

AGENDA

Committee on Equity, Diversity & Inclusion AGENDA FOR APRIL 27, 2022 AT 4:30 PM



Lansing City Hall, City Council Conference Room
124 W. Michigan Avenue, 10th Floor

To provide input or ask questions on any item that is listed on the agenda,
members of the public may contact the City Council at city.council@lansingmi.gov or (517) 483-4177 prior to the meeting.

Council Member Jackson, Chairperson
Council Member Brown, Vice Chairperson
Council Member Hussain, Member

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Minutes**
 - A. April 13, 2022
4. **Public Comment on Agenda Items (Up to 3 Minutes)**
5. **Presentations:**
 - B. Funding and Eligible Spending
6. **Discussion/Action:**
 - C. DISCUSSION - Potential Policy/Procedure on LPD Process and Complaint Business Card
7. **Other**
8. **Adjourn**

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Minutes
Committee on Equity, Diversity & Inclusion
Wednesday, April 13, 2022 @ 4:30 p.m.
City Council Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Jackson called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Council Member Jackson, Chair
Council Member Brown, Vice-Chair
Council Member Hussain, Member

OTHERS PRESENT

Sherrie Boak, Council Staff
Kim Coleman, HRCS
Lisa Hagen, OCA
Mary Bowen, OCA
Guadalupe Ayala, HRCS

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public present at this time, therefore no public comment.

MINUTES

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM MARCH 23, 2022 AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

DISCUSSION

ORDINANCE – Chapter 256; Section 256.01-256.03; Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Advisory Board

Council Member Brown asked Ms. Coleman how the Advisory Board is positioned within the City and how it plans to operate in conjunction with the ordinance. Ms. Coleman noted the structure is similar to the HRCS Board; this board will work with the City and Ms. Ayala to carry out goals and objectives in the MRJEA plan. The objectives in that plan will occupy the time of this Advisory Board in carrying out the MRJEA plan and component. Council Member Brown asked for a copy of the MRJEA plan that Ms. Coleman was referencing, and the group referred to earlier distribution of the plan and the City website.

Council Member Jackson noted the Advisory Board will have many tasks, and having this as an ordinance will make it a permanent Advisory Board until it is repealed.

Council Member Hussain asked about how broad the Board will expand in its work, and the documents that could come out of it as operational. Ms. Coleman expanded stating this Board will review any ordinances or policy changes that could have an impact on the community.

Ms. Hagen referenced the website where the MRJEA is located, and Council Member Brown confirmed it was provided to him, but still requested copy.

Ms. Ayala stated it can be found at www.lansingmi.gov/mrjea . Ms. Coleman appealed the Committee to take action on the ordinance so the Advisory Board can start carrying out the MRJEA plan. Council Member Hussain asked if Ms. Ayala would be staffing the Advisory Board and she confirmed.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE FOR CHAPTER 256; SECTION 256.01-256.03; DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION (DEI) ADVISORY BOARD. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

RESOLUTION – Membership Consideration for Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Advisory Board

Council Member Jackson recapped for the group that in the past there was a Mayor Diversity Equity and Inclusion Advisory Board, and with this resolution Council is asking the Mayor to consider those past serving members as possible members of this new City Advisory Board.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER BROWN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR MEMBERSHIP CONSIDERATION FOR DIVERSITY EQUITY AND INCLUSION (DEI) ADVISORY BOARD. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

PRESENTATION

CARES Funding; Eligible Spending

Council Member Jackson recessed the meeting at 4:42 p.m. waiting on response from Mr. Brower to attend.

Council Member Jackson brought the meeting back to order at 4:47 p.m.

Mr. Bower noted to Council Member Hussain that he forgot to place the meeting on his calendar and Council Member Jackson asked for him to attend on April 27th.

Council Member Jackson expanded for the Committee and to be relayed to Mr. Brower that the discussion will be on what funding is proposed in the budget and any ARPA funds that will speak to Equity Diversity and Inclusion, as was stated in the Mayors and Finance Budget Executive Summary.

OTHER

No other topics of discussion.

Adjourn

Adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Submitted, Sherrie Boak

Recording Secretary, Lansing City Council

Approved by the Committee on



Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds: Overview of the Final Rule

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

January 2022



The Overview of the Final Rule provides a summary of major provisions of the final rule for informational purposes and is intended as a brief, simplified user guide to the final rule provisions.

The descriptions provided in this document summarize key provisions of the final rule but are non-exhaustive, do not describe all terms and conditions associated with the use of SLFRF, and do not describe all requirements that may apply to this funding. Any SLFRF funds received are also subject to the terms and conditions of the agreement entered into by Treasury and the respective jurisdiction, which incorporate the provisions of the final rule and the guidance that implements this program.



Contents

Introduction	4
Overview of the Program	6
Replacing Lost Public Sector Revenue	9
Responding to Public Health and Economic Impacts of COVID-19	12
Responding to the Public Health Emergency	14
Responding to Negative Economic Impacts	16
Assistance to Households	17
Assistance to Small Businesses	21
Assistance to Nonprofits	23
Aid to Impacted Industries	24
Public Sector Capacity	26
Public Safety, Public Health, and Human Services Staff	26
Government Employment and Rehiring Public Sector Staff	27
Effective Service Delivery	28
Capital Expenditures	30
Framework for Eligible Uses Beyond those Enumerated	32
Premium Pay	35
Water & Sewer Infrastructure	37
Broadband Infrastructure	39
Restrictions on Use	41
Program Administration	43



Introduction

The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF), a part of the American Rescue Plan, delivers \$350 billion to state, local, and Tribal governments across the country to support their response to and recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency. The program ensures that governments have the resources needed to:

- Fight the pandemic and support families and businesses struggling with its public health and economic impacts,
- Maintain vital public services, even amid declines in revenue, and
- Build a strong, resilient, and equitable recovery by making investments that support long-term growth and opportunity.

EARLY PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

In May 2021, Treasury published the Interim final rule (IFR) describing eligible and ineligible uses of funds (as well as other program provisions), sought feedback from the public on these program rules, and began to distribute funds. The IFR went immediately into effect in May, and since then, governments have used SLFRF funds to meet their immediate pandemic response needs and begin building a strong and equitable recovery, such as through providing vaccine incentives, development of affordable housing, and construction of infrastructure to deliver safe and reliable water.

As governments began to deploy this funding in their communities, Treasury carefully considered the feedback provided through its public comment process and other forums. Treasury received over 1,500 comments, participated in hundreds of meetings, and received correspondence from a wide range of governments and other stakeholders.

KEY CHANGES AND CLARIFICATIONS IN THE FINAL RULE

The final rule delivers broader flexibility and greater simplicity in the program, responsive to feedback in the comment process. Among other clarifications and changes, the final rule provides the features below.

Replacing Lost Public Sector Revenue

The final rule offers a standard allowance for revenue loss of \$10 million, allowing recipients to select between a standard amount of revenue loss or complete a full revenue loss calculation. Recipients that select the standard allowance may use that amount – in many cases their full award – for government services, with streamlined reporting requirements.

Public Health and Economic Impacts

In addition to programs and services, the final rule clarifies that recipients can use funds for capital expenditures that support an eligible COVID-19 public health or economic response. For example, recipients may build certain affordable housing, childcare facilities, schools, hospitals, and other projects consistent with final rule requirements.



