

Investing in Community Care in Anne Arundel County, MD

American Rescue Plan Community Profile

May 2022 | Children and Youth



American Rescue Plan Funding

Total State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds in Anne Arundel County: \$112.5 million

Amount of American Rescue Plan Funds Featured in This Profile: \$3.4 million

- Allocated Funds: \$1.5 million
- Additional Funding Requests: \$1.9 million

Project Summary

Anne Arundel County has an established local management board called the [Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families](#). In Maryland, there is one local management board in every jurisdiction—24 total. Every county controls how it wants the management boards built and operated and the boards operate similarly to a [local children's cabinet network](#).¹

The Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families' "vision is that every citizen of Anne Arundel County will live in a safe community in a quality home that he or she can afford, be financially secure and properly nourished, have the job skills needed to succeed in the workplace, be part of a well-functioning family unit, have equal opportunity, have access to comprehensive physical and behavioral health services, and live a long, healthy and fulfilled life."²

Because the local management board focuses on community-based needs and has the unique strength to receive both public funding and private/philanthropic funds, it was well positioned to take the lead in putting the county's federal relief funds into action.

At the onset of the pandemic, Anne Arundel's local management board used Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act relief funding

to build a network of food banks and pantries. The CARES Act funding laid a foundation upon which the American Rescue Plan relief funds could build. The Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families played both a coordinating and implementation role using its American Rescue Plan relief funds for the following purposes:³

- *Supply food to the food banks and pantries:* American Rescue Plan funds go through the county to a community development nonprofit, [Arundel Community Development Services](#), that then contracts funds to the local management board. The local management board currently receives \$300,000 in ongoing support and has served approximately 200,000 people through the food banks and pantries. The local management board has asked for \$450,000 for fiscal year 2023.
- *Support eviction prevention:* Funds for eviction prevention were passed through the local management board to Arundel Community Development Services. Eviction prevention work was then carried out through the United Way's family stabilization efforts. The work will continue in 2023 and there is a pending request from Arundel Community Development Services and United Way for \$1 million to continue efforts.
- *Funding for children and youth in immigrant communities:* Acting as a grantor, the local management board is using American Rescue Plan funds to protect children and youth in immigrant communities by funding legal support through [Kids in Need of Defense](#). This project will provide legal defense services to 100 immigrant youth entering Anne Arundel County, with \$790,000 in funding across three years. The project served 30 immigrant children during its first three months.

- *Coordinate Section 8 voucher disbursement:* Acting as a grantee and partner, the local management board is working with the K-12 school district to coordinate disbursement of [Section 8 vouchers](#). Section 8 is a housing choice voucher program through the federal government to assist very low-income families, the elderly, and the disabled to afford decent, safe, and sanitary housing in the private market.⁴ Schools operate as paid partners in contract with school districts. Schools receive funds through the district's American Rescue Plan Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief dollars. The school district used \$300,000 in Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds to hire two caseworkers to process the Section 8 vouchers for families.
- *Provide technical assistance:* The local management board works with [Center of Help/Centro De Ayuda](#) to support members of the county's Latino population. The board helped the center submit a proposal for American Rescue Plan dollars that the center used to build an administrative hub that ensures back-end systems, like finances and record-keeping, are up to date and operate efficiently to support the organization's mission. The center has a pending application for an additional \$350,000 in American Rescue Plan funds to continue to support Center of Help/Centro De Ayuda's work.
- *Invest in internet connectivity:* Anne Arundel County invested \$150,000 in American Rescue Plan funds to support residents' access to the internet.
- *Manage systems and data:* The local management board is strengthening [Anne Arundel's Systems of Care](#), a partnership between the county's child-serving agencies, to address impacts of the pandemic. The board is using disaggregated data by disability status, race/ethnicity, English proficiency, and income to highlight the needs of communities. The board also has a pending request for \$110,000 for an early childhood initiative that would provide support to children and their families.

Age Groups Served

Children of all ages and their families

Funding Stream Used

- Local Fiscal Recovery Funds
- Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Funds

Key Partners

- Anne Arundel County
- Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families
- Arundel Community Development Services
- Local school districts
- Community-based organizations, including Center of Help/Centro De Ayuda and Kids in Need of Defense

Local Perspective

Unique Challenges

With the use of federal funds, Anne Arundel faces a few challenges related to

- the increasing complexity of federal reporting requirements;
- eligibility requirements for federal funds;
- the use of multiple funding sources;
- dangers of supplanting state and local funding commitments with federal funds; and
- sustainability of the federal investments after three years since investments are likely to change during that time.⁵

Ensuring Accountability

Anne Arundel ensures accountability through the county's accounting systems that include time sheets and invoice tracking. As a frequent recipient of federal funds over the years, the county uses the [Results Based Accountability](#) model.⁶

The Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families (the county's local management board) is audited by the county and the state. Additionally, the board also conducts its own independent audit. The board maintains transparent finances by tracking funds along with their federal requirements. American Rescue Plan spending requests are made through the local management board. To receive funds there is a multitiered approval process that every request must complete.⁷

Lessons Learned

Localities can blend and braid many forms of funding to maximize impact. A local management board can operate smoothly and respond to community needs by sometimes acting as a fund grantor and other times a fund recipient. Having the flexibility to move between roles has allowed Anne Arundel County to respond swiftly to serve the community.

Geographic Region

Mid-Atlantic United States

Community Size

Total population (2020): 588,261⁸

Racial Demographics⁹

- White 73.6%
- Black or African American 18.3%
- American Indian and Alaska Native 0.4%
- Asian 4.2%
- Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander 0.1%
- Two or More Races 3.3%
- Hispanic or Latino 8.4%
- White alone, not Hispanic or Latino 66.7%

Socioeconomic Status

- Median annual household income (2016–2020): \$103,225¹⁰
- Children living in poverty (2020): 6.8%¹¹

These figures represent U.S. Census Bureau data for Anne Arundel County; however, socioeconomic disparities exist throughout the county and some areas experience higher rates of poverty than the county average.

Acknowledgment

Thank you to Pamela Brown, executive director, Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families for contributions to this community profile.

To view additional resources and find American Rescue Plan allocations for other communities, visit childrensfundingproject.org/american-rescue-plan.



Endnotes

- ¹ Pamela Brown, “How States and Communities Are Maximizing American Rescue Plan Funding for Kids in 2022 and Beyond,” (webinar, Children’s Funding Project, YouTube, January 18, 2022), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-mAWXmWoKz0>.
- ² Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families, “Vision & Mission,” 2020, <https://www.aacounty.org/boards-and-commissions/partnership-for-children-youth-families/vision-mission/index.html>.
- ³ Brown, “How States and Communities Are Maximizing American Rescue Plan Funding.”
- ⁴ U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *Housing Choice Vouchers Fact Sheet*, https://www.hud.gov/topics/housing_choice_voucher_program_section_8.
- ⁵ Brown, “How States and Communities Are Maximizing American Rescue Plan Funding.”
- ⁶ Pamela Brown, executive director, Partnership for Children, Youth, and Families, personal communication, March 29, 2022.
- ⁷ Ibid.
- ⁸ U.S. Census Bureau, “QuickFacts,” Anne Arundel County, Maryland, <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/annearundelcountymaryland/POP060210>.
- ⁹ Ibid.
- ¹⁰ Ibid.
- ¹¹ U.S. Census Bureau, “Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates,” Anne Arundel County, Maryland, https://www.census.gov/data-tools/demo/saipe/#/?map_geoSelector=u18_c&s_measures=u18_snc&s_year=2020&s_state=24.

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