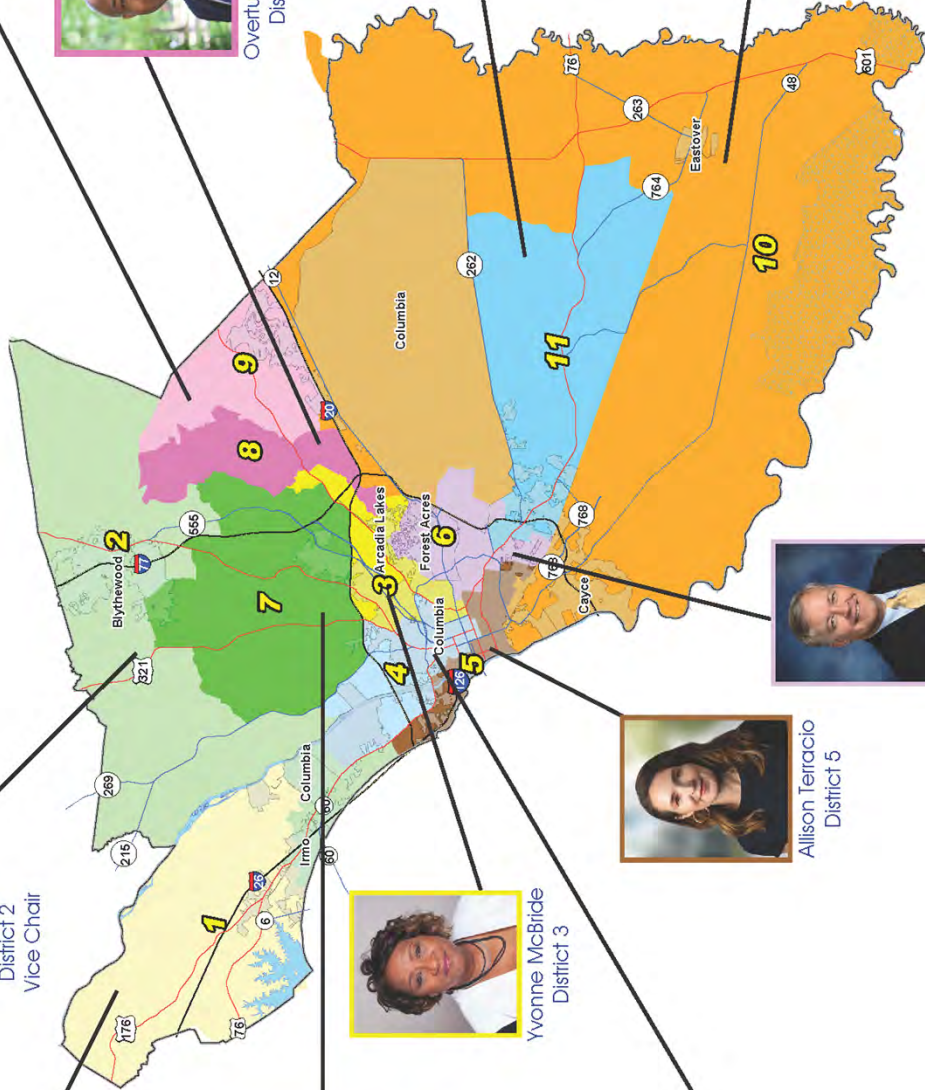
Chakisse Newton
District 11



Cheryl English
District 10



Jessica Mackey
District 9
Chair





**Richland County
Coronavirus Ad Hoc Committee**

AGENDA

December 17, 2024 - 3:00 PM
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29204

The Honorable Jason Branham County Council District 1	The Honorable Gretchen Barron County Council District 7	The Honorable Chakisse Newton County Council District 11
--	--	---

1. **Call to Order** The Honorable Gretchen D. Barron,
Chair
 - a. Roll Call

2. **Approval of Minutes** The Honorable Gretchen Barron
 - a. July 2, 2024 **[PAGES 5-8]**

3. **Adoption of Agenda** The Honorable Gretchen Barron

4. **Items for Discussion/Action** The Honorable Gretchen Barron
 - a. Grants Update **[PAGES 9-22]**

5. **Adjournment** The Honorable Gretchen Barron



Special Accommodations and Interpreter Services Citizens may be present during any of the County's meetings. If requested, the agenda and backup materials will be made available in alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132), as amended and the federal rules and regulations adopted in implementation thereof. Any person who requires a disability-related modification or accommodation, including auxiliary aids or services, in order to participate in the public meeting may request such modification, accommodation, aid or service by contacting the Clerk of Council's office either in person at 2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC, by telephone at (803) 576-2061, or TDD at 803-576-2045 no later than 24 hours prior to the scheduled meeting.



Richland County Council
Coronavirus Ad Hoc Committee Meeting
MINUTES
July 2, 2024 – 4:00 PM
Council Chambers
2020 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29204

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Gretchen Barron, Chair, Jason Branham, and Chakisse Newton

OTHERS PRESENT: Yvonne McBride, Allison Terracio, Michelle Onley, Anette Kirylo, Patrick Wright, Stacey Hamm, Angela Weathersby, Kyle Holsclaw, Chelsea Bennett, Lori Thomas, Aric Jensen, Tamar Black, Dale Welch, Jennifer Wladischkin, Sarah Harris, Dante Roberts, and Ashiya Myers

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chairwoman Gretchen Barron called the meeting to order at approximately 4:00 PM.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a. October 17, 2023 – Ms. Newton moved to approve the minutes as distributed, seconded by Mr. Branham.

In Favor: Branham, Barron, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

3. **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Ms. Newton moved to adopt the agenda as published, seconded by Mr. Branham.

