

A Partnership Among Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine, Johnson College, Keystone College, Lackawanna College, Luzerne County Community College, Marywood University, Misericordia University, Penn State Scranton, Penn State Wilkes-Barre, The Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education, University of Scranton, Wilkes University & the business community.



THE INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



**City of
Scranton
ARPA
Evaluation**

December 2023

The Institute

Turning Information into Insight

The Institute is a non-profit economic and social innovation research and policy organization dedicated to empowering business and community leaders with research-based strategies for informed decision-making. We conduct independent, non-biased research to identify the opportunities, issues, and challenges unique to the region and to find innovative solutions to help solve the problems facing our communities. The Institute also offers a wide array of research, consulting, and support services to help organizations boost productivity, increase profitability and be successful in their missions. The Institute is a partnership of 13 colleges and universities and the business community. The Institute has served clients in a number of states, including the federal government.

Community-Based Research

Community-based research is at the core of The Institute's mission. This work, funded by our academic partners, generous underwriters, and sponsors, is made available to organizations and communities that need reliable, objective data, research, and best practices to make more informed decisions.

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The Institute prepares studies, surveys, and conducts research for public, private, and non-profit entities to identify strategies and solutions that facilitate decision-making and enhance growth, profitability, revitalization, and sustainability of their businesses and organizations.

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Background

The Institute has applied a mixed methods approach that integrates data from multiple stakeholders to examine and offer insights on programs or services, their delivery or implementation, and to assess outcomes as well as provide recommendations for future delivery of grants.

Research Methods

A retrospective evaluation was completed using a mixed methods approach and included an analysis of electronic survey data, qualitative data from interviews with grant recipients, and a document review of grant recipients.

Executive Summary

The grantees evaluated in this report have either fully expended their grant dollars and/or were already identified as closed. The following report details these grantees and provides an integrated account of whether, how, and to what extent implementation served to achieve their intended outcomes.

Evaluation of the grantees offers an opportunity to better understand the allocation of ARPA resources, the role of ARPA programs and supported interventions in improving outcomes in the City of Scranton, and the role of equity and whether ARPA funds had any effects on historically underserved communities.

Outputs and Outcomes Summary

Grant funding for the amount of \$550,000 was disbursed across 37 organizations to support eligible non-profits impacted by the pandemic and mitigate financial hardships. Below is an overview of outcomes as a result of the grant awards:

- Allowed organizations to maintain financial stability.
- Animal rescue.
- Attraction and retention of staff - Support staff salaries, both full and part-time, to reinforce and strengthen programs.
- Character development, citizenship development, leadership development, fitness development, and socialization to more youth and families
- Combat senior isolation.
- Community services provided (raising mental health, drug and alcohol abuse, and suicide prevention awareness in the community).
- Continuation of programs, free or discounted, for youth.
- Emergency vet care was provided.
- Enhance curriculum for family-based programs.
- Expand existing food distribution programs.
- Improve ventilation and air quality in classrooms.
- Increased marketing efforts across organizations.
- Infrastructure updates
- Maintaining the health and welfare of animals
- Mitigation of COVID-19 risks
- New partnerships with community organizations
- Retention of full and part-time employees

- Supplement the loss of fundraising events and reduction in donor contributions.
- Support adult education services
- Support and enhance greenways and outdoor recreation.
- Support early learning curriculum.
- Support for winter shelter solutions
- Support general operations.
- Support kindergarten readiness programs
- Support social and wellness programs.
- Support temporary staffing.
- Support transportation, supplies, and food for families.

Grant funding for the purpose of business start-up and expansion was also awarded in the amount of 812,693.30 across 13 organizations based on need. Below is a summary of outcomes as a result of the grant awards:

- Building renovation, including accessible design.
- Fund startup costs
- Marketing
- Payment to contractors
- Procurement of inventory and equipment
- Remodeling costs
- Rental assistance
- Restaurant expansion to serve more community members.
- Technology development

Community grant funding was awarded for the purpose of expanding programs for youth and families, with a focus on underserved populations was awarded in the amount of \$419,225.00 across six organizations. Below is a summary of outcomes as a result of the grant awards:

- Construction and renovation costs
- Educational, health, and emotional skill development for underserved children and their families
- Expanded capacity.
- Expanding existing programs.
- Operating costs
- Procurement of resources and raw materials
- Provide programs for youth and families.
- Purchase of additional space to allow for expanded programs.
- Serve youth from traditionally underserved populations.
- Supporting additional staff

Grant funding was also awarded for the purpose of City improvement. Five projects were supported for a total of approximately 3.3 million. Below is an overview of outcomes as a result of the grant awards:

- Expand the City's current License Plate Reader (LPR) program.
- Infrastructure measures to maintain stormwater systems.
- Infrastructure repairs

- Connectivity study and traffic analysis
- City paving
- Energy efficiency upgrades
- Public health outreach

Recommendations as a result of the evaluation include:

- A focus on racial equity and inclusion
- Equitable program administration strategies
- Equity-oriented program guidelines
- Strategic long-term investments
- Future-looking initiatives

Jobs Created and Retained

The number of jobs created, and jobs retained are based on available data from the grantee Exit Reports.

- Full-time jobs retained – **6.5**
- Part-time jobs retained – **6**
- Full-time jobs created – **7**
- Part-time jobs created - **2**

Scranton Community Area Foundation- Non-profit Grants

The Scranton Area Community Foundation (SACF) applied for a sub-recipient reward to support nonprofit organizations serving the community. Within the grant application, SACF indicated that the needs, goals, and objectives will be selected by and depend on each nonprofit award.

The mission and primary purpose of SACF, as a community foundation, is to enhance the quality of life for all people in Northeastern Pennsylvania through the development of organized philanthropy. For the program year 2022, SACF budgeted \$1 million, with \$10,000 allotted for administration/personnel costs and \$990,000 for other soft costs.

In the application, SACF described how the program proposed will continue to be viable on its own after City and ARPA funding is fully expended, noting that the Foundation provides other granting opportunities through its endowment. SACF indicated that each nonprofit awarded will determine how the project/program will include voices from disproportionately impacted groups and how community partners will be engaged.

Purposes:

- Funds to cover COVID-19-related economic loss (e.g., loss of fundraising revenue, reduction in program participant fees)
- Funds to cover direct expenses related to COVID-19 (e.g., purchase of PPE, staff costs related to increased demand for services)
- Funds to cover rent or mortgage.
- Funds to weather financial hardship.
- Funds to cover costs associated with the implementation of prevention or mitigation measures to contain the spread of the virus.

- Subrecipient Award: Funding for new programs/services to provide aid to residents and community groups negatively impacted by the pandemic (subrecipient award)
- Funding to support an existing program/service to provide aid to residents and community groups negatively impacted by the pandemic.

Grant Funding Summary			
	Amount of funding spent this quarter	Amount of funding spent to date	Status update
Quarterly Project Report 10/1/2022 – 12/31/2022	\$550,000.00	\$550,000.00	Grant funding to support eligible non-profits impacted by the pandemic to mitigate financial hardships including, but not limited to: Decreased revenue, financial insecurity, capacity to withstand future financial hardship, increased costs, challenges covering other costs, such as costs of mortgage, rent or utilities, and other operation costs. In this quarter, \$550,000 was granted to 27 of 50 total funded organizations. \$450,000 remains to be distributed when grantees return the proper reimbursement paperwork.
Quarterly Project Report 1/1/2023-3/1/2023	\$79,028.71	\$629,030.71	In this quarter, \$79,028.71 was granted to 6 of 50 total funded organizations. To date, \$629,030.71 has been granted to recipients.
Quarterly Project Report 4/1/2023-6/30/2023	\$47,582.00	\$676,612.71	In this quarter, \$47,582.00 was granted to 3 of 50 total funded organizations. To date, \$676,612.71 has been granted to recipients.
Report 7/1/23-9/30/23 not yet available.	\$187,060.00	\$863,673.71	In this quarter, \$187,060.00 was granted to 6 of 50 total funded organizations. To date, \$863,673.71 has been granted to recipients.

Sub-Organization Summaries

The organizations detailed below are sub-grantees of the Scranton Area Community Foundation grant, which assisted with non-profit recovery by mitigating financial hardship.

Bhutanese Cultural Foundation of Scranton Association (BCFSA)

The Bhutanese Cultural Foundation of Scranton Association (BCFSA) was established in 2016. The Foundation was established initially to bring awareness in areas such as mental health, drug, and alcohol abuse, as well as suicide prevention. Presently, BCFSA also continues to promote volunteerism opportunities with various entities, free interpretation services, teaching ESL, citizenship class, job opportunities and orientation, free transportation to medical appointments, and crisis counseling for domestic violence and drug and alcohol abuse.

Since the pandemic, BCFSA has had to shift its focus to additional support through COVID (Moderna and Pfizer) and Flu vaccine clinics through the Department of Health. The organization has also provided free COVID Kits for at-home testing, nutrition classes, health screenings, educational information discussed above, as well as COVID information. BCFSA has also contributed to Kick COVID-19 with other organizations to provide awareness about the importance of vaccines in Lackawanna County and hold food and personal protective equipment (PPE) drives during the pandemic. Additionally, BCFSA actively participated in the 2020 census and held voter education and voter registration opportunities.

Grant Award	\$952.72
Grant Purpose	Loss in funds directly related to COVID
Employees	Full-time – One Part-time – two
Mission	Bhutanese Cultural Foundation of Scranton Association (BCFSA) was founded in 2013 to Protect, Preserve, and Promote Bhutanese Cultural, Traditions, Values and Language to facilitate early integration into the mainstream of American Society.

Grant Request

The purpose of the BCFSA grant request was to cover the loss of funds directly related to COVID-19 so that the BCFSA can continue to promote the quality of life of Bhutanese Refugees in Scranton, as well as raising mental health, drug and alcohol abuse, and suicide prevention awareness to the community.

Specifically, BCFSA will start payroll and will host a reach out event to those in Lackawanna County to inform them they are providing services again and hold religious events. Through the grant BCFSA will provide more services to the community, including the elderly.

An exit report has not been completed to date.

Boy Scouts of America Northeastern Pennsylvania Council

The Northeastern Pennsylvania Council, BSA delivers the programs of the Boy Scouts of America (Cub Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturing, and Learning for Life) to the youth and families in Scranton and throughout the Council's territory (Lackawanna, Luzerne, Pike, Susquehanna, Wayne, and Wyoming counties). The Council delivers Scouting programs to 1,521 youth members in 97 local Scouting "units" (Cub Scout packs, Scouts BSA troops, Venturing crews, and Learning for Life groups). The Council operates an administrative office in Moosic and camps at Goose Pond Scout Reservation in Lake Ariel and Camp Acahela in Blakeslee.

Grant Award	\$10,000
Grant Purpose	Funds will be used for operating costs
Employees	Full-time – nine Part-time – none
Mission	Boy Scouts of America prepares young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

Grant Request

The COVID-19 public health emergency adversely impacted Scouting membership, membership-based revenue, fundraising, and overall earnings in the Northeastern Pennsylvania Council. BSA Funds were requested for operating costs.

The primary objective of the grant funds is to use the funds to ensure that opportunities for youth to participate in Scouting are available to youth and families throughout the Northeastern Pennsylvania Council territory.

Their goal is to serve 2000 youth by December 31, 2022, and to serve 3,000 youth by December 31, 2025. Based on their current membership of 1,520, they will need to recruit 480 young people to ensure that they are on track to their long-term objective.

To reach 3,000 youth, they will need to establish new partnerships with community organizations, especially those serving underserved populations in Scranton and Wilkes-Barre. They also need to expand the Exploring and Learning for Life programs, which provide career-focused programs for young adults between the ages of 14 and 20. To expand the Exploring and Learning for Life program, the Council will establish partnerships with businesses and emergency-service providers (rescue squads, fire departments, etc.).

The ultimate impact of the grant requested will be to deliver Scouting's program of character-development, citizenship-development, leadership-development, fitness-development, and socialization to more youth and families.

An exit report has not been completed to date.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeastern Pennsylvania

Founded in 1899, chartered in 1916, and incorporated in 1927, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Northeastern Pennsylvania has been at the forefront of youth development activities and working with young people from a variety of economic, social, and family circumstances. The initiatives are aimed at building self-confidence and self-esteem.

The After School, Summer, and Virtual Programs comprise five core programming areas geared to the overall health and wellness of at-risk children. The core programs encourage activities with adults, peers, community leaders, and family members.

Below are the five core areas of BGNEPA.

- Health And Life Skills
- Sports, Fitness, and Recreation
- Character And Leadership Development
- Education And Career Development
- The Arts

Grant Award	\$45,000
Grant Purpose	Loss in Fundraising revenue for operations
Employees	Full-time – Seven Part-time – 15-20
Mission	The mission of the Club is to “inspire and enable all young people, especially those who need us most, to realize their full potential as productive, responsible, and caring citizens.” Their primary purpose is to serve children residing in NEPA.

Grant Request

Prior to the pandemic, BSA served 1,000 boys and girls, ages six to 18 years old, annually. Grant funds were requested to replace funds lost due to cancelling in-person special events because of COVID-19. The following special in-person events were canceled or modified with loss of revenue due to COVID-19: Wings at the Waterpark, Banking on our Kids, Hurl the Pearl, Champion of Youth, Golf Tournament, and Designer Purse Bingo. Special event funds are used to pay for organizational expenses not covered by grants that are for specific programs or purposes. Additionally, funds were requested to allow them to continue to provide the many programs and activities free of charge or discounted to the children who need it most.

An exit report has not been completed to date.

Center for the Living City

Launched by a group of activists, practitioners, and academics in 2005, the Center for the Living City holds the singular distinction of being the only urbanist organization founded in collaboration with Jane Jacobs. Social, environmental, and economic justice forms the core of its purpose. The Center works to invite all perspectives, particularly those of the marginalized, to participate in the creation of solutions that are empathic, responsive, and community based.

Grant Award	\$5,000
Grant Purpose	Staff salaries/General operations
Employees	Full-time – One Part-time – One
Mission	To inspire civic engagement and leadership, invite creative urban solutions; and expand understanding of the ecology of cities. We develop programs that: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Broaden civic engagement and cultivate leadership with increased concentration on marginalized populations (equitable engagement)• Encourage and assist collective inquiry and utilization of community-based participatory planning• Invite problem-solving through innovation and community-generated creative responses• Elevate the position and perspective of women and girls and marginalized voices in all initiatives• Advance as a conceptual and strategic framework the “ecology of cities” (integration of social, environmental, and economic systems in addressing urban challenges)• Advocate progress from conventional best practices to a collective vision of best possibilities.

Grant Request

A \$50,000 grant was requested to allow staff to get programming rooted in the community. These funds were requested to support staff time to work in administrative, grantsmanship, and fundraising efforts/expenses as well as local programming such as the Jane Jacobs Collegiate Consortium, the Jane Jacobs Lecture Series, Observe Youth programming, and community design projects.

Project Outcome

The \$5,000 grant award was spent to assist in general operations by supporting staff time to work on programming, administration, grantsmanship, and fundraising. The \$5,000 grant allowed the Center for City Living to pay their 1.5 full-time employees. The grant funds were spent as initially intended and agreed upon to cover staff salary and general operations.

One critical accomplishment was building upon the Jane Jacobs Collegiate Consortium and establishing a strong partnership with Marywood University to create the Living City Lab. The Living City Lab is a co-created space for experiential learning, where students address global challenges on a local scale. It consists of three key components: education, projects, and networking (community). Through integrated coursework rooted in urban ecology and sustainability, students across all disciplines create action-oriented local impact, work on real-life public design projects, connect with local leaders, and develop strong interdisciplinary career-connected pathways and local relationships. This new endeavor would not have existed without the grant funds helping to support these efforts.

SUCCESS STORY

“The \$5,000 grant gave the Center for City Living the necessary time and resources to support their work. They were able to create a multi-year funded Living City Lab; hold an incredibly successful second biennial Jane Jacobs's First City Festival in Scranton where nearly 1,000 community members attended programming, events, and displays at the Scranton Lace Building and the new Living City Lab.

Additionally, they were able to support students and their Glacier Jane project that won second place at the final stage of the US Department of Energy Solar Decathlon Design Challenge. These students are now working to build their design in our new Living City Lab to create two floating houseboats on Ely Lake and the Girl Scout Troop House at the Girl Scouts of PA's Camp Archbald

The Center for City Living gained support from the 2023 Women in Philanthropy Awards for STEAM Education for teenage girls at Camp Archbald in conjunction with Living City Lab's Glacier Jane project. And they also held their Jane Jacobs Lecture Series with support from American Institute of Architects NEPA and Marywood University.

Additionally, they presented the Center for the Living City's inaugural Jane Jacobs Leadership Award to Kimberly Dowdell, AIA President elect. This award and honoree helped the Center garner international support for our work.”

Child Hunger Outreach Partners

Child Hunger Outreach Partners (CHOP) serves children through various hunger-relief programs, including the following:

Backpack Program- Students are given a bag of food every Friday to take home and get them through the weekend. Bags include easy-to-prepare, nutritious foods and fresh produce.

In-School Pantries - At the high school level, an in-school pantry is self-serve to all students. This is self-policed and teaches students to self-advocate for their needs. Foods are grab-and-go nutritious snacks, as well as food to be taken home and prepared.

Pop-Up Pantries- Pop-Up Pantries allow CHOP to come into a community with a box truck full of food, including pantry staples, fresh produce, frozen meats, and dairy. There are no income restrictions.

Summer Meal Programs - Depending on the program, the distribution model varies. Sometimes, the team will host a weekly summer program with a meal/snacks; other times, backpack-like boxes are distributed to families.

Grant Award	\$25,000
Grant Purpose	Expand existing food programs
Employees	Full-time six Part-time – six
Mission	The mission of Child Hunger Outreach Partners is to create an entire generation that doesn't know hunger through innovative and collaborative outreach partnerships.

Grant Request and Purpose

Grant funds were requested to expand existing food programs due to the increased level of service due to the pandemic. This included purchasing an additional cargo van that was necessary to launch services in Scranton, as well as staffing and supply increases such as bags, food, and fuel.

An exit report has not been completed to date.

Children's Advocacy Center of NEPA (CAC/NEPA)

The CAC/NEPA provides the following services to City of Scranton residents:

Forensic Interviews: These occur in a comfortable space in our Center by a trained forensic interviewer. To minimize the number of times a survivor must disclose their abuse, the interview is recorded.

Advocacy: A Child Advocate is assigned to each child, and they help the family navigate this crisis and refer them to any support services they may need.

Therapy: Without intervention, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) like abuse and neglect can contribute to lifelong negative health outcomes, including chronic health problems, mental illness, and substance misuse. With 82 percent of therapy clients relying on medical assistance due to low income, CAC ensures trauma therapy is available to all children.

Prevention Education: In partnership with Penn State University and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, CAC/NEPA will implement Project Safe and Smart, a pilot project to educate 2,000 students in second grade, including all Scranton School District second grade classrooms, and their caregivers over a two-year period. By providing evidence-informed, age-appropriate information about the signs and symptoms of abuse and how to report it, CAC/NEPA will implement one of the strongest tools against child maltreatment: prevention education.

On-Call Services: CAC/NEPA provides on-call services for Lackawanna and the surrounding counties, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Forensic interviewers, medical personnel, and victim advocates are always on-call and prepared to handle any cases that may be referred after hours, including nights, weekends, and holidays.

Grant Award	\$25,000
Grant Purpose	Loss of fundraising revenue and reduction in program participant fees.
Employees	Full-time – Ten Part-time – Nine
Mission	The mission of the Children’s Advocacy Center of Northeastern Pennsylvania (CAC/NEPA) is to provide excellence in the assessment and treatment of child abuse and neglect. As the designated Child Abuse Center of Lackawanna County, CAC/NEPA has served over 18,000 victims of child abuse and neglect since 1998.

Grant Request

The grant was requested to help with the loss of fundraising revenue and the reduction in program participant fees.