In addition, the final rule provides an expanded set of households and communities that are presumed to be “impacted” and “disproportionately impacted” by the pandemic, thereby allowing recipients to provide responses to a broad set of households and entities without requiring additional analysis. Further, the final rule provides a broader set of uses available for these communities as part of COVID-19 public health and economic response, including making affordable housing, childcare, early learning, and services to address learning loss during the pandemic eligible in all impacted communities and making certain community development and neighborhood revitalization activities eligible for disproportionately impacted communities.

Further, the final rule allows for a broader set of uses to restore and support government employment, including hiring above a recipient’s pre-pandemic baseline, providing funds to employees that experienced pay cuts or furloughs, avoiding layoffs, and providing retention incentives.

Premium Pay

The final rule delivers more streamlined options to provide premium pay, by broadening the share of eligible workers who can receive premium pay without a written justification while maintaining a focus on lower-income and frontline workers performing essential work.

Water, Sewer & Broadband Infrastructure

The final rule significantly broadens eligible broadband infrastructure investments to address challenges with broadband access, affordability, and reliability, and adds additional eligible water and sewer infrastructure investments, including a broader range of lead remediation and stormwater management projects.

FINAL RULE EFFECTIVE DATE

The final rule takes effect on April 1, 2022. Until that time, the interim final rule remains in effect; funds used consistently with the IFR while it is in effect are in compliance with the SLFRF program.

However, recipients can choose to take advantage of the final rule’s flexibilities and simplifications now, even ahead of the effective date. Treasury will not take action to enforce the interim final rule to the extent that a use of funds is consistent with the terms of the final rule, regardless of when the SLFRF funds were used. Recipients may consult the *Statement Regarding Compliance with the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Interim Final Rule and Final Rule*, which can be found on Treasury’s website, for more information on compliance with the interim final rule and the final rule.



Overview of the Program

The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program provides substantial flexibility for each jurisdiction to meet local needs within the four separate eligible use categories. This Overview of the Final Rule addresses the four eligible use categories ordered from the broadest and most flexible to the most specific.

Recipients may use SLFRF funds to:

- **Replace lost public sector revenue**, using this funding to provide government services up to the amount of revenue loss due to the pandemic.
 - Recipients may determine their revenue loss by choosing between two options:
 - A standard allowance of up to \$10 million in aggregate, not to exceed their award amount, during the program;
 - Calculating their jurisdiction's specific revenue loss each year using Treasury's formula, which compares actual revenue to a counterfactual trend.
 - Recipients may use funds up to the amount of revenue loss for government services; generally, services traditionally provided by recipient governments are government services, unless Treasury has stated otherwise.
- **Support the COVID-19 public health and economic response** by addressing COVID-19 and its impact on public health as well as addressing economic harms to households, small businesses, nonprofits, impacted industries, and the public sector.
 - Recipients can use funds for programs, services, or capital expenditures that respond to the public health and negative economic impacts of the pandemic.
 - To provide simple and clear eligible uses of funds, Treasury provides a list of enumerated uses that recipients can provide to households, populations, or classes (i.e., groups) that experienced pandemic impacts.
 - Public health eligible uses include COVID-19 mitigation and prevention, medical expenses, behavioral healthcare, and preventing and responding to violence.
 - Eligible uses to respond to negative economic impacts are organized by the type of beneficiary: assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits.
 - Each category includes assistance for "impacted" and "disproportionately impacted" classes: impacted classes experienced the general, broad-based impacts of the pandemic, while disproportionately impacted classes faced meaningfully more severe impacts, often due to preexisting disparities.
 - To simplify administration, the final rule presumes that some populations and groups were impacted or disproportionately impacted and are eligible for responsive services.



- Eligible uses for assistance to impacted households include aid for re-employment, job training, food, rent, mortgages, utilities, affordable housing development, childcare, early education, addressing learning loss, and many more uses.
- Eligible uses for assistance to impacted small businesses or nonprofits include loans or grants to mitigate financial hardship, technical assistance for small businesses, and many more uses.
- Recipients can also provide assistance to impacted industries like travel, tourism, and hospitality that faced substantial pandemic impacts, or address impacts to the public sector, for example by re-hiring public sector workers cut during the crisis.
- Recipients providing funds for enumerated uses to populations and groups that Treasury has presumed eligible are clearly operating consistently with the final rule. Recipients can also identify (1) other populations or groups, beyond those presumed eligible, that experienced pandemic impacts or disproportionate impacts and (2) other programs, services, or capital expenditures, beyond those enumerated, to respond to those impacts.
- **Provide premium pay for eligible workers performing essential work**, offering additional support to those who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical sectors.
 - Recipients may provide premium pay to eligible workers – generally those working in-person in key economic sectors – who are below a wage threshold or non-exempt from the Fair Labor Standards Act overtime provisions, or if the recipient submits justification that the premium pay is responsive to workers performing essential work.
- **Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure**, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, to support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand affordable access to broadband internet.
 - Recipients may fund a broad range of water and sewer projects, including those eligible under the EPA’s Clean Water State Revolving Fund, EPA’s Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, and certain additional projects, including a wide set of lead remediation, stormwater infrastructure, and aid for private wells and septic units.
 - Recipients may fund high-speed broadband infrastructure in areas of need that the recipient identifies, such as areas without access to adequate speeds, affordable options, or where connections are inconsistent or unreliable; completed projects must participate in a low-income subsidy program.

While recipients have considerable flexibility to use funds to address the diverse needs of their communities, some restrictions on use apply across all eligible use categories. These include:

- **For states and territories:** No offsets of a reduction in net tax revenue resulting from a change in state or territory law.

Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds: Overview of the Final Rule



- **For all recipients except for Tribal governments:** No extraordinary contributions to a pension fund for the purpose of reducing an accrued, unfunded liability.
- **For all recipients:** No payments for debt service and replenishments of rainy day funds; no satisfaction of settlements and judgments; no uses that contravene or violate the American Rescue Plan Act, Uniform Guidance conflicts of interest requirements, and other federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Under the SLFRF program, funds must be used for costs incurred on or after March 3, 2021. Further, funds must be obligated by December 31, 2024, and expended by December 31, 2026. This time period, during which recipients can expend SLFRF funds, is the “period of performance.”

In addition to SLFRF, the American Rescue Plan includes other sources of funding for state and local governments, including the [Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund](#) to fund critical capital investments including broadband infrastructure; the [Homeowner Assistance Fund](#) to provide relief for our country’s most vulnerable homeowners; the [Emergency Rental Assistance Program](#) to assist households that are unable to pay rent or utilities; and the [State Small Business Credit Initiative](#) to fund small business credit expansion initiatives. Eligible recipients are encouraged to visit the Treasury website for more information.



Replacing Lost Public Sector Revenue

The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide needed fiscal relief for recipients that have experienced revenue loss due to the onset of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Specifically, SLFRF funding may be used to pay for “government services” in an amount equal to the revenue loss experienced by the recipient due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Government services generally include any service traditionally provided by a government, including construction of roads and other infrastructure, provision of public safety and other services, and health and educational services. Funds spent under government services are subject to streamlined reporting and compliance requirements.

In order to use funds under government services, recipients should first determine revenue loss. They may, then, spend up to that amount on general government services.

DETERMINING REVENUE LOSS

Recipients have two options for how to determine their amount of revenue loss. Recipients must choose one of the two options and cannot switch between these approaches after an election is made.

