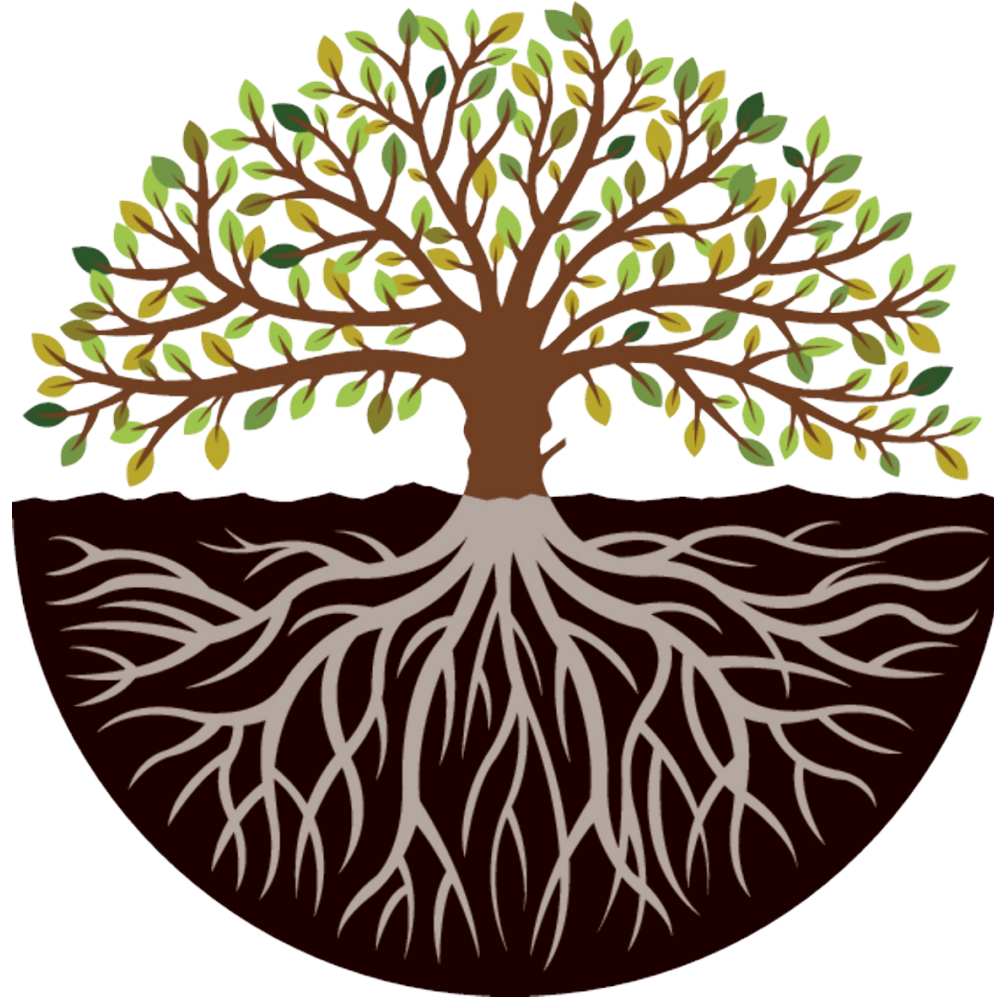




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**Cobb County – American Rescue Plan Act Investment Strategy  
Briefing for Cobb County Commissioners**

March 2022



# American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Investment Strategy

## Objective

Cobb County is developing an investment strategy to direct the allocation of American Rescue Plan Act funds toward **strategic investments**, based on **local priorities** that **maximize potential** for economic growth and **promote compliance** with complex funding guidelines.