In Favor: Branham, Barron, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

4. **ELECTION OF CHAIR** – Ms. Newton moved to open nominations for the Chair, seconded by Mr. Branham.

In Favor: Branham, Barron, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

Ms. Newton nominated Ms. Barron for the position of Chair.

In Favor: Branham, Barron, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE – Ms. Barron thanked her colleagues for allowing her to chair the committee for another year.

5. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION/ACTION**

a. Grants Update – Ms. Lori Thomas, Assistant County Administrator, noted the County issued 37 grants, 25 of which were sub-recipient grants and 12 were beneficiary grants. Beneficiary grants are those that are using the funds directly for their purposes. The total amount granted was \$7.596M, with \$5.9M awarded to sub-recipients and \$1.6M awarded to beneficiaries. She indicated that about 22% of the sub-recipient funds had been expended. However, approximately 70% of the beneficiary grant funds have been expended.

Mr. Branham inquired why the percentage is not any higher for the sub-recipients.

Ms. Thomas replied that the sub-recipient grants require quite a bit of documentation. Specific procurement requirements also have to be utilized. Many of the projects were not ready to be funded, and it took a while to get the grant award letters and contracts in place with the sub-recipients. She

Coronavirus Ad Hoc Committee Minutes

July 2, 2024

1

noted that we are seeing this move more quickly and believes a great deal of the funds will be expended in the next three months. She pointed out the funding period will be closed at the end of October, and the County would re-obligate any funds not expended so they are not lost.

Ms. Barron inquired how the sub-recipients would be notified about the deadline to expend the funds.

Ms. Thomas responded that emails will be sent to the sub-recipients this month reminding them of the deadline. Additionally, Guidehouse is monitoring them, so they are also reminding them.

Ms. Barron inquired what would happen if we did not receive their report.

Ms. Thomas indicated that if they do not send us a report, we will email them to inform them that they are not compliant and remind them of the upcoming deadline.

Ms. Barron emphasized that sending out a monthly notice would be helpful to remind them of the impending deadline.

Ms. Newton inquired if the funds must be obligated or spent by October.

Ms. Thomas stated the original agreement with the sub-recipients was that the funds had to be obligated and spent by October. She noted they will work with them on an individual basis in the event there is a disruption in their schedules.

Ms. McBride inquired if a programmatic report would be provided about them achieving their objectives.

Ms. Thomas responded that there will be once their project is complete. Guidehouse is collecting that information and working with the sub-recipients to ensure their projects are in place.

Ms. McBride asked if the quarterly reports include the programmatic status of the project(s).

Ms. Thomas indicated that these particular federal grants are required to report their expenditures and general information quarterly, but not necessarily project updates. She noted we could request the programmatic data.

It was noted that two of the sub-recipients have completed their projects and expended all of their funds. Two more are above 90%, and an additional four are at 70% or above. One sub-recipient decided not to pursue their project; therefore, the funding will be de-obligated.

Ms. Thomas indicated most of the sub-recipients' costs are for materials/supplies and personnel.

Ms. Barron requested a list of the sub-recipients that have completed their projects. She suggested the Communications Department highlight these sub-recipients and their projects.

Ms. Thomas stated that five of the twelve beneficiary projects are 100% complete, one is 15% complete, and the remaining six have yet to begin requesting their reimbursements. The breakdown of the 12 beneficiary projects is as follows:

- Assistance to NFPs for Negative Economic impacts – 6
- Assistance to NFPs for COVID-19 Mitigation – 3
- Grants to Small Businesses to Mitigate Negative Economic Impact – 2
- Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality – 1

Ms. Newton inquired, looking at this report, if it falls in line with the expectations.

Ms. Thomas responded that she could not answer that but would gladly present the question to Guidehouse and provide an answer.

- b. Youth and Recreation Final Allocation—Ms. Barron stated that a million dollars was set aside for Youth and Recreation Services. Several applicants were considered; however, once we went through the application process, it was determined that they did not necessarily meet the committee's vision. Therefore, the funding was held in committee. At this point, with October being the deadline, we need to decide on what we will do with the funds. Council has voted that any funding not spent will go toward the Family Service Center. She indicated that with all we have going on with the youth in the County, she has a challenge with us lumping them back into the fund for the Family Service Center without attempting to put it in the hands of organizations that are doing the work and meet the guidelines of ARPA. There have been some conversations about perhaps looking at the Recreation Commission.

Ms. Thomas maintained the requirements for the program would still have to show that they would fund programs to benefit those negatively impacted by COVID. Whether the programming would be eligible would be based on who would receive benefit from the funds and how they would be used. Unfortunately, the funds cannot be used on asset building. Additionally, we are running into time constraints because any asset that might be used would have to be procured in such a way and contracted to meet the requirements of the December 31, 2024, obligation period. The determining

factor(s) of whether a program meets the funding requirements would be in the details of the program itself and who the program is benefitting.

Ms. Barron indicated certain communities were hit hard because of COVID. If we consider the Recreation Commission's programming in those particular areas, we may be okay. She pointed out that we allowed organizations to be reimbursed. Therefore, if the Recreation Commission has already done programming in these communities, they would have to substantiate that it benefitted specific zip codes.

Ms. Thomas asserted that would likely be the only way programmatically they could spend a million dollars by December 31, 2024.

Ms. Newton acknowledged it was her deepest wish that we could invest this money in the community for youth services. She made the motion to increase the funding from \$500,000 to \$1M because she sees there is a lot of need for youth and providing for those services. She noted that as time has passed, she has not seen a viable option for this category. She has resigned herself that utilizing the funding for the Family Services Center would serve many of the youth. She noted that if the goal is to have a recommendation for Council today, she does not see how that is possible unless the recommendation is to utilize the funding for the Family Services Center. As it relates to the Recreation Commission, since we do not have a specific program, have not heard from them formally, and do not know what or how they could do it, the only recommendation we could forward to Council is that we would like to explore what we could do with the Recreation Commission. She pointed out that she had previous discussions with Ms. Thomas about utilizing the funding for summer programs and camps. At that time, there were ARPA obstacles identified. In addition, it was pointed out that she was not a proponent of reimbursing them.