- 1. Recipients may elect a “standard allowance” of \$10 million to spend on government services through the period of performance.**

Under this option, which is newly offered in the final rule Treasury presumes that up to \$10 million in revenue has been lost due to the public health emergency and recipients are permitted to use that amount (not to exceed the award amount) to fund “government services.” The standard allowance provides an estimate of revenue loss that is based on an extensive analysis of average revenue loss across states and localities, and offers a simple, convenient way to determine revenue loss, particularly for SLFRF’s smallest recipients.

All recipients may elect to use this standard allowance instead of calculating lost revenue using the formula below, including those with total allocations of \$10 million or less. Electing the standard allowance does not increase or decrease a recipient’s total allocation.

- 2. Recipients may calculate their actual revenue loss according to the formula articulated in the final rule.**

Under this option, recipients calculate revenue loss at four distinct points in time, either at the end of each calendar year (e.g., December 31 for years 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023) or the end of each fiscal year of the recipient. Under the flexibility provided in the final rule, recipients can choose whether to use calendar or fiscal year dates but must be consistent throughout the period of performance. Treasury has also provided several adjustments to the definition of general revenue in the final rule.

To calculate revenue loss at each of these dates, recipients must follow a four-step process:



- a. Calculate revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the public health emergency (i.e., last full fiscal year before January 27, 2020), called the *base year revenue*.
- b. Estimate *counterfactual revenue*, which is equal to the following formula, where n is the number of months elapsed since the end of the base year to the calculation date:

$$\text{base year revenue} \times (1 + \text{growth adjustment})^{\frac{n}{12}}$$

The *growth adjustment* is the greater of either a standard growth rate—5.2 percent—or the recipient’s average annual revenue growth in the last full three fiscal years prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

- c. Identify *actual revenue*, which equals revenues collected over the twelve months immediately preceding the calculation date.

Under the final rule, recipients must adjust actual revenue totals for the effect of tax cuts and tax increases that are adopted after the date of adoption of the final rule (January 6, 2022). Specifically, the estimated fiscal impact of tax cuts and tax increases adopted after January 6, 2022, must be added or subtracted to the calculation of actual revenue for purposes of calculation dates that occur on or after April 1, 2022.

Recipients may subtract from their calculation of actual revenue the effect of tax increases enacted prior to the adoption of the final rule. Note that recipients that elect to remove the effect of tax increases enacted before the adoption of the final rule must also remove the effect of tax decreases enacted before the adoption of the final rule, such that they are accurately removing the effect of tax policy changes on revenue.

- d. Revenue loss for the calculation date is equal to *counterfactual revenue* minus *actual revenue* (adjusted for tax changes) for the twelve-month period. If actual revenue exceeds counterfactual revenue, the loss is set to zero for that twelve-month period. Revenue loss for the period of performance is the sum of the revenue loss on for each calculation date.

The supplementary information in the final rule provides an example of this calculation, which recipients may find helpful, in the Revenue Loss section.



SPENDING ON GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Recipients can use SLFRF funds on government services up to the revenue loss amount, whether that be the standard allowance amount or the amount calculated using the above approach. **Government services generally include *any service traditionally provided by a government***, unless Treasury has stated otherwise. Here are some common examples, although this list is not exhaustive:

- ✓ Construction of schools and hospitals
- ✓ Road building and maintenance, and other infrastructure
- ✓ Health services
- ✓ General government administration, staff, and administrative facilities
- ✓ Environmental remediation
- ✓ Provision of police, fire, and other public safety services (including purchase of fire trucks and police vehicles)

Government services is the most flexible eligible use category under the SLFRF program, and funds are subject to streamlined reporting and compliance requirements. Recipients should be mindful that certain restrictions, which are detailed further in the Restrictions on Use section and apply to all uses of funds, apply to government services as well.



Responding to Public Health and Economic Impacts of COVID-19

The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide resources for governments to meet the public health and economic needs of those impacted by the pandemic in their communities, as well as address longstanding health and economic disparities, which amplified the impact of the pandemic in disproportionately impacted communities, resulting in more severe pandemic impacts.

The eligible use category to respond to public health and negative economic impacts is organized around the types of assistance a recipient may provide and includes several sub-categories:

- public health,
- assistance to households,
- assistance to small businesses,
- assistance to nonprofits,
- aid to impacted industries, and
- public sector capacity.

In general, to identify eligible uses of funds in this category, recipients should (1) identify a COVID-19 public health or economic impact on an individual or class (i.e., a group) and (2) design a program that responds to that impact. Responses should be related and reasonably proportional to the harm identified and reasonably designed to benefit those impacted.

To provide simple, clear eligible uses of funds that meet this standard, Treasury provides a non-exhaustive list of enumerated uses that respond to pandemic impacts. Treasury also presumes that some populations experienced pandemic impacts and are eligible for responsive services. In other words, recipients providing enumerated uses of funds to populations presumed eligible are clearly operating consistently with the final rule.¹

Recipients also have broad flexibility to (1) identify and respond to other pandemic impacts and (2) serve other populations that experienced pandemic impacts, beyond the enumerated uses and presumed eligible populations. Recipients can also identify groups or “classes” of beneficiaries that experienced pandemic impacts and provide services to those classes.

¹ However, please note that use of funds for enumerated uses may not be grossly disproportionate to the harm. Further, recipients should consult the Capital Expenditures section for more information about pursuing a capital expenditure; please note that enumerated capital expenditures are not presumed to be reasonably proportional responses to an identified harm except as provided in the Capital Expenditures section.



Step	1. Identify COVID-19 public health or economic impact	2. Design a response that addresses or responds to the impact
Analysis	- Can identify impact to a specific household, business or nonprofit or to a class of households, businesses, or nonprofits (i.e., group) - Can also identify disproportionate impacts, or more severe impacts, to a specific beneficiary or to a class	- Types of responses can include a program, service, or capital expenditure - Response should be related and reasonably proportional to the harm - Response should also be reasonably designed to benefit impacted individual or class
Simplifying Presumptions	Final Rule presumes certain populations and classes are impacted and disproportionately impacted	Final Rule provides non-exhaustive list of enumerated eligible uses that respond to pandemic impacts and disproportionate impacts

To assess eligibility of uses of funds, recipients should first determine the sub-category where their use of funds may fit (e.g., public health, assistance to households, assistance to small businesses), based on the entity that experienced the health or economic impact.² Then, recipients should refer to the relevant section for more details on each sub-category.

While the same overall eligibility standard applies to all uses of funds to respond to the public health and negative economic impacts of the pandemic, each sub-category has specific nuances on its application. In addition:

- Recipients interested in using funds for capital expenditures (i.e., investments in property, facilities, or equipment) should review the Capital Expenditures section in addition to the eligible use sub-category.
- Recipients interested in other uses of funds, beyond the enumerated uses, should refer to the section on “Framework for Eligible Uses Beyond Those Enumerated.”

² For example, a recipient interested in providing aid to unemployed individuals is addressing a negative economic impact experienced by a household and should refer to the section on assistance to households. Recipients should also be aware of the difference between “beneficiaries” and “sub-recipients.” Beneficiaries are households, small businesses, or nonprofits that can receive assistance based on impacts of the pandemic that they experienced. On the other hand, sub-recipients are organizations that carry out eligible uses on behalf of a government, often through grants or contracts. Sub-recipients do not need to have experienced a negative economic impact of the pandemic; rather, they are providing services to beneficiaries that experienced an impact.



RESPONDING TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

While the country has made tremendous progress in the fight against COVID-19, including a historic vaccination campaign, the disease still poses a grave threat to Americans' health and the economy. Providing state, local, and Tribal governments the resources needed to fight the COVID-19 pandemic is a core goal of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, as well as addressing the other ways that the pandemic has impacted public health. Treasury has identified several public health impacts of the pandemic and enumerated uses of funds to respond to impacted populations.