## Process

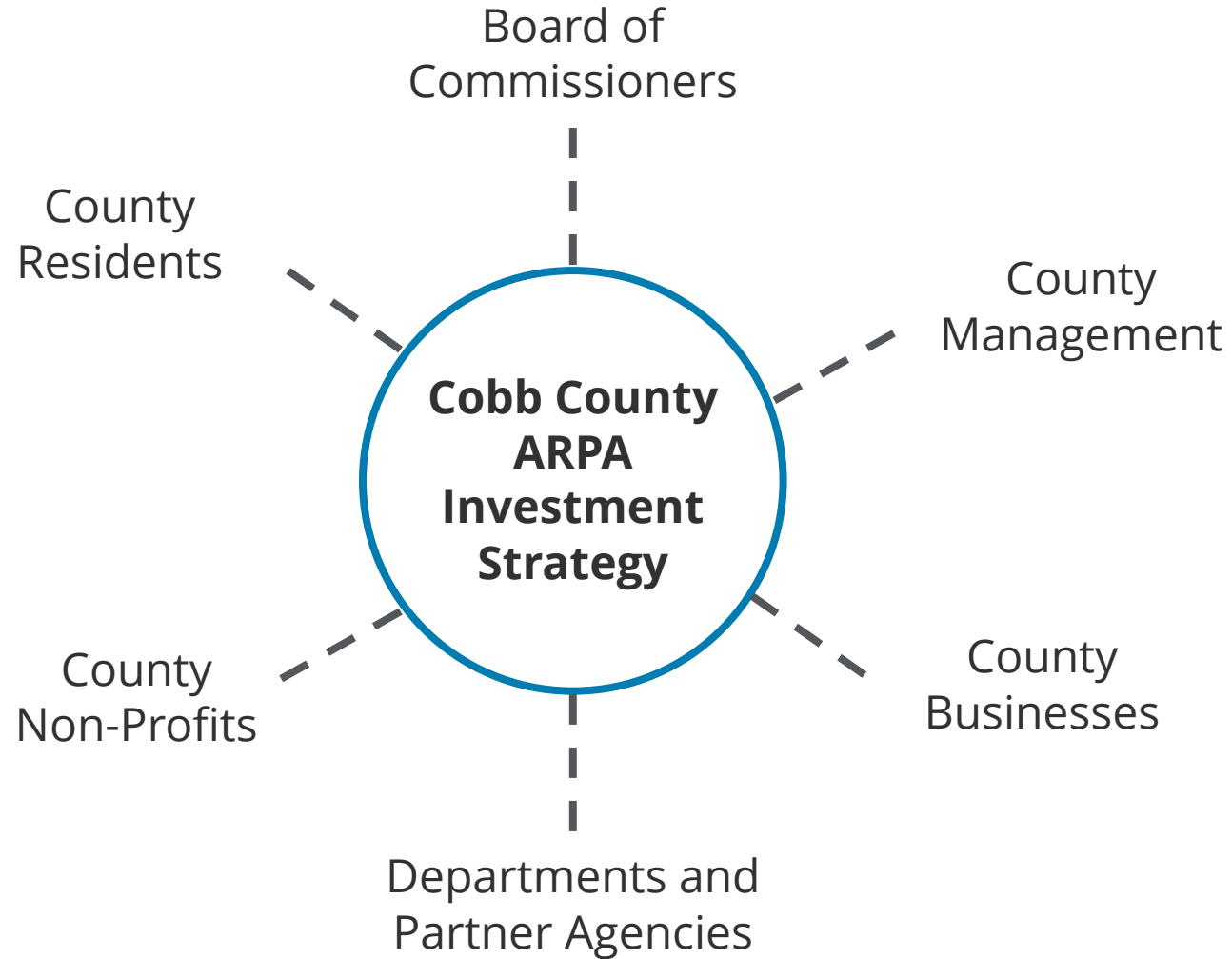
The County's process started in October 2021, in which it has sought to:

- Gather a broad set of community perspectives on the needs facing the County, and potential solutions for addressing those needs
- Engage community representatives in the process of translating stakeholder engagement data into priorities for investment
- Establish an allocation framework and principles for optimizing the return on investment of the County's ARPA funds



## Who has been involved

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# Cobb County ARPA Investment Strategy – project timeline

|  | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Objectives   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Identify Stakeholders  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Engage Stakeholders and Gather Input on Community Needs<br><i>(Survey, Focus Groups, Listening Sessions, Interviews)</i> |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Analyze and Categorize Initial Investment Opportunities (Needs)  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Prioritize Needs through Further Stakeholder Engagement  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Finalize Investment Strategy<br><i>(Proposed allocations and investment principles)</i>                                  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Select Projects  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |



# ARPA: Overview of ARPA Legislation

## ARPA Overview



\$350 billion for states, territories, tribal governments, and units of local government



Focus on many initiatives, including the future of infrastructure and healthcare resilience

## Key Elements



### ALLOCATION AMOUNTS

Total: \$350 billion  
Georgia total: \$8.4B  
Georgia Counties total: \$2.1B



### FUNDING DEADLINES

12/31/2024 (obligate)  
12/31/2026 (spend)



### FUNDING FLOW TO LOCALITIES

Flows directly from Treasury  
1<sup>st</sup> Tranche: May 2021  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tranche: May 2022



### ALLOCATION FORMULA

Considerations include population, unemployment, and poverty levels

*Cobb County will receive a total of \$147M in ARPA funds*



## Overview of Eligible ARPA Spending Areas

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds are designed to deliver \$350 billion to state, local, territorial, and Tribal governments to bolster their response to the COVID-19 emergency and its economic impacts.



### Support public health expenditures

- Address a range of public health needs across COVID-19 mitigation



### Replace lost public sector revenue

- Support government services, including infrastructure, cybersecurity, and health services



### Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure

- Improvements to critical water and sewer infrastructure
- Projects that address impacts of climate change



### Address negative economic impacts caused by the public health emergency

- Individuals and households, including those hardest-hit communities
- Small businesses and impacted industries



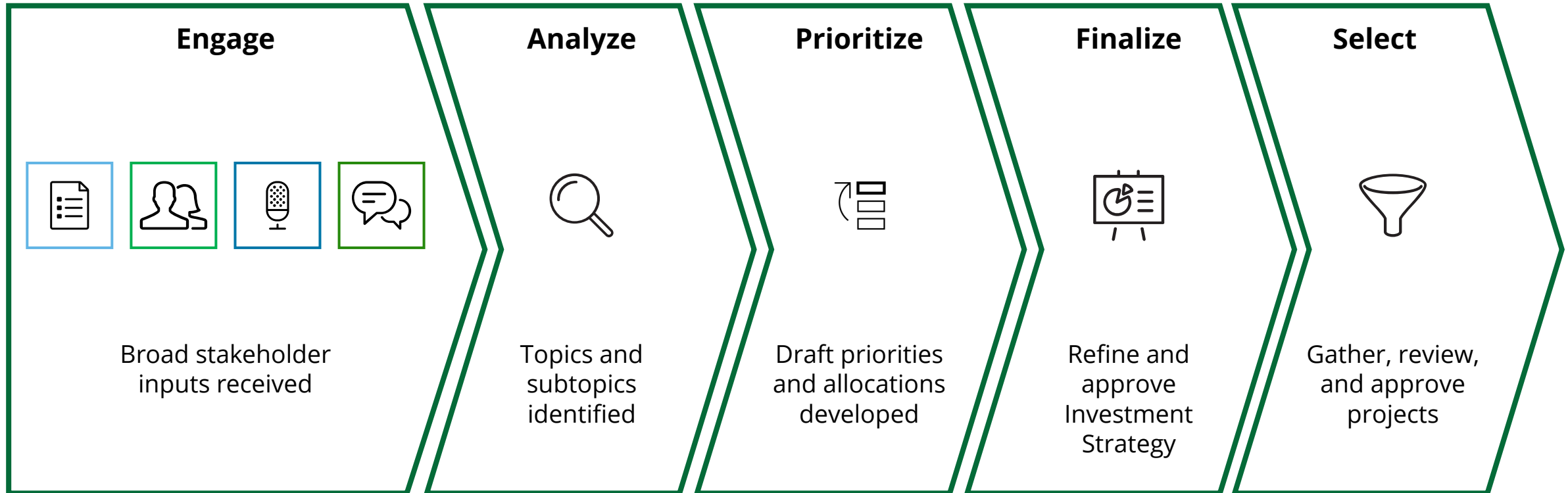
### Provide premium pay for essential workers