CAC/NEPA used grant funds for the following:

- Funds to Cover COVID-19-related economic loss (e.g., loss of fundraising revenue, reduction in program participant fees).
- Funds to cover direct expenses related to COVID-19 (e.g., purchase of PPE, staff cost related to increased demand for services)
- Funds to cover costs associated with the implementation of preventing or mitigation measures to contain the spread of the virus.

Project Outcome

These grant funds were used to support the salary of CAC/NEPA’s Executive Director from January through April 2023, as approved.

This ARPA grant provided valuable support to the organization during the COVID-19 recovery period. By funding a portion of the Executive Director’s salary, this grant helped the organization continue providing vital services to child victims of abuse and neglect.

In 2022, CAC/NEPA provided 960 child abuse intervention services to 560 children, including: 474 Forensic Interviews; 389 Services; and 97 referrals to therapy. Of those served in 2022, 73 percent were victims of sexual abuse, 25 percent were victims of physical abuse, five percent had witnessed violence, and three percent had experienced neglect.

This grant program was an effective resource for mitigating the impacts of the pandemic. In 2022, CAC/NEPA’s revenue fell by nearly 14 percent from the year prior. This reduction is due to a decrease in referrals for services, fewer individual contributions to the organization, fewer grant awards, and decreased grant amounts. By supporting one of its core operating costs, a portion of the Executive Director’s salary, this grant helped mitigate the financial impacts created by the pandemic.

Expense Description	
Executive Director Salary – January 2023	\$6,338.46
Executive Director Salary – February 2023	\$6,338.46
Executive Director Salary – March 2023	\$6,338.46
Executive Director – April 2023	\$5,984.62

SUCCESS STORY

- CAC/NEPA gathers quarterly feedback from children and families about their experience at the center. What follows are some recent examples of their responses:
- Parents and guardians have shared that they were informed about everything about our center;
- CAC/NEPA staff made them feel comfortable and safe enough to talk;
- They were offered multiple programs to help them, including therapy; that they felt like they were really being listened to; and that they received helpful information about parenting their teenager.
- Children and youth shared that the CAC/NEPA team was nice, friendly, helpful, trustworthy, careful, and patient;
- CAC/NEPA staff made them feel like they belong and made them feel safe; and that staff understood their challenges and knew how to help.

Clear Brook Foundation

The Clear Brook Foundation is dedicated to creating opportunities, developing educational programs, and establishing environments that foster sustainable well-being for those individuals with substance use disorders and their loved ones who are committed to living a life in recovery.

Their families helping families program provides attendees with a forum where they have the opportunity to learn about drug and alcohol addiction from professionals and those in recovery. The program is designed to present information that provides the knowledge to understand and confront the issues that accompany this disease as it relates to families dealing with drug and alcohol addiction. Many attendees benefit from weekly meetings where the addicted and family members come together to focus on learning solutions to support long-term recovery.

Grant Award	\$10,000
Grant Purpose	Loss in Fundraising revenue for operations and PPE
Employees	Full-time – Two Part-time – None
Mission	The Foundation is dedicated to creating opportunities, developing educational programs, and establishing environments that foster sustainable well-being for those individuals with substance use disorders and their loved ones who are committed to living a life in recovery.

Grant Request

These funds are not intended to support new programs, just to reinforce and strengthen the existing programs. Grant funds were requested to offset diminished fundraising and donations during the COVID period, which is Clear Book's main operating revenue as they do not charge for any of the services that they provide. Clear Brook also used funds to continue to purchase PPE as necessary to provide the cleanest and safest possible locations in which to run their programs.

Clear Brook anticipated on being able to continue to offer programs going forward and providing their services to over 25,000 people as they look to continue to increase the number of meetings offered and to also increase the number of people attending the meetings.

An exit report has not been completed to date.

Discovery MI Preschool

Discovery Montessori (legally known as Discovery MI Preschool) provides early childhood education and childcare services at locations in East Mountain and Providence Corners (North Scranton). MI serves 90 children across both locations, and in keeping with their mission, more than half of all students are from families with low to moderate incomes who pay reduced or no tuition.

Their facilities offer half-day and full-day programs with wrap-around care throughout the school year. They also have a summer camp program and a Ready for School camp program.

Their education programs foster students' social, emotional, physical, and academic growth to meet their individual needs. Through Montessori philosophy, practice, materials, and curriculum, they provide a nurturing environment where children can learn the academic foundations in math, literacy, science, geography, self-care, independence, self-regulation, and autonomy.

Discovery accepts students from across Lackawanna County, but the majority of their students are from Scranton and located within the Qualified Census Tract.

Through their programs, Discovery works in partnership with their families to build a sense of community and shared belonging, regardless of socio-economic background. All classrooms are economically integrated to ensure an equitable approach to our programs and services. Also, they have an established network of providers to support families and refer them to social support services as needed.

Grant Award	\$25,000
Grant Purpose	HVAC improvements
Employees	Full-time –14 Part-time – Two
Mission	Discovery Montessori's mission is to provide high-quality Montessori education to a diverse range of children aged 3-6 in the Scranton Area.

Grant Request

Since COVID-19 emerged, Discovery has worked to improve ventilation and air quality in their classrooms by installing ceiling fans and air purifying filters. They also opened a section of wall between a classroom and the adjacent gym to increase the classroom size and provide more space for the children to work safely. While these measures have been effective in mitigating the risks of COVID-19, they have created domino issues for their HVAC systems. Funds were specifically requested to:

1. Install new air handling units in the gym / multi-purpose room to improve air quality while maintaining temperature.
2. Split the reticulated heating system that currently heats two classrooms into two separate zones and put the ceiling fans in those classrooms on two separate electrical circuits.
3. Purchase and install a new air handling unit along with associated ductwork to improve airflow and quality throughout the common areas, meeting spaces, and staff areas.

An exit report has not been completed to date.

Greater Scranton YMCA

The Greater Scranton YMCA offers something for everyone in the community, including City of Scranton residents. Currently, 30 percent of the Greater Scranton YMCA's membership lives in Scranton, translating to 1,750 people. Scranton residents represent the Y's largest membership group.

The Greater Scranton YMCA provides a safe, enriching place for children to learn and grow, whether through out-of-school time offerings or through essential childcare for parents. The YMCA is a leading childcare provider in the region and is proud to offer full and partial day daycare and preschool programs, a summer day camp, youth sports and enrichment programs, and a before and after school program for school-age children.

The YMCA's early learning, childcare, and out-of-school time offerings are staffed with people who understand the cognitive, physical, and social development of kids. At the Greater Scranton YMCA, infants develop trust and security, toddlers and preschoolers experience early literacy and learn about their world, and school-age kids make friends, learn new skills, and get help with schoolwork. The Greater Scranton YMCA also offers numerous wellness initiatives, including chronic disease prevention and management programs. These programs include the YMCA's Diabetes Prevention Program, EnhanceFitness, Matter of Balance, and Blood Pressure Self-Monitoring Program. Greater Scranton YMCA members and non-members are welcome to participate.

Grant Award	\$25,000
Grant Purpose	Previous mortgage payments
Employees	Full-time – 30 Part-time – 67
Mission	The Greater Scranton YMCA is a cause-driven non-profit organization that focuses on youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. The YMCA believes that positive, lasting personal and social change can only come when all work together to invest in our kids, health, and neighbors.

Grant Request

Grant funds were requested to cover previous mortgage payments. The Greater Scranton YMCA applied for eight months of mortgage payments, totaling \$94,416.63.

An exit report has not been completed to date.

Griffin Pond Animal Shelter

Griffin Pond Animal Shelter works closely with Scranton Animal Control and Police officers from Boroughs throughout Lackawanna County, where they pick up stray/sick dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, ferrets, etc., from the City of Scranton and the surrounding area of Lackawanna County and bring them to Griffin Pond Animal Shelter for intake or medical care.

Griffin Pond provides intake of animals, medical care, surgeries for any injured animals that come in from Scranton Animal control or by police officers throughout Lackawanna County, Emergency Veterinary services, which are provided by an emergency veterinarian clinic that they pay for, and they also help with reuniting any lost animals back to their owners. Additionally, they provide (for a fee) microchipping for the residents of Scranton and Lackawanna County.

Grant Award	\$25,000
Grant Purpose	Funds for utilities and Operational Costs
Employees	Full-time –Six Part-time – 29
Mission	Investigate, help prosecute, and prevent cruelty to animals while also promoting adoption awareness and humane education, plus responsible pet ownership.

Grant Request

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the shelter could not host public fundraisers, which is an integral part of the shelter meeting its operational expenses. Grant funds were used for operational expenses such as direct care for the animals, utilities, insurance expenses, repair and maintenance, professional fees, event expenses, depreciation, cleaning supplies, veterinarian services, medical supplies, spaying/neutering, replenish our medical fund for surgeries other than spays and neuters and emergency visits. This grant helped to ensure a cushion in their depleted medical fund to help those most in need on a case-by-case basis.

Project Outcome

This ARAP Grant was used for utilities and emergency vet care. This grant allowed Griffin Pond to maintain financial stability and it maintained the health and welfare of the animals in care and helped the organization to be more resilient.

Expense Description	
UGI/PPL	\$10,000
Emergency Vet Care	\$15,000

SUCCESS STORY

Griffin Pond Animal Shelter was able to help numerous animals in need with emergency vet care. Griffin Pond Animal Shelter provided the public with a low-cost vaccine and microchip clinic on two occasions this year.

In one example, a puppy was saved using emergency vet care. Her name is Mama. Mama had parvo and was being delivered from Mexico to her new owners in Wilkes-Barre, where they noticed that Mama was very sick. Mama was surrendered to Griffin Pond Animal Shelter, and we brought her to Northeastern Veterinary Referral Hospital in Plains, Pa., where she was hospitalized for over a week.

Once Mama was released from the hospital, Mama was quarantined for over eight weeks before she could be introduced to the shelter or world. Mama was adopted by an incredible family who introduced Mama to every person and environment possible. They started in basic training and continued with advanced training, and Mama completed her Good Canine Citizen test, where she is now a therapy dog.

Mama and her family visit nursing homes, children's hospitals, and many other places for free. Mama's family is paying it forward because Griffin Pond Animal shelter and the ARPA grant saved her life.

Harrison House Personal Care Home

Harrison House is a 54-bed licensed personal care home licensed by the Department of Public Welfare and located in the city of Scranton. Harrison House offers a safe, home-like environment to ensure the comfort and well-being of residents. Harrison House serves low-income individuals who struggle with severe and persistent mental illness, co-morbid intellectual disabilities, and the aging population. Individuals who would otherwise struggle to afford housing and live independently are provided safe housing, access, and transportation to behavioral and physical health treatment, medication management and/or administration, outreach, case management, and prosocial activities.

Grant Award	\$25,000
Grant Purpose	Offset staffing costs
Employees	Full-time – Nine Part-time – Three
Mission	To provide services, support, and a safe residence that allows our consumers to remain as independent as possible in a home environment while enabling a quality of life for our consumers and their families, which cannot be achieved on their own.

Grant Request and Purpose

In the fiscal year 2021-22, our organization spent \$76,462 on temporary staffing services through a staffing agency called Interim Healthcare. These grant funds would help to offset the tremendous cost of temporary staffing related to time-off due to COVID exposure or infection and/or workforce shortage requiring these services.

An exit report has not been completed to date.

Here For A Reason (H4AR)

Here For A Reason sought to address the issue of food insecurity in Northeastern Pennsylvania. They believe that by joining together, they can address the need for food that is prevalent within the city of Scranton and the surrounding areas.

In Scranton, the need is so great that every child in the district receives a free breakfast and lunch. On weekends, many go hungry. H4AR is able to provide a meal for children to take home to their entire family on the weekends so they won't fear going hungry when they aren't in school. They currently work with half of the elementary schools in the city, in which 85 percent of the students fall at or below the poverty level. They give over 4,000 meals a month, providing nutrition, comfort, and hope to the children in the City. Additionally, they recently partnered with CHOP for expanded food distribution.

Grant Award	\$25,000
Grant Purpose	Funds for utilities and Operational Costs
Employees	Full-time – None Part-time – Three
Mission	Create an entire generation that doesn't know hunger through innovative and collaborative outreach partnerships.

Grant request/purpose

Grant funds were requested to be used to supplement the loss of fundraising events and reduction in donor contributions. Funding to enable Here for a Reason to purchase the ingredients needed to fulfill demand, as well as pay the salaries of our part-time employees.

An exit report has not been completed to date.

Jewish Community Center of Scranton

The JCC is a community center of adult and family health, wellness, and educational programs. Our programs strengthen and build community family togetherness and foster personal growth. Everyone is welcome to participate in JCC programs and services. They promote healthy living and strive to nurture physical, emotional, cultural, and educational well-being.

In addition, they have fitness facilities and provide a wide range of wellness programs for the community. Furthermore, their Early Learning Center includes childcare, preschool, and a summer camp for children ages three through 13. Also, the programs they run help seniors combat social isolation, provide much-needed support to those with chronic illness and assist low-income families so their children can receive educational enrichment programming, preschool, and childcare.

Grant Award	\$25,000
Grant Purpose	General operations
Employees	Full-time – 20 Part-time – 30

Mission	The mission of the Jewish Community Center (JCC) of Scranton enriches & inspires lives by connecting individuals & families through inclusive wellness, recreational, educational, and cultural programs guided by Jewish values to build a community of well-being.
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Grant Request

The grant funds were requested for general operations to help attract and retain staff to provide the critical needs programs/services offered to the community. Subsidize costs that have increased due to inflation and provide financial assistance to families in need for their wellness programs, day care, pre-school, summer camp, swim lessons, and family and senior educational programs. The grant funds are meant to enhance the curriculum for these programs.

A major focus was to fund programs that would combat senior social isolation, which has become a bigger problem since the start of the pandemic. It also allowed the JCC to conduct food distribution programs, kindergarten readiness programs, stronger early learning curriculum, swim lessons, and social, wellness, and exercise programs for older adults.

Due to substantial revenue loss from program fees and fundraising, this grant helped their ability to rebuild from the pandemic. The funds were also used for the increase in costs of cleaning supplies and additional maintenance staff needed to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in the facility.

An exit report has not been completed to date.

Jewish Family Service of Northeastern Pennsylvania (JFS)

The Jewish Family Service (JFS) provides confidential, professional mental health counseling services for families, couples, individuals, and groups experiencing a variety of problem areas. Treatment areas include addictions, domestic abuse, depression, panic and anxiety disorders, and adjustment difficulties.

Relationship enhancement skills are also provided to improve communication, parenting, self-esteem, and general quality of life. Information and referrals to community resources are also offered.

JFS is a participating provider with most insurance companies and accepts Medicare and Medicaid. A sliding fee scale is also offered based on family size and income. Their social workers are licensed clinical social workers in the State of Pennsylvania. Jewish Family Service is accredited in its counseling service by the Council on Accreditation.

JFS also offers older adult services and case management. The Older Adult Programs at Jewish Family Service of Northeastern Pennsylvania aim to promote and preserve the individual's dignity, self-respect, and independence to the fullest extent possible. The Older Adult Program assists individuals and their families in making choices that foster maximum independence in daily living. Licensed Social Workers, Caseworkers, and experienced, compassionate volunteers work together to coordinate services for eligible individuals. Consultations are by appointment. Evening hours and home visits are available.

Services provided through the Older Adult Program include Assessments and Personalized Care Plans, Counseling Services, Home Visits and Telephone Contacts, Educational, and Support Groups, Consultations with Families Referral for Kosher Meals on Wheels, Referral for In-Home Services, Coordination of Supportive Services, Information and Referrals to Available Community Resources, Emergency Financial Aid.

Jewish Family Service provides comprehensive Guardianship of Person Services to those individuals who have been determined by the court to be incapacitated and no longer able to make their own life decisions. Jewish Family Service’s duties as Guardian of Person include making daily decisions about the individual’s personal affairs and maximizing their right to self-determination.

The Kosher Meals on Wheels program, in cooperation with the Meals on Wheels Office of Northeastern Pennsylvania and the Jewish Home of Eastern Pennsylvania, delivers kosher meals to those in need. Kosher Meals on Wheels is available to those in our community who adhere to Kosher dietary requirements. The program serves those who are temporarily or permanently disabled and require outside support to function independently at home. Kosher Meals on Wheels provides adequate, well-balanced, home-delivered meals to homebound people who cannot shop for and prepare meals themselves. The meals are prepared at the Jewish Home of Eastern Pennsylvania under Kosher dietary guidelines.

The Mae S. Gelb Kosher Food Pantry, established in January 2001, was developed to provide assistance with food and other necessary household items to families and individuals during times of significant financial stress. Clients may also include older people who may be isolated and living on a limited income, unemployed adults in need of interim assistance, and refugees who may be struggling financially as new members of our community. Clients may self-refer to the Kosher Food Pantry or be referred by family, friends, and/or other social service agencies.

Grant Award	\$10,000
Grant Purpose	Economic loss
Employees	Full-time – Six Part-time – Three
Mission	Jewish Family Service is a human service organization that reflects the Jewish tradition of caring and compassion for all people in need. Through professional counseling, advocacy, and educational programming, our services seek to enhance and strengthen the quality of individual, family, and community life. JFS is a human service organization established in 1915 to meet the financial and emotional needs of those in our community. Jewish Family Service is a private, non-profit organization with 501 (c) (3) status and is incorporated in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. JFS is accredited by the Council on Accreditation (COA) for its Outpatient Mental Health Services, Counseling, Support and Education Services, Case Management Services, and Adult Guardianship Services, which sets mandatory standards of professional practice and compliance. Our clinical social workers and Executive Director have Master of Social Work degrees and are Licensed Clinical Social Workers in the State of Pennsylvania. Our staff completes ongoing professional training to upgrade their expertise and maintain their social work licenses. JFS is a member organization of the United Way of Lackawanna, Wayne Counties, and The Jewish Federation of NEPA.

Grant Request

Funds were requested to cover COVID-19-related economic loss (e.g., loss of fundraising revenue, reduction in program participant fees) as well as to cover direct expenses related to COVID-19 (e.g., purchase of PPE, staff cost related to increased demand of services).

An exit report has not been completed to date.

Keystone Mission

Keystone Mission is an Evangelical, faith-based non-profit organization that provides emergency shelter, clothing, and food distribution services for people experiencing homelessness.

Grant Award	\$25,000
Grant Purpose	Expansion
Employees	Full-time – Ten Part-time – Nine
Mission	To be the Catalyst for the Community, providing help and hope to the hungry, hurt, and homeless in NEPA.

Grant request/purpose

Grant funds were requested to expand their Innovation Center and dayroom services. The funding will allow them to no longer use county facilities and have a more permanent solution for winter shelters. Funds will be used for administration and salary costs.

An exit report has not been completed to date.

Lackawanna River Conservation Association, Inc.

The LRCA is a non-profit, community-based river and watershed conservation organization. The Lackawanna River Conservation Association serves to promote the restoration and conservation of the Lackawanna River and its watershed resources in the Scranton area and all of Northeastern Pennsylvania.

LRCA conducts public outreach and education focused on water resource conservation and protection, organizes, and manages volunteer-based stewardship activities, and conducts community events to involve residents with the river in mutually beneficial ways. Through the LRCA affiliate, the Lackawanna Valley Conservancy (LVC), they acquire and manage land for conservation, recreation, and environmental restoration.

Additionally, they collaborate with other community organizations and governmental agencies on conservation-based community and economic development activities.

Grant Award	\$10,000
	Salary/Program Costs/Supplies
Employees	Full-time – One Part-time – Three
Mission	The mission of the Lackawanna River Conservation (LRCA) is to involve citizens of the Lackawanna River watershed with conservation and stewardship of the Lackawanna River, its tributaries, and water resources.

Grant Request

Grant funds were requested to assist LRCA with several new initiatives, including a mile-long Providence Riverfront Trail development project in North Scranton; Trail and Greenway planning on Roaring Brook

and Leggett’s Creek; a reauthorization program for Stillwater Dam, additional collaboration with the City on Storm Water management tasks; and a staff transition program to secure new executive leadership that the onset of the COVID pandemic has delayed.