Ms. Barron stated reimbursing funds is not ideal, but doing so allows them to free up funds to do other things in the community. If the committee does not see there is a viable option to fund another organization(s), she respects that the funds will go to the Family Services Center, but it will be a hard pill for her to swallow.

Ms. Newton expressed that every option she explored, including treating the funds like we did Affordable Housing, did not work with the ARPA guidelines.

Ms. McBride indicated that if there was any way we could use some of the funds to address the needs of the youth, she would support it 100%. We cannot continue to do nothing. We need to look at preventing violence involving the youth.

Ms. Barron asked if it is the committee's will to direct Administration to have a conversation with the Recreation Commission. She noted the Sheriff's Department also has a fee-based summer program. If we look internally at what we have going on and how we could use those funds, we may be able to do so.

Mr. Branham pointed out that we have tried to get the funds to the places that could best serve the intended recipients. The Family Services Center is, without question, a facility through which the county's youth will be served. He expressed that he would support, without reservation, sending the funding to the Family Services Center.

Ms. Newton asked if Ms. Thomas believes it is realistic to identify an organization, define a program, and have Council vote to commit funding within the three months before the deadline.

Ms. Thomas inquired if we are looking at prospective or past programs.

Ms. Newton responded that she only wanted to look at prospective programs.

Ms. Thomas replied she was not saying that it would be impossible, but it would be difficult to make the timeline work. Even with a reimbursement situation, you must evaluate the expenditure to determine if it was procured and used appropriately and benefitted the harmed party.

Ms. Barron suggested not expending the million dollars but a portion of the funding.

Ms. Newton stated that, based on the information she has, she does not see a viable path. She noted this does not preclude us from looking for other funding and methods to address this need.

Ms. Barron closed the discussion on the matter and noted that if she called another meeting, then she has been able to find other options.

Ms. Newton stated for clarification, there is no action required to send the funds to the Family Services Center.

The County Attorney Patrick Wright responded in the affirmative.

6. **ADJOURNMENT** – Mr. Branham moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Newton.

In Favor: Branham, Barron, and Newton

The vote in favor was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:50 PM.



Informational Agenda Briefing

Prepared by:	Lori Thomas	Title:	Assistant County Administrator
Department:	Administration	Division:	
Date Prepared:	December 10, 2024	Meeting Date:	December 17, 2024
Approved for consideration:	County Administrator	Leonardo Brown, MBA, CPM	
Meeting/Committee	Coronavirus Ad Hoc		
Subject:	American Rescue Plan (SLFRF) Grants update		

Staff is pleased to provide an update of activities related to the grants awarded to non-profits from the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) of the American Rescue Plan Act. Grants totaling \$6,303,304 were awarded to 30 local non-profits and small businesses for approved projects for uses through October 31, 2024.

Beginning August 5, 2024, grantees with unspent funds were notified monthly in writing of the pending October 31, 2024 expenditure deadline as well as of the November 30, 2024 reimbursement request deadline to align with Council's approval to reallocate all unspent funds as of October 31, 2024 to the Family Services Center project. Subsequent letters were sent on September 10, 2024 and October 3, 2024 to grantees with unreimbursed funds (see examples attached.)

However, on October 16, 2024 staff became aware of a clerical error on a number of contracts indicating a December 31, 2024 contract end date. This error impacted 15 groups who had not expended all of their funding. A contract amendment was sent to these organizations as allowed by the terms of the grant agreement, and all organizations executed the amendment.

As of the authoring of this report, agency reimbursements total \$5,422,205.73.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Grants Overview
2. Example Notice 1
3. Example Notice 2
4. Example Notice 3
5. American Rescue Plan Award Detail
6. American Rescue Plan Project Summary Reports

American Rescue Plan Grant Overview

Attachment 1

Category	Allocation	Allocations During Budget	Balance	Awarded	Reimbursed to Grantees	Reobligated from Grants to Family Services Center
Small Business	\$ 1,000,000		\$1,000,000	\$ 50,000	\$50,000	\$0
Non-profit	\$ 1,000,000	(\$365,250)	\$ 634,750	\$400,082	\$303,616	\$96,466
Workforce Training	\$ 1,000,000		\$1,000,000	\$553,950	\$553,497	\$3.00
Education Assistance	\$ 1,000,000		\$1,000,000	\$922,922	\$657,679	\$265,243
Senior Assistance	\$ 1,000,000		\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$946,846	\$53,154
Food Insecurity	\$ 2,000,000	(\$548,046)	\$1,451,954	\$1,451,954	\$1,211,645	\$240,309
Broadband Services	\$ 2,000,000		\$2,000,000	\$505,446	\$423,746	\$81,700
Affordable Housing*	\$ 4,000,000		\$4,000,000	\$0		
Assistance for Unhoused Persons	\$ 2,000,000	(\$200,000)	\$1,800,000	\$1,418,950	\$1,274,727	\$144,223
Youth and Recreational Services	\$ 1,000,000		\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$16,000,000	(\$1,113,296)	\$14,886,704	\$6,303,304	\$5,372,206	\$881,098
*Funds reallocated			10 of 22			

**RICHLAND COUNTY GOVERNMENT
ADMINISTRATION**

2020 Hampton Street, Suite 4069, Columbia, SC 29204
P 803-576-2050 | F 803-576-2137 | TDD 803-576-2045
richlandcountysc.gov

Attachment 2



August 9, 2024

RE: American Rescue Plan State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Grant Update and Required Expenditures

Dear Amy London,

Richland County would like to thank you for providing valuable services to those most in need in our community. We are pleased that Richland County is able to partner with you by approving a grant of up to \$ 348,189.00 for your project. As of June 30, 2024, your organization has been reimbursed \$13,545.39 of your award.