- Direct payment to essential critical infrastructure sectors

***Cobb County is required to expend its American Rescue Plan Act funds within these eligible areas.***



## Cobb County ARPA Investment Strategy - Process Overview



*Cobb County's general public, non-profit and business communities, county management, and elected officials have been engaged throughout this process.*



## Stakeholder Engagement

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### Community Needs Survey

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**2,651**  
Responses



### One-on-One Interviews

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**8**  
County Leaders



### Listening Sessions

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**167**  
Small Businesses and  
Non-Profits



### Focus Groups

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**78**  
Community Leaders





# Overview of Key Needs



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## COMMUNITY HEALTH

Healthcare  
Capacity

COVID-19  
(Mitigation)

Public  
Health  
Disparities

Mental  
Health

Substance  
Abuse

## COUNTY INFRASTRUCTURE

Stormwater

County  
Facilities

Transportation

Broadband/  
Digital Equity

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Workforce  
Development

Small & Minority-  
Owned Businesses

Employee  
Retention

Hospitality &  
Tourism

## PUBLIC SAFETY

Court  
Backlog

Public Safety  
Hiring, Retention  
& Staffing

First Response

Mental Health  
Response

## SUPPORT SERVICES

Rental  
& Mortgage  
Assistance

Homelessness

Food  
Security

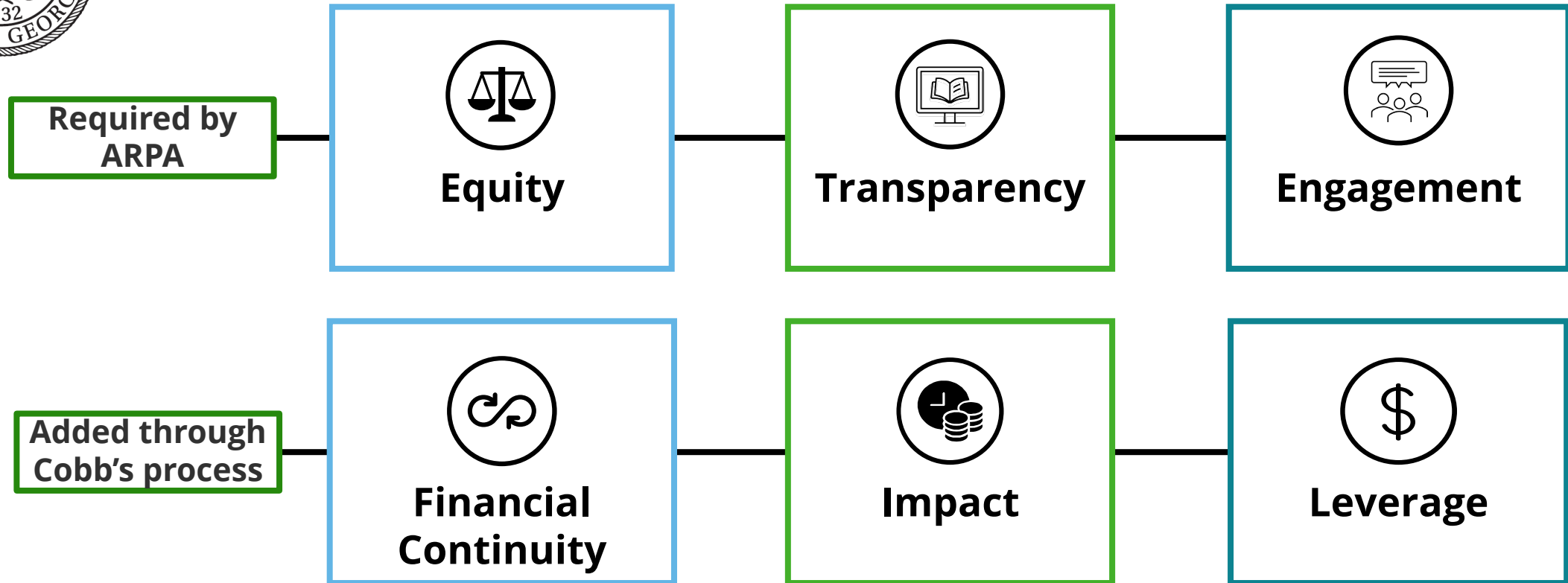
Affordable Housing



## ARPA Investment Principles



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- The purpose of these principles is to guide the evaluation of projects during the next phase of work.
- Once allocations are established by the Board of Commissioners, the County will evaluate potential projects against ARPA eligibility criteria and these principles to develop project recommendations for Board of Commissioner consideration.