- **COVID-19 mitigation and prevention.** The pandemic has broadly impacted Americans and recipients can provide services to prevent and mitigate COVID-19 to the general public or to small businesses, nonprofits, and impacted industries in general. Enumerated eligible uses include:
 - ✓ Vaccination programs, including vaccine incentives and vaccine sites
 - ✓ Testing programs, equipment and sites
 - ✓ Monitoring, contact tracing & public health surveillance (e.g., monitoring for variants)
 - ✓ Public communication efforts
 - ✓ Public health data systems
 - ✓ COVID-19 prevention and treatment equipment, such as ventilators and ambulances
 - ✓ Medical and PPE/protective supplies
 - ✓ Support for isolation or quarantine
 - ✓ Ventilation system installation and improvement
 - ✓ Technical assistance on mitigation of COVID-19 threats to public health and safety
 - ✓ Transportation to reach vaccination or testing sites, or other prevention and mitigation services for vulnerable populations
 - ✓ Support for prevention, mitigation, or other services in congregate living facilities, public facilities, and schools
 - ✓ Support for prevention and mitigation strategies in small businesses, nonprofits, and impacted industries
 - ✓ Medical facilities generally dedicated to COVID-19 treatment and mitigation (e.g., ICUs, emergency rooms)
 - ✓ Temporary medical facilities and other measures to increase COVID-19 treatment capacity
 - ✓ Emergency operations centers & emergency response equipment (e.g., emergency response radio systems)
 - ✓ Public telemedicine capabilities for COVID-19 related treatment



- **Medical expenses.** Funds may be used for expenses to households, medical providers, or others that incurred medical costs due to the pandemic, including:
 - ✓ Unreimbursed expenses for medical care for COVID-19 testing or treatment, such as uncompensated care costs for medical providers or out-of-pocket costs for individuals
 - ✓ Paid family and medical leave for public employees to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions
 - ✓ Emergency medical response expenses
 - ✓ Treatment of long-term symptoms or effects of COVID-19
- **Behavioral health care, such as mental health treatment, substance use treatment, and other behavioral health services.** Treasury recognizes that the pandemic has broadly impacted Americans' behavioral health and recipients can provide these services to the general public to respond. Enumerated eligible uses include:
 - ✓ Prevention, outpatient treatment, inpatient treatment, crisis care, diversion programs, outreach to individuals not yet engaged in treatment, harm reduction & long-term recovery support
 - ✓ Enhanced behavioral health services in schools
 - ✓ Services for pregnant women or infants born with neonatal abstinence syndrome
 - ✓ Support for equitable access to reduce disparities in access to high-quality treatment
 - ✓ Peer support groups, costs for residence in supportive housing or recovery housing, and the 988 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline or other hotline services
 - ✓ Expansion of access to evidence-based services for opioid use disorder prevention, treatment, harm reduction, and recovery
 - ✓ Behavioral health facilities & equipment
- **Preventing and responding to violence.** Recognizing that violence – and especially gun violence – has increased in some communities due to the pandemic, recipients may use funds to respond in these communities through:
 - ✓ Referrals to trauma recovery services for victims of crime
 - ✓ Community violence intervention programs, including:
 - Evidence-based practices like focused deterrence, with wraparound services such as behavioral therapy, trauma recovery, job training, education, housing and relocation services, and financial assistance
 - ✓ In communities experiencing increased gun violence due to the pandemic:
 - Law enforcement officers focused on advancing community policing
 - Enforcement efforts to reduce gun violence, including prosecution
 - Technology & equipment to support law enforcement response



RESPONDING TO NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS

The pandemic caused severe economic damage and, while the economy is on track to a strong recovery, much work remains to continue building a robust, resilient, and equitable economy in the wake of the crisis and to ensure that the benefits of this recovery reach all Americans. While the pandemic impacted millions of American households and businesses, some of its most severe impacts fell on low-income and underserved communities, where pre-existing disparities amplified the impact of the pandemic and where the most work remains to reach a full recovery.

The final rule recognizes that the pandemic caused broad-based impacts that affected many communities, households, and small businesses across the country; for example, many workers faced unemployment and many small businesses saw declines in revenue. The final rule describes these as “impacted” households, communities, small businesses, and nonprofits.

At the same time, the pandemic caused disproportionate impacts, or more severe impacts, in certain communities. For example, low-income and underserved communities have faced more severe health and economic outcomes like higher rates of COVID-19 mortality and unemployment, often because pre-existing disparities exacerbated the impact of the pandemic. The final rule describes these as “disproportionately impacted” households, communities, small businesses, and nonprofits.

To simplify administration of the program, the final rule presumes that certain populations were “impacted” and “disproportionately impacted” by the pandemic; these populations are presumed to be eligible for services that respond to the impact they experienced. The final rule also enumerates a non-exhaustive list of eligible uses that are recognized as responsive to the impacts or disproportionate impacts of COVID-19. Recipients providing enumerated uses to populations presumed eligible are clearly operating consistently with the final rule.

As discussed further in the section Framework for Eligible Uses Beyond Those Enumerated, recipients can also identify other pandemic impacts, impacted or disproportionately impacted populations or classes, and responses.



Assistance to Households

Impacted Households and Communities

Treasury presumes the following households and communities are impacted by the pandemic:

- ✓ Low- or-moderate income households or communities
- ✓ Households that experienced unemployment
- ✓ Households that experienced increased food or housing insecurity
- ✓ Households that qualify for the Children's Health Insurance Program, Childcare Subsidies through the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Program, or Medicaid
- ✓ *When providing affordable housing programs:* households that qualify for the National Housing Trust Fund and Home Investment Partnerships Program
- ✓ *When providing services to address lost instructional time in K-12 schools:* any student that lost access to in-person instruction for a significant period of time

Low- or moderate-income households and communities are those with (i) income at or below 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for the size of the household based on the most recently published poverty guidelines or (ii) income at or below 65 percent of the area median income for the county and size of household based on the most recently published data. For the vast majority of communities, the Federal Poverty Guidelines are higher than the area's median income and using the Federal Poverty Guidelines would result in more households and communities being presumed eligible. Treasury has provided an easy-to-use spreadsheet with Federal Poverty Guidelines and area median income levels on its website.

Recipients can measure income for a specific household or the median income for the community, depending on whether the response they plan to provide serves specific households or the general community. The income thresholds vary by household size; recipients should generally use income thresholds for the appropriate household size but can use a default household size of three when easier for administration or when measuring income for a general community.

The income limit for 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a household of three is \$65,880 per year.³ In other words, recipients can always presume that a household earning below this level, or a community with median income below this level, is impacted by the pandemic and eligible for services to respond. Additionally, by following the steps detailed in the section Framework for Eligible Uses Beyond Those Enumerated, recipients may designate additional households as impacted or disproportionately impacted beyond these presumptions, and may also pursue projects not listed below in response to these impacts consistent with Treasury's standards.

³ For recipients in Alaska, the income limit for 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a household of three is \$82,350 per year. For recipients in Hawaii, the income limit for 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a household of three is \$75,780 per year.