The performance period for this grant is quickly drawing to a close. Because funds must be appropriately obligated by December 31, 2024 as designated by the US Treasury, please ensure that your project is complete with funds expended by October 31, 2024. Additionally, reimbursement requests must be made no later than November 30, 2024 to ensure the County is able to use these resources in an appropriate and timely manner.

After November 30, 2024, the County will begin de-obligating any remaining funds so they can be appropriately re-obligated prior to the December 31, 2024 federal deadline. Reimbursement requests made after November 30, 2024 will not be paid by the County to the grantee.

If you have any questions about this process, please feel free to contact me. Again, we thank you for all that your organization does for the residents of Richland County.

Kind regards,

Lori J. Thomas, MBA, CGFO
Assistant County Administrator
Richland County Government
thomas.lori@richlandcountysc.gov
Office (803) 576-2057

Cc: Leonardo Brown, County Administrator
Aric Jensen, Assistant County Administrator
Sarah Harris, Director of Grants
Maddison Wilkerson, Director of Budget and Strategic Performance

**RICHLAND COUNTY GOVERNMENT
ADMINISTRATION**

2020 Hampton Street, Suite 4069, Columbia, SC 29204
P 803-576-2050 | F 803-576-2137 | TDD 803-576-2045
richlandcountysc.gov

Attachment 3



September 10, 2024

RE: American Rescue Plan State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Grant Update and Required Expenditures

Dear Amy London,

Richland County would like to thank you for providing valuable services to those most in need in our community. We are pleased that Richland County is able to partner with you by approving a grant of up to \$348,189.00 for your project. As of August 31, 2024, your organization has been reimbursed \$13,545.39 of your award.

The performance period for this grant is quickly drawing to a close. Because funds must be appropriately obligated by December 31, 2024 as designated by the US Treasury, please ensure that your project is complete with funds expended by October 31, 2024. Additionally, reimbursement requests must be made no later than November 30, 2024 to ensure the County is able to use these resources in an appropriate and timely manner.

After November 30, 2024, the County will begin de-obligating any remaining funds so they can be appropriately re-obligated prior to the December 31, 2024 federal deadline. Reimbursement requests made after November 30, 2024 will not be paid by the County to the grantee.

If you have any questions about this process, please feel free to contact me. Again, we thank you for all that your organization does for the residents of Richland County.

Kind regards,

Lori J. Thomas, MBA, CGFO
Assistant County Administrator
Richland County Government
thomas.lori@richlandcountysc.gov
Office (803) 322-6124

Cc: Leonardo Brown, County Administrator
Aric Jensen, Assistant County Administrator
Sarah Harris, Director of Grants
Maddison Wilkerson, Director of Budget and Strategic Performance

**RICHLAND COUNTY GOVERNMENT
ADMINISTRATION**

2020 Hampton Street, Suite 4069, Columbia, SC 29204
P 803-576-2050 | F 803-576-2137 | TDD 803-576-2045
richlandcountysc.gov

Attachment 4



October 3, 2024

RE: American Rescue Plan State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund Grant Update and Required Expenditures

Dear Name,

Richland County would like to thank you for providing valuable services to those most in need in our community. We are pleased that Richland County is able to partner with you by approving a grant of up to \$ 348,189 for your project. As of June 30, 2024, your organization has been reimbursed \$ 13,545.39 of your award.

The performance period for this grant is quickly drawing to a close. Because funds must be appropriately obligated by December 31, 2024 as designated by the US Treasury, please ensure that your project is complete with funds expended by October 31, 2024. Additionally, reimbursement requests must be made no later than November 30, 2024 to ensure the County is able to use these resources in an appropriate and timely manner.

After November 30, 2024, the County will begin de-obligating any remaining funds so they can be appropriately re-obligated prior to the December 31, 2024 federal deadline. Reimbursement requests made after November 30, 2024 will not be paid by the County to the grantee.

If you have any questions about this process, please feel free to contact me. Again, we thank you for all that your organization does for the residents of Richland County.

Kind regards,

Lori J. Thomas, MBA, CGFO
Assistant County Administrator
Richland County Government
thomas.lori@richlandcountysc.gov
Office (803) 576-2057

Cc: Leonardo Brown, County Administrator
Aric Jensen, Assistant County Administrator
Sarah Harris, Director of Grants
Maddison Wilkerson, Director of Budget and Strategic Performance

