



Board of Commissioners of Fulton County
American Rescue Plan Act of 2021
Fulton County Rescue Implementation Plan (RIP)
Sponsored by Commissioner Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, District 6

July 14, 2021

FINAL PROPOSED PLAN

Pursuant to Board of Commissioners Resolution 21-0221, adopted by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners on March 17, 2021, sponsored by Commissioner Abdur-Rahman of District 6; and co-sponsored by Arrington of District 5; and Hall (vice chair) of District 4 requiring that Fulton County “shall prioritize, utilize and set aside part of any federal Rescue funds for: (1) providing home-mortgage assistance to in-need homeowners; (2) premium pay increase for all full and part-time County employees; (3) financial assistance to in-need small businesses with 30 or less employees; (4) youth and young-adult jobs programs; and (5) the arts community in Fulton County including programs and services; (6) Health Response, Operational Stability and Community Needs as identified by the County Manager’s Presentation on March 17, 2021; and that “the Board of Commissioners hereby directs the County Manager and the appropriate County staff to establish a utilization and distribution plan consistent with the intent of this Resolution, and in conformance with the rules and guidelines evinced in the Act, and other such rules promulgated by the U.S. Department of the Treasury and other federal agencies with oversight and compliance of the Rescue Plan’s Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, and that the County Manager report back with the said plan within 30 days for action by the Board of Commissioners[.]” **the Board of Commissioners enacts the following “American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 Fulton County Rescue Implementation Plan” (“RIP”).**

The priorities of the RIP are listed in the order of priority below and the County shall implement the plan consistent with the priorities as enumerated by the Board of Commissioners below, subject to complete and full compliance with the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 and the final rules, guidelines and other guidance promulgated by the Secretary of the Treasury (Treasury) and the Office of Inspector General. The final rules promulgated under the American Rescue Plan Act to be published as 31 CFR Part 35, “Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.”

I. HOME MORTGAGE RESCUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Pursuant to § 603 (c)(1)(a) of the Act, Fulton County shall allocate an amount of at least \$32 million to provide eligible Fulton County homeowners, Fulton-County-Government employees living or working in Fulton County, with household assistance including mortgage, rental, utilities, broadband and wi-fi assistance to Covid-19 impacted persons and households. The County, while adhering to Treasury guidance, shall provide assistance through a mortgage grants program and transfer-assistance program as outlined in the IFR See *Treasury IFR §II (A)*. Total relief to any recipient may not exceed \$9,000 for no longer than nine months of aid to assist homeowners impacted by COVID-19, all within the requirements of the American Rescue Plan. Each homeowner that qualifies for the grant program may receive a grant in an amount that is proportionate to the impact of COVID-19 on the individual. The key requirements to receive a mortgage assistance grant shall be 1) proof of home mortgage; 2) an affidavit of declaration of need; 3) proof that homeowner resides at the property receiving grant assistance; and 4) evidence of negative impact to the homeowner as a result of COVID-19. Mortgages for homes used solely as rental properties shall not qualify or receive any assistance under this RIP. Examples of need include, but are not limited to, forbearance, delinquent or past-due bills, and foreclosure notices, etc. This assistance program will “address an economic harm resulting from or exacerbated by the public health emergency” by providing homeowners impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency with assistance to pay housing costs. See *Treasury IFR §II (A)*.

II. JOBS TRAINING RESCUE PROGRAM

Pursuant to § 603 (c)(1)(a) of the Act, Fulton County shall allocate at least \$1,350,000 in 2021, and also in 2022, with any dollars not spent in 2021 and 2022 to rollover to each future year through December 31, 2024, to provide training grants and other assistance to eligible unemployed workers, placed in job training within Fulton County. The County shall utilize and collaborate with small businesses and nonprofit organizations for external job-training placement in the private sector in addition to the County serving as a job-training site. The County shall participate in job-training efforts that include, but not be limited to, participation in various professions, trades and commerce, as well as nonprofit-oriented programs, such as after-school programs the County may partner with, or those such programs established by the County to provide eligible services in “[a]ddressing [e]ducational [d]isparities” and to “[p]romote [h]ealthy [c]hildhood [e]nvironments.” See *Treasury IFR §II (A)(2)*.

