

# CUMBERLAND COUNTY ARPA ADVISORY COMMITTEE



## ARPA

American Rescue Plan Quarterly Update

Covered reporting period: October 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023

## *Project Updates*

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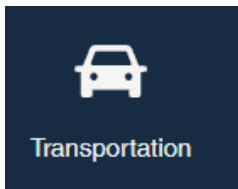
### **Public Health**

#### *COVID 19 Mitigation & Prevention*



The AV room for the Mallet Hall Communication Center is now completed and the town recorded their first meeting in October of 2023, via their newly created YouTube channel where they post the recordings for residents to view. The soundproofing materials are great! , says the Town Administrator. For those who have trouble hearing they found the soundproofing a great way to dim the background noise. “The sound quality on the video is outstanding. Prior to this, you could not hear anyone when we tried to video in the past. This is so great for our town!” Say Becky Taylor chase.

#### *Substance Use Services*



The United Recovery Fund formerly known as Maine Recovery Fund has completed their grant titled Ride to Work. The United Recovery Fund was awarded ARPA funding to address the financial gap created by Covid 19 in the areas of integrative services for people in Cumberland County recovering from substance use disorder, reentering from jail and prison, new Americans, and returning veterans facing reentry obstacles. More specifically ARPA dollars were used to support transportation for a total of 217 persons, totaling 6,772 rides, which provided persons recovering from substance use disorder with access to doctor appointments, court appointments, and job sites.

## Project Updates

### Negative Economic Impact

#### Housing



The Homeownership program through Habitat for Humanity of Greater Portland is set to complete its first home in the next few weeks. Closing is likely to happen in March, when new homeowners can access the Equity Builder Program through the Federal Home Loan Bank. Habitat homes are energy-efficient and have recently been valued at about \$400,000; however, a partner family's monthly housing payment is capped at 30% of their income. The average mortgage is \$150,000 with the remainder held by a Habitat mortgage that is only due upon the sale of the home.

Any equity that accrues over time is theirs to keep, building generational wealth for their children and grandchildren.

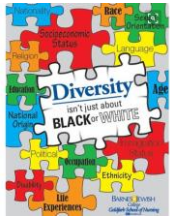


In partnership with the Human Services Research Institute, Levine Planning Strategies and North Star Planning, Cumberland County is conducting a study to examine the options to address needs for homeless and unhoused persons. More specifically, the County is studying housing insecurity and homelessness in Baldwin, Town of Bridgton, Maine, Town of Casco, Town of Gray, Town of Naples, Maine, Town of Raymond, Maine Sebago, Standish Maine, and Town of Windham, Maine. Listening sessions are being conducted during the month of January 2024 and are designed to gather information from the community and their perspectives on housing and service needs of people who are unhoused, homeless, or at risk of being unhoused in the greater Lakes Region. **Community Listening Session:**

- Windham Library on Wednesday 1/10/2024 from 5:30-6:45pm.
- Bridgton Community Center 1/29/2024 from 5:30-7pm.

## Project Updates

### Public Health & Negative Economic Impact



Recruiting and Retaining Employees after the shortfall created by Covid19, has been a primary focus for County Government. As such, the County recognizes the nexus of retaining employees and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Cumberland County recognizes that our employees are one of our most valuable assets. The individual differences, life experiences, knowledge, inventiveness, innovation, self-expression, unique capabilities and talents invested in the work of our employees represent a significant part of our culture, reputation, achievements, and services. As an effort to integrate our existing Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Policy into our daily operations staff hired a consulting firm to create a strategic plan. To date ARPA Administration staff and executive staff are conducting meetings with department heads to integrate DEI into our daily operations. Our team is currently searching for and seeking DEI professionals to host training for our team.

### Revenue Loss



In October of 2023, Cumberland County Government purchased a new administrative building using SLFRF. The County will spend the next several months working to renovate the building in order for staff to occupy and being using the space. This will likely not take place until at the earliest December 31, 2024. Cumberland County has broad discretion to use funds for the provision of government services to the extent of reduction in revenue.

### Spending Report

As of December 31, 2023, the County has expended roughly 25.00% of its \$57,300,874.00 in SLFRF. The majority of expenditures for this quarter are attributed to architecture and engineering services, Revenue Loss Spending, program salaries, and project-specific draw requests.