

Alachua County Florida
Recovery Plan

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

As of June 30, 2022, Annual Report

Alachua County Florida
June 30, 2022, Recovery Plan

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- ARP2021x005 Broadband Infrastructure 5.16 5.17 SLFRF-Recovery-Plan-Performance
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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

The Alachua County Board of County Commissioners (ABoCC) allocated American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) to address the impact and recovery of the COVID-19 pandemic and address opportunities needed to prepare for future such events in alignment with U.S. Treasury Rules. The \$52.25 Million received by the County has been allocated:

- \$ 9 Million Support Public Health Response
- \$ 11 Million Address Negative Economic Impacts
- \$ 15 Million Broadband Infrastructure
- \$ 1.25 Million Water Infrastructure
- \$ 15 Million Replace Public Sector Revenue Loss
- \$ 1 Million under review

Each project will have a distinct Recovery Plan as they are adopted by the ABoCC. Each individually Board adopted plan is included in this report.

Uses of Funds

The ABoCC allocation of funds has provided direction to County staff on projects that need to be developed and implemented over the American Rescue Plan applicable period. Each category has specific projects to be developed. As of June 30, 2022, eight (8) projects have been developed, adopted by the Board, and have obligations/expenditures recorded. Each project approved by the ABoCC has a unique project number to track funds. A general project identification for the allotments provided by the Board is:

Public Health (1.1) Vaccination Incentive Programs - \$2,180,000 Estimates Cost

- Citizen Vaccination Incentive - \$800,000 Estimated Cost (Project 004)
- County Employee Vaccination Incentives - \$1,130,000 Estimated Cost (Project 002)
- Health Plan Vaccination Incentive - \$250,000 Estimated Cost (Project 003)

Public Health (1.14) – EMS Training Facility, Medical Equipment and Supplies - \$1.5 Million (Project 007)

The response to COVID-19 has exposed the obsolesces and end of life equipment used by First Responders and Ambulance transport and reinvesting in modernized equipment aligns with Treasury Guidance – Medical Expenses as well as ABoCC Strategic Guide - Provide for the welfare and protection of the public.

- \$205,000 PPE
- \$170,000 Radios
- \$375,000 New Rescue unit
- \$400,000 ROSC devices (18)
- \$350,000 Facility Renovations (+\$100,000 PEMT funds)

Public Health – Central Receiving Facility - \$2 Million

Developing a Central Receiving center to accept citizens pre-arrest that are in need on mental health services aligns with Treasury Guidance – Behavioral Healthcare as well the ABoCC Strategic Guide - Achieve Social and Economic Opportunity for All. The project is under development.

Estimated share of County cost to operate facility for one (1) year. Program under development with alternate funding identified after year 1.

General Fund budget of \$250,000 for half of the facility renovations

Public Health – Eastside Clinic and Urgent Care - \$2.25 Million

Partnering with Shands Hospital, UF Health, and the City of Gainesville to build facilities on the Eastside of Gainesville aligns with Treasury Guidance – Public Health & Safety Staff as well as ABoCC Strategic Guide - Achieve Social and Economic Opportunity for All: Build equitable access to health (physical and mental). The project is under development.

Term sheet approved by the BoCC at the January 25, 2022, meeting. Contract pending final signatures as of June 30, 2022.

This will be delivered as a grant award to Shands as a sub-recipient with ½ from the County and ½ from the City of Gainesville for capital construction cost. Shands & UF Health will assume all operating losses and contribute the land.

Premium Pay (4.1) – Ambulance Transport - \$1,070,000 (Project 001)

The response to COVID-19 has exposed the obsolesces and end of life equipment used by First Responders and Ambulance transport and reinvesting in modernized equipment aligns with Treasury Guidance – Medical Expenses as well as ABoCC Strategic Guide - Provide for the welfare and protection of the public.

\$610,000 Incentives to Rescue Lieutenants – Eligible recipients have received funds. Remaining funds are set aside for new hires as they become eligible.

\$460,000 for 12 FTE for 6 months to relieve call load volumes – Hiring In-Process

Negative Economic Impact – Local Food Security - \$4 Million

Supporting and protecting local food sources is vital to responding to community survival during emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic and aligns with Treasury Guidance – Respond to economic harms to workers, families, small businesses, impacted industries and the public sector as well as ABoCC Strategic Guide - Achieve Social and Economic Opportunity for All: Work with private and public partnerships, including farms and local food entrepreneurs to build a community food system.

Implemented Programming

Food Security Assistance (2.1) - \$300,000 (Project 008)

Provide emergency food assistance for low-income persons within Alachua County over the holiday season. On an annual basis for four years, a total of \$75,000 will be distributed between local food banks, small local farmers, and marginalized and underserved community non-profits in support of emergency food assistance.



Approximately \$25,000 will be allocated to fresh produce purchased from Small Local Farmers, support for food bank assistance with non-perishable foodstuffs, and gift card distribution. Another \$50,000 will be allocated to the Pastor's Association to coordinate additional food purchases and the assembly distribution of foodstuffs for donations. Estimated reach: 2,000-3,000 households annually.

Implemented in November 2021, Alachua County partnered with the Long Foundation and the Bread of the Mighty Food Bank for an annual Strike Out Hunger event and a special Thanksgiving initiative to continue to aid in the immediate food needs of the community.

The Strike Out Hunger event, held on November 18, 2021, was a food drive distribution that provided turkeys, fresh produce, and

supplemental food items. The Bread of the Mighty Food Bank facilitated the special Thanksgiving initiative provided grocery gift cards to local food pantries to individuals that reported immediate food needs. Alachua County funded these activities utilizing American Rescue Plan funds.

November 2021 Food Statistics and Impact



Total Impacted Individuals who benefitted from food assistance:

- 14,664 individuals
 - o Bread of the Mighty Food Bank distributed 1,666 grocery gift cards to the head of households. A total of 6,664 benefitted from the food assistance.
 - o The Strike Out Hunger event assisted 2,000 households. A total of 8,000 impacted individuals benefitted from the food assistance.

Total amount of food distributed:

- 31,981 pounds of turkeys
- 63,056 pounds of nutritional and supplemental food
 - o Fresh produce, canned and packaged foods, and other items

Community Partners and Distribution Sites



- Bread of the Mighty Food Bank (and Partner Food Pantries)
- Lazarus Ministries
- Foster Grandparent Program
- Meridian
- Gainesville Police Department
- MLK Commission
- Grace Marketplace
- Upper Room Ministries Food Pantry

Under Development Programming

\$3.7 Million Support of Food System Infrastructure and Employment – Programs under development:

- \$2,500,000 Meat Processing Infrastructure
- \$ 200,000 Small-Producer Agriculture Capital Support Grant
- \$ 250,000 Food System Workforce Development and Jobs Pipeline
- \$ 750,000 Healthy Corner Store: Retail Food Access for Marginalized Communities

Negative Economic Impact – Addressing Housing Gap - \$6 Million

Permanent Housing, Increased Affordable Housing, and Energy Efficient upgrades for low-income homeowners and landlords that maintain units for affordable housing.

Addressing the housing crisis is imperative to an equitable recovery and aligns with Treasury Guidance – Respond to economic harms to workers, families, small businesses, impacted industries and the public sector as well as ABoCC Strategic Guide – Address the Housing Gap: Invest intentionally to reduce the gap in available public housing. This project is under development.

Energy efficiency affordable housing upgrades program is under development - \$3 Million

Permanent Affordable Housing Program is under development - \$3 Million

Negative Economic Impact – Language Access - \$1 Million

The County intends to support, elevate, and amplify the needs of communities whose primary language is other than English and residents that are unable to see or hear. One overriding goal is to make sure these communities are aware of how ARPA funds and ARPA programs are being handled within the County. This program is under development.

Infra-structure - Broadband - \$15 Million (Project 005)

Collaborating with cities, school board, colleges and UF on maximizing the impact of providing Broadband to underserved and unserved communities align with Treasury Guidance – Make necessary investments to provide unserved or underserved locations with new or expanded broadband access as well as ABoCC Strategic Guide – Accelerate Progress on Infrastructure: Address internet affordability and accessibility gaps. This project is under development.

\$1 Million approved by the Board to staff 2 positions for 5 years. A project manager and administrative assistant are on-board.

The Board approved the development of a Regional Broadband Team to work with the State of Florida Department of Economic Opportunity to identify State and Federal programs to assist Alachua, Bradford, Gilchrist, Levy, and Union counties.

Infrastructure – Water System migration - \$1.25 Million

ABoCC currently manages one water system that was acquired under receivership and is in need of improvement to address water quality issues. This issue aligns with Treasury Guidance – Make necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water as well as ABoCC Strategic Guide – Accelerate Progress on Infrastructure. This project is under development.

Revenue Loss Recovery - \$15 Million (Project 006)

Recovering loss revenue using Treasury's loss revenue calculator aligns with Treasury Guidance - Replace Public Sector Revenue Loss as well as ABoCC Strategic Guide – Guiding Principle: Continue to provide mandated services and discretionary services expected by our constituents in a transparent, accountable, efficient and effective manner

\$8 million will be recovered as lost revenue from the first half of ARPA funds received in June 2021. From those funds the following uses are identified:

- \$2M for roads budgeted in the FY22 adopted budget
- \$1M to correct Park's deficiencies in land and building Risk Assessment
- \$1M to buy land and hire a design team for a new Animal Service complex
- \$1M Housing seed funds
- \$500,000 Rental program seed funds
- \$1.2M to fund claims in self-insurance Fund 501 Worker's Comp and G/L
- \$1.3M FY21 Expenditure support due to reduced revenue, was used to buy motel for affordable housing

\$7 million from the second half of funds will be identified in August 2022 when received from the U.S. Treasury.

Remaining Funds for program development - \$1 Million

Promoting equitable outcomes

Projects related to promoting equitable outcomes will address these plans during ABoCC project adoption and included in the individual project plan report.

Community Engagement

Projects requiring Community Engagement will address these plans during ABoCC project adoption and included in the individual project plans report.

Labor Practices

Projects for infrastructure will address labor practices in their plans during ABoCC adoption and included in the individual project plan report.

Use of Evidence

Projects in categories requiring an evidence-based approach will be provided in the project plans during Board adoption and included in the individual project plan report.

Performance Report

Project performance goals, measures, outputs and outcomes are incorporated into the project plans during Board adoption and included in the individual project plan report.

PROJECT INVENTORY

Each individually ABoCC adopted project is included below:

Alachua County
Recovery Plan

American Rescue Plan

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

Ambulance Transport Support and
Premium Pay Program

ARP2021x001

Executive Summary

In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Federal government has provided Alachua County funding through the American Rescue Plan – State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. One Category of response is Public Health – Payroll for Public Health and Safety Employees (1.9) and Premium Pay (Public sector 4.1). Alachua County is currently considered a “hotspot” of transmission. As of the week of August 13th, the County has reported 30,824 cumulative cases, and is at a 14.8% positive test rate. (See Weekly Data Table below). The spread of the Delta variant has resulted in increased demand on hospital emergency rooms and admission, including pediatric admissions. (See Hospital Information table on the next page).