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN AWARD DETAIL

	Sub Amount	Category Award Amount	Paid to Grantees	Deobligation Amount
Funding for Small Businesses	50,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00	-
Caughman and Company	25,000.00		25,000.00	-
Thrift Store of Greenville Inc., DBA Sunshine Thrift Store	25,000.00		25,000.00	-
Funding for Non-Profits	400,082.20	400,082.20	303,615.74	96,466.46
Epworth Children's Home-Beneficiary	131,991.00		131,991.00	-
Midlands Mediation Center	130,000.00		33,534.00	96,466.00
The Cooperative Ministry	138,091.20		138,090.74	0.46
Funding for Workforce Training	553,950.00	553,950.00	553,946.83	3.17
Alston Wilkes Society	80,000.00		80,000.00	-
USC Columbia Tech Incubator	340,200.00		340,200.00	-
Midlands Fatherhood Coalition	50,000.00		50,000.00	-
Richland County Public Library	83,750.00		83,746.83	3.17
Funding for Education Assistance	922,921.75	922,921.75	657,678.95	265,242.80
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands	182,250.00		182,250.00	-
Lower Richland Alumni Foundation	155,931.75		44,196.39	111,735.36
Lynn Brown Inspires	50,000.00		50,000.00	-
Planned Parenthood South Atlantic	100,000.00		100,000.00	-
Richland County Public Library	64,000.00		63,831.00	169.00
SC Thrive	170,740.00		113,247.27	57,492.73
United Way of the Midlands	200,000.00		104,154.29	95,845.71
Funding for Senior Assistance	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00	946,846.24	53,153.76
SC Uplift Community Outreach	500,000.00		498,021.38	1,978.62
SC Association of Community Action Partnerships	500,000.00		448,824.86	51,175.14
Funding to Address Food Insecurity	1,451,954.00	1,451,954.00	1,211,644.73	240,309.27
Midlands Housing Alliance	419,986.00		419,986.00	-
PALSS-Palmetto Aids Life Support Services	58,256.00		36,155.76	22,100.24
Prisma Health Midlands	348,189.00		130,450.49	217,738.51
Senior Resources FY23 (PG)	548,046.00		548,046.00	-
Serve and Connect	77,477.00		77,006.48	470.52
Funding for Broadband Services in Underserved Areas	505,446.13	505,446.13	423,746.13	81,700.00
Columbia International University	297,746.13		297,746.13	-
Richland County Public Library	207,700.00		126,000.00	81,700.00
Funding for Services for Unhoused Persons	1,418,950.00	1,418,950.00	1,274,727.11	144,222.89
Alston Wilkes Society	320,000.00		235,777.11	84,222.89
Compass Community Development Corp	38,950.00		38,950.00	-
Eddings Help House	50,000.00		-	50,000.00
MIRCI-Mental Illness Recovery Center Inc.	1,000,000.00		1,000,000.00	-
Restoration 803	10,000.00		-	10,000.00
Totals	6,303,304.08	6,303,304.08	5,422,205.73	881,098.35

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN PROJECT SUMMARY REPORTS THRU SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

Caughman & Co. LLC

Project Overview & Use of Evidence: Small businesses throughout Richland County have suffered severe negative economic impacts due to the effects caused and exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. These impacts include losses in revenue due to the quarantine restrictions during the pandemic and extraordinary increases in operating expenses due to pandemic related economic shocks and COVID-19 mitigation compliance. Richland County developed the Small Business COVID-19 Financial Assistance Program to make reasonable awards to small businesses to stabilize the instability caused by the pandemic and ensure that impacted small businesses can cover their costs and continue to serve their communities far into the future.

Performance Report: Funding was used for marketing, advertising and other promotional media to promote the business.

NON-PROFIT ASSISTANCE

Midlands Mediation Center

- **Project Overview & Use of Evidence:** The Community Violence Reduction project aims to decrease violence and increase civic engagement in local communities through various methods like mediation, restorative justice, and community dialogues. Midlands Mediation Center will lead the project by ni to reconnect and network.

- **Scholarships and Support:** Providing scholarships or financial support to current students or recent graduates.

- **Community Involvement:** Engaging in projects or initiatives that benefit the school and local community.

Performance Report: LRAA wanted to pay it forward to their community by providing students of all ages in the lower Richland Area School Cluster with assistance with getting back on their educational path being out due to COVID-19. As such LRAA has carved out space for an Educational Learning Center to provide their students with the much-needed tutoring and academic assistance due to lost instructional time. Thus far they have welcomed many students and predominately serve lower income households.

The Cooperative Ministries – Premium Pay – Public Sector Employees

Project Overview & Use of Evidence: The Cooperative Ministry exists to increase the economic self-sufficiency of people experiencing poverty in the Midlands through crisis assistance and sustainability programs. The purpose is to provide premium pay to the employees of The Cooperative Ministry that performed essential work during the public health emergency. The public-facing nature of their services continually placed their staff at increased risk of contracting COVID-19.

WORKFORCE TRAINING

Midland Fatherhood Coalition - Workforce Development

Project Overview & Use of Evidence: This Workforce Development to Strengthen Economically Disadvantaged Families program takes a holistic approach to strengthening fathers and helping them overcome obstacles with a range of education, services and support that includes:

- A comprehensive fatherhood program to teach the essentials of responsible fatherhood
- Employment coaching to help dads get jobs or find better paying jobs
- Help navigating the child support system
- Guidance on establishing paternity, visitation and other legal issues
- Peer-group sessions that provide fathers a safe space to talk and support each other

- Referrals for help with complex problems
- Mediation with the child’s mother and other family members
- Access to men’s healthcare education, screenings and referrals
- Assistance with transportation

Performance Report: Based on their core list of services they assist low income and non-custodial fathers who struggle to provide stability and emotional and financial support to their children by preparing them for long-term careers. They have used the funds to enhance their program by rebuilding enrollment and partnership efforts through outreach, awareness, recruitment, and retention efforts as well as employment readiness through unique programs like “Jobs Not Jail” a way to catch up on child support obligations that is a successful alternative to incarceration. Via ongoing connections with an experienced, supportive program staff many fathers have already experienced the benefits of the program offerings and are on their way to rebuilding their lives.

Richland County Public Library - Workforce Digital Equity Program

Project Overview & Use of Evidence: RCPL used their learning spaces to bridge the digital divide in the Richland community, specifically underserved adults who do not have access to a computer and are utilizing Richlands Library’s workforce development programs and resources.

Performance Report: The Richland Library will used funds to purchase \$350 laptops and Chromebooks to give to this community. Providing a much-needed service to their community enabling those in need of technology.