Treasury recognizes the enumerated projects below, which have been expanded under the final rule, as eligible to respond to impacts of the pandemic on households and communities:

- ✓ Food assistance & food banks
- ✓ Emergency housing assistance: rental assistance, mortgage assistance, utility assistance, assistance paying delinquent property taxes, counseling and legal aid to prevent eviction and homelessness & emergency programs or services for homeless individuals, including temporary residences for people experiencing homelessness
- ✓ Health insurance coverage expansion
- ✓ Benefits for surviving family members of individuals who have died from COVID-19
- ✓ Assistance to individuals who want and are available for work, including job training, public jobs programs and fairs, support for childcare and transportation to and from a jobsite or interview, incentives for newly-employed workers, subsidized employment, grants to hire underserved workers, assistance to unemployed individuals to start small businesses & development of job and workforce training centers
- ✓ Financial services for the unbanked and underbanked
- ✓ Burials, home repair & home weatherization
- ✓ Programs, devices & equipment for internet access and digital literacy, including subsidies for costs of access
- ✓ Cash assistance
- ✓ Paid sick, medical, and family leave programs
- ✓ Assistance in accessing and applying for public benefits or services
- ✓ Childcare and early learning services, home visiting programs, services for child welfare-involved families and foster youth & childcare facilities
- ✓ Assistance to address the impact of learning loss for K-12 students (e.g., high-quality tutoring, differentiated instruction)
- ✓ Programs or services to support long-term housing security: including development of affordable housing and permanent supportive housing
- ✓ Certain contributions to an Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund⁴

⁴ Recipients may only use SLFRF funds for contributions to unemployment insurance trust funds and repayment of the principal amount due on advances received under Title XII of the Social Security Act up to an amount equal to (i) the difference between the balance in the recipient's unemployment insurance trust fund as of January 27, 2020 and the balance of such account as of May 17, 2021, plus (ii) the principal amount outstanding as of May 17, 2021 on any advances received under Title XII of the Social Security Act between January 27, 2020 and May 17, 2021. Further, recipients may use SLFRF funds for the payment of any interest due on such Title XII advances. Additionally, a recipient that deposits SLFRF funds into its unemployment insurance trust fund to fully restore the pre-pandemic balance may not draw down that balance and deposit more SLFRF funds, back up to the pre-pandemic balance. Recipients that deposit SLFRF funds into an unemployment insurance trust fund, or use SLFRF funds to repay principal on Title XII advances, may not take action to reduce benefits available to unemployed workers by changing the computation method governing regular unemployment compensation in a way that results in a reduction of average weekly benefit amounts or the number of weeks of benefits payable (i.e., maximum benefit entitlement).



Disproportionately Impacted Households and Communities

Treasury presumes the following households and communities are disproportionately impacted by the pandemic:

- ✓ Low -income households and communities
- ✓ Households residing in Qualified Census Tracts
- ✓ Households that qualify for certain federal benefits⁵
- ✓ Households receiving services provided by Tribal governments
- ✓ Households residing in the U.S. territories or receiving services from these governments

Low-income households and communities are those with (i) income at or below 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for the size of its household based on the most recently published poverty guidelines or (ii) income at or below 40 percent of area median income for its county and size of household based on the most recently published data. For the vast majority of communities, the Federal Poverty Guidelines level is higher than the area median income level and using this level would result in more households and communities being presumed eligible. Treasury has provided an easy-to-use spreadsheet with Federal Poverty Guidelines and area median income levels on its website.

Recipients can measure income for a specific household or the median income for the community, depending on whether the service they plan to provide serves specific households or the general community. The income thresholds vary by household size; recipients should generally use income thresholds for the appropriate household size but can use a default household size of three when easier for administration or when measuring income for a general community.

The income limit for 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a household of three is \$40,626 per year.⁶ In other words, recipients can always presume that a household earning below this level, or a community with median income below this level, is disproportionately impacted by the pandemic and eligible for services to respond.

⁵ These programs are Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Free- and Reduced-Price Lunch (NSLP) and/or School Breakfast (SBP) programs, Medicare Part D Low-Income Subsidies, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Head Start and/or Early Head Start, Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Section 8 Vouchers, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and Pell Grants. For services to address educational disparities, Treasury will recognize Title I eligible schools as disproportionately impacted and responsive services that support the school generally or support the whole school as eligible.

⁶ For recipients in Alaska, the income limit for 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a household of three is \$50,783 per year. For recipients in Hawaii, the income limit for 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines for a household of three is \$46,731 per year



Treasury recognizes the enumerated projects below, which have been expanded under the final rule, as eligible to respond to disproportionate impacts of the pandemic on households and communities:

- ✓ Pay for community health workers to help households access health & social services
- ✓ Remediation of lead paint or other lead hazards
- ✓ Primary care clinics, hospitals, integration of health services into other settings, and other investments in medical equipment & facilities designed to address health disparities
- ✓ Housing vouchers & assistance relocating to neighborhoods with higher economic opportunity
- ✓ Investments in neighborhoods to promote improved health outcomes
- ✓ Improvements to vacant and abandoned properties, including rehabilitation or maintenance, renovation, removal and remediation of environmental contaminants, demolition or deconstruction, greening/vacant lot cleanup & conversion to affordable housing⁷
- ✓ Services to address educational disparities, including assistance to high-poverty school districts & educational and evidence-based services to address student academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs
- ✓ Schools and other educational equipment & facilities

⁷ Please see the final rule for further details and conditions applicable to this eligible use. This includes Treasury's presumption that demolition of vacant or abandoned residential properties that results in a net reduction in occupiable housing units for low- and moderate-income individuals in an area where the availability of such housing is lower than the need for such housing is ineligible for support with SLFRF funds.



Assistance to Small Businesses

Small businesses have faced widespread challenges due to the pandemic, including periods of shutdown, declines in revenue, or increased costs. The final rule provides many tools for recipients to respond to the impacts of the pandemic on small businesses, or disproportionate impacts on businesses where pre-existing disparities like lack of access to capital compounded the pandemic's effects.

Small businesses eligible for assistance are those that experienced negative economic impacts or disproportionate impacts of the pandemic and meet the definition of "small business," specifically:

1. Have no more than 500 employees, or if applicable, the size standard in number of employees [established](#) by the Administrator of the Small Business Administration for the industry in which the business concern or organization operates, and
2. Are a small business concern as defined in section 3 of the Small Business Act⁸ (which includes, among other requirements, that the business is independently owned and operated and is not dominant in its field of operation).

Impacted Small Businesses

Recipients can identify small businesses impacted by the pandemic, and measures to respond, in many ways; for example, recipients could consider:

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|---------------------------------------|--|
| ✓ Decreased revenue or gross receipts | ✓ Capacity to weather financial hardship |
| ✓ Financial insecurity | ✓ Challenges covering payroll, rent or mortgage, and other operating costs |
| ✓ Increased costs | |

Assistance to small businesses that experienced negative economic impacts includes the following enumerated uses:

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| ✓ Loans or grants to mitigate financial hardship, such as by supporting payroll and benefits, costs to retain employees, and mortgage, rent, utility, and other operating costs | ✓ Technical assistance, counseling, or other services to support business planning |
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Disproportionately Impacted Small Businesses

Treasury presumes that the following small businesses are disproportionately impacted by the pandemic:

⁸ 15 U.S.C. 632.



- ✓ Small businesses operating in Qualified Census Tracts
- ✓ Small businesses operated by Tribal governments or on Tribal lands
- ✓ Small businesses operating in the U.S. territories

Assistance to disproportionately impacted small businesses includes the following enumerated uses, which have been expanded under the final rule:

- ✓ Rehabilitation of commercial properties, storefront improvements & façade improvements
- ✓ Technical assistance, business incubators & grants for start-up or expansion costs for small businesses
- ✓ Support for microbusinesses, including financial, childcare, and transportation costs



Assistance to Nonprofits

Nonprofits have faced significant challenges due to the pandemic's increased demand for services and changing operational needs, as well as declines in revenue sources such as donations and fees.