Many emergency room visits start with ambulance transport. Alachua County is the provider of ambulance transport services in Alachua County. Alachua County ambulances are staffed with 55 Rescue Lieutenants and Fire Fighters that drive the ambulance. Transports have increased by 21% from October 2020 to July 2021 (See Rescue Unit Responses by Month Table below). The rapid expansion of demand is creating a dramatic workload increase that results in high stress and “burn-out” on the Rescue Lieutenant position. This coupled with a high demand for employees with their medical credentials and work skills have made it extremely difficult to hire and retain Rescue Lieutenants. To recognize and retain these employees and to fill vacant positions, Alachua County will provide Premium Pay for the Rescue Lieutenant position and add an additional 6 Rescue Lieutenant Positions and 6 Fire Fighters that drive ambulances to absorb some of the increased workload.

Weekly Data Table

Source: Florida Department of Health COVID-19 Weekly Situation Reports. This report replaced the daily reports on June 11, 2021.

| Week | Cumulative Total Cases | Cumulative People Vaccinated | % of People 12+ Vaccinated | New Positive Cases | New Case Positivity | Cases Per 100k Residents | People Vaccinated |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Week of Jun 11, 2021 | 25,293 | 133,480 | 56% | 76 | 2% | 27.9 | 1,212 |
| Week of Jun 18, 2021 | 25,358 | 134,920 | 56% | 63 | 2% | 23.1 | 1,120 |
| Week of Jun 25, 2021 | 25,425 | 136,223 | 57% | 67 | 2.1% | 24.6 | 1,085 |
| Week of Jul 02, 2021 | 25,518 | 137,481 | 57% | 90 | 3.2% | 33 | 952 |
| Week of Jul 09, 2021 | 25,648 | 138,229 | 58% | 131 | 5.3% | 48 | 654 |
| Week of Jul 16, 2021 | 26,021 | 139,067 | 58% | 372 | 8.3% | 136.4 | 873 |
| Week of Jul 23, 2021 | 26,683 | 140,496 | 59% | 664 | 11.4% | 243.4 | 1,220 |
| Week of Jul 30, 2021 | 27,770 | 143,471 | 60% | 1,082 | 14.6% | 396.7 | 2,451 |
| Week of Aug 06, 2021 | 29,182 | 147,169 | 61% | 1,418 | 14.6% | 519.9 | 3,060 |
| Week of Aug 13, 2021 | 30,824 | 151,097 | 63% | 1,644 | 14.8% | 602.8 | 3,353 |

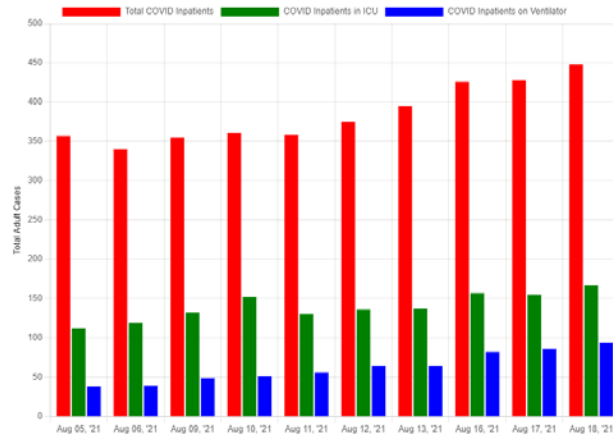
Hospital Information

This information is updated Monday-Friday

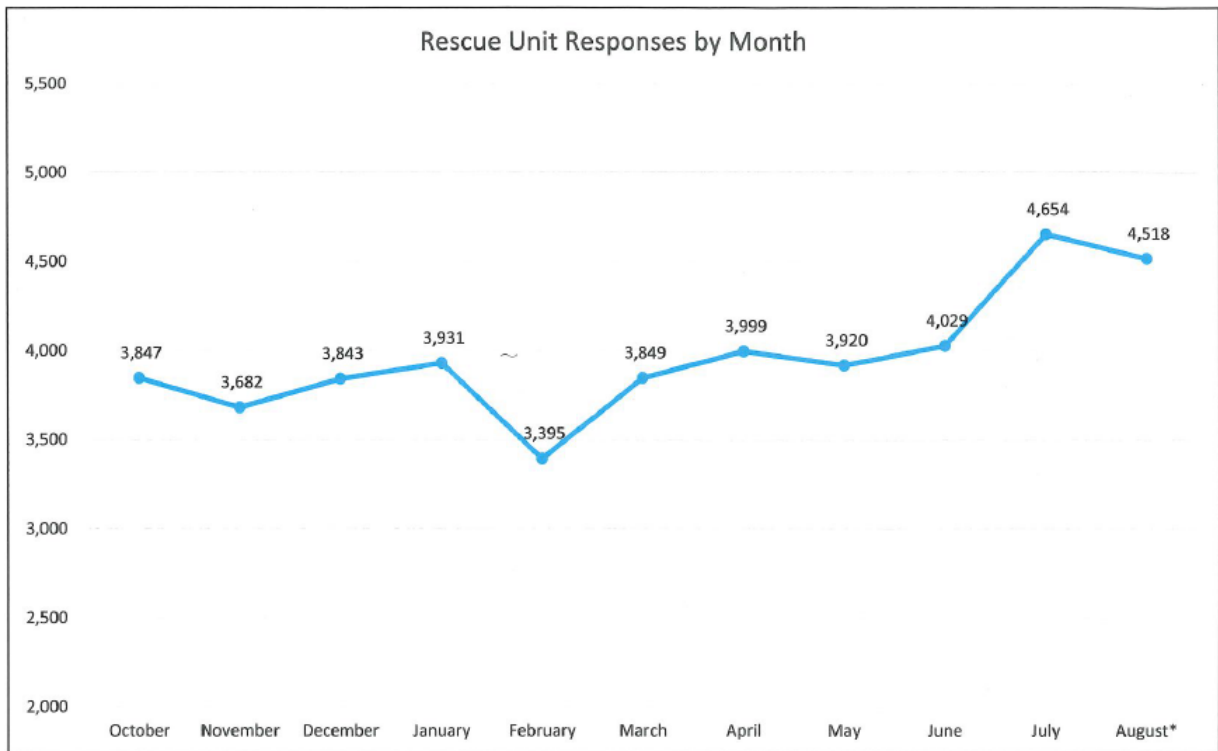
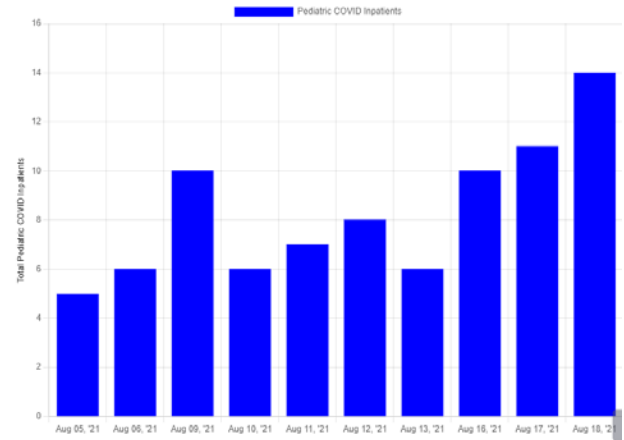
Sources: UF Health, North Florida Regional Medical Center, and Alachua County Fire Rescue

Note: Daily numbers from the VA Hospital are no longer available and are no longer reflected in the charts below.

Adult Hospitalizations by Day



Pediatric Hospitalizations by Day



* August projected based on 8/1/2021-8/8/2021

Uses of Funds

The Ambulance Transport Support and Premium Pay Program aligns with the Public Health – Payroll for Public Health and Safety Employees (1.9) and Premium Pay (Public sector 4.1) under the American Rescue Plan – State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. Having available ambulance transport when the service is needed can be critical to the health, and possibly mortality, of the citizenry.

Under the Program, 6 additional Rescue Lieutenant and 6 Fire Fighter positions will be created and staffed for 6 months. At the end of 6 months the program will be evaluated and either extended another 6 months or 4 Fire Fighters will phased out through attrition. The phase out of the program will retain all 6 Rescue Lieutenants and 2 Fire Fighters, creating the planned new permanent transport unit from the General Fund. Rescue Lieutenants will be required to provide a 2 year commitment to stay in position, unless promoted to District Chief, and will receive half of the premium pay at 6 months service and the other half at 12 months service. Current Rescue Lieutenants with more than 1 year service will receive the premium pay in October.

The program maximum cost will be **\$1,070,000**, which represents a **\$10,000** Premium Pay for **61** Rescue Lieutenants, totaling **\$610,000** and **12** new FTE for 6 months, totaling **\$460,000**.

Performance Report: Goals and Measures

The program will run from October 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022. ACFR will on-board these positions as quickly as possible to relieve current workload levels.

Our goal is to fill all Rescue Lieutenant Positions and retain at least 95% of all Rescue Lieutenants and reduce call load per unit by 15%. We will measure and report progress to the Manager on a monthly basis and provide a final report of effectiveness of the program in April 2022.

June 30, 2022: While the premium pay was helpful in compensating senior employees that continued to provide public safety services to the public during the pandemic; the incentive was not successful in recruiting and retaining new Rescue Lieutenants. The ABoCC currently has a 25% vacancy rate.

Alachua County
Recovery Plan

American Rescue Plan

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

County Government Employee
Vaccination Program

ARP2021x002ext1

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Federal government has provided Alachua County funding through the American Rescue Plan – State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. One Category of response is Public Health – COVID-19 Vaccinations (1.1). Alachua County is currently considered a “hotspot” of transmission. As of the week of August 13th, the County has reported 30,824 cumulative cases, and is at a 14.8% positive test rate. Vaccination rates in Alachua County are at ~63% which reflects ~151,000 vaccinated citizens out of ~240,000 eligible (12 years old and over) population. (see Weekly Data Table below). The spread of the Delta variant has resulted in increased demand for hospital emergency rooms and admission, including pediatric admissions. Data indicates the vast majority of cases resulting in hospitalization are from people not vaccinated (see Hospital Information table on the next page).

Alachua County Government, including Constitutional Officers, provide necessary and needed services to citizens' through-out the County. Vulnerable and disproportionate citizens frequently request assistance from Public Safety, Health and Economic needs. It is important that the employees delivering these services are protected to the highest extent possible so that not only are they protected, but they are also limiting the spread to the citizens that we serve. Our goal is to have as many vaccinated employees as possible to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Restart January 12, 2022 through February 28, 2022:

In December 2021, Omicron, became the dominate strain of new COVID-19 cases. Alachua County positivity rate increased from 2.5% to over 22%. The week of December 31, 2021, the County recorded over 2,000 new cases. During this surge, the County employee vaccination rate sits at 81%. It remains imperative that the County continue to deliver services to the public while contraction of COVID19 by our employees rises as well. Our goal remains to have as many vaccinated employees as possible to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and limit the severity of hospitalizations and death on those that contract it.