An exit report has not been completed to date.

Linwood Nursing and Rehab

Linwood Nursing and Rehab provides skilled nursing and short-term rehabilitation services with an emphasis on quality care. The majority of the residents are from Scranton.

Grant Award	\$25,000
Grant Purpose	Professional Services
Employees	Full-time – 92 Part-time – 22
Mission	Provide a good home with proper, competent care for those who cannot care for themselves and promote an enriched community life that fosters an atmosphere of freedom from abuse and neglect where each resident will be treated with consideration, respect, and full recognition of his/her dignity and individuality.

Grant Request

Grand funds were requested to supplement facility costs for agency usage for the direct care of their residents. In addition, funds were used to recruit nursing staff as well as cover past-due balances.

An exit report has not been completed to date.

Marywood University

Marywood University is coeducational, comprehensive, residential, and Catholic. Founded in 1915 by the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, the University serves men and women from a variety of backgrounds and religions.

The University enrolls more than 3,000 students in an array of undergraduate and graduate programs. Committed to enriching human lives through ethical and religious values and a tradition of service and motivated by a pioneering, progressive spirit, Marywood provides a framework for educational excellence that enables students to develop fully as persons and to master professional and leadership skills necessary for meeting human needs.

Grant Award	\$10,000
Grant Purpose	Professional Services/Supplies from the pandemic
Employees	Full-time – 407 Part-time – 279
Mission	Marywood University prepares students to have a positive impact on society at regional and global levels while providing each student with the foundation for success in an interdependent world.

Grant Request

Grant funding was requested to assist with practices and infrastructure that will continue supporting health and well-being measures, per CDC and PA Department of Health guidelines. The initial grant

request was for \$100,000 to cover expenses related to 1) maintenance of air systems and 2) health service-related expenses such as COVID-19 testing at diagnostic labs, and 3) COVID-related cleaning and PPE costs. Grant funds were approved for \$10,000.

An exit report has not been completed to date.

Meals on Wheels of NEPA, Inc.

Meals on Wheels of NEPA has developed programming over the last 53 years to become the major provider of nutritional services and support for older and disabled adults of Lackawanna County, with a majority of consumers (63 percent) residing in the City of Scranton. In recent years, Meals on Wheels has developed an array of community health initiatives to further serve isolated individuals across the region. These initiatives use robust community partnerships to provide nutrition, personal assistance, pet care, and healthcare to reach isolated individuals.

Meals on Wheels of NEPA offers a range of nutritional and supportive programming that is designed to meet the needs of isolated and under-served adults. The core programming component of Meals on Wheels of NEPA is the Home Delivered Meal program that provides fresh, professionally prepared, and nutritious meals Monday through Friday. Socially isolated older and disabled adults benefit from a daily wellness check when they receive their meal delivery. Meals on Wheels of NEPA programming directly addresses both food insecurity and social isolation in elderly and adult clients throughout the City of Scranton.

Meals on Wheels promotes community partnership and engagement through its innovative event space - the SPACE at Olive. The SPACE at Olive offers an event and catering venue at an affordable rate to residents (and community partners) of the City of Scranton. In turn, this event space generates crucial revenue to sustain Meals on Wheel's programmatic endeavors.

Grant Award	\$45,000
Grant Purpose	Administration, Professional Services, Training, Supplies and Software
Employees	Full-time – 14 Part-time – Nine
Mission	The mission of Meals on Wheels of NEPA is to support the independent living of homebound seniors and disabled persons through the delivery of nutrition and supportive services. The Agency provides relief from hunger, helps decrease the onset of disease through proper nutrition, and increases home-based support to delay or prevent expensive institutional care. MOWNEPA provides regular contact with clients through the Home Delivered Meals program and its robust set of Community Health Initiatives. These programs build a rapport with clients that decreases social isolation and helps fight depression. The Agency is the major home-delivered nutrition and support provider for older and disabled adults in Lackawanna County and the City of Scranton.

Grant Request

Grant funds were requested to counteract the economic loss directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the pandemic's introduction to the area, Meals on Wheels of NEPA has experienced a drastic decrease in revenue combined with an increase in operating costs, resulting in financial insecurity.

Due to the current economic instability, the agency is challenged by the increased cost of essential resources without the ability to balance the increased cost by proportionally increasing service prices.

This burden creates a situation in which the organization cannot withstand future financial hardship. An additional challenge is presented when vital equipment breaks, needs repairs, or even for costly routine maintenance.

An exit report has not been completed to date.

Nativity Miguel School of Scranton

Nativity Migue is a private, Catholic, co-educational, tuition-free middle school proudly serving ethnically and religiously diverse students of greater economic need. For the 2021/22 school year, 61 of their 64 students resided in the City of Scranton.

Grant Award	\$25,000
Grant Purpose	Expenses related to COVID-19
Employees	Full-time – Nine Part-time – Four
Mission	Through the lens of the Catholic faith, the Nativity Miguel School of Scranton seeks to empower students of all races and beliefs to reach their full potential. Nativity Miguel offers a holistic approach to academic and character development through our core values of faith and honor, integrity and respect, leadership and perseverance.

Grant Request

Grant funds were used to cover direct expenses related to COVID-19, specifically for staff costs related to increased demand for services. Specifically, these funds would support one-half the compensation of our school's Director of Graduate and Student Support. This position was created in late 2020.

An exit report has not been completed to date.

NeighborWorks Northeastern Pennsylvania

NeighborWorks is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit community development organization that has, for more than 40 years, helped to revitalize neighborhoods and improve lives throughout the region by addressing the housing needs in our community. Their vision for strong, healthy neighborhoods is built on resident empowerment, neighborhood revitalization, sustainable homeownership, and public-private partnerships.

Grant Award	\$25,000
Grant Purpose	Operating expenses
Employees	Full-time – 15 Part-time – None
Mission	NeighborWorks Northeastern Pennsylvania (NeighborWorks) creates stable, vibrant communities by empowering our neighbors to improve their neighborhoods with quality housing, financial guidance, and critical partnerships.

Grant Request

Grant funds were requested to help cover the added expenses the organization has incurred/is incurring for additional staffing and operating/program costs required to address specific community needs that

emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, NeighborWorks has had to add four staff positions directly tied to the growth experienced over the past 2 ½ years during the pandemic as they sought to meet the needs of our neighbors during this unprecedented period.

Project Outcome

The grant funds were used as described in the grant request to assist in covering the added expenses incurred for additional staffing and operating/program costs directly tied to community needs that emerged during COVID-19. These positions have assisted with the delivery of the Aging in Place and HomeOwnership Counseling programs.

In addition, NeighborWorks has made information technology investments to allow for more effective service delivery to City residents and targeted marketing/outreach efforts to bring more attention to available services. There were no changes to the approved use of the funds.

The positions added with the help of these funds have assisted with financial coaching and foreclosure prevention work, prevented challenges associated with senior isolation, connected older adults to community resources, assisted with COVID-19 testing and vaccination efforts for seniors in the City, built new systems and administrative processes for the organization, and provided home modifications for the City’s seniors.

The programs and services provided were a critical expansion of existing services that saw an increase in need for due to the pandemic.

In addition, the technology improvements made to their operations with assistance from this grant has allowed them to expand, increase their impact through providing more services virtually, including collecting intake documentation, meeting with clients through Zoom, and creating cloud-based client databases to improve efficiency.

This grant helped to increase organizational capacity at a critical time when NeighborWorks was dealing with an increased volume of requests for service along with a changing model of how those services could be most efficiently provided. Additional staff capacity was necessary to be able to assist clients, especially senior clients, in a more holistic manner, as their needs changed dramatically during the pandemic.

Through the funding they received, NeighborWorks was able to leverage additional investment to create two new full-time positions to mitigate the effects of the demand on our current team. The grant also enabled them to make a capital investment in their I.T. infrastructure so they could use updated technology to provide services with more efficiency.

Expense Description	
Server (Operating cost – IT equipment)	\$4,550.43
Homeownership Assistant (additional staffing)	\$13,638.35
Community Services Navigator (additional staffing)	\$6,811.22

SUCCESS STORY

One of the programs directly impacted by the ARPA grant is NeighborWork’s first-time homeownership program. Partnering with the City of Scranton, NeighborWorks is typically able to assist upwards of 25-30 new homebuyers each year. With help from this grant, they were able to serve two Congolese families who originally came to Scranton as refugees. Additional staff capacity was used to help identify and coordinate translation services and to spend as much time as was needed to guide the families through the home purchase process. These two families can now call themselves homeowners in the City of Scranton because of these efforts.

NEPA Pet Fund and Rescue

Northeast Pa Pet Fund and Rescue is a 501(c)3 registered non-profit that helps seniors and low-income/economically disadvantaged citizens with their pets. They provide financial assistance with veterinary care, spaying/neutering, emergency services when funds are provided, flea and tick prevention, food, transport, and heartworm prevention. They provide educational materials to English and Spanish-speaking residents on the important reasons to spay and neuter pets. They pay for spaying/neutering dogs and cats through the Eastern PA Animal Alliance and Carbondale Veterinary Hospital for anyone who cannot afford it.

Grant Award	\$25,000
Grant Purpose	Program costs, tech upgrades
Employees	Full-time- None Part-time – None
Mission	To reduce the overpopulation and suffering of animals while advocating for humane behavior by providing rescue, rehabilitation, and sanctuary to abandoned and abused animals. Their primary purpose is to help sick dogs and cats. We do that by raising money through adoptions, fundraising, grant writing, and donations.

Grant Request

Grant funds were requested for medical care, boarding fees, and a small amount of supplies.

Project Outcomes

All of the grant funds were used for medical care, boarding fees, and a small amount for supplies. Due to the grant amount received, the rescue elected not to purchase an ipad. According to NEPA Pet Fund and Rescue, “making sure the dogs and cats receive the highest quality of veterinary care is our top priority and \$1200 is too large of an amount to spend on a computer when an untold number of dogs and cats could be helped instead. There was no change to the approved use of funds.”

Because of the grant award, Northeast PA Pet Fund and Rescue was able to assist 34 dogs and 11 cats. All of the dogs in the rescue were able to be completely caught up with bloodwork, dentals, surgeries, shots, preventatives, and checkups.

Eleven cats were spayed and neutered, vaccinated, microchipped, examined, and given flea/parasite prevention. All of the cats were adopted.

Six dogs were spayed and neutered. Another six dogs were treated in the emergency hospitals.

Expense Description	
Boarding	\$2,148.75
Boarding and pee pads	\$923.00
Dr. Paws Vet care	\$9,079.83
Richmond Valley Vet	\$561.00
NVRH Emergency Vet Care	\$6,640.17
NVRH Cardiac workup	\$688.80
EPAA Cat spay/neuter	\$2,300.00
PennVet surgery	\$1,784.11
PennVet emergency vet care	\$885.00

SUCCESS STORY

Sully, a bulldog puppy, was saved from pneumonia by having the funds to pay for his hospital stay at the emergency hospital in Plains. Thanks to the grant award, Sully also received facial surgery at the University of Pennsylvania. He most certainly would have died if funding was not there to help.

“Without this grant award, our rescue would never have been able to help as many dogs and cats as we did this year. We also would not have had the ability to provide such a deep amount of veterinary care.”

The award also allowed them to transfer puppy mill dogs from a small rescue that needed help in Central PA. These dogs needed an enormous amount of medical care and cost almost \$7,000 for workups alone.

Outreach- Center for Community Resources

Outreach assists families by delivering a variety of wrap-around services. Outreach provides evidence-based family programs and robust workforce development. Outreach provides unique workforce development and integrated child/family programs using a variety of approaches for delivery that other organizations do not offer. Outreach provides customized case management to identify the specific services needed for families to gain the skills to be better parents, support their children's educational needs, and gain family-sustaining employment, stability, and self-sufficiency.

Grant Award	\$45,000
Grant Purpose	Lost revenue and program costs
Employees	Full-time – 33 Part-time – 7
Mission	To promote family stability and economic self-sufficiency.

Grant Request

Grant funds were requested for lost revenue and program costs.

Program Outcomes

Outreach used the grant funds to support revenue losses that occurred during the pandemic when all Adult GED services in the Lackawanna County Prison were halted and Outreach pivoted to provide these services at their Center in Scranton, without funding to support these services.

Outreach had expenses for the Adult GED program during 2021-2022 of \$143,907. All of the ARPA funding was used to support the revenue lost while these services continued to be provided to economically disadvantaged residents of Scranton.

Outreach used these funds to support revenue losses from August 5, 2021 to August 4, 2022. There were two changes in the summary of expenses that were submitted with the request. Outreach secured some of the funding for the losses during the period the services were delivered but they were not adequate to cover all the costs of delivering the services.

Outreach provided subject-specific tutoring to adults that were residents of Scranton, allowing them to gain improved literacy and the subject skills necessary to prepare for the GED exam. Outreach provided General Education Development programs and services to 90 Scranton residents from August 5, 2021 to August 4, 2022. Adult education and GED services allow the economically disadvantaged adults Outreach serves to gain improved literacy and the skills necessary to achieve a GED credential. Outreach provided these services at their Center in Scranton without funding support.

During the 12 months this funding supported Outreach GED programs and their case managers served 436 Scranton residents with their services and programs including GED. The following Scranton residents received GED services:

- 34 adults at their Center
- 59 adults at the Lackawanna County Prison
- 256 Scranton residents received workforce development services with 128 adults attaining employment with the others continuing to apply and seek employment

Expense Description	
GED program staff that delivered GED services	\$15,707.42
Employee benefits for GED program staff	\$22,692.58
Program admin and compliance for GED program	\$6,600

SUCCESS STORY

“Cal Bieryla was one of the first to participate in the community GED program at Outreach. Cal was extremely motivated to learn while managing multiple responsibilities, such as being a single Dad and having a full-time job. But utilizing the in-person and online instruction offered by Outreach, Cal was able to attend Math class in the morning after working all night. Then, he worked on English on his own time via Google Classroom. Cal’s goal was not simply to pass the GED exam, but to obtain scores that would allow him to be accepted into college. On July 18, 2022, he officially became a graduate with college-ready scores. Outreach supported his desire to pursue post-secondary education by connecting him with assistance to explore careers, complete college applications, and financial aid paperwork. Within a few days of completing his GED, Cal was officially accepted into Lackawanna College and is now studying Cyber Security.”

PAWsitively for the Animals

Founded in 2015, PFTA is a 501c3 non-profit organization made up solely of volunteers who give their time to support pet adoption, pet rescue, low-cost spay/neuter programs, a four-legged food bank, a veterinary assistance fund, and education regarding responsible pet ownership.

PAWsitively for the Animals gives Scranton residents the resources necessary to care for and keep their pets at home rather than having to surrender them due to financial limitations. With many individuals and families currently struggling, PFTA's Maddie Fund provides area residents with basic and emergency assistance.

Grant Award	\$5,000
Grant Purpose	Program costs/supplies
Employees	Full-time – None Part-time – None
Mission	The purpose of PFTA is to raise, receive, and distribute funds and donations to help sick, homeless, or hungry animals.

Grant request/purpose

PFTA requested grant funding to support two programs: The Maddie Fund and PAWS for a Cause. All proceeds of this grant go directly toward buying pet food or supplies and providing monetary assistance towards veterinary care for residents in the Scranton area.

An exit report has not been completed to date.

Ronald McDonald House of Scranton, Inc.

Ronald McDonald House of Scranton has helped thousands of families who have children receiving medical care in the Scranton area. The Ronald McDonald House is located in the Hill Section of Scranton, one block from Geisinger Community Medical Center. The House has eight bedrooms and is equipped to support up to 32 guests. Each room has its own private bathroom, is furnished with all of the comforts of home, and is equipped with food supplies, drinks, etc., for families. All these amenities are provided so families can focus solely on the health and well-being of their child in the hospital.

While the House program serves guests who live in the surrounding areas of Scranton and beyond, their Family Room program serves every family with a child in the NICU or Pediatrics unit at Moses Taylor Hospital (MTH). Its NICU family room is right outside the unit at MTH, while the Pediatric family room is directly in the Pediatrics unit at MTH. Each room is equipped with a living room area for sitting and relaxing, a kitchenette, food, and drink, and even a game table for siblings who come to visit. Each room serves families from both near and far.

Grant Award	\$10,000
Grant Purpose	Program costs and supplies
Employees	The Ronald McDonald House of Scranton is a home away from home for families with seriously ill or injured children in local medical facilities.
Mission	Full-time – Five Part-time - None

Grant request/purpose

Fundraising efforts were limited due to COVID. As such, grant funds were requested to cover program costs and supplies. A grant award would enable the Ronald McDonald House to help even more families stay close to their children while also providing support for transportation, supplies, and food.

An exit report has not been completed to date.

Scranton Counseling Center

Scranton Counseling Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation governed by a community-based board of directors. The Center has been serving Scranton area community members since 1949 and is one of the largest, fully integrated behavioral health providers in Northeastern Pennsylvania, serving children, adolescents, and adults. SCC's population is primarily made up of underserved individuals who come from low socioeconomic status and struggle not only with mental and behavioral health needs but also with other social determinants of health. Services are provided to any community member, regardless of their ability to pay.

SCC provides a full continuum of outpatient and community-based behavioral health care, including psychiatric evaluation and services, outpatient therapy, adult partial hospitalization, psychiatric rehabilitation, 24/7 crisis services, family-based services, assertive community treatment, blended case management, school-based behavioral health, drug and alcohol treatment, forensic services, and early intervention service coordination.

Grant Award	\$25,000
Grant Purpose	Marketing and advertising for SCC
Employees	Full-time – 224

	Part-time – 23
Mission	Scranton Counseling Center's mission is to promote wellness and recovery by providing an environment that is considerate of and sensitive to the unique, personal, and cultural attributes of those we serve and which empowers them to make choices about their lives, pursue their personal goals and maximize their quality of life while respecting their individual dignity and confidentiality.

Grant request/purpose

The grant funds were used to fund the continued marketing efforts to keep our services at the forefront of the consumers and families we serve. Funds received would help to offset the \$224,445 spent on marketing in FY 21-22. This would allow SCC to invest in more marketing strategies to ensure that the community is aware of the full continuum of outpatient and community behavioral health services they provide.

An exit report has not been completed to date.

Scranton Primary Health Care Center

Scranton Primary Health Care Center (SPHCC) provides primary medical, dental, and behavioral health care to everyone regardless of their ability to pay. This includes pediatrics, family and internal medicine, women’s health, gynecology, pre-natal and post-partum care, infectious disease care, behavioral health, and general dentistry. Scranton Primary also assists residents in navigating the health insurance marketplace.

In addition, they provide COVID-19 vaccinations and testing to all City of Scranton employees and have hosted numerous vaccine clinics with the city since the start of the pandemic. The organization also offered flu shots to city employees. They provide the required comprehensive physicals for all Scranton Fire Department candidates at no charge to the city and have made the same offer to the Scranton Police Department.

Grant Award	\$45,000
Grant Purpose	Capital project to build out 3rd floor of the existing building and construct elevator to second floor
Employees	Full-time –75 Part-time – Four
Mission	The Clinics at Scranton Primary Health Care Center will provide quality primary medical, dental & behavioral care at a reasonable cost to everyone in our community, including those under-insured and uninsured.

Grant Request

The grant funds were requested in conjunction with other monies raised to enable SPHCC to build the third floor of our existing building and construct an elevator/stair tower to provide access to that floor. This expansion allows Scranton Primary to spatially distance patients, provide separate entrances for sick and well patients.

An exit report has not been completed to date.

Scranton Public Library

The Scranton Public Library provides books, talking books, Blu-rays, video games, meeting rooms, virtual meeting capabilities, technology assistance, and other services to the residents of the City of Scranton. It provides access to computers and the Internet and programs for children, young adults, and adults.

Grant Award	\$10,000
Grant Purpose	Continued access to remote tech for ongoing operations.
Employees	Full-time – 28 Part-time – 25
Mission	The Scranton Public Library enhances our community by fostering and supporting individual aspirations toward life-long learning, entertainment, and self-fulfillment for all. This is accomplished through free access, wherever is needed, to a broad collection of resources in currently used formats, courteous and knowledgeable staff, and activities designed to satisfy the informational, educational, recreational, and personal needs in our ever-changing and diverse environment.