Nonprofits eligible for assistance are those that experienced negative economic impacts or disproportionate impacts of the pandemic and meet the definition of "nonprofit"—specifically those that are 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(19) tax-exempt organizations.

Impacted Nonprofits

Recipients can identify nonprofits impacted by the pandemic, and measures to respond, in many ways; for example, recipients could consider:

- ✓ Decreased revenue (e.g., from donations and fees)
- ✓ Financial insecurity
- ✓ Increased costs (e.g., uncompensated increases in service need)
- ✓ Capacity to weather financial hardship
- ✓ Challenges covering payroll, rent or mortgage, and other operating costs

Assistance to nonprofits that experienced negative economic impacts includes the following enumerated uses:

- ✓ Loans or grants to mitigate financial hardship
- ✓ Technical or in-kind assistance or other services that mitigate negative economic impacts of the pandemic

Disproportionately Impacted Nonprofits

Treasury presumes that the following nonprofits are disproportionately impacted by the pandemic:

- ✓ Nonprofits operating in Qualified Census Tracts
- ✓ Nonprofits operated by Tribal governments or on Tribal lands
- ✓ Nonprofits operating in the U.S. territories

Recipients may identify appropriate responses that are related and reasonably proportional to addressing these disproportionate impacts.



Aid to Impacted Industries

Recipients may use SLFRF funding to provide aid to industries impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Recipients should first designate an impacted industry and then provide aid to address the impacted industry's negative economic impact.

This sub-category of eligible uses does not separately identify disproportionate impacts and corresponding responsive services.

1. Designating an impacted industry. There are two main ways an industry can be designated as "impacted."

1. If the industry is in the travel, tourism, or hospitality sectors (including Tribal development districts), the industry is impacted.
2. If the industry is outside the travel, tourism, or hospitality sectors, the industry is impacted if:
 - a. The industry experienced at least 8 percent employment loss from pre-pandemic levels,⁹ or
 - b. The industry is experiencing comparable or worse economic impacts as the national tourism, travel, and hospitality industries as of the date of the final rule, based on the totality of economic indicators or qualitative data (if quantitative data is unavailable), and if the impacts were generally due to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Recipients have flexibility to define industries broadly or narrowly, but Treasury encourages recipients to define narrow and discrete industries eligible for aid. State and territory recipients also have flexibility to define the industries with greater geographic precision; for example, a state may identify a particular industry in a certain region of a state as impacted.

2. Providing eligible aid to the impacted industry. Aid may only be provided to support businesses, attractions, and Tribal development districts operating prior to the pandemic and affected by required closures and other efforts to contain the pandemic. Further, aid should be generally broadly available to all businesses within the impacted industry to avoid potential conflicts of interest, and Treasury encourages aid to be first used for operational expenses, such as payroll, before being used on other types of costs.

⁹ Specifically, a recipient should compare the percent change in the number of employees of the recipient's identified industry and the national Leisure & Hospitality sector in the three months before the pandemic's most severe impacts began (a straight three-month average of seasonally-adjusted employment data from December 2019, January 2020, and February 2020) with the latest data as of the final rule (a straight three-month average of seasonally-adjusted employment data from September 2021, October 2021, and November 2021). For parity and simplicity, smaller recipients without employment data that measure industries in their specific jurisdiction may use data available for a broader unit of government for this calculation (e.g., a county may use data from the state in which it is located; a city may use data for the county, if available, or state in which it is located) solely for purposes of determining whether a particular industry is an impacted industry.



Treasury recognizes the enumerated projects below as eligible responses to impacted industries.

- ✓ Aid to mitigate financial hardship, such as supporting payroll costs, lost pay and benefits for returning employees, support of operations and maintenance of existing equipment and facilities
- ✓ Technical assistance, counseling, or other services to support business planning
- ✓ COVID-19 mitigation and infection prevention measures (see section Public Health)

As with all eligible uses, recipients may pursue a project not listed above by undergoing the steps outlined in the section Framework for Eligible Uses Beyond Those Enumerated.



PUBLIC SECTOR CAPACITY

Recipients may use SLFRF funding to restore and bolster public sector capacity, which supports government's ability to deliver critical COVID-19 services. There are three main categories of eligible uses to bolster public sector capacity and workforce: Public Safety, Public Health, and Human Services Staff; Government Employment and Rehiring Public Sector Staff; and Effective Service Delivery.

Public Safety, Public Health, and Human Services Staff

SLFRF funding may be used for payroll and covered benefits for public safety, public health, health care, human services and similar employees of a recipient government, for the portion of the employee's time spent responding to COVID-19. Recipients should follow the steps below.

1. **Identify eligible public safety, public health, and human services staff.** Public safety staff include:

- ✓ Police officers (including state police officers)
- ✓ Sheriffs and deputy sheriffs
- ✓ Firefighters
- ✓ Emergency medical responders
- ✓ Correctional and detention officers
- ✓ Dispatchers and supervisor personnel that directly support public safety staff

Public health staff include:

- ✓ Employees involved in providing medical and other physical or mental health services to patients and supervisory personnel, including medical staff assigned to schools, prisons, and other such institutions
- ✓ Laboratory technicians, medical examiners, morgue staff, and other support services essential for patient care
- ✓ Employees of public health departments directly engaged in public health matters and related supervisory personnel

Human services staff include:

- ✓ Employees providing or administering social services and public benefits
- ✓ Child welfare services employees
- ✓ Child, elder, or family care employees

2. **Assess portion of time spent on COVID-19 response for eligible staff.**

Recipients can use a variety of methods to assess the share of an employees' time spent responding to COVID-19, including using reasonable estimates—such as estimating the share of time based on discussions with staff and applying that share to all employees in that position.

For administrative convenience, recipients can consider public health and safety employees entirely devoted to responding to COVID-19 (and their payroll and benefits fully covered by SLFRF) if the



employee, or his or her operating unit or division, is “primarily dedicated” to responding to COVID-19. Primarily dedicated means that more than half of the employee, unit, or division’s time is dedicated to responding to COVID-19.

Recipients must periodically reassess their determination and maintain records to support their assessment, although recipients do not need to track staff hours.

3. **Use SLFRF funding for payroll and covered benefits for the portion of eligible staff time spent on COVID-19 response.** SLFRF funding may be used for payroll and covered benefits for the portion of the employees’ time spent on COVID-19 response, as calculated above, through the period of performance.

Government Employment and Rehiring Public Sector Staff

Under the increased flexibility of the final rule, SLFRF funding may be used to support a broader set of uses to restore and support public sector employment. Eligible uses include hiring up to a pre-pandemic baseline that is adjusted for historic underinvestment in the public sector, providing additional funds for employees who experienced pay cuts or were furloughed, avoiding layoffs, providing worker retention incentives, and paying for ancillary administrative costs related to hiring, support, and retention.