Weekly Data Table

Source: Florida Department of Health COVID-19 Weekly Situation Reports. This report replaced the daily reports on June 11, 2021.

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Current Data

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|--------|---------|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Week of Nov 12, 2021 | 39,810 | 167,730 | 65% | 177 | 2.5% | 64.9 | 1,484 |
| Week of Nov 19, 2021 | 39,937 | 169,688 | 66% | 144 | 2.2% | 52.8 | 1,716 |
| Week of Nov 26, 2021 | 40,067 | 171,484 | 66% | 129 | 2.3% | 47.3 | 1,567 |
| Week of Dec 03, 2021 | 40,160 | 172,353 | 67% | 96 | 1.8% | 35.2 | 940 |
| Week of Dec 10, 2021 | 40,321 | 173,575 | 67% | 158 | 2.3% | 57.9 | 1,140 |
| Week of Dec 17, 2021 | 40,515 | 174,497 | 67% | 194 | 3% | 71.1 | 851 |
| Week of Dec 24, 2021 | 41,206 | 175,303 | 68% | 677 | 7.9% | 248.2 | 1,074 |
| Week of Dec 31, 2021 | 43,279 | 175,753 | 68% | 2,072 | 22.1% | 759.7 | 792 |

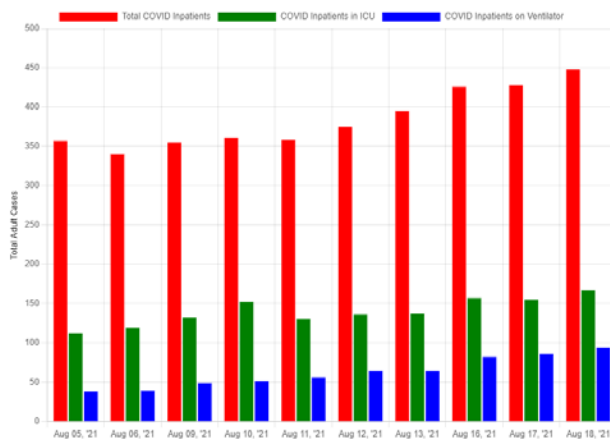
Hospital Information

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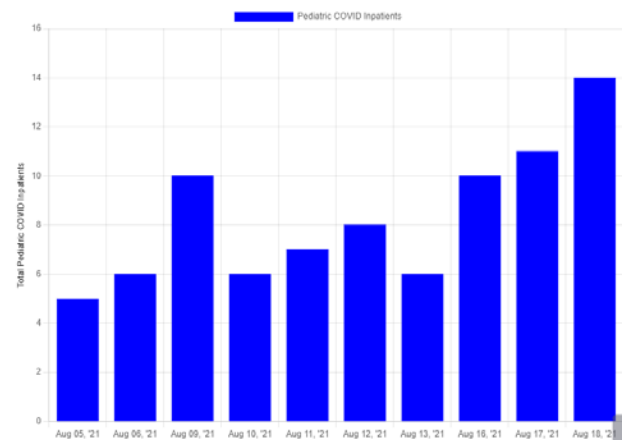
Sources: UF Health, North Florida Regional Medical Center, and Alachua County Fire Rescue

Note: Daily numbers from the VA Hospital are no longer available and are no longer reflected in the charts below.

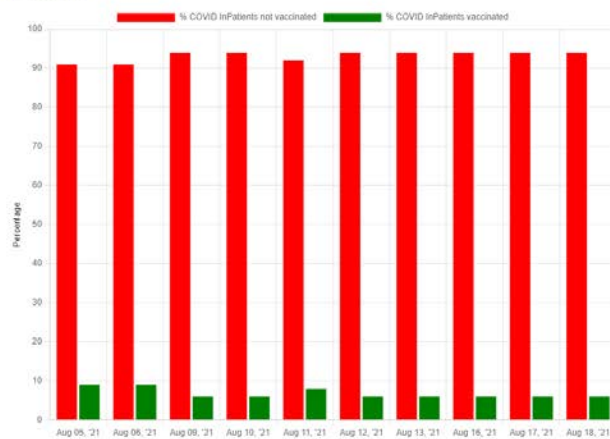
Adult Hospitalizations by Day



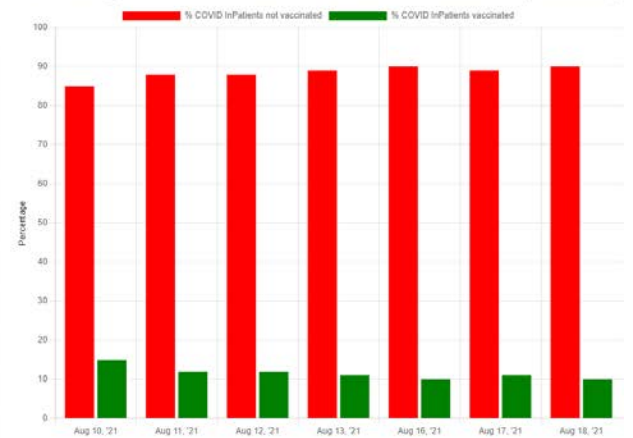
Pediatric Hospitalizations by Day



Percentage of Cases Unvaccinated vs Vaccinated (UF Health)



Percentage of Cases Unvaccinated vs Vaccinated (NFRMC)



Uses of Funds

The Alachua County Government Employee Vaccination Program aligns with the Public Health, COVID-19 Vaccination category (1.1) under the American Rescue Plan – State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. Having a fully vaccinated workforce will allow County Government Services to be provided to vulnerable, disproportionately impacted and economically challenged citizens will reduce the spread of COVID-19, reduce the anxiety to those seeking services, and provide a more stable workforce that is not out due to COVID-19 illness.

Under the Alachua County Government Employee Vaccination Program, all employees of the Board of County Commissioners and Constitutional Officers will be provided an incentive award of **\$500** upon being fully vaccinated. If they are not currently fully vaccinated, they may receive **\$250** after the first shot and **\$250** after the second shot, as long as they receive the first shot (or the Johnson & Johnson shot) prior to September 15, 2021. If an employee is not eligible for the vaccination because they recently had COVID-19, there timeline for the first shot may be extended to the date of eligibility as determined by their physician.

County staff will coordinate with the Clerk’s office to ensure all taxes and benefit issues are in compliance with Federal and State laws.

The program maximum cost will be **\$1,200,000**. This would represent a **100%** vaccination rate. Achieving the **90%** goal will cost **\$1,080,000**.

Restart January 12, 2022 - The original program identified around **1,600** employees as vaccinated at a cost of **~\$800,000**. We anticipate a similar response with the booster program and estimate it will cost **\$400,000**, mostly for boosters. The program will provide **\$100** to each employee for a COVID booster shot from the end of the last program period through February 28, 2022. The program will provide **\$100** for an employee receiving the 1st and/or 2nd vaccination (up to \$200) January 1, 2022 – February 28, 2022. Medical deferrals and time limitations between shots will allow an extension on a case by case basis.

Goals and Measures

The Board of County Commission employees are currently required to self-report their vaccinations status by August 31, 2021. BoCC staff information will be updated through the September 15, 2021 deadline. Constitutional Officers will provide payment to their employees and invoice the County. Upon completion we will report current vaccination rates to the Board.

Our goal is to attain an 90% vaccination rate of employees. We will measure and report progress to the Manager on a weekly basis and provide a final report of effectiveness of the program in late September 2021.

Restart January 12, 2022 – The County employee vaccination rate is 81%. The goal is to attain a 90% employee vaccination rate with all eligible employees receiving their booster shot by February 28, 2022.

June 30, 2022: approximately 1,602 employees received the incentive with approximately 85% of the ABoCC and Constitutional employees vaccinated.

Alachua County
Recovery Plan

American Rescue Plan

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

County Government Health Plan
Vaccination Program

ARP2021x003

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

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Alachua County Government, including Constitutional Officers, provide health insurance benefits to employees and their families. This insurance is funded through premiums paid by employees as well as the Government itself. Health insurance cost in response to COVID-19 from January 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 was \$3,578,077. As a self-funded plan, these cost drive up premiums, causing the County to divert funds for public services to the health plan. In that vaccinated plan members will dramatically reduce the need for hospitalization in the future, cost can be better contained and left in funds to deliver public services. Our goal is to have as many vaccinated health plan members as possible to reduce hospitalizations and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Weekly Data Table

Source: Florida Department of Health COVID-19 Weekly Situation Reports. This report replaced the daily reports on June 11, 2021.

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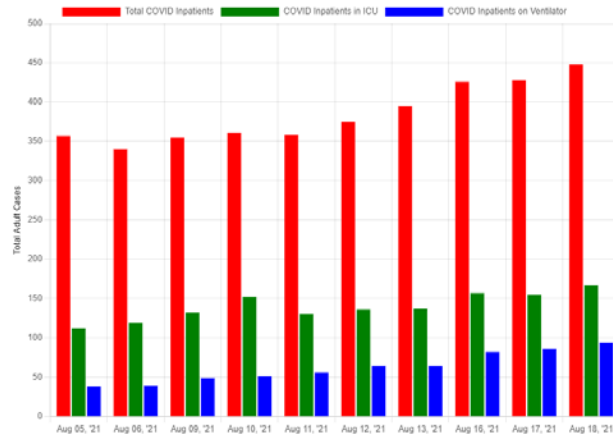
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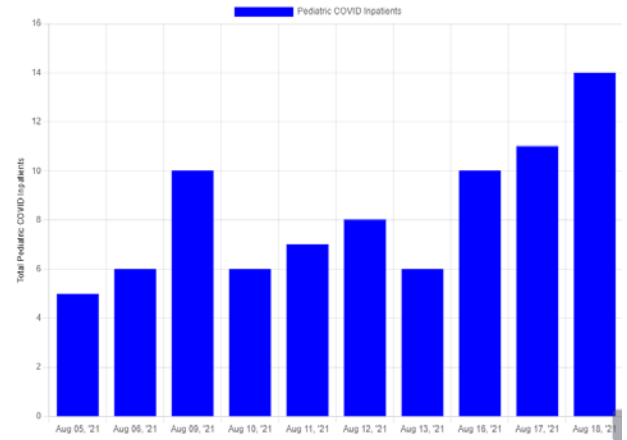
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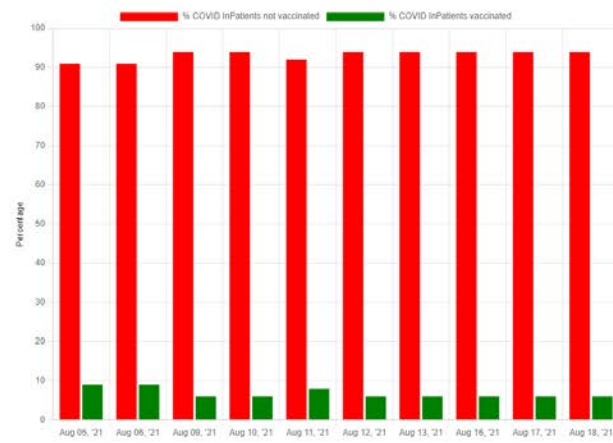
Adult Hospitalizations by Day



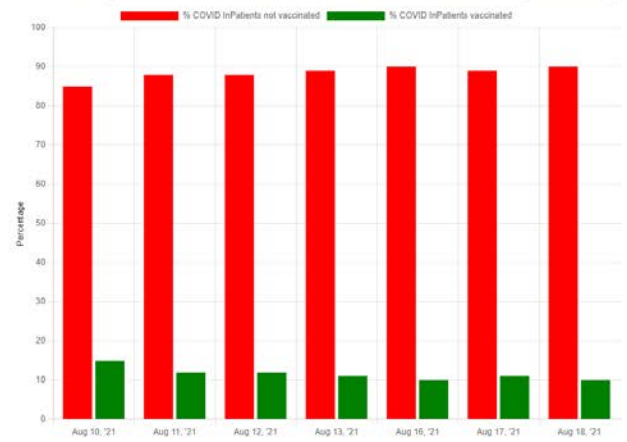
Pediatric Hospitalizations by Day



Percentage of Cases Unvaccinated vs Vaccinated (UF Health)



Percentage of Cases Unvaccinated vs Vaccinated (NFRMC)



Uses of Funds

The Alachua County Government Health Plan Vaccination Program aligns with the Public Health, COVID-19 Vaccination category (1.1) under the American Rescue Plan – State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. Reducing hospitalizations and the associated cost for plan members will limit future premium increases and allow funds to remain available to provide services to the public.