Grant Request

At the beginning of the pandemic, the library subscribed to Kanopy, a service for libraries that allows library patrons to stream videos and audio for free. This was implemented when patrons could no longer come into the library and borrow DVDs, Blu-rays, and audiobooks. Due to the service's popularity, grant funds were used to retain the service.

An exit report has not been completed to date.

Scranton Tomorrow

Scranton Tomorrow, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) community and economic development organization since 1992, is working diligently to improve residents' quality of life and establish Scranton as the premier urban center of Northeastern Pennsylvania. Receiving the Main Street designation in 2009 by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the organization continues to successfully obtain annual National Accreditation from The National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Pennsylvania Downtown Center for outstanding organizational performance in sustaining its program.

In 2017, Scranton Tomorrow was appointed by the City of Scranton as the lead organization to coordinate economic development initiatives within the downtown business district. The organization continues to focus on the Main Street approach to downtown revitalization through safe, clean, green, and design initiatives, economic revitalization, business development, marketing and promotions, and event facilitation.

Scranton Tomorrow plays a vital role in the sustainability of the core business district. Similar to most cities, the municipality cannot solely provide the necessary services to sustain a healthy, vibrant, and attractive business district. The Scranton Tomorrow vision statement encompasses livability, arts, economic development, promotion, and educational partnerships, fostering positive quality-of-life initiatives. Their primary focus is the downtown business district, Mifflin Avenue to Jefferson Avenue, and Lackawanna Avenue to Olive Street, all of which incorporate significant institutional/recreational boundaries. These boundaries were identified at the onset of the Main Street process and continue to identify geographic priorities.

Grant Award	\$10,000
Grant Purpose	Reducing economic loss due to COVID
Employees	Full-time – Two Part-time – Two
Mission	Serve as a driving force in fostering and supporting economic development utilizing the National Trust's Main Street five-point approach to revitalization.

Grant Request

Grant funds were requested to reduce economic loss due to COVID-19, including maintaining physical space and paying rent.

An exit report has not been completed to date.

Serving Seniors, Inc.

Serving Seniors, Inc.'s programs assist all long-term care consumers and isolated older adults residing in their own homes throughout the city of Scranton and surrounding communities in improving their quality of life and care. Programs: Ombudsman (advocacy & resident rights), Volunteer Ombudsman, court-appointed Guardianship of Person and/or Estate services, PEER (Pa. Empowered Expert Residents) train residents to advocate for themselves as well as other residents within their facility. The Patient Advocate Program assists older adults with a safe and appropriate discharge from all Scranton City hospitals and connects them with necessary supportive services.

Grant Award	\$10,000
Grant Purpose	Increased demands and PPE supplies and equipment
Employees	Full-time – Six Part-time – Three
Mission	Improve the quality of life and care for older adults and all long-term care consumers throughout our community.

Grant Request

Grant funds were used to assist in the ongoing purchase of PPE for staff and volunteers, the costs to maintain programs that are integral to the support of older adults, and the purchase of necessary, updated computer technology (including website updates, print media/brochures, the agency newsletter, and social media to continue to connect with clients).

An exit report has not been completed to date.

Skills in Scranton Business Education Partnership

Skills in Scranton is the (independent 501c (3)) workforce development affiliate of The Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce. For more than 25 years, Skills in Scranton has worked to create, advocate, and nurture business, education, and community partnerships.

Goals of Skills in Scranton workforce efforts include:

- To demonstrate the organizational capacity to effectively convene multiple employers with education, training, labor, and community-based organizations.
- To further facilitate the development of an infrastructure of communication and collaboration between education and the business community.
- To facilitate the ongoing assessment of the regional economic landscape to identify new, emerging, or growing employment opportunities and emerging industries within the region.
- To facilitate, grow, and strengthen the connection between the business community and Lackawanna County's secondary and post-secondary institutions to increase awareness of in-demand careers.

All employees dedicated to work performed by Skills in Scranton are employees of The Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce. Currently, the Chamber has dedicated 2.5 staff to workforce development programming.

Grant Award	\$10,000
Grant Purpose	Program development
Employees	Full-time – 2.5 Part-time - None
Mission	Skills in Scranton is the (independent 501c (3)) workforce development affiliate of The Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce. For more than 25 years, Skills in Scranton has worked to create, advocate, and nurture business, education, and community partnerships.

Grant Request

Grant funding was requested for the coordination and implementation of Skills in Scranton's Educator in the Workplace program. Skills in Scranton suffered an economic loss related to the COVID-19 pandemic by eliminating grant funding for the Educator in the Workplace Program and restrictions set for program participants and business hosts. Educator in the Workplace is a flagship workforce development program of the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce. It is recognized by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Education as a best practice for career readiness and talent pipeline development.

The Educator in the Workplace Program is not a new program; however, it will be adapted from its original format to include a hybrid learning approach, streamlined to best accommodate the requirements and unanticipated guidelines of participating educators and private sector business hosts during the upcoming academic year.

Skills in Scranton will implement a communications plan consisting of the following components:

- Dedicated program information and enrollment page on the Greater Scranton Chamber of Commerce Website

- Social media campaign calling for participant enrollment and program/participant participation
- Public relations campaign consisting of a series of press releases tailored to program awareness, participant registration, community engagement and impact
- Billboards, television, and radio advertising for participant awareness
- News articles published in Momentum Magazine tailored for participant enrollment, business participation and program awareness

An exit report has not been completed to date.

St. Cats and Dogs of Scranton

St. Cats and Dogs of Scranton is an all-volunteer non-profit 501C group, established in 2012, that is funded by donations. The group initially began by attempting to reduce the cat population by working with the community, trapping and transporting feral cats to be neutered and returned to their caregivers. Since securing the Nay Aug Park Zoo building, the organization can provide secure and safe temporary housing along with assistance for these animals.

Grant Award	\$10,000
Grant Purpose	Operating costs
Employees	Full-time – None; Part-time – None
Mission	St. Cats and Dogs of Scranton believes in increasing public awareness by educating the community on the necessity and benefits of neutering stray pet cats. TNR (trap/neuter/return) is a non-lethal solution in which cats are humanely trapped, vaccinated against rabies, neutered, and returned to their original location to live out their lives.

Grant Request

The purpose of the grant request was to provide program, utility, and supply costs.

Program Outcomes

The grant funds were used primarily to continue their mission of providing secure and safe housing along with any veterinary assistance necessary for cats and kittens in their care. Currently, St. Cats and Dogs of Scranton can house approximately 150 cats and kittens at any given time.

Expense Description	
Veterinary procedures	\$4,696.15
Vaccines	\$2,964.00
Utilities	\$9,232.00

SUCCESS STORY

“Without the receipt of the ARPA grant monies, our organization was faced with the possibility of closing our doors. This would have had serious and drastic repercussions for trappers and animals alike...Without the grant monies, our cages would empty, and our mission of providing safe and secure housing would have possibly ceased.”

St. Matthews United Evangelical Lutheran Church

As a church, St. Matthews provides religious services to our congregation members and anyone in the community who desires to participate. St. Matthews offers worship services and Christian education programs for preschool through adults, and it provides premarital counseling and pastoral support.

Their community room, "Fellowship Hall," is free to various groups. Examples include Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon, Gamblers Anonymous, and Courage to Change.

Grant Award	\$10,000
Grant Purpose	Income loss
Employees	Full-time – One Part-time - Three
Mission	Saint Matthews United Evangelical Lutheran Church will seek to exemplify our baptismal commitment to be God's people in this congregation, community, and in the world by Praising God through public prayer, worship, and sharing of the word and sacrament, Following Christ in compassion and service; and Accepting the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to enjoy the peace and power of God's love with all His creation.

Grant Request

Grant funds were requested to cover income loss and losses from the implementation of mitigation of the virus, such as masks, hand sanitizers, individual communion cups, video equipment, and online costs.

An exit report has not been completed to date.

TCS I Midtown Apartments

Since 1971, Midtown Apartments has provided housing to low- and moderate-income individuals and families. The complex consists of 234 units. Midtown follows the HUD Section 236 and Section 221(d)3 programs of the Department of HUD. All residents can only be accepted if they are under the HUD income limits. Our population varies between 500 to 600 people. Although Midtown Apartments follows the HUD programs, there is no subsidy or support from HUD.

Grant Award	\$4,047.28
Grant Purpose	PPE supplies from COVID relief
Employees	Full-time – 7 Part-time – One
Mission	TCS-I is organized for the purpose to operate solely and exclusively as a charitable and educational organization, not for profit.

Grant Request

Grant funding was requested to cover the cost of PPE such as gloves and masks, disinfectants and sanitizers, foggers, and person-hours directly related to disinfecting.

An exit report has not been completed to date.

Telespond Senior Day Services, Inc.

Telespond Senior Services, Inc. was founded in 1974 to provide high-quality, community-based care to older adults and caregivers and enhance their well-being by promoting independent living. A 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation, TSDS provides a coordinated program of professional and compassionate services for adults in a community-based group setting. Licensed by the PA Department of Aging to operate Telespond Senior Services, Inc. Services and by the PA Department of Health to operate a Home Care Agency facility, providing non-acute care in the home.

Telespond’s services are designed to provide social and selected health services to adults who need fully supervised care in a safe place outside the home during the day, giving caregivers a respite from the demanding responsibilities of caregiving. Telespond serves the needs of the underserved, under-represented, and economically disadvantaged residents of the City of Scranton, working closely with the Area Agency on Aging, the United Way, NeighborWorks, the Wright Center, and many other providers to deliver coordinated, unduplicated services to those in need.

Grant Award	\$10,000
Grant Purpose	Operating funds
Employees	Full-time – 11 Part-time - 17
Mission	Telespond Senior Services, Inc. provides life-enriching services to older adults and caregivers, is committed to the promotion of independent living for our clients, improves their quality of life, and is dedicated to serving the economically and culturally disadvantaged community.

Grant Request

Grant funding was requested to support Telespond’s operations financially so they could continue serving those who were in need of their services, including personnel, operations, and staffing.

Program Outcomes

During the period March 30, 2020 to June 30, 2022, Telespond lost approximately \$546,000 from daycare and in-home services revenue sources. It is estimated that they lost a total of \$72,000 in fundraising potential since the pandemic began. Upon re-opening, Telespond needed help to mitigate these losses and keep employees during the shortage and in the new more competitive environment. Specifically, the funds helped Telespond pay the increased cost of health insurance for employees.

SUCCESS STORY

“Because of this award, Telespond was able to provide health insurance to employees at an increased rate, which is a key factor in recruiting and retaining employees in this competitive market. Every bit of help Telespond received helped their organization overcome the difficulties caused by the pandemic, and keep the Day Center, In-Home operations, and our volunteer programs going to serve seniors in need in Northeastern Pennsylvania.”

Expense Description	
Health insurance premiums- Blue Cross	\$5,910.84
Health insurance premiums – Blue Cross	\$6,645.58

The Arc of Northeastern PA

The Arc of Northeastern Pennsylvania is a grassroots organization formed in 1955 by a group of parents seeking public education for their children with intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD). The Scranton School District was the first in the state to have a classroom for children with intellectual disabilities. Since that time, a growing number of parents, neighbors, and members of the business and professional communities have faced numerous challenges in advocating for children and adults with IDD.

The Arc continues to be a strong voice for education rights, community support, progressive legislation, and public awareness. The Arc of the US is the largest organization dedicated to individuals with IDD and their families.

Program and Services:

- Adult Day Service
- Vocational Services
- Community Participation Supports
- Senior Program
- Supported Employment
- Advocacy
- Recreation
- Community Residential Program
- Supported Living
- Life Sharing through Family Living

Grant Award	\$10,000
Grant Purpose	Revenue loss
Employees	Full-time – 95 Part-time – 53

Mission	The Arc promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes. We support children and adults with IDD and their families through a variety of programs and services.
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Grant Request

The grant funds were requested to cover COVID-19-related economic losses due to a reduction in revenue. Funding would also allow recovery from the loss in their Adult Day Program from a closure that occurred due to COVID-19.

An exit report has not been completed to date.

The Wright Center for Community Health

In 2019, The Wright Center for Community Health was designated as a Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alike (FQLA) by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). According to HRSA, FQLA’s helps “to ensure health care for the nation’s underserved communities and vulnerable populations through service provision to all, regardless of the ability to pay.” The Wright Center has five clinics in the City of Scranton (Scranton Practice, Scranton Counseling Center Primary Care, School-based Health Centers (3) that provide services to City residents. Other Lackawanna County locations (Mid Valley Practice, Clarks Summit Practice, and the North Pocono Practice) also provide significant services to residents of the City of Scranton.

The Scranton Practice is the clinical, educational, and administrative hub located on the edge of downtown Scranton on the city’s South Side. It is a full-service, family-friendly primary and pediatric care office that also offers expansive dental services, rheumatology, sports medicine, and infectious disease specialists, including our full-service Ryan White HIV Clinic. Their family doctors and advanced practitioners provide checkups, physicals, screenings, treatment of common illnesses and injuries, behavioral health, and addiction and recovery services.

In addition, preventive and childhood vaccines, COVID-19 vaccines, and monoclonal infusion therapies are provided by TWCCCH. There were 15,337 unique patients residing in zip codes within the City of Scranton who were treated over the period October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021. Their clinicians provided 60,378 visits to these 15,337 unique patients across several clinics in NEPA.

Grant Award	\$25,000
Grant Purpose	Personnel and program data costs to provide innovative IT infrastructure of data integration for county-level granular data
Employees	Full-time – 309 Part-time – 19
Mission	The mission of The Wright Center for Community Health (TWCCCH) and its affiliated entity, The Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education (WCGME), is to improve the health and welfare of our community through inclusive and responsive health services and the sustainable renewal of an inspired, competent workforce that is privileged to serve. The Wright Center for Community Health (TWCCCH) strives to improve the physical health and mental well-being of Northeastern Pennsylvania’s residents.

Grant Request

The grant was to provide personnel and program data costs with innovative IT infrastructure for data integration for county-level granular data. All nonprofits, community organizations, the city of Scranton,

Lackawanna County, healthcare, mental health services, social services, and educational establishments can work together for more successful partnerships and community initiatives. This creates a shift from problem focused to solution focused analysis and has the capacity to provide the knowledge needed to optimize health and well-being while addressing structural racism, equity, and privacy and security.

This would enable innovative and meaningful partnerships and early and ongoing stakeholder engagement and build and sustain trust for effective data sharing. This can improve data to capture many drivers of health and the gradations of lived experience and provide metrics that give a glimpse into the pulse of the community.

An exit report has not been completed to date.

Treatment Court Advocacy Center of Lackawanna County

The Treatment Court Advocacy Center of Lackawanna County is a Pennsylvania Non-Profit Corporation formed in 2008 that has a 501(c)(3) status issued by the IRS.

Treatment Court Advocacy Center of Lackawanna County, commonly referred to as TCAC, operates a number of projects, all designed to assist local community members engaging in recovery from substance abuse disorder. TCAC works collaboratively with the Lackawanna County Court System and various public and private entities to secure grants, donations, and necessary funds to meet the unique unfunded needs of community individuals seeking to engage in recovery from substance abuse disorder. All of TCAC's programs are free. The TCAC Board, volunteers, affiliate Treatment Providers, and community partners work hard every day to help change lives, save lives, and restore families.

TCAC, through its Recovery Bank project, has a primary mission of providing a safe and secure place for the recovering community, their family, friends, and those interested in recovery to engage in activities beneficial to the individual and the community. The goal of the TCAC/Recovery Bank Project is to help people engage in their recovery so that they can make a direct contribution to their community. We strive to have volunteers engaged and peers trained to develop skills.

Grant Award	\$25,000
Grant Purpose	Revenue loss/program supplies
Employees	Full-time – Eight Part-time – Two
Mission	Provide a safe and secure place for the Scranton Recovering Community, family members, and friends of those interested in recovery to engage in activities beneficial to the individual and the community.

Grant Request

Grant funds were requested to cover the gap realized by TCAC as a consequence of its inability to engage in fundraising in 2020 and 2021. Because of COVID, TCAC was not able to engage in any fundraising efforts in 2020 or 2021, which has left a substantial gap in the programming budget at TCAC.

Initially, TCAC requested \$50,000 in grant funds to alleviate some of the financial strain occasioned by COVID on the TCAC budget. It was anticipated that the funds would be used to obtain equipment and supplies directly related to TCAC in-person recovery and life skill programming and in-person recovery

coaching. That improved and expanded programming will significantly contribute to quality of life of individuals receiving programming.

An exit report has not been completed to date.

Non-Profit Grant Electronic Survey Analysis

Nineteen grantees participated in the electronic survey, which was distributed to cohorts between October and November 2023. The purpose of the survey was gain insight into the experiences of those who were awarded grants, including any barriers and challenges. Below is an analysis of the survey results. Note that quotes from participants are not edited for grammar or syntax.

Participants were asked to rate their agreement with the statement: *The funding from the grant award satisfied the anticipated impact of the award.* The majority, 68 percent, strongly agreed with this statement, while 31.58 agreed.

When asked to expand on their response, participants indicated that their grant awards did meet the anticipated impact of the funding. The following anecdotal comments with regard to the grant's anticipated impact were offered by participants in response to this question:

"This grant provided our organization with flexible funding to support core budget expenses for which we did not have other funding."

"Funds directly supported intended use."

"We have been able to keep our doors open and continue to serve the public."

"The positive impacts were our ability to retain our important staff, and to help address needs for the community that became very big issues due to the pandemic...and also to provide assistance and programs for older adults who became much more isolated during the pandemic."

"The grant award greatly supported [organization's name] continued efforts to recover from the COVID-19 public health emergency."

"The grant allowed us to keep our human services workers in the field safely."

When asked whether the grantees met their stated outputs and outcomes, 94.74 percent responded affirmatively, while 5.26 stated they were unsure.

When asked to expand on their responses, participants indicated that their stated outputs and outcomes were met, with one individual noting that a greater amount of funding would have been helpful. The following anecdotal comments were offered by participants in response to this question:

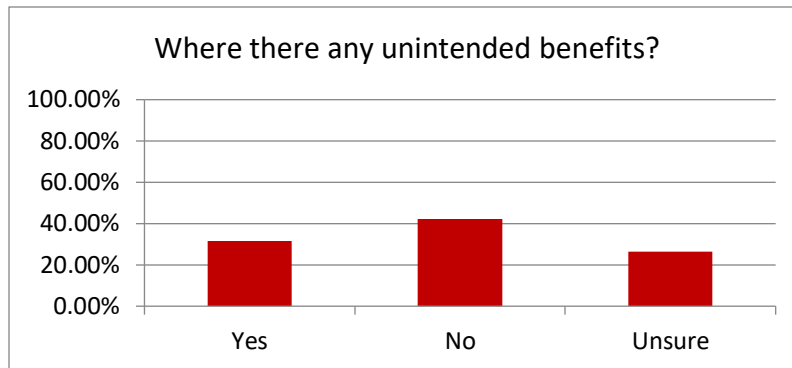
"We had requested a larger amount, which would have helped to complete other projects."

"Our goal was to help those who were in financial need due to the pandemic to receive the important programs and services we provide. We definitely met our stated outputs and outcomes."

"We recruited an additional member of staff to ensure adequate staffing to remain open and operating during Covid."

“This grant helped [organization’s name] remain operational for serving the community during the COVID-19 recovery period.”

Participants were then asked if the grant receipt had any unintended benefits. Nearly 32.00 percent answered affirmatively, 42.11 percent reported no unintended benefits, and 26.32 percent were unsure.



Four participants expanded on the unintended benefits of the ARPA funding, including creating a new job, starting other programs, and reaching a population within the community that one organization previously did not directly support. The following anecdotal comments were offered by participants in response to this question:

“Helping those with special needs combat isolation and receive emotional support from our programs and staff.”