USC Columbia Technology Incubator

Project Overview & Use of Evidence: To effectively assist underemployed individuals, it's important to tailor support to their specific needs and circumstances. USC through their tech Incubator program they have community partnerships, personalized career services, and access to educational and training resources, all crucial components of a comprehensive support strategy. By leveraging these resources and approaches, underemployed individuals can better position themselves for fulfilling and well-matched employment opportunities.

Performance Report: USC has been assisting underemployed individuals by providing support to those who are working in jobs that don't fully utilize their skills, qualifications, or potential, or who are working part-time when they need full-time employment. Also offered are career assessments/coaching; job training/placement; resume building; and interview prep.

EDUCATION ASSISTANCE

Lower Richland Alumni Association

Project Overview & Use of Evidence: The Lower Richland Alumni Association (LRAA) is an organization dedicated to supporting and connecting alumni from Lower Richland High School in Richland County, South Carolina. The association aims to foster a strong sense of community and pride among graduates, support current students, and promote the interests of the school.

Key activities and functions of the LRAA typically include:

- **Reunions and Social Events:** Organizing gatherings for alumni to reconnect and network.
- **Scholarships and Support:** Providing scholarships or financial support to current students or recent graduates.
- **Community Involvement:** Engaging in projects or initiatives that benefit the school and local community.

Performance Report: LRAA wanted to pay it forward to their community by providing students of all ages in the lower Richland Area School Cluster with assistance with getting back on their educational path being out due to COVID-19. As such LRAA has carved out space for an Educational Learning Center to provide their

students with the much-needed tutoring and academic assistance due to lost instructional time. Thus far they have welcomed many students and predominately serve lower income households.

Lynn Brown Inspires Young CEOs and Leaders of Tomorrow

Project Overview & Use of Evidence: Is a program for youth in grades 4-12 and ages 17-25 that promotes Economic Empowerment through Entrepreneurship with an emphasis on Leadership and Education through FREE Entrepreneurship summer camps and 6 Business Pods with Business mentors. Students and parents are provided with the resources and programs needed to create, maintain, and sustain a productive business through education, leadership, and community service to achieve their entrepreneurial, leadership, educational and also personal goals.

Performance Report: With County funding this project provided 187 students with access to the training camp which typically focus on teaching participants essential business skills, fostering creativity, encouraging innovative thinking. They can vary in scope, duration, and target audience, ranging elementary school students to high schoolers and even college students.

Planned Parenthood of South Atlantic

Project Overview & Use of Evidence: For more than 100 years, women, men, and young people have relied on Planned Parenthood for accessible and affordable quality healthcare, accurate information and comprehensive health education. Planned Parenthood South Atlantic (PPSAT) is a nonprofit health care provider offering a wide range of affordable and reliable reproductive and sexual health care services in 14 locations across North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia. PPSAT is staffed by highly-trained doctors, nurses and other health care professionals who are proud to serve your reproductive and sexual health care needs. They are committed to providing high-quality health care to everyone who walks through our doors, no matter their race, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, documentation, or insurance status.

Performance Report: Planned Parenthood South Atlantic provides high quality education that reflects the needs of young people, their families, our patients, and the communities they serve. At its core, PPSAT education programs are about helping young people reach their full potential while helping community members gain access to the health care and information they need to live healthy, productive lives.

Specific programming is tailored to the needs of the community, but all of PPSAT's education programs adhere to the following high standards:

- Offering multi-session, Planned Parenthood branded peer education programs that use evidence-based curricula;
- Prioritizing family engagement to foster open and effective communication between teens and their parents or caregivers;
- Maintaining alumni programs that offer young people long-term ways to stay engaged with PPSAT and make meaningful difference in their community through service projects, educational presentations, and advocacy;
- Creating science-based, well-cited community presentations on issues related to Planned Parenthood South Atlantic's mission and of specific interest to community members.

Richland County Public Library

Project Overview & Use of Evidence: - The Richland County Public Library (RCPL) serves Richland County, South Carolina. It's a valuable resource for the community, offering a range of services including:

- **Books and Media:** Extensive collections of books, audiobooks, e-books, DVDs, and more.
- **Programs and Events:** Regularly scheduled events like story times for kids, book clubs, author talks, and educational workshops.
- **Digital Resources:** Access to online databases, e-books, and digital magazines.
- **Community Services:** Meeting rooms, study spaces, and assistance with research and technology.

Performance Report: Education Studio Program - Helping Young Leaders with Learning Loss. This project provides resources to Richland County elementary students between 1st and 3rd grade reading below their grade level. Since launching their studio, the RCPL has used funds to expand the Education Studio Program at additional Library locations to reach more underserved students. This program provides literacy camps during the summer, parent and caregivers classes with educators with increased accessibility to the program. They often have branches spread throughout the county, each offering its own unique programs and resources

SC Thrive - Public Health - Mental Health Services

Project Overview & Use of Evidence: This project is to provide access to mental health services to help address the increase of mental health issues such as anxiety and depression because of the pandemic. This organization will use the requested funds to provide Mental Health First Aid Training to 300 school personnel over the next two years at various schools in Richland County to provide mental health services and support for students.

Performance Report: To-date of this project was able to expand the population of personnel within Richland County schools trained to identify the need for and administer mental health first aid to students and adults

SENIOR ASSISTANCE

SC Uplift Community Outreach

Richland County Home Repair Project for Seniors

Project Overview & Use of Evidence: SC UpLift Community Outreach is a community development corporation founded in 2008 that nurtures human potential by offering educational, economic, and health programs. Their primary focus is helping people improve their quality of life through safe, secure and affordable housing and employment services. We will implement the Richland County Senior Home Repair Program to address the growing demand for home and emergency repairs.