Under the Alachua County Government Employee Health Plan Program, all members of the Alachua County Health Insurance Plan will be provided an incentive award of \$10 per member per month premium credit upon being fully vaccinated. If they are not fully vaccinated prior to October 1, 2021, they may receive a prorated credit for the remainder of the fiscal year upon being fully vaccinated.

County staff will coordinate with the Clerk's office to ensure eligibility with the American Rescue Plan, and for any reason it is determined to be ineligible the County will use the General Fund dollars set aside for COVID-19 relief.

The program maximum cost will be **\$450,000**. This would represent a **100%** eligible member vaccination rate. The credit will be a maximum of **\$50 per month** per contract (5 per family for credit) and the credit is limited to the amount they pay as a premium.

This program is for one year only and will end September 2022.

Goals and Measures

Our goal is to attain an 80% vaccination rate of employees in the health plan. A final report will be presented to the Board in September 2022.

June 30, 2022 – A final outcome report will be provided in October 2022. Currently, the County has an 85% employee vaccination rate and 70% general public vaccination rate which indicates broad success of the various vaccination programs working together.

Alachua County
Recovery Plan

American Rescue Plan

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

Alachua County Citizens Vaccination
Incentive Program
ARP2021x004ext1

Executive Summary

In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Federal government has provided Alachua County funding through the American Rescue Plan – State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. One Category of response is Public Health – COVID-19 Vaccinations (1.1). Alachua County is currently considered a “hotspot” of transmission. As of the week of August 13th, the County has reported 30,824 cumulative cases, and is at a 14.8% positive test rate. Vaccination rates in Alachua County are at ~63% which reflects ~151,000 vaccinated citizens out of ~240,000 eligible (12 years old and over) population. (see Weekly Data Table below). The spread of the Delta variant has resulted in increased demand for hospital emergency rooms and admission, including pediatric admissions. Data indicates the vast majority of cases resulting in hospitalization are from people not vaccinated (see Hospital Information table on the next page).

The President of the United State and CDC emphasize the importance of reaching a level of at least 80% of all people need to be vaccinated. Since children under 12 are currently not eligible for the vaccine, we need to reach as close to 100% of eligible citizens to become vaccinated. Through the latest wave of the Delta variant many resistant to the vaccines are starting to reconsider and further analyze the data and impact of the unvaccinated getting COVID-19. Incentives are a way to possibly convince those reconsidering, unsure, or undecided to get vaccinated. The most efficient effective rapid method to deliver this program is through partnerships with the pharmacies that currently provide vaccines and the Department of Health. These providers already have logs of those receiving shots and can easily provide them a gift card and then a log to the County weekly for reimbursement.

Restart January 12, 2022 through February 28, 2022:

In November 2021, COVID-19 vaccinations were approved for children over 5 years old. Shortly after this approval, the new variant, Omicron, became the dominate strain of new COVID-19 cases. Alachua County positivity rate increased from 2.5% to over 22%. The week of December 31, 2021, the County recorded over 2,000 new cases. During this surge, the County remains below a 70% vaccination rate of eligible citizens. The partnerships established during the initial vaccination program still are in place and will allow for a smooth restart.

Weekly Data Table

Source: Florida Department of Health COVID-19 Weekly Situation Reports. This report replaced the daily reports on June 11, 2021.

| Week | Cumulative Total Cases | Cumulative People Vaccinated | % of People 12+ Vaccinated | New Positive Cases | New Case Positivity | Cases Per 100k Residents | People Vaccinated |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Week of Jun 11, 2021 | 25,293 | 133,480 | 56% | 76 | 2% | 27.9 | 1,212 |
| Week of Jun 18, 2021 | 25,358 | 134,920 | 56% | 63 | 2% | 23.1 | 1,120 |
| Week of Jun 25, 2021 | 25,425 | 136,223 | 57% | 67 | 2.1% | 24.6 | 1,085 |
| Week of Jul 02, 2021 | 25,518 | 137,481 | 57% | 90 | 3.2% | 33 | 952 |
| Week of Jul 09, 2021 | 25,648 | 138,229 | 58% | 131 | 5.3% | 48 | 654 |
| Week of Jul 16, 2021 | 26,021 | 139,067 | 58% | 372 | 8.3% | 136.4 | 873 |
| Week of Jul 23, 2021 | 26,683 | 140,496 | 59% | 664 | 11.4% | 243.4 | 1,220 |
| Week of Jul 30, 2021 | 27,770 | 143,471 | 60% | 1,082 | 14.6% | 396.7 | 2,451 |
| Week of Aug 06, 2021 | 29,182 | 147,169 | 61% | 1,418 | 14.6% | 519.9 | 3,060 |
| Week of Aug 13, 2021 | 30,824 | 151,097 | 63% | 1,644 | 14.8% | 602.8 | 3,353 |

Current Data

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------|--------|---------|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Week of Nov 12, 2021 | 39,810 | 167,730 | 65% | 177 | 2.5% | 64.9 | 1,484 |
| Week of Nov 19, 2021 | 39,937 | 169,688 | 66% | 144 | 2.2% | 52.8 | 1,716 |
| Week of Nov 26, 2021 | 40,067 | 171,484 | 66% | 129 | 2.3% | 47.3 | 1,567 |
| Week of Dec 03, 2021 | 40,160 | 172,353 | 67% | 96 | 1.8% | 35.2 | 940 |
| Week of Dec 10, 2021 | 40,321 | 173,575 | 67% | 158 | 2.3% | 57.9 | 1,140 |
| Week of Dec 17, 2021 | 40,515 | 174,497 | 67% | 194 | 3% | 71.1 | 851 |
| Week of Dec 24, 2021 | 41,206 | 175,303 | 68% | 677 | 7.9% | 248.2 | 1,074 |
| Week of Dec 31, 2021 | 43,279 | 175,753 | 68% | 2,072 | 22.1% | 759.7 | 792 |

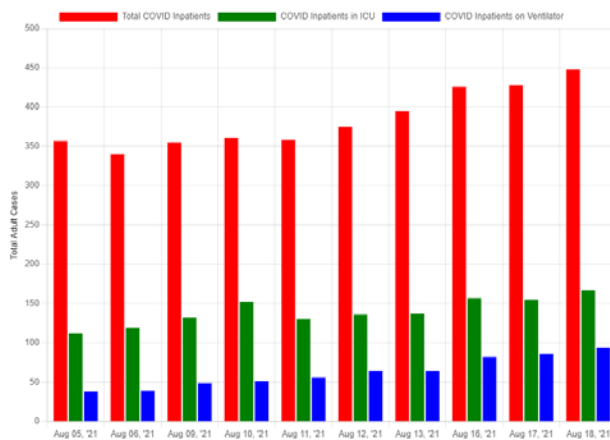
Hospital Information

This information is updated Monday-Friday

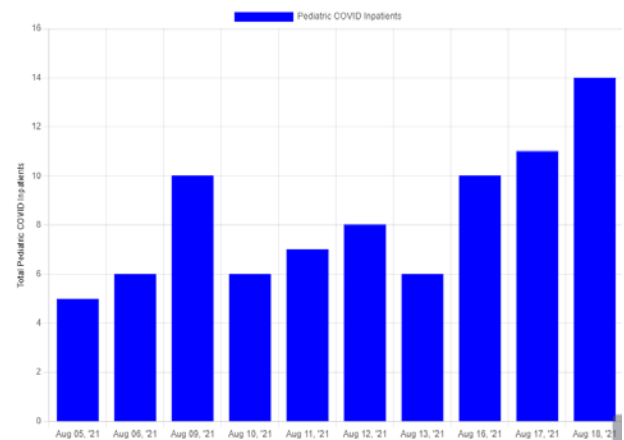
Sources: UF Health, North Florida Regional Medical Center, and Alachua County Fire Rescue

Note: Daily numbers from the VA Hospital are no longer available and are no longer reflected in the charts below.

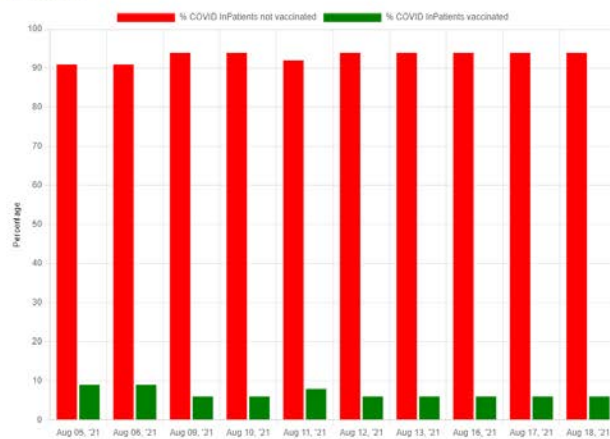
Adult Hospitalizations by Day



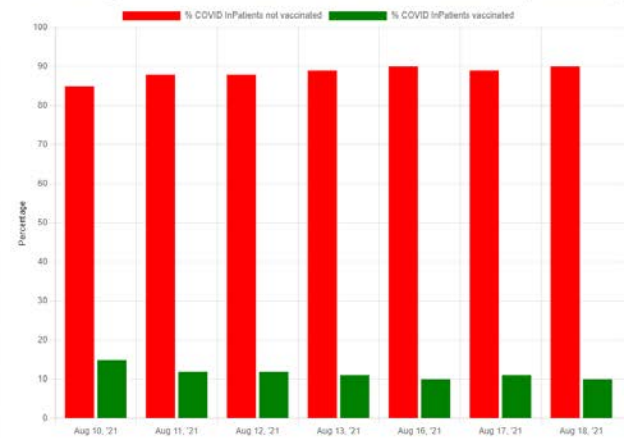
Pediatric Hospitalizations by Day



Percentage of Cases Unvaccinated vs Vaccinated (UF Health)



Percentage of Cases Unvaccinated vs Vaccinated (NFRMC)



Uses of Funds

The Alachua County Citizen Vaccination Program aligns with the Public Health, COVID-19 Vaccination category (1.1) under the American Rescue Plan – State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. Having a fully vaccinated population is paramount to ending COVID-19 in our society.