# ARPA 90% Proposed Allocation



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## Received to Date

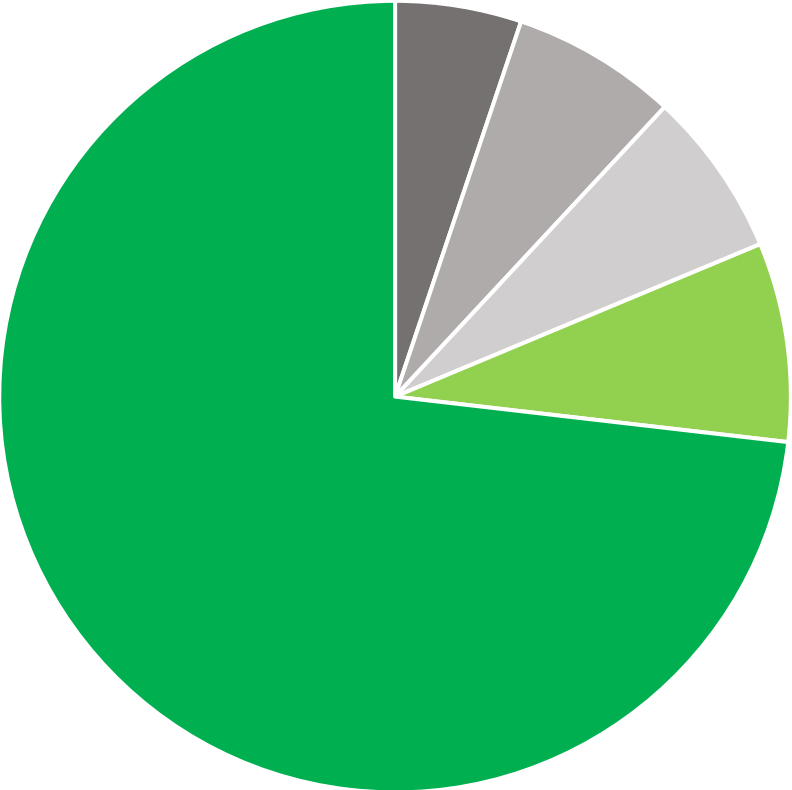
- \$147.6M      Allocated to Cobb County from U.S. Treasury’s ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund
- The first half of these funds were received in May 2021
  - The second half is expected in May 2022
  - Funds must be obligated by December 2024 and spent by December 2026

## Allocated/Set Aside to Date

- \$7.6M      Allocated to date
- \$10M      ARPA State Local Fiscal Recovery Fund administrative set-aside
- \$10M      Revenue Replacement set-aside