“We are able to consider starting other programs based on the need we see and the funding potential.”

“The additional economic impact of a newly created job.”

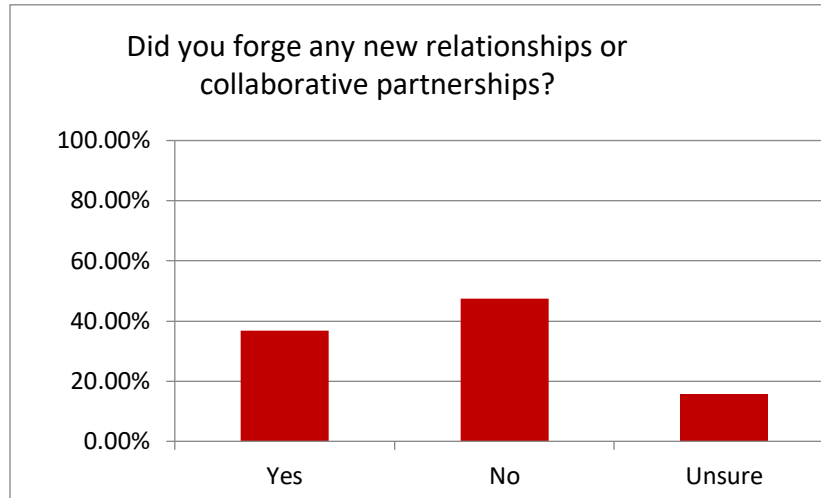
“The support shows staff that their work is valued by the community and society.”

When asked whether grantees encountered any unforeseen barriers or challenges, 10.53 percent answered affirmatively and 89.47 percent reported no unforeseen barriers.

The following anecdotal comments were offered by participants in response to this question:

“Our program model is dependent upon group events, and these events have been rescheduled or canceled more regularly over the last year than ever before.”

Participants were asked if they forged any new relationships or collaborative partnerships as a result of the grant receipt. Nearly 37.00 percent answered affirmatively and 15.79 percent were unsure.



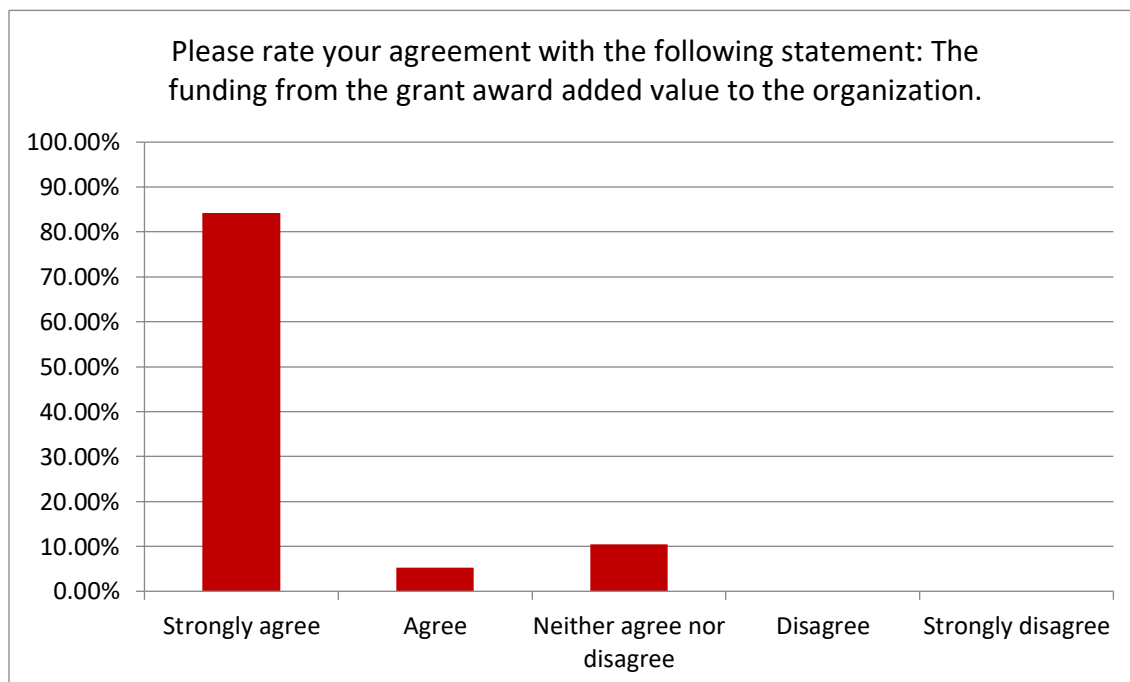
Three individuals elaborated on their responses to this question, indicating expanded collaboration efforts. The following anecdotal comments were offered by participants in response to this question:

“We expanded a collaboration with another nonprofit...”

“We’ve become a hub for other nonprofits.”

“We have...greatly expanded our range of distribution.”

Participants were asked to rate their agreement with the statement: *The funding from the grant award added value to the organization.* The majority, 84.21 percent, strongly agreed, while 5.26 percent agreed and 10.52 percent neither agreed nor disagreed.



Five individuals explained how the grant funding added value to their organization. Participants offered the following anecdotal comments.

“Allowed us to create and sustain needed capacity to deliver critical program services.”

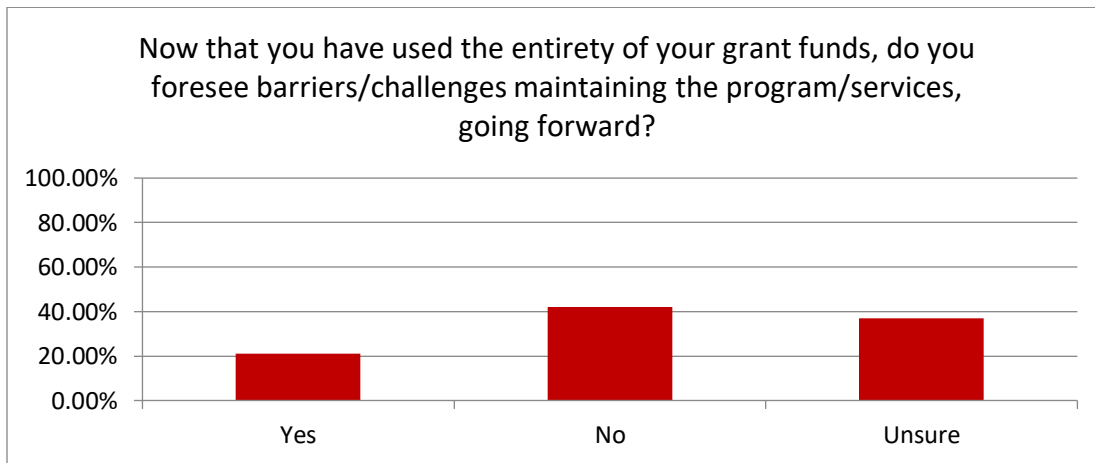
“It allowed us to not miss a beat and keep offering programs to families in need.”

“We maintained our reputation for quality, continuous care.”

“Youth programs are so important to our YMCA and participating families. Our staff, coaches, and volunteers encourage children to reach their full potential. Sports and recreation at the Y create a healthy outlet for children to gain new skills, learn to work as a team, and connect with positive role models — all in an inclusive environment.”

“The grant made us more agile, and we were able to emerge from the shadow of the pandemic stronger.”

Participants were then asked if they foresee barriers/challenges to maintaining their program/services now that they have used the entirety of their grant funds. Although 21.05 percent answered affirmatively, 42.11 percent answered negatively and 36.84 percent were unsure.



The following anecdotal comments were offered by participants, explaining foreseeable challenges in response to this question:

“With inflation and workforce challenges, it will continue to make our recovery harder. As a non-profit, we are unable to compete with the wages offered by for-profit companies.”

“This funding was extremely helpful to our organization. Since we are a school that does not receive any direct government funding, nor do we charge tuition, our financial situation is always a challenge. We have made great strides, but inflation has been a recent challenge, as well as transportation and health care expenses have increased dramatically.”

“The need for this position remains, but the funding for it has gone.”

“With the resumption of relatively normal operation, we are able to continue providing services. “Nearly 89.00 percent indicated that the grant application process was equitable, and 11.11 percent were unsure.

The participants elaborated:

“We are quite pleased with the monetary award and feel it was very equitable.”

“The application was easy to navigate through, and the staff was very supportive with questions throughout the process.”

Participants were then asked to discuss what could have been done differently throughout the ARPA grant process. Anecdotal comments are included below, two of which specifically deal with the grant application process and guidelines and one which spoke to the distribution of the funds:

“Some confusion early in the process with the portal for application.”

“More concrete guidelines on how the money should be spent and what you could use it for. It was too broad and a bit confusing to determine how we could implement the funding so it will get approved for use.”

“One of the challenges in the grant process was that we were seeking recovery for a loss of funds, which made the reporting difficult because it was geared toward new programs.”

“Total grant funds could have been shared more equally amongst all the qualifying applicants instead of two or three receiving the lion's share of the awarded funds.”

“Nothing- the process was straightforward and equitable. It provided important support to our organization.”

Participants were also asked to describe what lessons they learned throughout the grant process and implementation. Anecdotal comments are included below. Two participants pointed to community and resilience, while another participant noted that there continue to be workforce challenges:

“Anything can and will happen. How we are able to react may depend on our capacity for resilience and increasingly on local self-reliance.”

“We are stronger together.”

“That with inflation and workforce challenges, we are not out of the woods and need to continue to battle through,”

“The COVID-19 pandemic changed a lot at [organization's name], but our commitment to our community has remained. Thanks to support like this grant award, [organization's name] has been able to continue offering people a safe space to learn, grow, and thrive.”

Participants were then offered an opportunity to include success stories as a result of their ARPA grants. One participant included a story of a community member being able to enroll in post-secondary education, community members indicating that they “feel safe and that staff understands their challenges and know how to help.” Another offered a story of a special needs community member who was greatly affected by the isolation of the pandemic and said that grant funds provided an opportunity

for this individual to participate in programs that “she desperately needed,” adding that “She interacts with our staff and other clients. This has helped mitigate the loneliness and depression that she suffered due to being isolated during the pandemic.”

Other participants included stories of empowering educators, transforming education, and growing early childhood education programs. Additionally, many participants noted they were grateful for the funding received and for “recognizing the needs of non-profits.”

Non-Profit Grant Qualitative Analysis

Thirteen interviews were conducted with non-profit grant recipients to gain a deeper understanding of the effects of the ARPA funds. Below is a summary of these semi-structured conversations. Note that participant quotes are not edited for grammar or syntax.

All interviewees indicated that the funding from the grant award satisfied their anticipated impact of the award, with one individual noting, “Absolutely, I mean, grant funds like this are so hard to come by.”

Participants also described unintended benefits due to the ARPA funds, with one individual noting “ease of providing services” and “not having to turn children away.” Another noted the ability to assist the special needs population as an unintended benefit, stating, “As somebody like this, who we never thought we could really help. That was kind of unintended. This is a population that, you know, we're learning more about, you know, the special needs population and how those that are able to function on their own, how we can help them...it's something that kind of opened our eyes a little bit to say you know what we can help more that are special needs, especially you know off the heels of COVID. And I think this grant kind of opened that door, and it was unintended but a great unintended outcome.”

“I feel like the fact that the ARPA funds were really invested in allowing organizations to continue doing what they're doing well instead of coming up with something new and shiny is so huge, and especially covering those core operating costs, which I know don't always sound exciting on paper but are 100% necessary.”

Additionally, all participants agreed that the funding from the ARPA grant added value to the organization in some form. Anecdotal comments are included below:

“It did it. I mean, it was thoroughly helpful.”

“It allowed us to just keep moving forward and having business as usual.”

“So, it did give us that time to be able to almost not worry about trying to force fundraisers.”

“Absolutely. I think it helped put dollars towards some of the most important programs that we needed to assist the Community, especially on the heels of COVID.”

“Yes, it definitely did it was one of the largest single grants we ever received and helped us coming out of the pandemic. Most of our events are large group gatherings. So, the grant helped us move forward and stay viable.”

“This has been a really helpful grant for the organization.”

“Yes – advertising we normally wouldn’t have done.”

“Yes. It added value...The grant is very important and valuable to us. We cannot do all we do without it.”

Another participant offered that the grant allowed the “viability of the organization to continue.” Another indicated that they had a community partnership strengthened due to the grant.”

“The whole process was smooth and timely, and it was very well executed.”

The majority of participants noted that they do foresee challenges maintaining programs or services in the future now that the entirety of the grant funds has been used. Anecdotal comments are included here:

“Donor fatigue”

“Like I said, we're still, you know, trying to fill the holes.”

“You know we're we are always actively applying for funding.”

“Yes – through the pandemic the cost of operating childcare facilities have gone up astronomically, and funding during COVID is going off a cliff in 3 days' time – we've seen an incredible escalation in cost we can't sustain by tuition – seismic issues in the childcare industry- can't raise tuition to maintain the staffing ratios that are necessary. I would have loved to see the program continue because COVID isn't done, and we are still dealing with it in a high-risk industry. Difficult having to self-fund something so crucial to operations.”

“Could always use more. Never really know what's working or not – but I think if we were able to get a consistent funding stream, that would be very helpful.”

“I think of course inflation, trying to keep our staff in a good pay range – can be a difficulty. Not as many people are giving to NPs due to inflation, but right now in a good spot. A good base of donors and community partners and foundations.”

“Funding is always an issue.” “There's limited workforce development dollars out there.”

Although participants indicated that the ARPA funds added value to their organization and satisfied the intended impact, as well as several unintended benefits, some participants indicated challenges with the grant application process. Anecdotal comments appear below:

“The process for the grant was typical, but it was difficult after the application was processed there were three different times we were asked for different information. It would have been good to know what was needed in the beginning. Even after approval we needed to provide info to have funds released. Communication could have been better on the front side with everything that was required.”

“There's not a whole lot of clarity necessarily of what are the differences between these grants. The purposes of these grants, the applications seem to be very similar, but I think maybe they could be more clear on what the intended use is supposed to be for these grants as opposed to, you know, it seems to be very generic, very broad. You know, we wanna make sure that the money's being used. For what it's

supposed to be, and I think there needs the clarity on a lot of these and I'm finding out it is not fully there, it's very broad, it's very generic."

Start-Up and Expansion Grants

Organization Summaries

Below is a summary of start-up and expansion grants that have been identified as closed.

Downtown Deli

A family-owned and operated business serving full breakfast and lunch daily indicated planned to expand dating back to January of 2019 when the pandemic hit, and all plans were put on hold. Monies were used elsewhere to try to keep the business alive during the closing and opening at a decreased occupancy.

Grant Award	\$77,234.00
Grant Purpose	Business expansion
Mission	To serve and contribute to the downtown district and surrounding areas.

Grant Request

Funds were requested to expand into a catering business that would serve up to 50 people on-site for funerals, small gatherings, business meetings, etc., and off-premises for up to 300. This required expanding into the room next to their restaurant, adding a handicap-accessible bathroom, fixtures, furniture, painting, and necessary start-up equipment. Downtown Catering is now open as an extension of Downtown Deli and Eatery.

All funds were disbursed. An exit survey has not been completed to date.

Little Wild Refillery

Little Wild Refillery exists to help solve a problem: plastic waste. Little Wild Refillery offers sustainability education and products handmade by other local small businesses. The Refillery carries the highest quality of products at a low cost to ensure a low-waste and sustainable lifestyle is attainable to all.

Grant Award	\$19,376.00
Grant Purpose	Business costs
Mission	Educate people on the growing plastic pollution problem and, as a solution offer natural, handmade in the United States refillable products for home cleaning and personal care.

Grant Request

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting supply chain issues, the cost of ingredients and supplies to make items for the store has increased. The cost of inventory purchased from other small-batch makers and wholesalers for the store has also increased along with shipping costs. Grant funds were requested to expand the store's product range, help pay rent, hire a part-time employee, and advertise and market.

Project Outcomes

The grant funds were used to purchase more inventory as well as pay rent, purchase new furniture (display shelves, counter) and equipment (dishwasher, printer). The only change to the initial funding request was the hiring of a part-time employee. Little Wild Refillery indicated that the store is not busy enough yet to need an employee.

Expense Description	
Grant Amount Requested at time of application (\$)	\$19,376.00
Total of all Reimbursement Requests Submitted (\$)	\$19,376.00

SUCCESS STORY

“Being able to purchase more inventory for my store meant being able to provide customers with even more plastic-free and low-waste alternatives to use in their daily lives. It led more new customers to my store who are now repeat customers. More inventory also meant more profit and being able to sustain the business. Being able to pay rent with the grant money meant I was able to spend profit made on even more inventory. More plastic-free and low-waste options for my customers is not only better for them and their household but better for our community and planet.”

AMPP’s Cafe LLC

AMPP’s Café provides coffee and quick casual fare to Pine Brook residents and visitors to the community. The public health emergency significantly delayed their opening due to supply and labor shortages and added additional costs.

Grant Award	\$53,000.00
Grant Purpose	Operating/Marketing costs

Grant Request

The purpose of the grant request was to cover operation and marketing costs.

Program Outcomes

Funds were used for initial startup costs and to fund the shortfall of the first year of business. There were no changes to the original request. The grant funds allowed AMPP to operate until enough sales were made to cover the payroll. It also allowed AMPP to pay two full-time and three part-time employees.

Urban Co-Works

Urban Co-Works creates vibrant professional communities by providing affordable, flexible, and amenity-rich office solutions to remote workers, executives, companies, and other organizations.

Opening for business in December, 2023, Urban Co-Works meets the needs of today's professional workforce through a variety of affordable and flexible office packages that include daily, weekly, and monthly plans.

Grant Award	\$100,000.00
Grant Purpose	Business expansion

Grant Request

Urban Co-Works strives to attract both for-profit and not-for-profit organizations as members. They provide membership discounts to non-profits and will often work with their membership community to initiate valuable connections. Coworking is often a valuable resource to some non-profits because they can get direct exposure to companies that may support them and have access to space for board meetings and offices for daily activities. The funding request was for the purchase of furniture, technology, and accessories that will be used in the coworking space.

Program Outcomes

The ARPA grant was primarily used for the procurement of furniture and equipment for Urban Co-Works, legal services, and IT equipment services. Urban Co-Works has hired one full-time employee and are planning at least another full-time hire in 2024. There were not any jobs prior to receiving the ARPA grant.

The Loft

The Loft is a multi-functional event venue with an elegant and industrial vibe located in downtown Scranton, PA.

Grant Award	\$7,486.75
Grant Purpose	Business expansion

Grant Request

Grant funds were requested to remodel and update the current space as well as expand the space for more public events. Additionally, funds were used for equipment and furniture purchases.

All funds were disbursed. An exit survey has not been completed to date.

SUCCESS STORY

“The ARPA grant award significantly enhanced the Urban Co-Works coworking business, fostering a dynamic environment for professionals to thrive with flexible office solutions. This support not only has helped to create a robust workspace but also helped to provide an affordable solution for remote workers, positively contributing to a vibrant and collaborative professional community in the heart of downtown Scranton.”

Spice Asian

Spice Asian provides imported Asian products to residents that are not available in other local stores.

Grant Award	\$22,673.55
Grant Purpose	Expand inventory
Mission	To provide imported Asian products at a competitive price to Scranton residents.

Grant Request

The grant funds were requested to expand inventory and to purchase shelves, display racks, and cases. Funds were also used to pay for advertising on social media.

Program Outcomes

The grant funds were used exclusively for inventory growth. There was no change in the proposed use of funds. The grant gave Spice Asian the ability to add over 100 food and household products to their inventory. Their Asian household section has been completely reimagined. They have also added a Dessert category and stocked it. The addition of these much-needed food items has given customers a better variety of products and this has helped grow the customer base considerably. Spice has grown substantially directly because of the grant funds.

Newave

Newave is an art and publishing company that has moved into the real estate space. The property at 1818 Jackson Street is known as the Africa Freedom Mall. The building is used as a community space, business hub, and safe haven for children and families. It will offer emergency shelter free of charge for anyone living in the 18504 zip code for at least a week. The property has a community garden and compost center available for community use.