Under the Alachua County Citizen Vaccination Program, all Alachua County residents will be provided an incentive award of **\$25** for each COVID-19 vaccination regardless of manufacturer, including booster shots.

The program maximum cost will be **\$4,500,000**, which represents a **100%** vaccination rate. The realistic goal is to get **45,000** additional citizens fully vaccinated representing **81%** of the eligible population, and will cost **\$2,250,000**.

Restart January 12, 2022 - The original program resulted in **~16,000** vaccines delivered by our partners totaling **~\$400,000**. We anticipate a similar response with the booster program and estimate it will cost another **\$400,000**, mostly for boosters. If we achieve an **80%** citizen vaccination rate, it will cost another **\$400,000**, or **\$800,000** total for the expanded period.

Goals and Measures

The vaccination program will run from September 1 to September 30, 2021. The County will attempt to partner with vaccine providers, CVS, Hitchcock's, Publix, Walgreen's, Walmart, Wise's, Winn-Dixie and the Public Health Department to supply gift cards at the time of

vaccination. The providers will provide list, without identifiable information, of how many vaccines were administered for reimbursement.

Update September 28, 2021 – The County was able to partner with Abel’s Pharmacy, CVS, Hitchcock’s, West-end Pharmacy, Wise’s Pharmacy, and Winn-Dixie.

Our goal is to attain an 80% vaccination rate of the eligible public in Alachua County. We will measure and report progress to the Manager on a weekly basis and provide a final report of effectiveness of the program in October 2021.

Update September 28, 2021 – Due to the County-wide eligible citizen fully vaccinated rate remaining less than 70%, the program has been extended until October 31, 2021.

Restart January 12, 2022 – Although the County achieved a 70% vaccination rate in November 2021; the expansion of 5-12 year olds reduced the percentage of eligible people vaccinated to 65%. The County currently sits at 68% of eligible citizens vaccinated. The current goal is to reach an 80% threshold by February 28, 2022.

June 30, 2022 – Approximately 78% of eligible residents have received at least one shot, and 70% are considered fully vaccinated.

Alachua County Florida
Recovery Plan

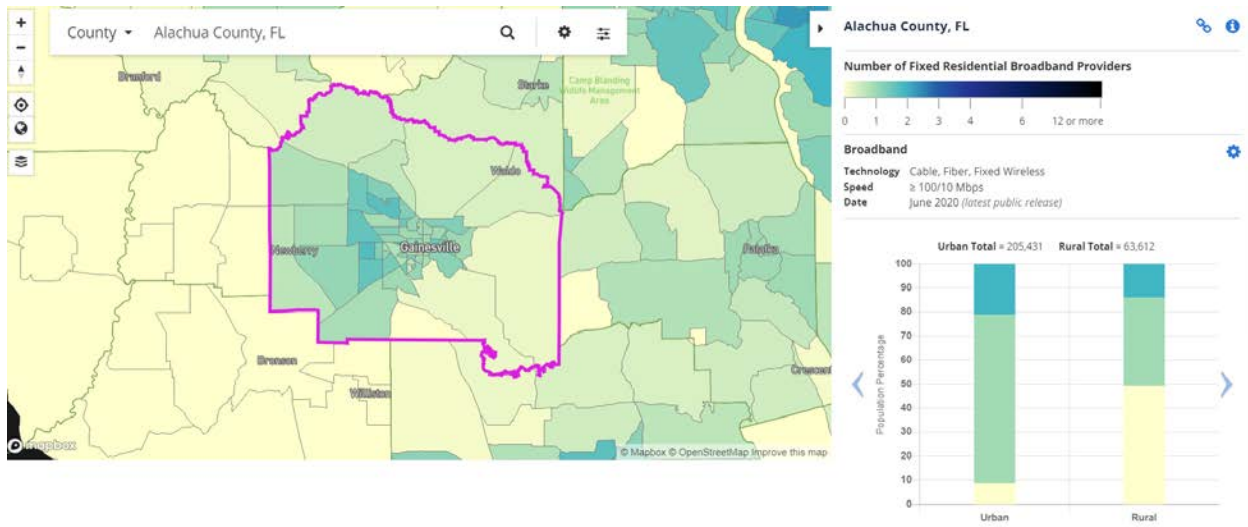
American Rescue Plan

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

Alachua County Broadband –
County-wide Residential
ARP2021x005

Executive Summary

In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Federal government has provided Alachua County funding through the American Rescue Plan – State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. One Category of response is Broadband Infrastructure (5.16 and 5.17). During the pandemic it became apparent that the need for the ability Telemedicine, Telework and home based education opportunities was inequitable in access and affordability. Based on information from the FCC Fixed Broadband Deployment site (<https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/>) as of June 2020, excluding satellite ISP, over 49% of the 63,612 rural residential units have less than 100/10 mbps speed. (See map below)



Uses of Funds

The ABoCC allocation to create equity in Broadband access and affordability for unserved and underserved population is \$15 Million. In addition to these funds, the County will collaborate with local cities, school board, colleges and UF to understand the entirety of the impact on unserved and underserved communities. The County intends to also leverage these dollars with ISP to acquire match funding, as well as possible FCC and USDA grants.

Promoting equitable outcomes

The final project approval will include:

- Speeds/pricing tiers to be offered, including the speed/pricing of its affordability offering
- Technology to be deployed
- Miles of fiber
- Cost per mile
- Cost per passing
- Number of households projected to have increased access to broadband meeting the minimum speed standards in areas that previously lacked access to service of at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload
 - Number of households with access to minimum speed standard of reliable 100 Mbps symmetrical upload and download
 - Number of households with access to minimum speed standard of reliable 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload
- Number of institutions and businesses projected to have increased access to broadband meeting the minimum speed standards in areas that previously lacked access to service of at least 25 Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload, in each of the following categories: business, small business, elementary school, secondary school, higher education institution, library, healthcare facility, and public safety organization
 - Specify the number of each type of institution with access to the minimum speed standard of reliable 100 Mbps symmetrical upload and download; and
 - Specify the number of each type of institution with access to the minimum speed standard of reliable 100 Mbps download and 20 Mbps upload

Labor Practices

The final project plan for Broadband infrastructure will address labor practices in their plans during ABoCC adoption. It will include, when possible, how the project is using strong labor standards to promote effective and efficient delivery of high-quality infrastructure while also supporting the economic recovery through strong employment opportunities for workers. For example: project labor agreements, community benefits agreements, prevailing wage requirements, and local hiring.

Performance Report: Goals and Measures

The goal is for every resident of Alachua County to have access to affordable broadband internet.

June 30, 2022: Surveys are underway to identify unserved and underserved populations. The Regional Technology Planning Team has been created and are tasked with developing a plan in compliance with Florida Department of Economic Opportunities, Office of Broadband, requirements to access Federal and State funding for broadband expansion. A feasibility study and build-out plan is under development. The final project plan will go to the ABoCC in the fall of 2022.

Alachua County
Recovery Plan

American Rescue Plan

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

Emergency Medical Services Training
Facility, Equipment, and Supplies
Program

ARP2021x007

Executive Summary

In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Federal government has provided Alachua County funding through the American Rescue Plan – State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. This plan includes equipment and supplies to address Category of response for Personal Protective Equipment (1.5), Communications (1.8), Other Public Health (1.12) – Emergency Medical Services Equipment, and Other Public Health (1.12) – EMS Training Facility. Alachua County is currently considered a “hotspot” of transmission. As of the week of August 13th, the County has reported 30,824 cumulative cases, and is at a 14.8% positive test rate. (See Weekly Data Table below). The spread of the Delta variant has resulted in increased demand on hospital emergency rooms and admission, including pediatric admissions. (See Hospital Information table on the next page).

Alachua County is the provider of ambulance transport services in Alachua County. Transports have increased by 21% from October 2020 to July 2021 (See Rescue Unit Responses by Month Table below). The rapid expansion of demand is creating a dramatic increase in the use of personal protective equipment and supplies including N95 masks, gloves, decontamination supplies and disinfecting supplies which goes above and beyond our normal use prior to COVID. In addition, Fire Rescue is in need of additional radio communications equipment, additional Automatic Chest Compression Devices, an additional rescue unit with equipment to address the workload per unit, and a dedicated facility for EMS training.

Weekly Data Table

Source: Florida Department of Health COVID-19 Weekly Situation Reports. This report replaced the daily reports on June 11, 2021.

| Week | Cumulative Total Cases | Cumulative People Vaccinated | % of People 12+ Vaccinated | New Positive Cases | New Case Positivity | Cases Per 100k Residents | People Vaccinated |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Week of Jun 11, 2021 | 25,293 | 133,480 | 56% | 76 | 2% | 27.9 | 1,212 |
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| Week of Aug 06, 2021 | 29,182 | 147,169 | 61% | 1,418 | 14.6% | 519.9 | 3,060 |
| Week of Aug 13, 2021 | 30,824 | 151,097 | 63% | 1,644 | 14.8% | 602.8 | 3,353 |