The Jobs Training Rescue Program is to be equally divided across Fulton County’s six Commission Districts, with priority for placement going to eligible Fulton County residents “in communities most disproportionately impacted by the pandemic.” See *Treasury IFR §II (A)*. Treasury gives the County the ability to presume which areas in its jurisdiction may be categorized as those in economically distressed areas as determined by U.S. Census Bureau, State of Georgia and Fulton County data to include at least the following zip codes: 30213, 30311, 30312, 30314, 30315, 30318, 30331, 30349, and 30354. Providing “these resources lay the foundation for a strong, equitable economic recovery, not only by providing immediate economic stabilization for households and businesses, but also by addressing the systemic public health and economic challenges that may have contributed to more severe impacts of the pandemic among low-income communities and people of color.” See *Treasury IFR §I(B)*.

SMALL-BUSINESS GRANTS RESCUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Pursuant to § 603 (c)(1)(a) of the Act, Fulton County shall allocate at least \$5 million for a GRANTS assistance program in 2021, and also in 2022 (for a total allocation of at least \$10 million over two years), with any dollars not spent in 2021 and 2022 to rollover to each future year through December 31, 2024, to provide grants to small businesses impacted by COVID-19 within the requirements of the American Rescue Plan, including broadband and wi-fi assistance. Grants shall be made available to qualifying small business with 30 employees or less in amounts which are proportionate to the impact of COVID19 on the business. Under the Fulton County RIP, it is estimated that up to at least 500 small businesses could be helped each year. The key requirements to receive a grant shall be 1) proof of a business license by a state or local governmental authority; 2) federal or state tax return; 3) an affidavit of declaration of need which includes current number of employees; and 4) evidence of a negative impact of COVID-19. Providing grants to small businesses will aid businesses impacted by COVID-19 in recovering from such economic impacts and encourage economic growth.

III. NONPROFITS RESCUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Pursuant to § 603 (c)(1)(a) of the Act, Fulton County shall allocate an amount of at least \$2.5 million in 2021 and again in 2022 (for a two-year amount of at least \$5 million) with any dollars not spent in 2021 and 2022 to rollover to each future year through December 31, 2024, to provide direct grants to Fulton County-based nonprofit organizations to rescue those entities that have suffered due to the Coronavirus pandemic, including broadband and wi-fi assistance, of which at least 50 percent of the grants shall be set aside for small non-profit entities of 30 personnel or less. The County shall also allocate an amount of at least \$2.5 million in 2021 and again in 2022 (for a two-year amount of at least \$5 million) to provide low-interest, forgivable loans of which at least 50 percent shall be set aside for small non-profit entities with 30 or less employees who have been impacted negatively by COVID-19. The key requirements to receive a grant or loan shall be 1) proof of a business license by a state or local governmental authority; 2) federal or state tax return; 3) an affidavit of declaration of need which includes current number of employees; and 4) evidence of a negative impact of COVID-19. Providing grants to non-profit entities will aid communities impacted by COVID-19 in recovering from such economic impacts and encourage economic growth and community investment.

IV. HEALTH RESPONSE, OPERATIONAL STABILITY AND COMMUNITY NEEDS

Pursuant to § 603 (c)(1)(a) of the Act, after the above five priorities are satisfied within the constraints of reasonable and necessary fiscal management, (or concurrently, if possible, with this priority number VI) the County shall implement the “Health Response, Operational Stability and Community Needs” (such as broadband and other needs) as identified by the County Manager’s Presentation to the Board of Commissioners on March 17, 2021, as amended through July 14, 2021.

V. EXPANSION, MODIFICATION AND AMENDMENTS

Notwithstanding all the priorities and directives aforementioned, the Board of Commissioners shall expand, modify or otherwise amend this Rescue Implementation Plan as needed to conform to any new, modified or revised rules and guidelines from the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Further, the County Manager shall advise the Board of Commissioners no less than once per quarter, per year on the status of the RIP and if there shall be a need to modify spending to meet the requirements of usage of all ARPA funds received to avoid any returning of unused funds.

VI. COLLABORATION WITH FULTON CITIES

Pursuant to a consensus of mayors and commissioners at the May 7, 2021, Board of Commissioners Special Called Meeting with the Mayors of Fulton County, the County Manager and the County’s management team is directed to work cohesively with the mayors and their top administrators, and where feasible to jointly administer (in costs and resources) certain city-offered and county-offered ARPA programs, so the County and the municipalities located therein can reduce costs, overlap and duplicative services, and thus provide more direct fiscal assistance to the people who live, work and operate businesses and organizations within Fulton County and its municipal jurisdictions.