Grant Award	\$25,525.00
Grant Purpose	Renovations

Grant Request

Funding was requested for the renovation of one emergency housing space and one short-term rental on the second floor.

All funds were disbursed. An exit survey has not been completed to date. ARPA funds were not utilized to create jobs. All funds were utilized as payment for contractors.

Vecina

Vecina is a sewing manufacturing and retail business in Scranton that designs and sells home goods and accessories in their downtown retail store. The primary purpose is to employ talented local sewers and to manufacture for other brands and companies, such as government contracts, domestic apparel companies, etc., in addition to the product lines sold in downtown Scranton. Vecina has a retail store and is also a sewing manufacturer for small-batch orders for domestic consumer product companies.

Grant Award	\$41,000
Grant Purpose	Job creation

Grant Request

Funds were requested to create ten part-time jobs.

All funds were disbursed. An exit survey has not been completed to date.

Unison Workforce Technologies

Unison Workforce Technologies, LLC (a wholly owned subsidiary of Applied Cadence, LLC) is committed to supporting a thriving side-hustle economy by providing mobile-based technology tools and infrastructure needed to build and grow personal businesses. An all-in-one app, FYSH (Fuel Your Side Hustle), has been developed and launched in the App Store and Google Play Store. Unison Workforce projects to employ a total of six employees in 2023, 24 employees in 2024, and 84 employees by the end of 2025.

Grant Award	\$100,000.00
Grant Purpose	Development, marketing, employment
Mission	Assist individual users to work in or hire from the side-hustle economy (including Scranton residents) by providing a mobile platform that will help workers and customers connect with each other through a marketplace.

Grant Request

The grant funds were requested for the following:

Development – The marketplace will require building an XD file that identifies each screen and creates an experience for users to find work or find workers based on their services. These XD screens will be sent to developers who will evaluate the code requirements before development begins. After completion of the initial steps, development will begin, including placement in the app. Quality testing

will take place by the team, and user testing will look at the ease of use and likelihood of successful customer adoption.

Marketing – Upon completion of development, marketing will determine the benefits and features that best solve the users' needs. Marketing will include writing articles, promoting key themes, advertising keywords, and creating videos that motivate use. Telemarketing will be used to engage users' experiences and isolate needs to modify the app for easier use and higher engagement.

Employment – The team will continue to engage users directly to understand the needs and barriers users experience. Marketing and development are necessary to modify and improve the app continually. Continued collaboration between marketing and development will determine a successful evolution of the app as well as satisfaction by users of the app. They are forecasting 84 high-paying employment as the project accelerates in the City of Scranton.

All funds were disbursed. An exit survey has not been completed to date.

Showcase Ventures, Inc.

Showcase Ventures, Inc. (Showcase) is a music discovery platform developed by the Founder and CEO, David Yeager.

Grant Award	\$100,000.00
Grant Purpose	Development, marketing, employment
Mission	To become the iconic brand for music and artist discovery.

Grant Request

Grant funds were requested for their Go To Market strategy for public launch in early 2023, adding more personnel and development costs for v.2 of their MVP product.

Program Outcomes

The grant funds were primarily used for payroll and contractors as they hired and contracted with several people over the past few months. It also allowed Showcase Ventures to launch their MVP product in May and put their efforts toward growing the platform and company and solidifying their corporate headquarters in Scranton. Two full-time jobs were created with the help of ARPA funds.

Adezzo

Adezzo was formerly a coffee shop in downtown Scranton. As well as providing quality espresso drinks and gourmet breakfast and lunch items, they aimed to create a “market” culture with the sales of fresh flowers, produce, honey, gifts, chocolates, etc., all from local vendors.

Grant Award	\$71,000.00
Grant Purpose	Start-up/Expansion
Mission	Bring a New York City-style Coffee Shop to Scranton.

Grant Request

Grant funding was requested to pay rent, utilities, and other miscellaneous operating costs.

Program Outcomes

The grant funds were spent on utilities and operational costs. Adezzo has since closed its business. All funds were disbursed. An exit survey has not been completed to date.

G&A Family Investment

G&A offers the community a multicultural menu .

Grant Award	\$83,600.00
Grant Purpose	Operating costs
Mission	Offer Puerto Rican cuisine with an American twist that will not break your budget. Honoring my family’s tradition of the classic home experience you know and love.

Grant Request

Grant funds were requested for start-up capital, equipment, renovation, and to address staffing needs.

Program Outcomes

G&A Family Investment was able to expand their business with the food trailer. Grant funds were spent on a food trailer, truck, supplies, technology, and payroll. G&A was able to expand their business through the food trailer, which added to their branding, marketing, and sales. Additionally, G&A was able to hire two employees.

Bazaar Skateshop

Bazaar provides all items necessary to build and fix complete skateboards. They also provide clothing and accessories representing the culture of skateboarding and all current trends in the scene. The shop is also home to an art gallery wall that is connected to their partnership with Scranton's First Friday.

Grant Award	\$11,798.00
Grant Purpose	Recoup operating costs
Mission	Grow a community of skateboarding in NEPA. To give kids/adults a place to connect with others through a passion for skating culture.

Grant Request

Grant funding was requested to be used for inventory, merchandising, and advertising. In the sense of community impact, the funds will help us run their annual community events.

All funds were disbursed. An exit survey has not been completed to date.

Note Frangrances (Noteology)

Note Fragrances, Inc., DBA Noteology, is a boutique perfumery and custom studio where customers make their own fragrances with Scent Designers through their patented process. They have a retail and online store that sells the products they manufacture and resale from other local and national makers. They also manufacture for other brands with their private label and custom manufacturing services. Note Fragrances Inc. acquired Olfactif, a niche fragrance subscription box that resales niche fragrances from around the world in a subscription box format as well as online and retail sales.

Grant Award	\$100,000.00
Grant Purpose	Expansion
Mission	Help people feel good by smelling amazing through the powerful effects of aromas on our mind, memories, and emotions.

Grant Request

The grant funds were requested to offset the expenses of expansion as well as allow the opportunity to continue to grow and expand their reach within the Scranton community and beyond.

Project Outcomes

Funds were used to offset the expenses of expansion to 537 Wyoming Ave., which included shipping, production and assembly spaces and the introduction of the Custom Candle Studio. There were no changes to the approved use of funds. Three full-time jobs and three part-time jobs were retained as well as two part-time jobs created as a result of the ARPA funds.

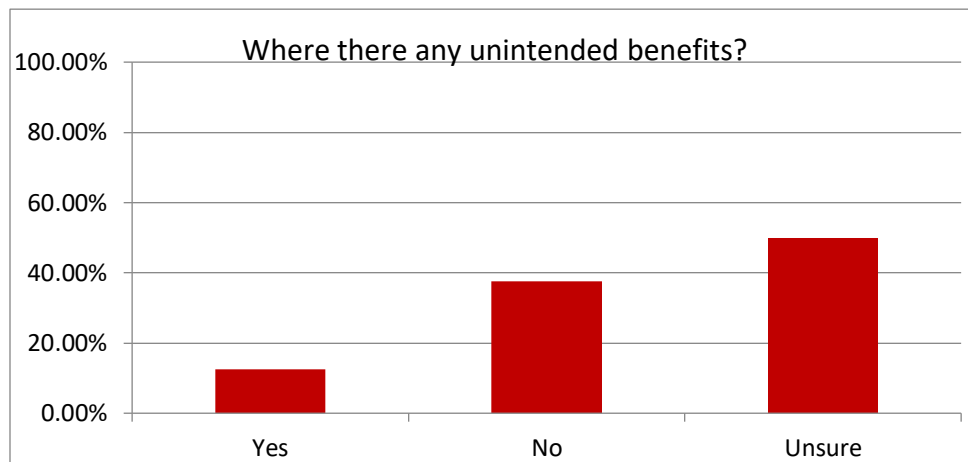
SUCCESS STORY

“This grant allowed us to make the necessary improvements to expand our shipping, production, and assembly spaces so that we may scale our business both nationally with our e-commerce business and accommodate more customers with our expanded retail space. We are also able to offer the community another experience, our Custom Candle Studio, where customers can make their own candles alongside our Custom Perfume Studio.”

Start-Up and Expansion Grant Electronic Survey Analysis

Eight small-business grant recipients participated in an electronic survey throughout October and November. The purpose of the electronic survey was to better understand the experiences of grantees as well as any barriers and challenges. Note that qualitative comments are not edited for grammar or syntax.

When participants were asked to rate their agreement on whether the funding from the grant award satisfied the anticipated impact, 87.50 percent strongly agreed and 12.50 percent agreed.



One participant added, *“I agree that the award satisfied the anticipated impact. As a result of the reward, we were able to support the acquisition of items needed to create a vibrant work environment that will be used by many professionals and community members in Scranton.”*

Additionally, all participants indicated that they met their stated outputs and outcomes.

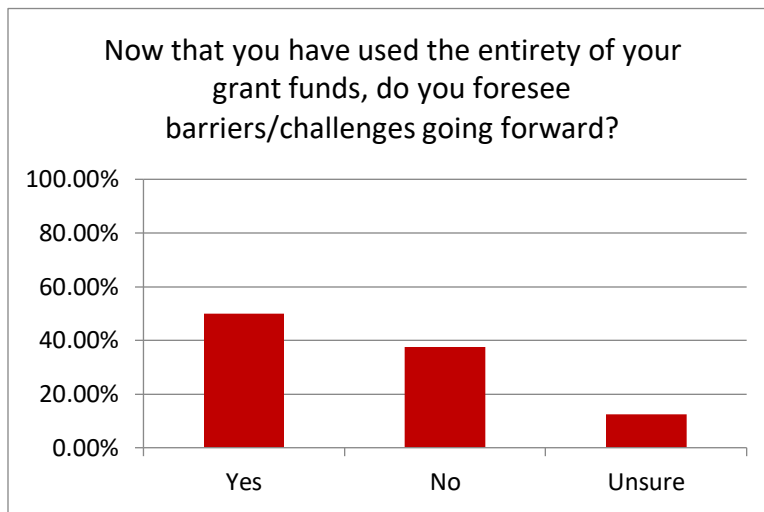
Nearly 13.00 percent of participants stated that there were unintended benefits, and 37.50 percent indicated there were none. One participant offered that they “served more families than anticipated.”

Moreover, three-quarters of participants noted that they did not encounter any unforeseen barriers or challenges. The remainder stated they were unsure.

Over 57.00 percent of responding individuals noted that they did not forge any new relationships or partnerships as a result of the ARPA grant, but 42.86 indicated that they did forge new relationships or collaborative partnerships. One participant indicated new relationships with higher education institutions, while another stated, *“We have been actively engaging our company in the community and have forged relationships with the city, the chamber, businesses, etc.”*

Moreover, all the survey participants stated that they strongly agree that the funding from the grant awarded value to the organization. One participant added, *“Yes the funding was critical to our success...”* and another stated, *“Without the funding, we would not have been able to service as many families as we are now.”*

Now that the grantees have used the entirety of their grant funds, half foresee barriers or challenges going forward, while 37.50 do not and 12.50 percent are unsure.



Participants offered the following anecdotal comments:

“Retail businesses in downtown Scranton continue to struggle financially. My business and others.”

“There is additional funding needed to make the program self-sufficient.”

“The state of the economy is uncertain.”

“We have grown substantially, but we are not yet where we need to be financially. We firmly believe it is coming with patience in time.”

At 87.50 percent, the majority of participants stated that the application process was equitable. The remaining 12.50 percent (one person) stated that the application process was not equitable, indicating, “I do not feel it is equitable. More work needs to be done in this area.”

Participants were asked to discuss what could have been done differently. Participants noted communication and advertisement of the grant with a focus on equity, while others described their satisfaction with the process. Anecdotal comments appear below:

“More advertisement and more of a targeted approach towards organizations of color.”

“Better communication from Scranton initially, but overall, everyone was great.”

I think the process worked fine. If there were any questions along the way, I always had someone from the city that I was able to connect with to help me. It was a very positive experience!

When participants were asked what lessons they learned throughout the process, one individual stated, *“It really is a team effort to make lasting change. Local government and orgs have to work together.”*

Participants also offered success stories and positive anecdotes as a result of their ARPA grant funds, demonstrating the City-wide effects that the grand funding produced. Anecdotal comments are included below:

“Because of the grant, we were able to open an otherwise eyesore into a beautiful, useful piece of real estate.”

“Our Afterschool program has nearly tripled since 2022. We now serve 60 to 80 children per week.”

“We launched our initial platform in May 2023 and are so grateful for this help.”

“I am incredibly appreciative of Mayor Cagnetti and the City of Scranton...We are excited to be an active contributor to the revitalization of downtown Scranton.”

“The grant will have a multiplying effect...”

“We can't thank everyone enough.”

“...Helped grow our customer base considerably. Spice has grown substantially directly because of the grant funds.”

Start-Up and Expansion Grant Qualitative Analysis

One grant recipient participated in an individual interview. The awardee indicated that the funding from the grant somewhat satisfied the anticipated impact of the award, but “what was needed was a bit more.” The participant noted unintended benefits of the grant receipt and described it as “a multiplying effect” moving their project along faster. The participant noted that there will be future challenges, indicating that they are still financially “under pressure.”

When asked if the application process was equitable, the participant stated, “I do believe it was easy to complete. I’m not one hundred percent sure I feel it is equitable. I’m not sure how they based the amount of money that they give, whether it’s based on need or business income. But I feel small businesses owned by POC (People of Color), and we’re talking equity – we don’t have as much access to

banks and loans, irrespective of good credit. If it's possible, moving forward, it would be advantageous to look at the need of the project as opposed to the income of the business. It's hard to secure funds..."

Finally, the participant added, "I really do think the program is a good one, and if there are opportunities in the future, I hope the City considers this [need versus income] going on and a great multiplier later – a lot of seeds will be sewn with these grant opportunities and these programs."

Community Grants

Organization Summaries

Below is an overview of the recipients of community grants that have been identified as closed.

Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels of NEPA is a 501C3 non-profit organization that provides nutritious meals and wellness checks for older adults and individuals with disabilities. Meals on Wheels of NEPA has developed programming over the last 53 years to become the major provider of nutritional services and support for older and disabled adults of Lackawanna County, with a majority (63 percent) residing in the City of Scranton. In recent years, Meals on Wheels has developed an array of community health initiatives to further serve isolated individuals across the region. These initiatives use robust community partnerships to provide nutrition, personal assistance, pet care, and healthcare to reach isolated individuals.

The core programming component of Meals on Wheels of NEPA is the Home Delivered Meal program that provides fresh, professionally prepared, and nutritious meals Monday through Friday. Socially isolated older and disabled adults benefit from a daily wellness check when they receive their meal delivery. Meals on Wheels of NEPA programming directly addresses both food insecurity and social isolation in elderly and adult clients throughout the City of Scranton.

Grant Award	\$15,000.00
Grant Purpose	Operating costs
Mission	The mission of Meals on Wheels of NEPA is to support the independent living of homebound seniors and disabled persons through the delivery of nutrition and supportive services. The Agency provides relief from hunger, helps decrease the onset of disease through proper nutrition, and increases home-based support to delay or prevent expensive institutional care. MOWNEPA provides regular contact with clients through the Home Delivered Meals program and its robust set of Community Health Initiatives. These programs build a rapport with clients that decreases social isolation and helps fight depression. The Agency is the major home-delivered nutrition and support provider for older and disabled adults in Lackawanna County and the City of Scranton.

Grant Request

Grant funds were requested to access resources essential to the home-delivered meal program. Specifically, grant funds will be used to procure raw food ingredients that have significantly increased in cost. The cost of raw food ingredients has increased as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic, exacerbating the economic hardship felt by this agency. Comparing pre-COVID average monthly raw food cost to the current raw food cost (2022) shows a 62 percent increase.

Funds received from The City of Scranton through the ARPA grant will allow for a better economic and financial position to sustain the agency into the future. The current economic insecurity makes it very difficult to plan for future programs and operations strategically. The funding from the City and ARPA will offset the increased cost of raw materials needed for meal production.

All funds were disbursed. An exit survey has not been completed to date.

Telespond

Telespond Senior Services has provided life-enriching programs to older adults since 1974, promoting their well-being, supporting their independence, and encouraging their involvement in the community. Specifically, Telespond provides a day program and in-home services in Lackawanna County. In addition, Telespond has sponsored volunteer services, including Friendly Call and Senior Companion Programs, since 1976. Telespond's inclusive policies provide work and volunteer opportunities to all eligible to participate in the organization's service mission to benefit all residents of this community who require Telespond's assistance and care. Volunteer service opportunities through Telespond are possible because of the organization's proven ability to recruit, train, and assign individuals to community-based volunteer stations, which Telespond has successfully engaged as partners in its mission.

Grant Award	\$25,000.00
Grant Purpose	Behavioral Health Response and Violence Prevention Service Provider Financial Recovery
Mission	Providing quality community-based care to older adults and caregivers, enhancing the well-being of older adults by promoting independent living, providing low-cost alternatives to institutional care, and working cooperatively with other service providers to improve the efficient and effective delivery of needed programs in Lackawanna County.

Grant Request

Grant funds were requested for the design/engineering and partial construction of a 2,000-square-foot addition to Telespond's building located at 1200 Saginaw Street in the City. The purpose of the unit is to serve Scranton/Lackawanna County seniors who have been victims of abuse or neglect and are in dire need of permanent housing. This new unit -- tentatively named the Senior Advocacy Center -- will contain three beds, bathroom facilities, and common space adjacent to the existing senior day services. The purpose of the unit is to provide a temporary safe space and programming, including rapid re-housing for seniors in Scranton and Lackawanna County. To integrate programs and needed services, the construction also includes renovations to Telespond's existing adjacent senior day center, a roof replacement, new flooring, new fixtures, and painting of interior walls throughout the building, along with reprogramming approximately 700 square feet of space. The total project cost is estimated to be \$1,225,000.

The project is intended to specifically serve those who have disproportionately impacted individuals who live in poverty and are without housing due to physical, emotional, or criminal abuse. They are at the absolute bottom of the economic spectrum and have no resources to act on their own behalf. There were over 250 cases of senior abuse in Lackawanna County in 2021 and, undoubtedly, a large number of unreported incidents.

Partners on this project to reduce violence toward seniors in Scranton and beyond are many, including the Lackawanna County Area Agency on Aging, the Wright Center, United Way of Lackawanna County,

the statewide Association of Aging Agencies (P4A), the Lackawanna County, District Attorney's Office, and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

All funds were disbursed. An exit survey has not been completed to date.

NEPA Pac (Northeast Pan African Coalition)

Nepa Pan African Coalition is a membership-based cooperative that fosters healing, self-reliance, and unity across the local community (NEPA) and offers a safe space to help children and families that suffer from poverty, dysfunction, lack of healthcare and education.

Grant Award	30,000.00
Grant Purpose	Behavioral Health Response and Violence Prevention Service Provider Financial Recovery
Mission	Proudly show solidarity in our African heritage through the healthy promotion of educational, economic, social, cultural, and spiritual efforts.

Grant Request

Grant funds were used to expand existing programs by increasing the number of children served in after-school programs. This will be achieved by increasing the administrative/operation budget to ensure continuity between students and adult volunteers, purchasing a vehicle to transport students and families to and from facilities, and providing food for after-school program attendees. In addition to the after-school program, they will offer emergency services to families in crisis by covering miscellaneous expenses for emergencies (clothing, gas, personal hygiene, etc.) and emergency funding in the form of small stipends for said affected families/persons.

The organization focuses on People of Color (POC). Overall, racial, and ethnic minorities have had higher rates of infection and death caused by the COVID-19 virus than white people. Also, higher incidents of interpersonal violence and homelessness have affected this community since the pandemic. Their mentorship programs are designed to help individuals/families find housing and stable employment, start businesses, and have safe aftercare and summer services for their children.

All funds were disbursed. An exit survey has not been completed to date.

