



For Immediate Release

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Tulsa County approves more than half of ARP funds in first six months

Since receiving American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds in May, Tulsa County recently surpassed \$37.9 million in approved projects toward economic development, mental and physical health, tourism, infrastructure, County modernization and more.

Overall, Tulsa County has through 2024 to allocate the first \$63.3 million tranche, received May 25, and the second tranche of \$63.3 million, anticipated to come in 2022. All funding must be spent in accordance with U.S. Treasury guidelines, which continue to evolve but largely focus on public health response, economic recovery, equitable outcomes, replacing public-sector lost revenue and infrastructure.

“We built a team early to focus on process and planning for these funds so that we could get started addressing pandemic-related problems as soon as possible,” said Tulsa County Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) Chairman Stan Sallee. “Federal government moves at its own pace, so we didn’t have actionable guidelines until almost Fall. Despite additional detail still being added every week, we were able to get a jump on approving projects and are very proud of the progress we’ve made so far.”

Tulsa County has approved about 60% of the first \$65.3 million within six months of receiving the funds. Projects are approved by the BOCC after review and recommendation from a committee consisting of the BOCC chair, deputy commissioners, county clerk and BOCC support staff including the government affairs director and procurement director.

The largest appropriations thus far include:

- \$7 million toward a joint project with the airport, city and state to build a new \$42 million control tower at Tulsa International Airport;
- \$4 million to support infrastructure improvements for the Oklahoma State University Medical Center expansion, which includes a new veterans hospital and a psychiatric hospital;
- \$4 million to support construction of Crossover Community Center, which will serve a disproportionately impacted population in north Tulsa with health, education, recreation and other services;
- \$2 million to expand facilities and services at the Family Safety Center.

Projects in response to COVID-19, including the OSU Medical Center expansion, accounts for \$11.7 million, or 30.8% of approved projects. Economic recovery and development projects, including the control tower project, account for about \$15 million, or 39.6% of approved projects.

“Economic development and sustainability is a recurring theme in our evaluation before we approve projects,” said Tulsa County Commissioner Ron Peters. “We want projects to have a lasting effect beyond the pandemic. To that end, we have partnered with other local governments, as well as the

state and tribal governments, to assure funded projects improve the lives of Tulsa County residents in the short term and the long term.”

About \$8.9 million, or 23.4% are for projects that generate equity in underserved populations, including the \$4 million to Crossover Community Center and \$1 million toward an expansion of Food on the Move. Other projects contain equity-promoting components, but these projects primarily address equity in qualified census tracts.

“We have several approved projects, such as the OSU Medical Center expansion, that have a major positive effect on equity in our community but primarily focus on public health or another of our priorities,” said Tulsa County Commissioner Karen Keith. “Equity is an overarching priority for our funding, and Tulsa County residents can expect continued support through ARP for projects that have positive, equitable outcomes.

“One ARP project of particular importance to me is in partnership with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to support operations at the tribe’s Council Oak Comprehensive Healthcare Center. The clinic is offering monoclonal antibody infusions to native and non-native patients, which will ease the over-burdened hospitals in Tulsa County. Our strong relationships with neighbor governments and the flexibility of ARP funding allows us to take swift action to help Tulsa County residents.”

In November, Tulsa County supported initiatives that provide food access for families who need it the most, including a \$1 million appropriation for Food on the Move, a \$1 million commitment to Oasis Fresh Market services and a \$261,000 project to develop a master food plan for Tulsa County. Commissioners also approved \$1 million to the Tulsa Economic Development Corporation to renovate the former Morton Hospital and install an entrepreneurial incubator program that supports small businesses.

Tulsa County distribution of ARP funds by priority

Respond to COVID-19 (\$11,690,982, 30.8%)

- Tulsa City-County Health Department testing - \$500,000
- OSU Medical Center expansion/veterans’ hospital - \$4,000,000
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation’s Council Oak Comprehensive Healthcare monoclonal antibody infusions - \$500,000
- Broken Arrow senior center air filtration - \$4,500
- Family Caregivers Assistance nursing scholarships - \$200,000
- Tulsa County Sheriff’s Office operations, vehicles - \$531,992
- District Court improvements - \$1,000,000
- TAEMA testing, operations - \$408,505
- County Clerk countywide remote payroll and accounting - \$1,842,660
- County Treasurer remote access technology - \$900,000
- BOCC remote working - \$10,916
- Election Board single-use pens - \$37,812
- Expo Square improvements, operations - \$1,724,597

Support Economic Recovery and Development (\$15,015,000, 39.6%)

- Tulsa Economic Development Corporation small business incubator - \$1,000,000
- Retrain Tulsa workforce development - \$790,000
- Route 66 Village - \$150,000
- OKPOP improvements - \$2,000,000
- Visit Tulsa tourism support - \$75,000
- Tulsa Community Foundation direct flights - \$3,000,000
- Tulsa International Airport control tower - \$7,000,000
- River Parks Turkey Mountain trail improvements - \$1,000,000

Generate Equity in Underserved Populations and Communities (\$8,889,710, 23.4%)

- Family Safety Center expansion - \$2,000,000
- Court Services improvements - \$158,028
- Alternative Courts improvements - \$260,431
- Food on the Move expansion - \$1,000,000
- Crossover Community Center construction - \$4,000,000
- United Way community food strategy development - \$261,250
- Oasis Fresh Market expansion - \$1,000,000
- Tulsa County parks tuition reimbursement - \$210,000

Build Infrastructure (\$1,387,265, 3.7%)

- Engineering/Jenks levee improvements - \$1,387,265

Government services (\$852,425, 2.2%)

- Information Technology cybersecurity - \$852,425

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