- **Restoring pre-pandemic employment.** Recipients have two options to restore pre-pandemic employment, depending on the recipient’s needs.
 - *If the recipient simply wants to hire back employees for pre-pandemic positions:* Recipients may use SLFRF funds to hire employees for the same positions that existed on January 27, 2020 but that were unfilled or eliminated as of March 3, 2021. Recipients may use SLFRF funds to cover payroll and covered benefits for such positions through the period of performance.
 - *If the recipient wants to hire above the pre-pandemic baseline and/or would like to have flexibility in positions:* Recipients may use SLFRF funds to pay for payroll and covered benefits associated with the recipient increasing its number of budgeted FTEs up to 7.5 percent above its pre-pandemic baseline. Specifically, recipients should undergo the following steps:
 - a. Identify the recipient’s budgeted FTE level on January 27, 2020. This includes all budgeted positions, filled and unfilled. This is called the *pre-pandemic baseline*.
 - b. Multiply the pre-pandemic baseline by 1.075. This is called the *adjusted pre-pandemic baseline*.
 - c. Identify the recipient’s budgeted FTE level on March 3, 2021, which is the beginning of the period of performance for SLFRF funds. Recipients may, but are not required to, exclude the number of FTEs dedicated to responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency. This is called the *actual number of FTEs*.
 - d. Subtract the *actual number of FTEs* from the *adjusted pre-pandemic baseline* to calculate the number of FTEs that can be covered by SLFRF funds. Recipients do not have to hire for the same roles that existed pre-pandemic.

Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds: Overview of the Final Rule



Recipients may use SLFRF funds to cover payroll and covered benefits through the period of performance; these employees must have begun their employment on or after March 3, 2021. Recipients may only use SLFRF funds for additional FTEs hired over the March 3, 2021 level (i.e., the *actual number of FTEs*).

- **Supporting and retaining public sector workers.** Recipients can also use funds in other ways that support the public sector workforce.¹⁰ These include:
 - **Providing additional funding for employees who experienced pay reductions or were furloughed** since the onset of the pandemic, up to the difference in the employee's pay, taking into account unemployment benefits received.
 - **Maintaining current compensation levels to prevent layoffs.** SLFRF funds may be used to maintain current compensation levels, with adjustments for inflation, in order to prevent layoffs that would otherwise be necessary.
 - **Providing worker retention incentives, including reasonable increases in compensation** to persuade employees to remain with the employer as compared to other employment options. Retention incentives must be entirely additive to an employee's regular compensation, narrowly tailored to need, and should not exceed incentives traditionally offered by the recipient or compensation that alternative employers may offer to compete for the employees. Treasury presumes that retention incentives that are less than 25 percent of the rate of base pay for an individual employee or 10 percent for a group or category of employees are reasonably proportional to the need to retain employees, as long as other requirements are met.
- **Covering administrative costs associated with administering the hiring, support, and retention programs above.**

Effective Service Delivery

SLFRF funding may be used to improve the efficacy of public health and economic programs through tools like program evaluation, data, and outreach, as well as to address administrative needs caused or exacerbated by the pandemic. Eligible uses include:

- **Supporting program evaluation, data, and outreach through:**

¹⁰ Recipients should be able to substantiate that these uses of funds are substantially due to the public health emergency or its negative economic impacts (e.g., fiscal pressures on state and local budgets) and respond to its impacts. See the final rule for details on these uses.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

- ✓ Program evaluation and evidence resources
 - ✓ Data analysis resources to gather, assess, share, and use data
 - ✓ Technology infrastructure to improve access to and the user experience of government IT systems, as well as technology improvements to increase public access and delivery of government programs and services
 - ✓ Community outreach and engagement activities
 - ✓ Capacity building resources to support using data and evidence, including hiring staff, consultants, or technical assistance support
- **Addressing administrative needs, including:**
 - ✓ Administrative costs for programs responding to the public health emergency and its economic impacts, including non-SLFRF and non-federally funded programs
 - ✓ Address administrative needs caused or exacerbated by the pandemic, including addressing backlogs caused by shutdowns, increased repair or maintenance needs, and technology infrastructure to adapt government operations to the pandemic (e.g., video-conferencing software, data and case management systems)

**CAPITAL EXPENDITURES**

As described above, the final rule clarifies that recipients may use funds for programs, services, and capital expenditures that respond to the public health and negative economic impacts of the pandemic. Any use of funds in this category for a capital expenditure must comply with the capital expenditure requirements, in addition to other standards for uses of funds.

Capital expenditures are subject to the same eligibility standard as other eligible uses to respond to the pandemic's public health and economic impacts; specifically, they must be related and reasonably proportional to the pandemic impact identified and reasonably designed to benefit the impacted population or class.

For ease of administration, the final rule identifies enumerated types of capital expenditures that Treasury has identified as responding to the pandemic's impacts; these are listed in the applicable sub-category of eligible uses (e.g., public health, assistance to households, etc.). Recipients may also identify other responsive capital expenditures. Similar to other eligible uses in the SLFRF program, no pre-approval is required for capital expenditures.

To guide recipients' analysis of whether a capital expenditure meets the eligibility standard, recipients (with the exception of Tribal governments) must complete and meet the requirements of a written justification for capital expenditures equal to or greater than \$1 million. For large-scale capital expenditures, which have high costs and may require an extended length of time to complete, as well as most capital expenditures for non-enumerated uses of funds, Treasury requires recipients to submit their written justification as part of regular reporting. Specifically:

If a project has total capital expenditures of	and the use is enumerated by Treasury as eligible, then	and the use is beyond those enumerated by Treasury as eligible, then
Less than \$1 million	No Written Justification required	No Written Justification required
Greater than or equal to \$1 million, but less than \$10 million	Written Justification required but recipients are not required to submit as part of regular reporting to Treasury	Written Justification required and recipients must submit as part of regular reporting to Treasury
\$10 million or more	Written Justification required and recipients must submit as part of regular reporting to Treasury	

A Written Justification includes:

- *Description of the harm or need to be addressed.* Recipients should provide a description of the specific harm or need to be addressed and why the harm was exacerbated or caused by the public health emergency. Recipients may provide quantitative information on the extent and the type of harm, such as the number of individuals or entities affected.



- *Explanation of why a capital expenditure is appropriate.* For example, recipients should include an explanation of why existing equipment and facilities, or policy changes or additional funding to pertinent programs or services, would be inadequate.
- *Comparison of proposed capital project against at least two alternative capital expenditures and demonstration of why the proposed capital expenditure is superior.* Recipients should consider the effectiveness of the capital expenditure in addressing the harm identified and the expected total cost (including pre-development costs) against at least two alternative capital expenditures.

Where relevant, recipients should consider the alternatives of improving existing capital assets already owned or leasing other capital assets.

Treasury presumes that the following capital projects are generally ineligible:

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| ✖ Construction of new correctional facilities as a response to an increase in rate of crime | ✖ Construction of convention centers, stadiums, or other large capital projects intended for general economic development or to aid impacted industries |
| ✖ Construction of new congregate facilities to decrease spread of COVID-19 in the facility | |

In undertaking capital expenditures, Treasury encourages recipients to adhere to strong labor standards, including project labor agreements and community benefits agreements that offer wages at or above the prevailing rate and include local hire provisions. Treasury also encourages recipients to prioritize in their procurements employers with high labor standards and to prioritize employers without recent violations of federal and state labor and employment laws.