Performance Report: The Richland County Senior Home Repair Program focused on providing home repairs and emergency repairs for seniors, 62 years and older, in owner-occupied, low-to-moderate income households (at or below 80% of area median income) who primarily live in Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs) within the zip codes of 29203, 29204, and 29223 and other Qualified Census Tracts of Richland County, as funding allows. Home and emergency repairs completed under the Program included: repair or replacement of roofs, HVAC units, water heaters, plumbing, etc. for owner-occupied homes. Repairs and replacements will be limited to \$10,000 per senior household. The \$10,000 will cover the costs of supplies and the labor of licensed, bonded contractors (e.g., roofers, general contractors, HVAC professional, et al.).

FOOD INSECURITY

Palmetto Aids Life Support Services - Household Food Assistance

Project Overview & Use of Evidence: Food assistance is a crucial support service for individuals living with HIV/AIDS, as proper nutrition plays a significant role in managing the condition and maintaining overall health. With the use of funding PALSS aim to provide food assistance in the form of canned goods; dry goods; grains; meats and proteins as well as fresh fruits/vegetables along with household staples of flour, sugar etc. In an effort to provide this service two commercial refrigerators and a freezer will be needed.

Performance Report: It's a valuable resource for the community, offering a range of food items to low-income households.

Prisma Health Midlands - Household Food Assistance

Project Overview & Use of Evidence: Prisma Health addresses food insecurities for lower income households with small children under the age of 6, single parent households with children, and elderly households of color

between ages 65-75. The clinic provides food vouchers that include \$15 vouchers to purchase fresh food from local small business to address food insecurities of patients at the Prisma Health Clinic.

Performance Report: The program engages those in the community through outreach, education, information support, and services to include screenings and assessments to enhance lives. The program has established new partnerships with local businesses, organizations, and those in the community who share in their mission. The program has helped 250 patients within the community connect to needed services.

- Referrals Received- 61
- Screenings- 61

Midlands Housing Alliance, Inc.

Project Overview & Use of Evidence: The funds provided by Richland County supported the day-to-day operations of Transitions. It is the largest facility in our area, providing basic shelter and comprehensive services to homeless men and women, ages 18 and older. Transitions also operates a Day Center which is open 7 days a week to provide an alternative to the street during the day and to allow homeless individuals an opportunity to get services and treatment. On any given day, they provide meals and shelter for approximately 330 homeless individuals. In FY 2024, 3,486 unique individuals utilized their programs and services. Individuals using the Day Center had access to showers and laundry facilities. They served 188,873 meals during this fiscal year. The food recovery program continued this year, bringing in approximately 135 tons of food from area businesses and agencies. This recovered food was used in the meal programs, supplementing breakfast, lunch, and dinner for a residents and day users.

Transitions' goal is to assist all their clients into stable, permanent housing as quickly as possible. To accomplish this outcome, Transitions provide "client-centered" case management to identify their clients' barriers to housing and help them address those impediments positively through a variety of onsite services and programs. Major services include mental health and substance abuse counseling, health care, employment training and job skills, life skills, legal assistance, housing assistance, and veterans' services. In FY 2024, they helped 156 clients move into permanent housing. Since opening Transitions placed 3,454 individuals into permanent housing. In FY 2024, Transitions continued its Rapid Re-housing program, placing many into housing immediately. Their Rapid Re-housing program helps clients move into permanent housing by providing short-term financial assistance (rent and utility) and supportive services. They assisted over 50 clients (including families) through Rapid Re-housing this program this year

Performance Report: In FY 2024, 56% of individuals reported at least one disability (of those reporting their disability status). In FY 2024, 9% of all clients served at Transitions (Day Center and residential programs) were veterans and 28% of all clients were classified as chronically homeless.

Other client demographics include:

- Gender: Male (58%), Female (23%), Transgender (<1%), Not Reported (19%)
- Race: African American (56%), Caucasian (24%), Other (1%), Not Reported (9%)
- Age: 18-24 (6%), 25-34 (15%), 35-44 (17%), 45-61 (32%), 62 and older (14%), Not Reported (16%)

Their outreach team works with local law enforcement and area service providers to find people on the street and encourage them to come to Transitions for services. They provide hygiene packets, snacks, clothing, blankets, and bus tickets as needed. Transitions outreach team also responds to neighborhood and business complaints about homeless individuals and engages those people about coming to Transitions for help and services. In addition, they work directly with the Homeless Services Department with the City of Columbia to find immediate nighttime shelter for individuals they encounter.

Senior Resources, Inc Household Assistance - Food Programs

Project Overview & Use of Evidence: Seniors Resources, Inc. provides services for seniors to remain independent in their homes. They provide for individual basic needs, food, personal care, emotional and social interaction. Senior Resources covers eleven districts which is 757 sq. miles and more than 33,000 seniors. Their Senior Meals programs serve seniors in two ways -- through Meals on Wheels, and through congregate meals at our four Wellness Centers. Meals on Wheels provides daily delivery of hot and frozen meals to home-bound seniors and disabled adults. The meals are planned and prepared by a caterer who specializes in senior nutrition, and they meet one-third of the daily dietary recommendations for seniors. In addition to staff who delivers the meal, volunteers also deliver meals and provide more than just daily sustenance. The volunteer is often the only person a home-bound client sees each day, and the visit provides both companionship and a vital safety check. In this way, the Meals on Wheels program not only meets the nutritional needs of at-risk seniors and disabled adults, but also combats loneliness and helps them maintain their independence within their own homes. In the Wellness Centers, participants are served the same daily meal that is on the Meals on Wheels menu. Wellness Center participants are clients who are not yet completely home-bound, but may have transportation or financial challenges. Senior Resources, Inc provides transportation to and from the centers each day. In addition to the meals served, the Wellness Center clients also participate in games, crafts, physical fitness and social time.