## Remaining

- 90%      Recommended Allocation
- 10%      Recommended Reserve





# Proposed Draft Allocations



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| A   | B   | C                   | D                     | E                         | F                                      |
|---|---|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Priority Area and Subtopic                            | Regular Funding (County and Agency Budgets) | CARES / ERA         | ARPA Approved To-Date | ARPA Proposed Percentages | ARPA Proposed Dollar Allocations (90%) |
| <b>Community Health</b>                               | <b>\$35,827,960</b>                         | <b>\$24,000,000</b> | <b>\$0</b>            | <b>23.8%</b>              | <b>\$25,711,000</b>                    |
| <i>Mental Health</i>                                  | \$15,599,304                                | \$0                 | \$0                   | 11.2%                     | \$12,072,000                           |
| <i>Public Health Disparities</i>                      | \$15,284,462                                | \$0                 | \$0                   | 7.0%                      | \$7,564,000                            |
| <i>Substance Abuse</i>                                | \$1,790,160                                 | \$0                 | \$0                   | 3.4%                      | \$3,637,000                            |
| <i>Healthcare Capacity</i>                            | \$0   | \$0                 | \$0                   | 2.0%                      | \$2,128,000                            |
| <i>COVID-19 mitigation</i>                            | \$3,154,034                                 | \$24,000,000        | \$0                   | 0.3%                      | \$310,000                              |
| <b>Support Services</b>                               | <b>\$0</b>                                  | <b>\$47,076,000</b> | <b>\$1,575,000</b>    | <b>21.6%</b>              | <b>\$23,299,000</b>                    |
| <i>Affordable Housing</i>                             | \$0   | \$0                 | \$0                   | 12.8%                     | \$13,787,000                           |
| <i>Homelessness</i>                                   | \$0   | \$3,676,000         | \$0                   | 4.3%                      | \$4,604,000                            |
| <i>Rental &amp; Mortgage</i>                          | \$0   | \$41,400,000        | \$0                   | 2.5%                      | \$2,683,000                            |
| <i>Food Security</i>                                  | \$0   | \$2,000,000         | \$1,575,000           | 2.1%                      | \$2,225,000                            |
| <b>Economic Development</b>                           | <b>\$6,273,450</b>                          | <b>\$49,900,000</b> | <b>\$0</b>            | <b>20.8%</b>              | <b>\$22,442,000</b>                    |
| <i>Workforce Development</i>                          | \$4,725,805                                 | \$900,000           | \$0                   | 11.4%                     | \$12,343,000                           |
| <i>Small &amp; Minority-Owned Business</i>            | \$0   | \$49,000,000        | \$0                   | 5.3%                      | \$5,765,000                            |
| <i>Employee Retention</i>                             | \$0   | \$0                 | \$0                   | 2.6%                      | \$2,786,000                            |
| <i>Hospitality &amp; Tourism</i>                      | \$1,547,645                                 | \$0                 | \$0                   | 1.4%                      | \$1,548,000                            |
| <b>County Infrastructure</b>                          | <b>\$95,376,223</b>                         | <b>\$0</b>          | <b>\$0</b>            | <b>17.9%</b>              | <b>\$19,346,000</b>                    |
| <i>County Facilities</i>                              | \$9,483,333                                 | \$0                 | \$0                   | 6.8%                      | \$7,332,000                            |
| <i>Stormwater</i>                                     | \$6,783,663                                 | \$0                 | \$0                   | 6.6%                      | \$7,081,000                            |
| <i>Broadband/Digital Equity</i>                       | \$0   | \$0                 | \$0                   | 4.6%                      | \$4,933,000                            |
| <i>Transportation</i>                                 | \$79,109,227                                | \$0                 | \$0                   | 0.0%                      | \$0                                    |
| <b>Public Safety</b>                                  | <b>\$11,166,402</b>                         | <b>\$24,300,000</b> | <b>\$5,736,229</b>    | <b>16.0%</b>              | <b>\$17,231,000</b>                    |
| <i>Mental Health Response</i>                         | \$0   | \$0                 | \$0                   | 7.6%                      | \$8,158,000                            |
| <i>Court Backlog</i>                                  | \$0   | \$0                 | \$5,736,229           | 3.4%                      | \$3,656,000                            |
| <i>Public Safety Hiring, Retention &amp; Staffing</i> | \$4,071,350                                 | \$24,300,000        | \$0                   | 3.1%                      | \$3,366,000                            |
| <i>First Response</i>                                 | \$7,095,052                                 | \$0                 | \$0                   | 1.9%                      | \$2,051,000                            |

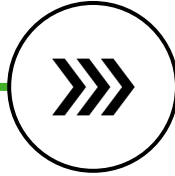
*Note: draft subject to review and approval by Board of Commissioners*



## Next Steps



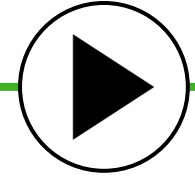
Review, finalize,  
and approve  
proposed  
allocations



Establish a  
process to gather  
and evaluate  
project ideas



Make ARPA-  
eligible project  
recommendations  
to the board



Implement  
approved projects  
and track impact



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Thank you!