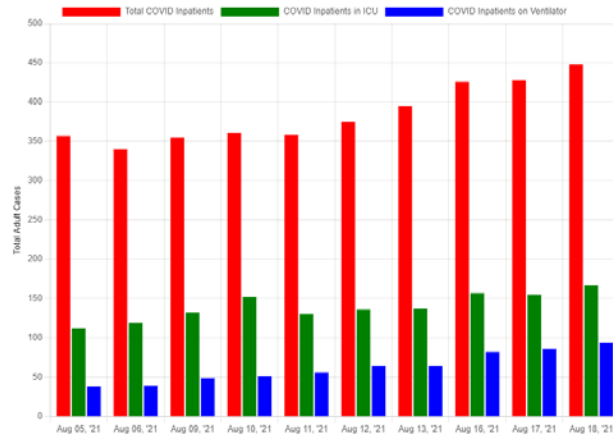
Hospital Information

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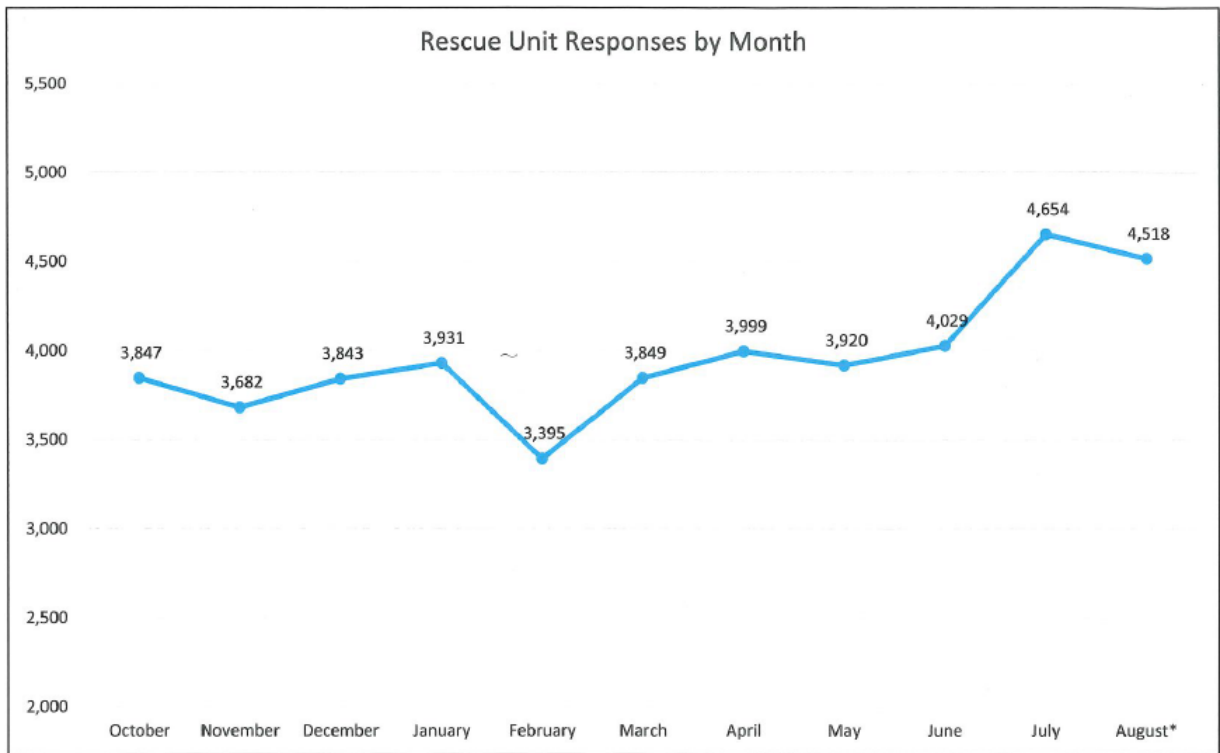
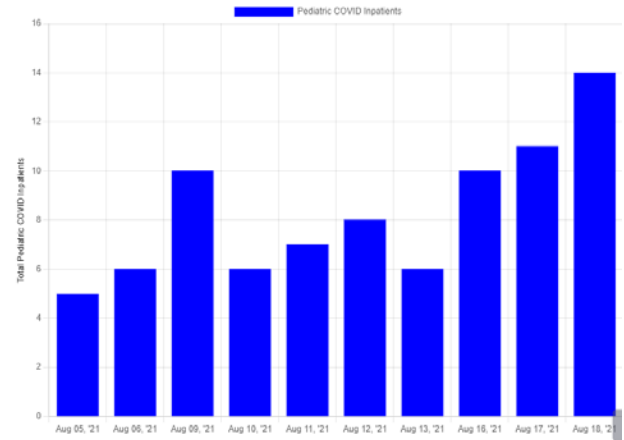
Sources: UF Health, North Florida Regional Medical Center, and Alachua County Fire Rescue

Note: Daily numbers from the VA Hospital are no longer available and are no longer reflected in the charts below.

Adult Hospitalizations by Day



Pediatric Hospitalizations by Day



* August projected based on 8/1/2021-8/8/2021

| | R20 | R21 | R23 | R24 | R28 | R30 | R31 | R33 | R34 | R3/R35 | R41 | R62 | R80 | R81 | Total 24-hour Units | Average Per Rescue Unit |
|---|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| FY15 | 2,111 | 3,760 | 4,300 | 2,493 | | 3,865 | 3,797 | 3,730 | | 4,615 | 1,032 | 933 | 4,202 | 2,250 | 37,088 | 3,091 |
| FY16 | 1,969 | 3,060 | 4,203 | 2,444 | | 4,035 | 4,039 | 3,913 | | 4,736 | 1,014 | 851 | 3,966 | 2,311 | 36,541 | 3,045 |
| FY17 | 1,615 | 2,209 | 4,161 | 2,272 | | 3,896 | 3,898 | 3,566 | | 4,720 | 1,005 | 848 | 4,422 | 2,413 | 35,025 | 2,919 |
| FY18 | 1,764 | 2,001 | 4,648 | 2,645 | | 3,803 | 3,781 | 3,808 | | 4,498 | 1,070 | 912 | 4,656 | 2,570 | 36,156 | 3,013 |
| FY19 | 1,565 | 1,866 | 4,436 | 2,376 | 581 | 3,930 | 3,794 | 3,823 | | 4,589 | 1,000 | 971 | 4,534 | 2,506 | 35,971 | 2,949 |
| FY20 | 1,327 | 1,649 | 3,730 | 1,596 | 1,104 | 3,666 | 3,552 | 3,105 | 2,191 | 3,963 | 1,004 | 922 | 4,193 | 2,352 | 34,354 | 2,498 |
| FY21 ** | 1,542 | 1,871 | 4,164 | 2,050 | 1,366 | 3,551 | 3,655 | 3,388 | 3,563 | 3,520 | 1,197 | 1,010 | 4,642 | 2,672 | 38,189 | 2,728 |
| * R2 moved to R21 4/18/16; CC1 5/6/14; CC2 3/21/16; CC3 4/18/16; CC4 4/10/17; CC5 12/11/17; R28 4/08/2019; R34 01/01/2020; R3 moved to R35 02/01/2020 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ** FY21 Annualized based on actual responses 10/1/2020-08/08/2021 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Uses of Funds

The Fire Rescue Emergency Medical Services Training Facility, Equipment, and Supplies Program aligns with the Personal Protective Equipment (1.5), Communications – Radio Equipment (1.8), Other Public Health – Rescue Units and equipment (1.12), Other Public Health – Automatic Chest Compression Devices (1.12) and Other Public Health – EMS Training Facility under the American Rescue Plan – State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. Having personal protective equipment and supplies, communication equipment, available ambulance transport when the service is needed, appropriate medical equipment and effective EMS Training is critical to the health, and possibly mortality, of the citizenry.

The following purchases will be made under this Program:

Item 1. Personal protective equipment and supplies for fire rescue first responders. The items will include masks, gloves, decontamination supplies, disinfecting supplies, etc. which go above and beyond our normal use prior to COVID. The estimated cost will be \$205,000.00.

Item 2. Alachua County Fire Rescue currently has thirty-four (34) vehicle mounted mobile radios that due to age are no longer eligible to be maintained by our vendor. There are no parts available and software upgrades are also not available. It is critical that the radios are replaced in order to ensure a continuation of communication ability of the fire rescue units. The estimated cost will be \$170,000.00.

Item 3. Over the last several years, the Alachua County Department of Fire Rescue has worked diligently to address the workload issues of our Emergency Medical Services. The territory serviced by Rescue 80 continues to produce the highest demand for service in the County. In FY2020, R80 responded to 4,193 calls for service in an area that includes stretches of SR93, two free-standing Emergency Rooms, Butler Plaza, Celebration Pointe, the Archer Road corridor, and numerous assisted living facilities and medical offices. The estimated FY2021 responses for Rescue 80 are 4,642, in addition, Rescue 23 is estimated to exceed 4,100 responses. This new rescue unit will be added as a second rescue to be housed at Station 80 in an effort to bring the call volume per unit to a manageable level. Workload has been reported to be a primary contributor to work stress, fatigue, and low morale amongst the crews stationed at this location. The estimated cost for the additional rescue unit and equipment will be \$375,000.00.

Item 4. Alachua County Fire Rescue (ACFR) currently has nineteen (19) front line advanced life support (ALS) transport units covering 965 square miles. Performing chest

compressions for an extended period of time causes fatigue and can have a negative impact on the quality of CPR. Additional complications with manual COR include interruptions in compressions while moving the patient, physical limitation of the medical providers, and also tying up at least two additional rescuers which are limited in the rural areas of our community. Medical providers who are transporting from rural location on busy highways are also put at an unnecessary risk when not able to be seat belted while doing chest compressions. Automatic chest compression devices (ACCD) have recently become the standard for emergency medical service (EMS) agencies. Currently, only three of ACFR's transport units are stocked with an ACCD. With transport distances as much as 30 minutes to the hospital, extended times of doing chest compressions leads to fatigue, is not safe for the medical providers and is not as efficient as using an ACCD. The use of ACCDs provides continuous high quality chest compressions that is uninterrupted while moving the patient, during ventilations and while defibrillating. Consistent chest compressions profoundly increase the chance of return of spontaneous circulation (ROSC) and is a lifesaving intervention and the cornerstone of resuscitation from cardiac arrest according to American Heart Association (AHA). The estimated cost to purchase eighteen (18) devices is \$400,000.00.

Item 5 In January of 2022, Alachua County Fire Rescue will acquire a vacant building from the Tax Collector's Office. This building has been utilized as an in person, customer service center for citizens doing business with the Tax Collector. The building and property are located at 5801NW 34 Boulevard. The department plans to make changes to the interior layout of the building so that it can address several needs related to Emergency Medical Service (EMS) training and new employee onboarding. Approximately half of the building is an open floor plan which will be utilized as an educational classroom, hands-on training, EMS testing assessments, EMS employee skills evaluations, and new employee orientation and training. The building contains several offices in the back that will be occupied by training staff and the Information Technology (IT) section of the department. Additional enhancement will be made to facilitate the additional personnel who are training there as well as base quarters for a future District Chief who will manage EMS and Fire Units stationed in the area. The estimated cost for these renovations is \$450,000.00 of which \$350,000.00 will be used from the American Rescue Funding and \$100,000.00 from the annual PEMT funds.

The total program maximum cost will be **\$1,500,000.**

Goals and Measures

The program will begin on October 1, 2021.

Item 1 Personal Protective Equipment - This purchase will occur over the life of the American Rescue Funding period. The goal ensures our first responders are properly protected from contracting and transmitting the COVID virus.

Item 2 Communications Radio Equipment - This purchase will ensure continuity of radio communications for our fire rescue first responder units.

Item 3 Rescue Unit/Ambulance and equipment - The funding of an additional rescue unit will reduce the workload responses for our busiest unit(s) and bring call volumes per unit down to a manageable level.

Item 4 Automatic Chest Compression Devices (ACCD) - Alachua County responded to 283 cardiac arrests from January 1 to December 31, 2020. There were no ACCDs in services during this time period. The County conducted a 6-month trial with LUCAS ACCDs on three transport units. The ROSC rate without the device was 24% and with the device the ROSC rate improved to 57%. When all transports are provided with ACCDs, 93 of the 283 cardiac arrests patients could have been delivered to the emergency room with a pulse. There will be a dramatic increase in survivability of patients in cardiac arrest with a potential of at least 21 more lives saved and returned to their families.

