

Entry #: 12

Date Submitted: 2/18/2022 2:28 PM

## About

Gaston County requests proposals from its internal departments for projects to help the community recover from and respond to COVID-19.

Gaston County has been awarded \$43,612,126 in Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (Recovery Funding), as part of the American Rescue Plan Act. This infusion of federal resources is intended to help turn the tide on the pandemic, address its economic fallout, and lay the foundation for a strong and equitable recovery.

Gaston County is committed to investing these funds in projects that:

- Align to county strategic plan and community priorities
- Support equitable outcomes for most impacted populations
- Leverage and align with other governmental funding sources
- Make best use of this one-time infusion of resources
- Have a lasting impact

Please note that applications must be complete before they will be reviewed by the review committee. The committee will prioritize projects that do not supplant regular operational budgets, cost between \$25,000-\$1,000,000, and clearly address a need caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Click here to read the County's ARPA project selection process, including a project ranking methodology.](#)

[Click here to learn more about compliance.](#)

[Click here to learn more about eligible uses of the County's ARPA funding.](#)

## Timeline

- May 2021: County received initial ARPA funding
- August 31, 2021: Began quarterly financial reporting
- December 31, 2022: Second quarterly report
- December 2024: All funds must be encumbered
- December 2026: All funds must be spent

## Form Instructions

**Availability:** This form will not close. Submissions will be reviewed in the order they are received.

**Save and Resume Later:** Clicking the Save button (bottom right of form) will save your progress and allow you to either copy or email a personalized link to your in-progress entry. This link may be shared with others. Anyone who has the link to the saved form entry can pick up where you left off and complete your submission.

**Submit:** When your form is complete and ready for review by the ARPA Project Review Committee, click submit. You will not be able to edit the form after you click submit. If you need make any changes to your form after submission, please contact Budget.

**Confirmation Email:** When you click submit, you will receive a confirmation email to the email address listed in the "Primary Contact Personnel Email" field. It will include a copy of your entry details in the body of the email, as well as a link for viewing your submission online, which may be shared with anyone.

## Questions?

Justin Amos  
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**Project Name**  
Lowell Elementary School Waterline Extension

**Department Name and Number**  
4265 - Public Works

**Primary Contact Personnel**  
Dan Ziehm

**Primary Contact Personnel Email**  
dan.ziehm@gastongov.org

**Location of Project (if applicable)**  
1500 Power Drive, Lowell, North Carolina 28098

**Project Category**  
5. Infrastructure

**Description of Project**  
Project will design and install new waterline to serve Lowell Elementary School. The park is currently served by McAdenville / Two Rivers water. This project will provide municipal water from Lowell to the school. This project aligns with the County's Strategic Plan in the Community Health, Safety, and Well-Being Focus Area (C2). The Project falls under the EC- 5 Infrastructure, 5.11 Drinking Water: Transmission & Distribution. The project also aligns with EPA's DWSRF Category 2 Transmission & Distribution.

**Project Start Date**  
1/1/2022

**Project End Date**  
1/1/2023

**Project Plan**  
In accordance with N.C.G.S. 143-64.31 and following Gaston County's Uniform Guidance Policy and Procedures, an RFQ for Professional Architecture/Engineering Design Services was advertised January 2022, and a selection will be made by February 28, 2022. The project will be taken to the Board, as directed, March 22, 2022. A/E Firm will be given NTP April 2022. Project design could take up to 6 months depending on permitting and coordination with Lowell. An Agreement will be executed between Gaston County and Lowell. Gaston County will be the lead agency on the project. Design and Construction could take 12 months.

**Please explain both the NC state and federal legal authority to undertake this program.**  
The County does have the authority to construct water infrastructure, but the County's Attorney will need to verify if NCGS 160A, Article 16 and NCGS 153A, Article 15 are the correct statutes.

**Link to COVID-19**  
Since the early outbreak of COVID, health, hygiene, and safety have become more obvious priorities. Hand washing as a tool to slow the spread of the virus has reinforced the importance of access to safe and reliable water at Lowell Elementary.

**Statement of Need**

Lowell Elementary School currently receives water from McAdenville/Two Rivers Utilities. The existing dead-end line is a 2" line. It has been found that the old line is corroding, and water quality and water pressure is being compromised due to age of current infrastructure. The line needs to be replaced. The School is 1500 feet from the last customer on the line. McAdenville does not receive enough revenue from this line to justify the replacement or repair of the line. Lowell cannot monitor the water from McAdenville or make repairs efficiently if there is a problem. Therefore Lowell would like to supply their Elementary School with their known, reliable clean water source.

**Population Served**

Lowell Elementary is a Title I school that serves 485 students. 60.1% are considered Economically Disadvantaged. The school is located adjacent to QCT 310.01, where the diversity index is 47.

**Results**

Gaston School should be able to compare operations/maintenance costs before and after the waterline extension to Lowell

**Evaluation**

If the water is provided by Lowell, they will be able to provide data from their annual drinking water quality report as well as any new connections made to the constructed system and the revenue they collect.

**Equity Impact**

Funding this waterline project will deliver safe and affordable water to a vulnerable community and the elementary school that serves it.

**Project Partners**

Gaston County, Gaston County Schools, and City of Lowell

**Capacity**

Currently there are 3 full time project coordinators. Cary Rodriguez has 20+ years of Local government Project management experience and will be managing the project from design through construction and close out. She is dedicated to managing projects with Federal Funding and works closely with Finance to ensure proper monitoring and reporting is achieved. Her experience with federal funds to date includes CMAQ projects and FTA projects.

**Special Considerations**

The lifespan of a waterline can be up to 100 years. The waterline proposed to Lowell Elementary will serve the school for many years to come.

Which of the County's three strategic focus areas best describes the purpose of this request?

Community health, safety, and wellbeing

**Budget**

**Attachments**

 [A\\_Lowell\\_ES\\_ARPA\\_Map.pdf](#)  
1.93 MB



**Revenues**

Untitled	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Revenues:	Costs Sum \$0.00				

**Expenditures**

Untitled	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
	\$5,000.00	\$55,000.00			
	\$5,000.00	\$55,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Expenditures:	Untitled \$60,000.00				

Although strict accuracy standards have been employed in the compilation of this map, Gaston County does not make or imply any warranties or assume any responsibility for the information presented on this map or its use. This map is for illustration purposes only.

This map may not be resold or otherwise used for trade or commercial purposes without the expressed written consent of Gaston County, in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 132-10.

Created by: Juan G. Garcia - Senior Transportation Planner  
Date: December 15, 2021

The 2022 Qualified Census Tract (QCTs) are effective January 1, 2022. The 2022 designations use data from the 2010 Decennial census tracts.