Day Nursery Association

Day Nursery Association's early education program is integral to the foundation of childcare as it provides a safe and supportive learning environment for students ages 16 months to five years of age. Day Nursery Association has been providing childcare services for the Scranton community since 1909.

Day Nursery's summer program aims to continue the critical work of preparing students for kindergarten. This summer program will offer a fun and inviting way to continue learning by reinforcing knowledge acquired during the academic year and expanding on it using a purposely designed curriculum based on research.

Grant Award	Funding \$89,225.00
Grant Purpose	Non-profit award for the implementation of an educational catch-up program
Mission	The goal of Day Nursery's summer program is to continue the important work of preparing students for kindergarten.

Grant Request

Day Nursery Association (DNA) mainly serves a population of students who are under 300 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. DNA serves at-risk populations such as incarcerated parents, single parents, mental health issues, grandparents raising their grandchildren, students with differing abilities, teenage parents, parents in school, minority populations, and families that are struggling with serious health issues. This project will improve the overall experience of their students, families, volunteers, and DNA staff by providing an optimal clean-air learning and working environment. DNA partners with many agencies in the area, i.e., The United Way, NEIU19, ACE of NEPA, St. Joseph's Center, WIC, Weinberg Food Bank, AmeriHealth, University of Scranton, Lackawanna College, Keystone College, Lackawanna County Blind Association, PennAEYC, Scranton School District, Mid-Valley School District, Well-Kind Early Learning School and Discovery Montessori Preschool along with many others in collaboration to provide a high-quality early learning environment.

After COVID-19, children struggled with developmental delays (especially in speech, language, and social skills) due to virtual learning, masking, and lack of academic exposure. The goal of Day Nursery's summer program is to continue the important work of preparing students for kindergarten. This summer program will offer a fun and inviting way to continue learning by reinforcing knowledge acquired during the academic year and expanding on it using a purposely designed curriculum based on research.

Day Nursery's Summer program is designed to serve a minimum of 30 and a maximum of 54 students ages 3 to 5 years of age. The priority for enrolling will be based on current enrollment in Day Nursery Association, students transitioning to kindergarten, and students from disproportionately impacted groups such as those below the 300 percent of Federal Income Poverty Guidelines (FIPG), homeless, and special needs.

Program Outcomes

The goals for the program were to provide academic, social emotional and real-life experiences for children ages 3-5. Over the course of 10 weeks these goals were achieved, and all objectives were met.

The goal was to serve a maximum of 54 students who fell under the 300 percent of the federal poverty guideline. This goal was exceeded by serving 60 children over a course of 10 weeks.

This summer program provided a fun and inviting way to continue learning by reinforcing knowledge acquired during the academic year and expanding on it using purposely designed curriculum based on research. Funds were spent on a variety of field trips and in-house visitors, salaries, and professional development.

Day Nursery served approximately 55 moderate-income residents, five from traditionally underserved populations.

Expense Distribution	
Total program expenses	\$73,764.25
Total administration expenses	\$15,640.75
Total program and administration expenses	\$89,225
Any total program Income earned (if any)	\$0.00

SUCCESS STORY

“Day Nursery Association’s summer camp was a huge success with our students, teachers and families. All objectives were met, and our students enjoyed many experiences that they would not have had an opportunity to experience.”

ACE Childcare Grant

ACE provides Weatherization, Early Learning Education, Workforce Training, Background Clearance, Veterans Service, Affordable Housing, Transportation, and more.

Grant Award	\$100,000.00
Grant Purpose	Expansion
Mission	To empower people with the skills to become self-sufficient and enhance their lives through education, training, life skills, and support services.

Grant Purpose

COVID-19 affected early childhood care spaces. As places closed, the need increased. ACE will be using this money to build additional space for children between the ages of birth through five. Grant funding was requested to create additional space for families with incomes below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. These funds will be used to improve the building that houses their Pre-K center. The funds will be used to implement energy-efficient windows, a handicapped entrance, security cameras for classrooms, and additional heating to the basement to prevent pipes from freezing while adding insulation.

Project Outcomes

ACE Childcare was able to provide additional pre-kindergarten classroom space for low-income families. Pre-K educational classroom and support services are offered to each family at no cost and help children and families with educational, health and emotional skills needed that have been exasperated by COVID. As a result of the APRA grant, 79 households were served.

Discovery Montessori

Discovery Montessori provides Montessori-based early childhood education programs to a diverse range of students from Scranton and surrounding areas. At least half of their students will be from families with low to moderate incomes who can attend their programs at reduced tuition or tuition-free through partnerships with community agencies and the Commonwealth of PA.

Grant Award	\$160,000.00
Grant Purpose	Expansion
Mission	Discovery's mission is to ensure at least half of all our students are from families with low to moderate incomes, and this project will continue that mission. This means our programs will directly serve those families most impacted by the Pandemic.

Grant Request

Grant funds were requested to purchase the adjacent building to their current location, which has been offered for sale to the center. The property for sale includes the building currently occupied by the Grove Church and their parking facility and office spaces which are a separate building on the lot. The purchase price for the whole campus is \$275,000 for both buildings and parking facilities. Purchasing this building will provide an additional 5,000 square feet of usable space as well as dedicated parking facilities and a separate office building, allowing Discovery Montessori to:

Increase the capacity in the North Scranton campus from 30 students to more than 100 students. This campus would operate in a childcare capacity year-round, instead of their current ten-month school year, and extend the hours of care from 8-3.30 (M-F) to 7.30-5.30 (M-F) year-round. In keeping with their mission, at least half of all people served at this campus will be from families with low to moderate incomes.

This project has two key goals:

1. To provide new and expanded childcare solutions for Scranton families. These will cater to children aged two through ten, prioritizing families with low to moderate incomes. Some may be families who need local programs and are unable to find them in the current landscape. The Montessori nature of the programs also appeals to families from across Scranton who are willing to travel for this unique educational offering.
2. Create ten to 12 full-time positions in the fields of childcare, education, administration, and support services. Training and development are integral to quality childcare programs and will be available through this project.

Project Outcomes

Funds were used as described in the grant application to purchase the property at 1735 N. Main Ave, Scranton, PA 18508 on October 20, 2023. This building is adjacent to their programs at 1733 N. Main Ave and the additional space will allow them to expand their programs in September 2024.

Discovery Montessori estimates going forward that they will be able to serve approximately 20 estimated low-income residents served and 20 moderate-income residents. Traditional underserved populations that Discovery Montessori reaches includes working families; families recovering from the economic impact of COVID-19; children recovering from the social, emotional, and educational impacts of COVID-19; and minority populations, including African American, Hispanic, and immigrant families.

Expense Description	
Total program expenses	\$325,000
Total administration expenses	\$0
Total program and administration expenses	\$325,000
Any total program income earned (if any)	\$0

Community Grant Electronic Survey Analysis

One participant responded to the electronic survey. This respondent strongly agreed that the funding from the grant award satisfied the anticipated impact of the award and that they met their stated outputs and outcomes. The participant indicated no intended benefits and that they did not encounter any unforeseen barriers or challenges. With regard to forging new relationships or collaborative partnerships, the individual reported that they “are exploring options with community partners to develop additional programs...” Furthermore, the participant strongly agreed that the funding from the grant aware added value to the organization, but they do foresee barriers or challenges going forward. The grant recipient noted that “the process was quick, easy, and fair.” They were “able to serve more families.”

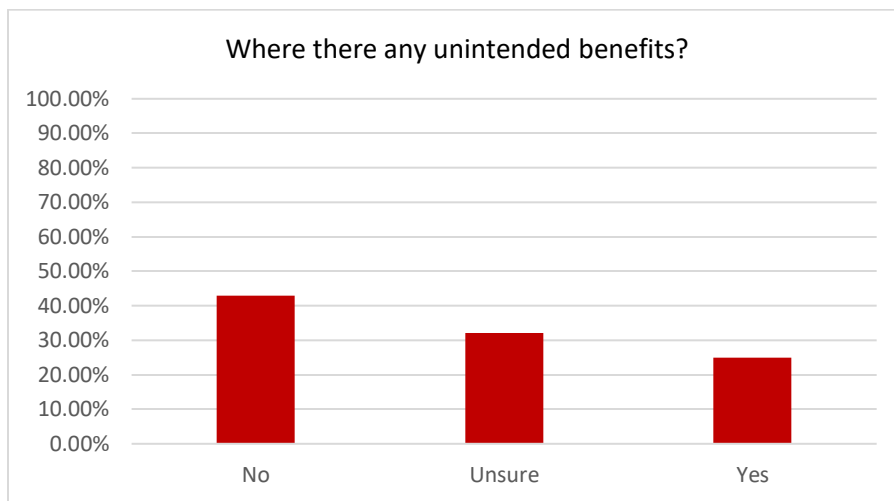
Combined Electronic Survey Analysis

Below is an analysis of the combined grantee survey data collected, representing 28 ARPA grant recipients across the non-profit, start-up/expansion, and community grants.

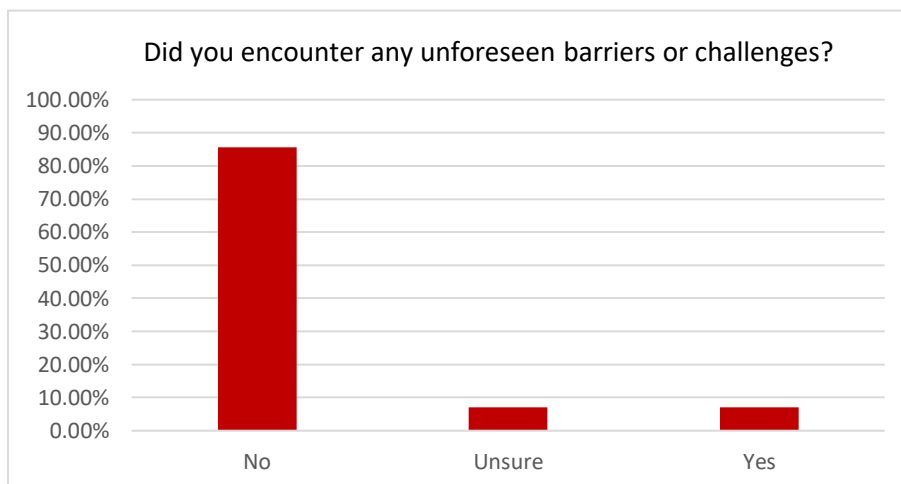
Three-quarters of ARPA grant recipients strongly agreed that the funding from the grant award satisfied the anticipated impact of the award, while 25 percent agreed.

An overwhelming majority (96.43 percent) indicated they met their stated outputs and outcomes, and 3.57 percent were unsure.

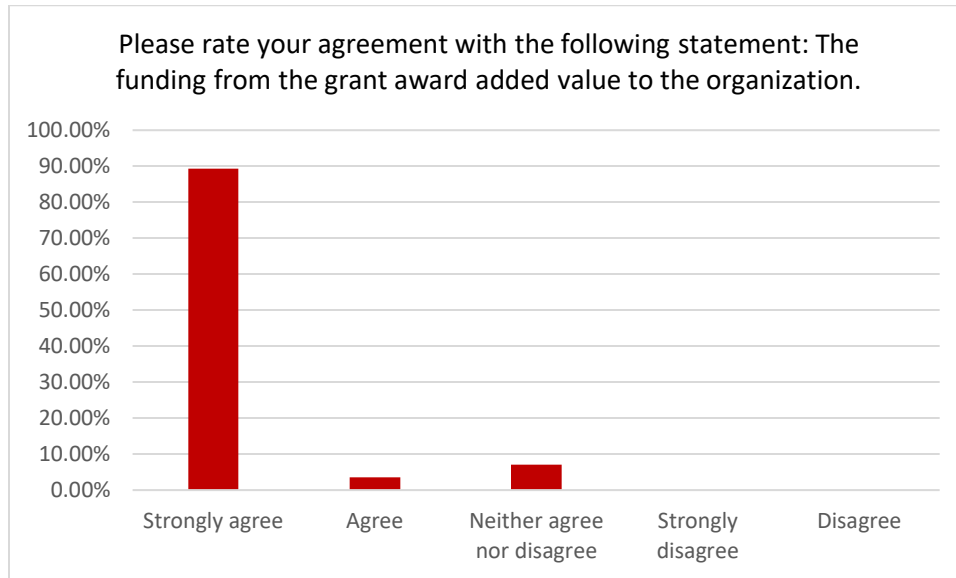
One-quarter of participants stated that there were unintended benefits of their grant receipt. Nearly 43.00 percent indicated no unintended benefits and 32.14 percent were unsure.



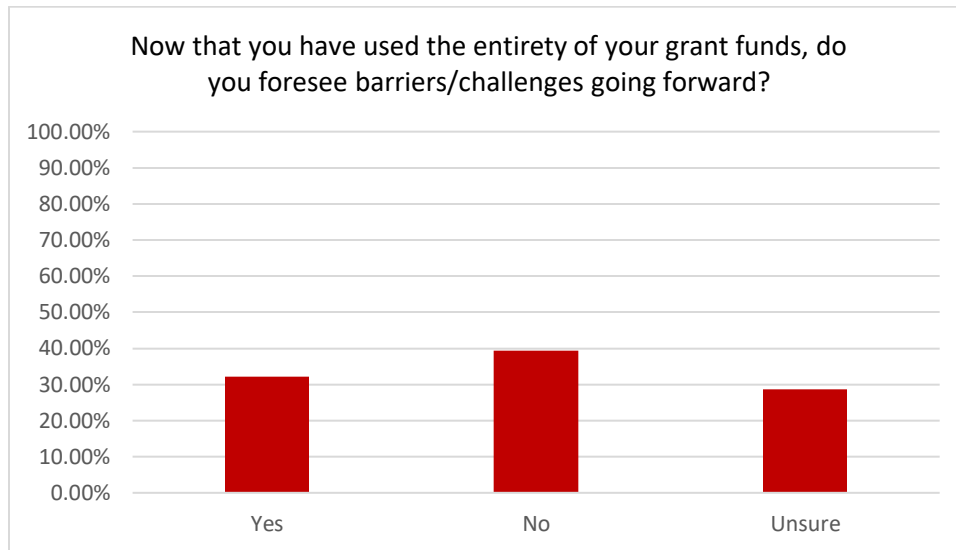
In addition, the majority (85.71 percent) did not encounter any unforeseen barriers or challenges. Over seven percent did encounter unforeseen barriers or challenges, and an equal share was unsure.



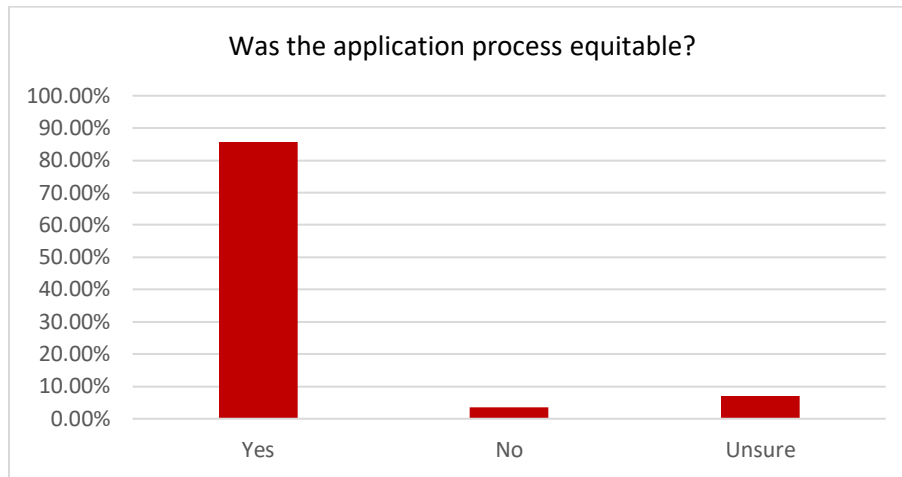
Moreover, the majority of participants (89.29 percent) strongly agreed that the funding from the grant award added value to their organizations, while 3.57 percent agreed and 7.14 percent neither agreed nor disagreed.



Participants were divided as to whether they would encounter barriers or challenges going forward now that the entirety of their grant funds have been used. Over 32.00 percent could foresee barriers or challenges, 39.29 percent could not, and 28.57 percent were unsure.



The vast majority (85.71 percent) stated that they felt the application process was equitable, while 3.57 percent indicated it was not, and 7.14 percent were unsure.



City Improvement Grants

In 1950, 746 million people around the world lived in cities. Today, 3.9 billion do – and that figure is expected to increase by a further 2.5 billion by 2050. This rapid urbanization presents many challenges. One of the most urgent is how to provide infrastructure solutions that can cope with the stress caused by this massive expansion of populations in concentrated spaces. Established cities must build, maintain, and upgrade extensive transport, power, water, and telecommunication networks to keep up with the demands of economic development and population growth. This infrastructure is necessary to continue to progress societies and improve living standards.¹³

Avoiding the potential negative economic consequences of insufficient or failing infrastructure should be considered a core business and societal concern, which requires long-term planning and investment. If managed well, rapid urbanization can bring significant benefits for business, with concentrations of talent and customers driving innovation and growth while increasing standards of living for the billions of individuals who call “the city” their home. Established cities need to upgrade their existing, aging infrastructure to keep them moving today while anticipating the needs of tomorrow.¹³

Maintaining Infrastructure

Infrastructure is an essential component of residential development. Infrastructure can be explained as the facilities, structures, equipment, and similar physical assets that are important for people to thrive as individuals and participate in the economic, political, civic, household, and other roles in ways critical to their own well-being and that of their society.¹⁰

Infrastructure projects are the processes through which these facilities are built. They are typically funded and managed by governments, and they are essential for supporting economic growth and improving the quality of life for the people who live in a community.¹¹

Infrastructure projects are often large and complex, requiring significant planning and resources to complete successfully. They can include the construction of new roads, the expansion of a school, or the installation of a new municipal water system – but these are just a few examples of the long list of

infrastructure components. Nearly every construction project that supports a community usually has an infrastructure component.¹¹

The City projects discussed below have been identified as all steps being completed.

Police Department Street Cameras

Grant funds for LPR cameras for the City police department were purchased from Keystone Fire & Security. The City of Scranton sought to expand upon the City's Street camera surveillance program and LPR (License plate reader program). Both programs are crucial to the safety of the residents and visitors of Scranton.

Grant Award	\$186,165.00
Grant Purpose	Street cameras

This project aims to expand upon the City's current LPR and street camera surveillance systems. We are looking to add new cameras in high-traffic areas for added safety for citizens and visitors to the City of Scranton. These cameras and LPRs will enable the Scranton Police Department to prevent criminal activity better and investigate crimes committed.

Estimated Project Costs:

- 83,883.00 for surveillance cameras
- 153,755.00 for LPRs
- 7,140.00 Power for Installation
- 7,290.96 for software installation

Key Performance Indicators listed in the itemized budget that should be captured include:

- Number of traffic accidents captured on surveillance cameras
- Number of crimes captured on surveillance cameras
- Number of license plates scanned/recorded

License plate readers offer:

- Benefits of deterring crime. When it comes to the benefits of license plate readers, the most apparent benefit is deterring criminal activity.
- Collecting Information
- Enhanced Security
- Traffic Calming

LPRs also offer data insights, which allow law enforcement personnel to determine the threat level of a situation before entering a building or making a traffic stop. That level of knowledge and warning not only saves lives but also ensures that quick and concise action is taken to address any situation.

Remaining funds from the grant award are \$108,783.27 and there are no reports available.

Storm Water System Maintenance

As an infrastructure measure to maintain stormwater systems, a DPW vacuum truck for stormwater drain cleaning was purchased for the City.