Item 5 EMS Training Facility – This enhancement will create EMS training space that is more closely oriented to the center of Alachua County. It will reduce travel time for on-duty crews which will provide more training opportunities. Additionally, the building provides a better facility for new employee training, large group gatherings and increased space for a growing department.

Alachua County Florida
Recovery Plan

American Rescue Plan

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**

Alachua County Food Security – Strike
Out Hunger, Household Assistance
Food Program for Disadvantaged
Communities

ARP2021x008

Executive Summary

In response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the Federal government has provided the Alachua County Board of County Commissioners (ACBoCC) funding through the American Rescue Plan – State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. Many low-income and disenfranchised communities were disproportionately impacted in their food security by COVID. This project brings immediate food relief to disadvantaged communities via a drive-up food giveaway effort. For these residents, food insecurity is compounded by a higher likelihood of poor health conditions because of a lack of affordable and nutritious food.

Uses of Funds

The ACBoCC will allocate \$300,000 over four years for an annual Strike Out Hunger, Household Assistance Food Program for Disadvantaged Communities. This annual food assistance event will occur in November, every year and is targeted to disadvantaged communities per Treasury guidance under Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2) Food Programs.

Disadvantaged communities in Alachua County have experienced ongoing food insecurity. Lack of Nutrition Security, or having consistent, affordable access to foods that promote well-being and prevent disease in quantity and quality are critical factors in maintaining health and preventing disease, has increased nationally under COVID. Demand for SNAP benefits increased overall in 2021 by 15% in January and 21% in October. These increased demands are tied to the higher proportional cost and food availability for these populations. (US Department of Agriculture, 2021) For marginalized and low-income communities, COVID has compounded the economic disparities around lack of food access and security. Access to food can reduce hospitalization and COVID impacts for these at-risk communities that are already stressed with healthcare equities pre-pandemic. (Dimperio, 2021) Treasury guidance targets this issue under Negative Economic Impacts Household Assistance: Food Programs (2.1)

In 2018, prior to the pandemic, Alachua County was estimated to have over 36,000 Food Insecure people representing 13.9% of the population.¹

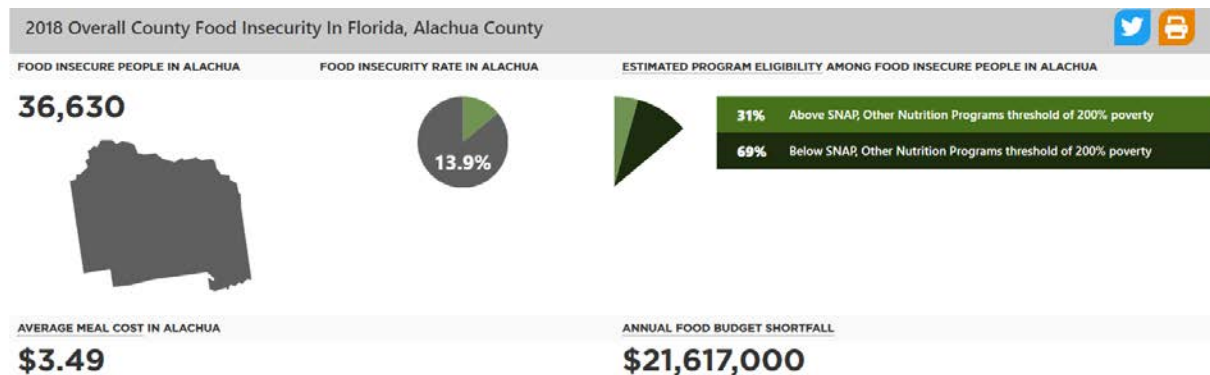


Figure 1 Feeding America 2018 Alachua County Food Insecurity

¹ <https://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2018/overall/florida/county/alachua>

During the pandemic, food insecurity increased to 15.4% in 2020 and is estimated to be 14.8% in 2021. (Feeding America, 2021) Per the INDY Hunger Network, poverty, unemployment, and income are key drivers of individual and household food insecurity across the country. Traditionally, food pantries provide emergency food to families experiencing temporary setbacks. Lack of food and resources makes it nearly impossible to maintain healthy habits, eat nutritious meals, or manage chronic illnesses. Poor health, in turn, makes it even more difficult to climb out of poverty and food insecurity. (Indy Hunger Network, 2020)

Existing Federal monthly benefits through SNAP may be inadequate during COVID-19. COVID has impacted the supply and distribution of food stuffs. Inventory of certain foods at local grocery stores may be temporarily low before a store can restock. For marginalized communities that are food insecure this has meant that:

- There is a significant shift in where consumers are buying food during the pandemic, i.e. grocery stores.
- Families that receive SNAP or other related food assistance, receiving funding once a month and typically do not cover large quantities of food items to purchase. (US Food and Drug Administration, 2021)

ACBoCC Programmatic Response

\$300,000 Alachua County Food Security – Strike Out Hunger, Household Assistance Food Program for Disadvantaged Communities

Per Treasury Required Programmatic Data for Household Assistance Projects: Food Programs (EC 2.1) the following section provides a brief description of the structure and objectives of the assistance program, the number of individuals served, and how the aid is responding to the negative economic impact of COVID-19.

Timeframe: Start November 2021-2025

Project description: Provide emergency food assistance for low-income persons within Alachua County over the holiday season. On an annual basis for four years, a total of \$75,000 will be distributed between local food banks, small local farmers, and non-profits serving marginalized and underserved communities in support of emergency food assistance. Food insecurity is a chronic condition for marginalized communities that is objectively exacerbated by COVID-19 economic impacts on these residents. Low-income residents that are either under or unemployed due to the pandemic, lack of access to affordable and nutritious food. This in conjunction with an increased likelihood of nutrition-related illness (e.g. hypertension, diabetes) makes this population at greater risk for hospitalization and infection.

For 2021 this project will allocate approximately \$25,000 to local food banks for assistance with non-perishable foodstuffs and gift card distribution. Another \$50,000 will be used for the purchase of turkeys. The local non-profits Pastor's Association and Long Foundation will assist in the assembly and distribution of foodstuffs for donations. Alachua County Community Support Services will assist in the vetting and prequalification of residents. The community is targeting a distribution date of November 15-19 at the Oaks Mall in Gainesville Florida.

Estimated reach: 2,000 households annually. This reach could be expanded with the participation of other non-profit food distribution non-profits such as Florida-Based Farm Share.²

The structure of the Food Distribution is based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control on structure food distribution events during COVID-19. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought new challenges to food security across the U.S. Access to healthy food options and nutrition are important to overall physical and mental health and well-being

Food pantries and food distribution sites provide donated food at no cost to people who have limited access and play an important role in communities. Community organizations often work with food pantries to provide food to families

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, considerations for food pantries and food distribution, sites should ensure safe access to food to aid in reducing the spread of COVID-19 by:

- Consider providing a drive-through model in which clients can receive a box of food placed directly in their vehicle by staff or volunteer
- Delivery of food items to minimize in person interactions
- Modify the layout, as needed, to facilitate social distancing between staff, volunteers, and clients (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2021)

In future years, the programmatic offerings and goals will be expanded to include a greater portion of locally sourced and perishable foodstuffs from local farmers. In addition, garden seeds for vegetable growing will be included in the distribution baskets to promote long-term food security. Alachua County supports a resilient food system that meets immediate hunger needs while also supporting education and producer roles in addressing food insecurity.

Promoting Equitable Food System Outcomes

ACBoCC will promote outcomes with equity in mind in how we measure our performance and target assistance through community partnerships over the next four years. **Goals (a)**

For November 2021

To promote greater equity for marginalized and at-risk communities the Strike Out Hunger Event will:

- Provide immediate food relief for the food insecure. Residents served by the food distribution event will be from marginalized communities. These residents include low-income, elderly, youth, and homeless populations
- Leverage, non-federal resources for the event including staff time for the coordination of and or food donations from community partners
- Build community networks - Build community networks to maximize engagement with affected populations. By engaging trusted neighborhood voices in the assembly and distribution of the foodstuffs we will be better able to meet the outcomes.

² <https://www.farmshare.org/>

Additional Goals For Future Years 2022-2025

- Diversify healthy, local options – Diversify the foodstuffs to support local food system resilience and security by purchasing a percentage of perishable fresh and culturally appropriate foodstuffs and
- Support local farmers from marginalized communities – Purchase perishable foodstuffs for inclusion in the good giveaways from local small farmers including marginalized farmers
- Encourage personal long-term food security - Vegetable garden seeds for culturally appropriate crops will be included in each giveaway basket. These seeds may be used for long-term food security for use in home gardens

Awareness (b)

The distribution efforts are founded on years of County collaboration with local non-profits representing marginalized and underserved communities. Neighborhoods have come to rely on this annual Strike Out Hunger food event. It represents a shared county-wide effort to give back to those most in need of help over the holidays. This project builds on that awareness, expanding fresh foodstuff offerings from the local farming community in future years.

Access and Distribution (c)

Access and distribution are annually coordinated by trusted community voices. The process is focused on getting the word out to neighborhoods and impacted communities with minimal to no process requirements for participation. The Long Foundation, Pastors Association, Food Banks, and Alachua County will coordinate all access and distribution. Participants will be screened by requesting proof of EBT Food Stamp card. Notice of screening requirements that the program is for the economically disadvantaged will be included in all advertisements and notices for the event.

Outcomes (d)

- Reduce food insecurity of disadvantaged communities with immediate food assistance for at least 2,000 residents
- Avoid food insecurity health impacts and COVID hospitalization due to lack of access and affordability of food.

Efforts to Date to Support Economic and Racial Equity

The ACBoCC supports and protects at-risk communities through its Strategic Vision that integrates equity, vital programs supporting food systems and health, alongside non-profit sector service partners.

Equity was placed at the forefront of Alachua County through a November 2020 voter-approved charter amendment that directed “(an) examination of policies for all County operations for elements of racial, economic, and gender bias in the design and delivery of County programs and services. The County will identify and act to mitigate and improve upon the effects, patterns, and disparities imposed by said biases.”

Food Insecurity is an equity issue for Alachua County as it is felt most acutely in marginalized communities during emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic and aligns with Treasury

Guidance for Household Food Assistance. ACBoCC detailed related equity goals within their adopted Fiscal Year 2022 Strategic Guide.

This guide sets the definition for equity: “Equitable means striving to treat everyone justly according to their circumstances, providing opportunity and access for everyone, while focusing on closing existing equity and access gaps”. It also sets Guiding Principles to address root causes, utilize a collaborative approach, and operate in a transparent, accountable, efficient, and effective manner in service delivery. Specific Food System Goals were also placed under the Guide’s Achieve Social and Economic Opportunity for All header: Work with private and public partnerships, including farms and local food entrepreneurs to build a community food system. (Alachua County, 2021)

ACBoCC also made significant investments creating an overall Equity Plan for County operations and community engagement, hired talented leadership to spearhead this effort, and engaged in pilot projects to support food system equity outcomes since the ballot initiative. Efforts are ongoing.

Alachua County built this Strike Out Hunger food system equity program as an expansion of past collaborations with local cities, non-profits, food banks, and other trusted marginalized community representatives to distribute healthy foodstuffs since 2016.

