



Gaston County
Budget & Strategy

american rescue plan act (ARPA)

In May 2021, Gaston County was awarded over \$43 million in federal funds to meet urgent community needs in the wake of COVID-19. This report summarizes eligible uses of the funds (as of interim guidance), the County's current strategy, and a list of potential projects by strategic focus areas.

Gaston County's allocation

\$43,612,126

Distributed in two installments,
1/2 in **MAY 2021** and 1/2 in **MAY 2022**

2024

deadline to
OBLIGATE the funds

2026

deadline to
EXPEND the funds

What can the funds be used for?

Supporting
public health
response



Addressing
negative
economic impacts



Serving hardest-hit
communities &
families

Investing in
broadband
infrastructure*



Investing in
water & sewer
infrastructure



Replacing lost
public sector
revenue*



Providing premium
pay for essential
workers

*As of this report, Gaston County does not qualify for revenue replacement. Additionally, local governments in North Carolina have limited authority to provide broadband services.

What is Gaston County doing currently?

An internal committee has been meeting since April 2021 to discuss eligible uses of funds, potential projects, and financial reporting. The group recently expanded to involve other departments including Public Health, Public Works and Emergency Mgmt.

Completed

- ✓ Internal Committee
- ✓ Financial Reporting
- ✓ Peer Research

In-Progress

- ☐ Application Process
- ☐ Evaluation Matrix
- ☐ Community Engagement
- ☐ Transformative Projects
- ☐ Consider Grant-Funded
Position to Manage ARPA

The following projects, totaling \$62.4M for those with cost estimates, are currently being considered for ARPA funding. Projects still need to be thoroughly evaluated using the finalized evaluation matrix. Inclusion on this list does not mean that a project has been deemed eligible.

1 Community Health, Safety & Well-Being

Est. \$58.9 million



Supporting public health response

Public Health facility study and improvements - **\$12.1M**

Reserve fund for departmental requests - **\$5M**

COVID contingency fund for emergency response - **\$1M**



Investing in water & sewer infrastructure

N. Hwy 321 water and sewer Line extensions* - **\$14.7M**

Chapel Grove water line extension - **\$4.6M**

Tryon Elementary water line extension - **\$3.3M**

Hickory Grove Rd. - N. Belmont water line extension - **\$2.1M**

Poston Park water line extension - **\$468K**



Serving hardest-hit communities & families

DV Shelter infrastructure - **\$11.5M**

Non-profit/community based organization requests - **\$2.5M**

Reserve fund to address homelessness - **\$1M**

HUSN operational funding - **\$630K**

*\$9.7M for this project is currently included in the State's proposed budget. The total estimated cost of the project is \$14.7M.

Economic Development & Planned Growth

2

TBD



Supporting public health response

Gaston College Health
Sciences building
expansion - **TBD**

3

Recreational, Cultural & Life-Long Learning Opportunities

Est. \$3.5 million



Serving hardest-hit communities & families

Improvements to
County parks - **\$2.5M**

Improvements to
community and/or
school parks - **\$1M**