Grant Award	\$597,730.00
Grant Purpose	DPW Vacuum Truck

The truck was purchased from A&H Equipment, headquartered in Zelienople, PA.¹

Storm drains are essential to the city. Storm drain cleaning is equally important. Stormwater is any weather precipitation – heavy rains or melting snow and ice – too voluminous to be absorbed by the earth. Stormwater flowing from rooftops washes through driveways, parking lots, bare soil, lawns, gardens, and many other places where there may be contaminants such as pesticides, fertilizers, household or automotive chemicals, and natural threats like mold and animal waste.² Storm drain systems are designed to move excess rain and groundwater from paved streets, parking lots, sidewalks, and walking paths. These storm drains are usually fed by the street gutters, often fed by excess water flow from guttering systems on houses and commercial buildings. Some common pollutants found in storm drains include:²

- trash and debris
- oil and grease
- antifreeze
- mineral deposits
- paints
- cleaners and solvents
- pesticides
- fertilizers
- tree roots
- animal waste
- detergents
- sediments

Stormwater that cannot drain fast enough stagnates and will spread these pollutants over the property or neighborhood. Especially in severe rainstorms, efficient drainage is essential, or contaminated groundwater, erosion, and related health and environmental issues could result.

Storm drainage systems need to be cleaned regularly. While cleaning is necessary for all storm drain systems, there are limitations. Clogged drains can cause an overflow of water, leading to increased erosion and dangerous driving conditions. Areas with relatively flat grades or low water flow often require special attention as they rarely achieve high enough water flows to flush themselves.³

Professional storm drain cleaning uses powerful water jet blasting machines and hydro vacuum trucks to pressure wash municipal storm drains and suck up the gunk. There are multiple benefits to regular storm drain cleaning.⁴

Protect Property- Storm drain cleaning is necessary to prevent clogs in the pipes. If the storm drains clog, flooding will happen, and flooding is no small matter. A flood can swamp entire streets and cause

inestimable property damage to hundreds of homes and businesses. That is no way to run a community. Enlisting storm drain cleaning services is a simple preventative fix to the flooding disaster.⁴

Reduce Icy Patches- Water pooling or freezing can result in icy spots that can be potentially dangerous, but the possibility of this occurring can be significantly lowered by having a good drainage system.⁵

Avoid Spreading Contaminants- The likelihood of spreading diseases and toxins is increased when attention is not paid to collecting stormwater because of its inherent toxins. However, an efficient stormwater drainage system means that water will not collect, and thus, the development of diseases will be limited.⁵

Protect Wildlife and Plant Life- Wildlife and plant life can suffer significantly from storm drain flooding. A flood can sweep wildlife and even water life away and kill them. Because one should not underestimate the power of a flood, one should not overlook how disastrous wildlife loss can be either. Plant life, such as landscaping, trees, etc., can also die from a flood. This loss would be another form of property damage to homes, businesses, and cities.⁴

Extend Stormwater System Lifespan- Regular municipal storm drain cleaning extends the stormwater system's lifespan. It allows water to drain through it as it should and keeps debris from corroding its pipes.⁴

Protect Lives- Flooding can endanger more than property, plant, and animal life. It also puts human life at risk in more than one way. First, a flood can also sweep people away and cause drowning, even a storm drain flood. Second, a flood can contaminate drinking water. Flood water carries bacteria, sewage, animal feces, and other dangerous particles. Cities that keep their storm drains clean can avoid all of these problems.⁴

Minimizing Infrastructure Damage- When the water coming from storm drains that are backed up is not redirected from roads, properties, cables, plumbing systems, and sidewalks, the result can be severe damage. An effective and dependable stormwater drainage system can help prevent damage to infrastructure and preserve roads, underground pipes and cables, and walkways.⁵

Filtering- Grates should be able to filter out the type of waste that can cause blockages in sewer systems, such as falling leaves in autumn. Small particles should be able to keep flowing through in order to prevent the grate from becoming clogged up.⁵

The purchase of a vacuum truck can also provide:

Cost Savings- The traditional or conventional excavation methods often require many workers to do the site clearing and digging. Vacuum trucks need only one or two operators to complete the task, saving labor costs.⁶

Efficient Operation- A vacuum truck equates to less downtime and can easily be put back into operation as soon as the cleaning process is complete. Also, waste is captured directly into the truck's debris tanks, making it ready to be disposed of.⁶

Time-Saving- Vacuum trucks can help save time on municipalities' projects compared to a traditional excavation method. Municipalities can do five times more work than they would typically do with an old technique by utilizing vacuum trucks.⁶

All funds awarded for this grant award have been disbursed.

Meadow Brooke Culvert Repair

This infrastructure project included building demolition, protection of adjacent work, and assurance that no additional damage was caused to the existing culvert beneath the garage during the demolition procedures.

Grant Award	\$165,260.00
Grant Purpose	Meadowbrook culvert repair

By way of background, the City issued an Emergency Declaration to address flooding of properties on the 1700 block of Wyoming Avenue. While work was occurring, it was identified by the City's engineer, Reilley, and Associates, that additional repairs would be needed to extend the piping under the adjacent property. To conduct such repairs, it is necessary to temporarily move the garage to access the area for pipe installation.

The City obtained an estimate from T Brennan Heavy Equipment for \$45,460.00 to conduct the work pursuant to the Emergency Declaration previously issued. A public body may, by change order, provide for minor changes and additions to the contract as may be reasonably necessary to complete the work within the scope of the original contract, provided that the changes do not significantly vary from the original scope of work and are not of such importance (in monetary value or scope of work) so as to amount to a new undertaking. Here, the original project was aimed at remediating the flooding occurring from the Meadow Brook culvert onto several residential properties, and the extension of the piping has become necessary to fulfill this original purpose per the recommendation of the City Engineer.

All grant funds for this award have been disbursed.

East Mountain Stormwater Drainage Assessment Herbert, Rowland & Grubic

Funds were used for the East Mountain Stormwater Drainage Assessment. A Request for Qualification (RFQ) was issued to interested parties with sufficient information to prepare and submit proposals for consideration by the City of Scranton for East Mountain Stormwater Drainage Assessment. The scope of services sought include, but are not limited to, professional engineering firms to perform a full and complete drainage and stormwater management study of the East Mountain Section of the City of Scranton.

All funds have been disbursed for this grant.

Grant Award	\$178,000.00
Grant Purpose	Stormwater and porous paving

Walkability Study Action Plan

Grant funds were used to acquire the services of Speck & Associates LLC to undertake a connectivity study and traffic analysis for the City.

The Speck & Associates team conducted a walkability analysis for downtown Scranton, consisting principally of the following steps and product:

- Plan review
- Initial public presentation
- Recommended changes to the existing street network, including reconsideration of one-way streets
- Recommended changes to the number and width of lanes on certain streets
- Recommended changes to the provision and design of turn lanes
- Recommended changes to the signalization regimes at downtown intersections
- Recommended bicycle facilities
- Recommended changes to on-street parking provision

All funds have been disbursed for this grant.

Grant Award	\$239,800.00
Grant Purpose	COVID-19 Vaccine

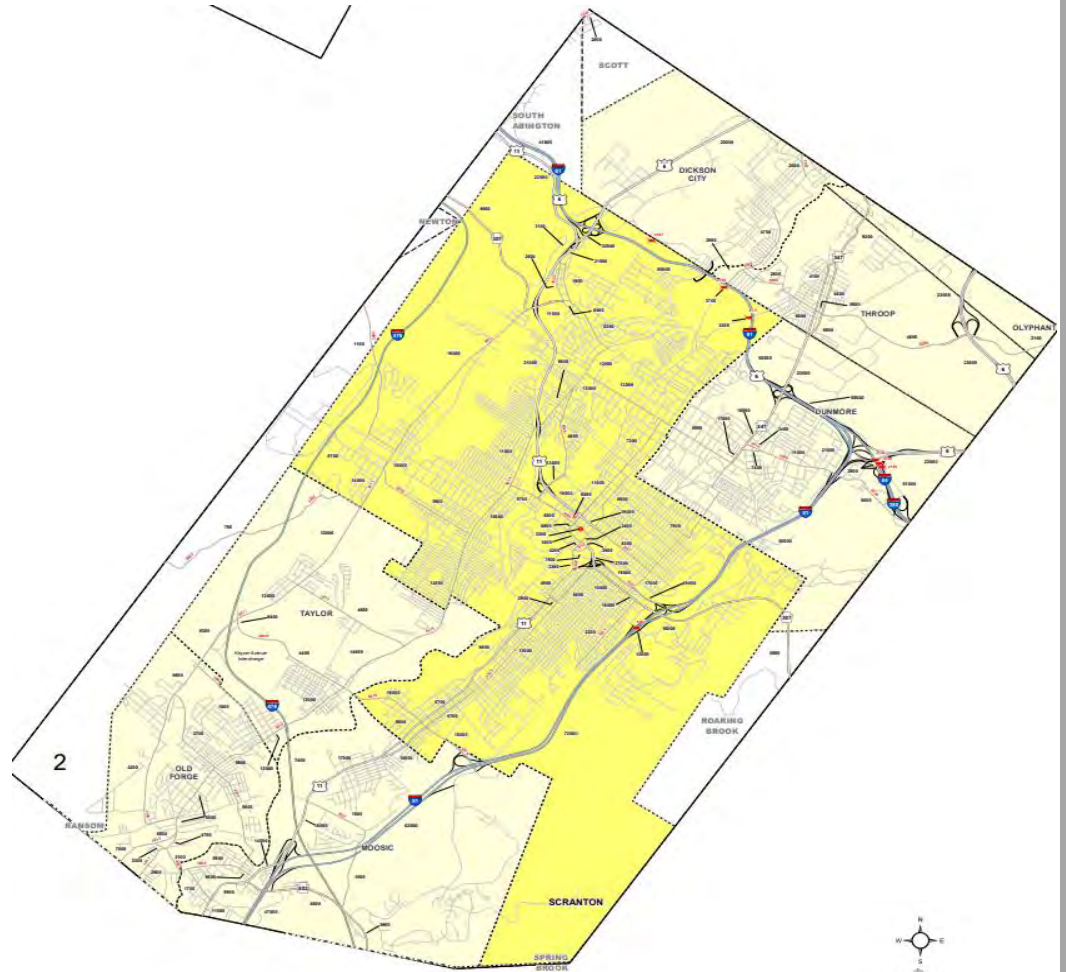
City Paving

This project includes milling and overlaying with new bituminous paving material for selected streets city-wide. Work shall include new Storm Water Drainage improvements as well.




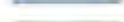


Grant Award	\$1,200,000.00
Grant Purpose	Milling and overlay

Road infrastructure development in a country has been considered a significant predictor of economic development and prosperity.⁷ This is because road infrastructure plays a crucial role by providing mobility for the efficient movements of people and goods, as well as providing accessibility to a wide variety of commercial and social activities.⁸ Roads make a crucial contribution to economic development and growth and bring significant social benefits. Moreover, they are of vital importance in order to help a city grow and develop. In addition, providing access to employment, social, health, and education services makes a road network crucial in fighting against poverty. Roads open up more areas and stimulate economic and social development. For those reasons, road infrastructure is a critically important public asset.⁹ It also supports workers, providing millions of jobs yearly in building and maintenance. A Brookings Institution analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics data reveals that 14 million people have jobs in fields directly related to infrastructure. From locomotive engineers and electrical power line installers, truck drivers and airline pilots, construction laborers, and meter readers, infrastructure jobs account for nearly 11 percent of the nation's workforce, offering employment opportunities with low entry barriers and are projected to grow over the next decade.¹² The map below illustrates the volumes of annual average daily traffic in the City of Scranton.¹⁹

All grant funds for this award have been disbursed.



LEGEND

-  State Boundary
-  County Boundary
-  Borough Boundary
-  City Boundary
-  Fully Controlled Access
-  Fully Controlled Access
-  US Route
-  PA Route
-  State Route
-  Local Road
-  County Seats
-  Traffic Volume Number
-  State Maintained Bridge

Volumes shown are annual average daily traffic based on the most current information available.

Enlargement scale is 2:1 unless noted otherwise.



2021
AADT
Traffic Volume Map
Published August 2022
**Lackawanna County
Pennsylvania**

Prepared by the
Pennsylvania Department of Transportation
Bureau of Planning and Research
Transportation Planning Division
In cooperation with the
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration

Energy Efficiency Upgrades

Homes and commercial buildings consume 40 percent of the energy used in the United States. Of the \$2,000 the average American spends paying for energy annually, \$200 to \$400 is potentially going to waste from drafts, air leaks around openings, and outdated heating and cooling systems. By reducing these losses through energy efficiency upgrades, residents can save money and be more comfortable in homes and businesses.¹⁶

Software Upgrades for Heating and Cool City Hall and Weston Field House

This energy efficiency will upgrade the system control for the city hall and Weston Field House HVAC.

Grant Award	\$48,905.00
Grant Purpose	Software Upgrades heating/cooling City Hall and Weston

This contract has been awarded as a sole-source to Siemens as it was determined that:

- 1) The existing equipment is proprietary to Siemens and
- 2) To replace all of the existing equipment, allowing for open specification, would require a substantial investment to remove and replace all proprietary components, much greater than the cost to simply replace the existing server. As such, a sole source procurement was deemed appropriate and allowable by COS legal.

HVAC Emergency Services Building

This contract has been awarded to Scranton Electric Heating and Cooling Services, Inc. for the purposes of replacing the HVAC system at the Public Safety Building, former Serrenti Army Reserve Center 1801 Pine St, Scranton, PA 18510.

Grant Award	\$698,581.00
Grant Purpose	HVAC System replacement

The remaining funds from the grant award are \$84,581.00.

Energy efficiency upgrades have numerous benefits, some of which are detailed below:

Reduced energy bills. The latest HVAC systems are built to be more eco-friendly and energy-efficient, reducing a company's carbon footprint.¹⁴

Cleaner air. Old HVAC systems are more likely to accumulate excess dust and dirt. A new HVAC system will ensure a clean indoor environment and a workforce free of respiratory issues.¹⁴

Simpler maintenance appointments. With a new HVAC system, both time, money, and effort are saved.¹⁴

Better Energy Efficiency. Energy-efficient systems with energy-saving technologies can save on repair and maintenance costs.¹⁵

Improved Employee Health. Excellent indoor air quality helps maintain good health for employees. A new HVAC system has better components, such as air purifiers and filters that kill contaminants like viruses or bacteria present in the air.¹⁵

Increased Comfort

A new HVAC system has technology that enables consistent humidity and reliable temperatures across a building.¹⁵

Less Impact on the Environment

High-efficiency systems use less electricity compared to older ones and conserve the environment by reducing waste. Investing in a new HVAC system will also reduce carbon monoxide emissions that are harmful to the environment.¹⁵

Easy Maintenance and Repair

Older HVAC systems have high operating costs. Replacing components such as motors and coils can be expensive. In contrast, programs on some newer systems will notify you if there is a problem before the system breaks down.¹⁵

Public Health

COVID-19 Vaccine

\$1,086.20 was funded for administration/personnel costs to advertise a COVID-19 vaccine clinic. All funds have been disbursed for this grant.

Grant Award	\$1,687.22
Grant Purpose	COVID-19 Vaccine

Conclusion

This grantee assessment aimed to evaluate whether the ARPA funding is making the anticipated impact and creating a difference across the City of Scranton. Additionally, a focus is placed on any challenges ARPA grantees experience and the equitable use of ARPA monies. The survey results combined with the semi-structured interview data point to a clear and measurable effect on the lives of residents across the priority areas for investment.

An overall evaluation creates a picture of community impact with wide-reaching effects of the ARPA funds. Through the ARPA funding, grantees reached socially and economically challenged community members, historically marginalized community members, families, children, and older adults. Grantees assisted a number of vulnerable populations and addressed food insecurity, education challenges, and the underemployed community. These efforts resulted in equitable recovery opportunities for the grantees and the community. City improvements were undertaken, improving all community members' lives.

Though ARPA funds uplifted a number of non-profit and profit businesses throughout the City, it is important to note that one business, Adezzo, did not survive despite being a recipient of the ARPA grant. Adezzo opened in 2015 but stated that “the lack of customers in the last two-and-a-half years led to the decision to close.” The final day of business at Adezzo was November 5, 2023.^{17,18} Although ARPA offered \$71,000 in assistance, the funding cannot account for the lack of foot traffic that the business experienced on a daily basis.

Despite this consideration, the ARPA funds as distributed have helped to position the City as a desirable community in which to live, work, and build a business. Furthermore, grantees have expressed that the ARPA funding has aided in strengthening or creating partnerships and collaborative relationships, which are critical to creating lasting change and tackling critical community issues. Nonetheless, while ARPA funds have provided short-term gains, many grantees express concern over long-term impact and viability concerning programs and services.

Recommendations

The recommendations below have been informed by the mixed-methods research conducted, as well as an examination of the grant applications and documents provided through the ARPA portal, Neighborly. Moving forward, the City should consider these recommendations for future community investments.

Grant Processes

Several participants identified communication challenges. One pointed to the pre-approval process, specifically that they received three requests for additional information. Without knowing if this was an early grant in process, the problem may have been resolved once the City and/or SACF were more familiar with the ARPA requirements.

Communication regarding grant awards should contain clear and concise language or framework for use of the awards. Virtual communication and resource hubs can also be created for City officials and grantees to have an open communication channel, ensuring all parties have organized and relevant information.

In addition, future grant activities create opportunities to further integrate community outreach and engagement. An assertive community outreach and engagement process also creates a chance for trust-building between the City and the community.

The City should frequently communicate grant opportunities as well as progress in these projects through news releases, community conversations, direct connections with residents, and inclusion of details on City websites. Information regarding ARPA spending on websites and social media should be contained in a dedicated area with progress updated continually. It is vital to use social media to advertise opportunities to community members and to ensure a wider reach. The City should also consider direct email communication about grant projects when possible. Tutorials and webinars teaching grantees about all of the facets of Neighborly may also be feasible.

Equity and Inclusion

ARPA funding allowed the for-profit and non-profit business sectors to have access to flexible financial assistance. Continuing forward, it is critical to apply an equity framework to target these same outcomes and opportunities across historically marginalized populations, to rely on community input throughout the program lifecycle, and to revise programs for maximum accessibility and fairness.

Equitable Program Administration Strategies

Future grantmaking should include increased focus on access and opportunity to ensure that ARPA funds are distributed fairly, openly, and equitably. City officials should evaluate existing engagement practices, identify which populations have not been reached through the ARPA funding, and consider possible barriers that underserved and marginalized communities might face.

Opportunities to engage community members involve:²⁰

Language access – Written materials intended for public consumption should be translated, and public meetings and events should be accessible in a variety of languages via interpretation.

Advance notice – Public meetings should be announced and distributed through multiple channels, such as local media, social media, and community-based organizations.

Work-friendly timing – Public events should be scheduled on different days and times so residents with different shift hours are able to attend.

Accessible locations – Public meetings should be accessible to people with disabilities, offer free parking, and be located near public transit. Additionally, public meetings should be held in different parts of the City.

Childcare – On-site childcare should be considered for public meetings, so families with children can fully participate.

Digital Inclusivity – In-person and online meetings should be held so that digital fluency or reliable internet access are not barriers to participation.

Utilize Trusted Sources - Community-based organizations can assist in reaching and engaging hard-to-reach populations effectively.

Given the critical role of small businesses as generators of economic mobility, equitable recovery strategies and equity-promoting investments should be the focus of future investments.²¹ To stabilize and grow businesses owned by people of color and immigrants, the City should also consider implementing an equity framework and equity impact assessment as a part of the selection and evaluation process.

Equity-Oriented Program Guidelines

Future investment program guidelines should incorporate equity-oriented practices into the ARPA funding process. Examples of equity-oriented program guidelines include:²²

The Austin Live Music Venue Preservation Fund required applicants to attend three racial equity workshops and create an Equity Strategic Plan before receiving grants up to \$40,000 a month for six months (not to exceed \$140,000).

The Austin Non-Profit Relief Grant and the Austin Small Business Relief Grant scored applicants using a matrix that included criteria for need, vulnerability, and equity.

The Austin Childcare Provider Relief Grant awarded additional grant funds to childcare operators located in historically marginalized communities.

The Austin Mental Wellness Support Line provides mental health counseling in English, Spanish, and over 150 other languages.

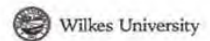
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