Constraints and Challenges

Addressing food system equity has geographic constraints and challenges that will impact project success. Geographically, pockets of food insecurity and related health disparities can be found across Alachua County. As previously cited, the County has approximately 36,000 food-insecure residents (Feeding America, 2021) overall. These numbers are compounded by avoidable health issues, such as hypertension in zip codes that are predominantly composed of low-income and black residents. A recent analysis found that Eastside County zip codes, 32609 and 32641, specifically, with this demographic are almost two times as likely to require emergency services than the average County resident. Compared to a predominantly white and affluent zip code, 32605, that same Eastside cohort is three times as likely to need emergency services. (Dimperio, 2021). Hypertension risk factors are closely associated with race and food insecurity issues (obesity, salt intake, potassium deficiency, and other poor dietary options). (Mayo Clinic, 2021)

Taking these geographic issues into consideration, outreach for the Strikeout Hunger Assistance will need to be targeted to these location hotspots of confluent food insecurity and health disparities. Trusted community voices such as the Pastor’s Association, Long Foundation, and Food Banks that already are embedded in and serving these communities will ensure participation and program effectiveness: putting food assistance into the hands of those most in need.

Project Demographic Distribution

Per Treasury guidance, the program funds are targeted to disadvantaged communities in zip codes that have the disproportionate impact of the challenges listed above, are generally low-income communities, and can be further defined as part of HUD’s Qualified Census Tract.

This project will primarily serve these communities and immediately adjacent neighborhoods with similar demographic characteristics. The project funds are to be primarily targeted towards

economically disadvantaged communities that meet two of the following treasure guidance points:

A program or service is provided at a physical location in a Qualified Census Tract (for multi-site projects, if a majority of sites are within Qualified Census Tracts)

- The distribution site will be the Oaks Mall located in the Northwest corner of a 2021 HUD Qualified Census Tract;

A program or service where the primary intended beneficiaries live within a Qualified Census Tract;

The distribution site at the Oaks Mall will serve other HUD Qualified Census Tracts:

- On the Eastside; the Greater Duval Community which is part of zip code 32641 is part of Census Tract 6, This zip code is immediately adjacent to zip code 32609 Census Tract 14 and 19.02 which have similar low-income and economically disadvantaged communities
- In the Gainesville city-center area; Fifth Avenue Area and Porters Community are in Census Tract 2.00 and a HUD 2021 Qualified Census Tracts³.
- On the West Side of I-75 service is targeted to the SWAG Community, Census Tract 22.18 which is also a HUD 2021 Qualified Census Tract.

³ <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/qct.html>

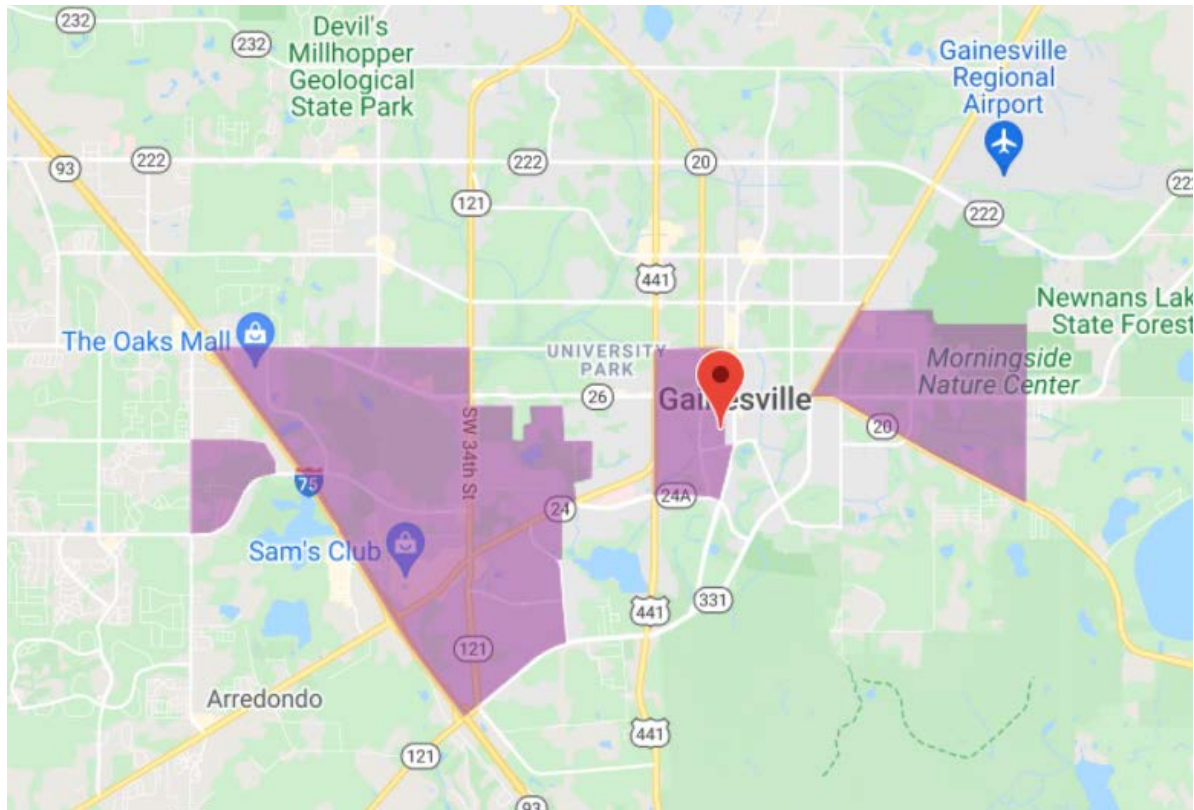


Figure 2 HUD Office of PD&R 2021 QCT Qualified Tracts

Community Engagement

The Strike Out Hunger proposal benefits from years of prior community engagement and successful past projects. Project partners from the Pastors Association, Long Foundation, and Alachua County have promoted and will promote this event by direct contact in impacted neighborhoods, word of mouth, social media, websites, and trusted community voices. This program was generated from within the community and serviced by non-profit and community organizations.

Labor Practices

Not applicable.

Use of Evidence

The Strike Out Hunger event will assist approximately 2,000 households who respond to a public notice regarding a drive-through food and turkey giveaway within the community. The food giveaway increases the availability of nutritious food to food-insecure households that have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and have exhausted other means to purchase food. The Strike Out Hunger event will provide a report that will highlight the approximate number of individuals that received food based on an average of 5 members per household and the total

⁴ Map taken from https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sadda/sadda_qct.html

number of turkeys purchased for the event. One turkey will be provided per vehicle. Other demographic reporting may not be available due to the inability to assess individuals at the drive-through event for safety and traffic control. This special event is sponsored by Alachua County, City of Gainesville, Long Foundation, Alachua County Christian's Pastor's Association, and other partnering agencies.

Alachua County has partnered with the Bread of the Mighty Food Bank to provide approximately 2,500 gift cards to pantries within Alachua County to food-insecure households to address food needs. This special initiative will target households in 2021 HUD Qualified Census Tracts and rural communities that otherwise would not have access to or transportation to participate in the Strike Out Hunger event. The food pantries, identified by the Bread of the Mighty Food Bank, will assess households and provide gift cards to those that have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and have exhausted other means to purchase food. The Bread of the Mighty Food Bank will provide a demographic and outcome report that will include but is not limited to the number of individuals served and zip codes that will demonstrate communities in most need.

Table of Expenses

Amount of funds used per expense category

- \$50,000 estimated cost of turkeys - Expenditure Category 2.1 Negative Economic Impacts Household Assistance: Food Programs
- \$25,000 estimated cost of gift cards - Expenditure Category 2.1 Negative Economic Impacts Household Assistance: Food Programs

Project Inventory

- Project Name: Alachua County Food Security – Strike Out Hunger, Household Assistance Food Program for Disadvantaged Communities
- Funding Amount: \$300,000 to be allocated over four years at \$75,000 per year
- Identification Number: TBD (created by the recipient and used thereafter in the quarterly Program and Expenditure Report)
- Project Expenditure Category: 2.1 Negative Economic Impacts Household Assistance: Food Programs
- Project Description: Provide emergency food assistance for low-income persons within Alachua County over the holiday season. Timeframe starts in November 2021 and goes through 2025.

Provide emergency food assistance for low-income persons within Alachua County over the holiday season. On an annual basis for four years, a total of \$75,000 will be distributed between local food banks, small local farmers, and non-profits serving marginalized and underserved communities in support of emergency food assistance. In the first year, approximately \$25,000 will be allocated to local food banks for assistance with non-perishable foodstuffs and gift card distribution. Another \$50,000 will be used for the purchase of turkeys. The local non-profits Pastor's Association and Long

Foundation will assist in the assembly and distribution of foodstuffs for donations. Alachua County Community Support Services will assist in the vetting and prequalification of residents. The community is targeting a distribution date of November 15-19 at the Oaks Mall in Gainesville Florida. Estimated reach: 2,000 households annually. This reach could be expanded with the participation of other non-profit food distribution non-profits such as Florida-Based Farm Share.⁵

In future years, the programmatic offerings and goals will be expanded to include a greater portion of locally sourced and perishable foodstuffs from local farmers. In addition, garden seeds for vegetable growing will be included in the distribution baskets to promote long-term food security. Alachua County supports a resilient food system that meets immediate hunger needs while also supporting education and producer roles in addressing food insecurity.

Performance Report

At the event, program organizers will collect contact information and record output measures. County staff will use this contact information to follow up periodically over the next year to measure the following outcome and Treasury Required Performance Indicators.

Performance indicators output measures

- Number of participating families
- Total amount of food distributed

Performance indicators outcome measures

- Decrease in food insecurity as reported by families
- Decrease in food-related health problems as reported by families

For Treasury Required Programmatic Data, this additional information will be provided with every report. Household Assistance: Food Programs (EC 2.1)

- Brief description of structure and objectives of assistance program(s) (e.g., nutrition assistance for low-income households)
- Number of individuals served (by the program if recipient establishes multiple separate household assistance programs)
- Brief description of recipient's approach to ensuring that aid to households responds to a negative economic impact of Covid-19, as described in the Interim Final Rule

November 2021 Food Statistics and Impact

Total Impacted Individuals who benefitted from food assistance:

14,664 individuals

Bread of the Mighty Food Bank distributed 1,666 grocery gift cards to the head of households. A total of 6,664 benefitted from the food assistance.

⁵ <https://www.farmshare.org/>

The Strike Out Hunger event assisted 2,000 households. A total of 8,000 impacted individuals benefitted from the food assistance.

Total amount of food distributed:

31,981 pounds of turkeys

63,056 pounds of nutritional and supplemental food

Fresh produce, canned and packaged foods, and other items

Community Partners and Distribution Sites

- Bread of the Mighty Food Bank (and Partner Food Pantries)
- Lazarus Ministries
- Foster Grandparent Program
- Meridian
- Gainesville Police Department
- MLK Commission
- Grace Marketplace
- Upper Room Ministries Food Pantry

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