Performance Report:

- Program/Project Completion Percentage 33.32%
 - Number of Meals on Wheels Clients Served = 599
 - Number of Congregate Meal Clients Served = 162
 - Number of Transportation Clients Served = 72
 - Transportation point to point miles – 348
 - Information and Assistance calls fielded - 40
 - Nonemergency Medical Appointment trips provided for seniors
 - 16.5 hours of Physical Fitness provided
 - Demographics Female 118; Male 33; Unknown 11; White 11; Black/AA 134; Unreported 16; Hispanic 1
- Meal on Wheels Demographics Female 365; Male 223; Unknown 9; White 155 Black/AA 333; Unreported 109; Other 2; Transportation Demographics Female 118; Male 33; Unknown 11; White 11; Black/AA 134; Unreported 16; Hispanic 1.

Serve & Connect - Household Assistance for Food Programs

Project Overview & Use of Evidence: Serve & Connect believes they can make a difference and tackle some of the greatest challenges when they collaborate. Because they believe in these principles, they are committed to working with police and community, helping to identify where there are the greatest opportunities for making lasting change and building the pathway to make those dreams a reality.

Food insecurity is a serious issue in Richland County. According to a recent report by the City of Columbia Food Policy Committee, more than 65,000 Richland County residents are food insecure which is defined as “lacking access, ability, availability or income to acquire healthy, safe, culturally appropriate food.” In this project, we offer a strategy for meeting residents where they are and addressing food insecurity via police officers.

Performance Report: If provided with proper resources, officers can be a critical bridge between services available in the community and residents in need, helping to mitigate barriers to support that can make a lasting difference for individuals experiencing food insecurity. Greg's Groceries provides police officers with vital resources that enable them to help people in need and bridge available community supports with those who may most benefit. The project provided 1,000 boxes of Greg's Groceries and 875 Greg's Groceries Express bags to police officers in Richland County. In addition, they offered training and technical assistance to officers and ensured they were connected to their statewide network of police agencies providing a community of support to reinforce their efforts to assist people experiencing hunger. Each box of food includes a list of available local resources, and officers are encouraged to connect recipients with other

services such as local food banks or other supports that might help them address food insecurity in a sustainable way. They recently served 1503 households.

BROADBAND SERVICES

Columbia International University

Project Overview & Use of Evidence: CIU aims to improve and increase the capability of the university's broadband and internet access. This would include purchasing and installing access points and wall plates in order to improve the connectivity to internet for students and community members who rely on CIU's broadband connection.

Performance Report: CIU was successful in expanding their bandwidth connectivity to internet for students and community members.

Richland County Public Library

Home Spot: Bridging the Digital Divide

Project Overview & Use of Evidence: Richland Library is committed to the values of equity, diversity and inclusion. As a library system, they are unwavering in our dedication to fostering a community where everyone feels welcomed, valued and represented. Through intentionality and tangible actions, they will embed and amplify these commitments throughout the library and the communities they serve. Bridging this gap is crucial for ensuring equitable access to information, resources, and opportunities in today's increasingly digital world. The Richland County Library is attempting to Expand Access by providing more widespread access to internet and digital devices, particularly to underserved and disenfranchised persons. This can involve initiatives such as installing public Wi-Fi hotspots, creating community technology centers, or distributing affordable devices. The project aims to assist low income households who may deal with broadband and internet issues by covering the cost of 250 hotspots to lend out to households that do not have broadband services or the infrastructure is not in place.

UNHOUSED PERSONS ASSISTANCE

Alston Wilkes Society – Housing Stability for Former Offenders

Project Overview & Use of Evidence: The (AWS) sought funds to increase housing stability for low-income, homeless or at-risk of homelessness populations with a specific focus on former offenders, for whom lack of stable housing is a major barrier that research shows must be overcome for successful reintegration back into the community's. AWS has a successful history of administering federal funding awards for programs such as the Veterans Administration's Supportive Services for Veteran Families grant, the Federal Bureau of Prisons' Residential Reentry Centers, and the Veterans Administration's Grant & Per Diem Programs for homeless male veterans.

Performance Report: ASW provided Supportive Housing Programs and Transitional Housing support services aimed at helping individuals transition from incarceration to stable living. They were able to connect individuals with services such as mental health care, substance abuse treatment, and job readiness programs. By addressing the barriers and leveraging available resources, communities can help individuals successfully reintegrate and build stable, productive lives. Collaboration between government agencies, nonprofits, and local organizations is essential in creating sustainable solutions and promoting long-term success.

MIRCI - Mental Illness Recovery Center Inc. – Public Health - Mental Health Services

Project Overview & Use of Evidence: The ARPA grant will support two of the organization's programs: 1. Provide immediate services to people who are homeless and vulnerable to COVID and other negative outcomes and; 2. Provide operations/ support services to female identifying youth who will be invited to live in a 10-bedroom transitional living home which is anticipated to open in late 2024.

Performance Report: During the reporting period, MIRCI engaged 1,061 adults and youth through outreach. The benefits team submitted a total of 93 applications for SSI/SSDI income, SNAP and miscellaneous services including phones and transportation. Two SOAR (SSI/SSDI) claims were approved and seven are pending. Eighteen SNAP applications were approved. The total annual benefit to clients of SOAR and SNAP benefits is \$21,939 and clients will receive back pay totaling \$4,570. Also provided 306 patients behavioral health care; 96% made progress on the plans of care. Nine male youth resided in the transitional home (nine currently reside in the ten-bedroom home); four exited to positive situations. Regarding housing stability, MIRCI housed 253 clients including 19 children in four complexes and HUD Continuum of Care leases in six commercial housing complexes across Richland County. MIRCI assesses housing tenure (six- and 12-month stability) at the end of program year.