**FRAMEWORK FOR ELIGIBLE USES BEYOND THOSE ENUMERATED**

As described above, recipients have broad flexibility to identify and respond to other pandemic impacts and serve other populations that experienced pandemic impacts, beyond the enumerated uses and presumed eligible populations. Recipients should undergo the following steps to decide whether their project is eligible:

Step	1. Identify COVID-19 public health or economic impact	2. Design a response that addresses or responds to the impact
Analysis	- Can identify impact to a specific household, business or nonprofit or to a class of households, businesses or nonprofits (i.e., group) - Can also identify disproportionate impacts, or more severe impacts, to a specific beneficiary or to a class	- Types of responses can include a program, service, or capital expenditure - Response should be related and reasonably proportional to the harm - Response should also be reasonably designed to benefit impacted individual or class

1. Identify a COVID-19 public health or negative economic impact on an individual or a class.

Recipients should identify an individual or class that is “impacted” or “disproportionately impacted” by the COVID-19 public health emergency or its negative economic impacts as well as the specific impact itself.

- “Impacted” entities are those impacted by the disease itself or the harmful consequences of the economic disruptions resulting from or exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency. For example, an individual who lost their job or a small business that saw lower revenue during a period of closure would both have experienced impacts of the pandemic.
- “Disproportionately impacted” entities are those that experienced disproportionate public health or economic outcomes from the pandemic; Treasury recognizes that pre-existing disparities, in many cases, amplified the impacts of the pandemic, causing more severe impacts in underserved communities. For example, a household living in a neighborhood with limited access to medical care and healthy foods may have faced health disparities before the pandemic, like a higher rate of chronic health conditions, that contributed to more severe health outcomes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The recipient may choose to identify these impacts at either the individual level or at a class level. If the recipient is identifying impacts at the individual level, they should retain documentation supporting the impact the individual experienced (e.g., documentation of lost revenues from a small business). Such documentation can be streamlined in many cases (e.g., self-attestation that a household requires food assistance).

Recipients also have broad flexibility to identify a “class” – or a group of households, small businesses, or nonprofits – that experienced an impact. In these cases, the recipients should



first identify the class and the impact that it faced. Then, recipients only need to document that the individuals served fall within that class; recipients do not need to document a specific impact to each individual served. For example, a recipient could identify that restaurants in the downtown area faced substantial declines in revenue due to decreased foot traffic from workers; the recipient could develop a program to respond to the impact on that class and only needs to document that the businesses being served are restaurants in the downtown area.

Recipients should keep the following considerations in mind when designating a class:

- **There should be a relationship between the definition of the class and the proposed response.** Larger and less-specific classes are less likely to have experienced similar harms, which may make it more difficult to design a response that appropriately responds to those harms.
- **Classes may be determined on a population basis or on a geographic basis,** and the response should be appropriately matched. For example, a response might be designed to provide childcare to single parents, regardless of which neighborhood they live in, or a response might provide a park to improve the health of a disproportionately impacted neighborhood.
- **Recipients may designate classes that experienced disproportionate impact,** by assessing the impacts of the pandemic and finding that some populations experienced meaningfully more severe impacts than the general public. To determine these disproportionate impacts, recipients:
 - May designate classes based on academic research or government research publications (such as the citations provided in the supplementary information in the final rule), through analysis of their own data, or through analysis of other existing data sources.
 - May also consider qualitative research and sources to augment their analysis, or when quantitative data is not readily available. Such sources might include resident interviews or feedback from relevant state and local agencies, such as public health departments or social services departments.
 - Should consider the quality of the research, data, and applicability of analysis to their determination in all cases.
- **Some of the enumerated uses may also be appropriate responses to the impacts experienced by other classes of beneficiaries.** It is permissible for recipients to provide these services to other classes, so long as the recipient determines that the response is also appropriate for those groups.
- **Recipients may designate a class based on income level, including at levels higher than the final rule definition of "low- and moderate-income."** For example, a recipient may identify that households in their community with incomes above the final rule threshold for low-income nevertheless experienced disproportionate impacts from the pandemic and provide responsive services.

2. **Design a response that addresses or responds to the impact.** Programs, services, and other interventions must be reasonably designed to benefit the individual or class that experienced



the impact. They must also be related and reasonably proportional to the extent and type of impact experienced. For example, uses that bear no relation or are grossly disproportionate to the type or extent of the impact would not be eligible.

“Reasonably proportional” refers to the scale of the response compared to the scale of the harm, as well as the targeting of the response to beneficiaries compared to the amount of harm they experienced; for example, it may not be reasonably proportional for a cash assistance program to provide a very small amount of aid to a group that experienced severe harm and a much larger amount to a group that experienced relatively little harm. Recipients should consider relevant factors about the harm identified and the response to evaluate whether the response is reasonably proportional. For example, recipients may consider the size of the population impacted and the severity, type, and duration of the impact. Recipients may also consider the efficacy, cost, cost-effectiveness, and time to delivery of the response.

For disproportionately impacted communities, recipients may design interventions that address broader pre-existing disparities that contributed to more severe health and economic outcomes during the pandemic, such as disproportionate gaps in access to health care or pre-existing disparities in educational outcomes that have been exacerbated by the pandemic.



Premium Pay

The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds may be used to provide premium pay to eligible workers performing essential work during the pandemic. Premium pay may be awarded to eligible workers up to \$13 per hour. Premium pay must be in addition to wages or remuneration (i.e., compensation) the eligible worker otherwise receives. Premium pay may not exceed \$25,000 for any single worker during the program.

Recipients should undergo the following steps to provide premium pay to eligible workers.

1. **Identify an “eligible” worker.** Eligible workers include workers “needed to maintain continuity of operations of essential critical infrastructure sectors.” These sectors and occupations are eligible:

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| ✓ Health care | ✓ State, local, or Tribal government workforce |
| ✓ Emergency response | ✓ Workers providing vital services to Tribes |
| ✓ Sanitation, disinfection & cleaning | ✓ Educational, school nutrition, and other work required to operate a school facility |
| ✓ Maintenance | ✓ Laundry |
| ✓ Grocery stores, restaurants, food production, and food delivery | ✓ Elections |
| ✓ Pharmacy | ✓ Solid waste or hazardous materials management, response, and cleanup |
| ✓ Biomedical research | ✓ Work requiring physical interaction with patients |
| ✓ Behavioral health | ✓ Dental care |
| ✓ Medical testing and diagnostics | ✓ Transportation and warehousing |
| ✓ Home and community-based health care or assistance with activities of daily living | ✓ Hotel and commercial lodging facilities that are used for COVID-19 mitigation and containment |
| ✓ Family or child care | |
| ✓ Social services | |
| ✓ Public health | |
| ✓ Mortuary | |
| ✓ Critical clinical research, development, and testing necessary for COVID-19 response | |

Beyond this list, the chief executive (or equivalent) of a recipient government may designate additional non-public sectors as critical so long as doing so is necessary to protecting the health and wellbeing of the residents of such jurisdictions.

2. **Verify that the eligible worker performs “essential work,”** meaning work that:

- Is not performed while teleworking from a residence; and
- Involves either:
 - a. regular, in-person interactions with patients, the public, or coworkers of the individual that is performing the work; or
 - b. regular physical handling of items that were handled by, or are to be handled by, patients, the public, or coworkers of the individual that is performing the work.



3. Confirm that the premium pay “responds to” workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency. Under the final rule, which broadened the share of eligible workers who can receive premium pay without a written justification, recipients may meet this requirement in one of three ways:

- Eligible worker receiving premium pay is earning (with the premium included) at or below 150 percent of their residing state or county’s average annual wage for all occupations, as defined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics’ [Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics](#), whichever is higher, on an annual basis; or
- Eligible worker receiving premium pay is not exempt from the Fair Labor Standards Act overtime provisions; or
- If a worker does not meet either of the above requirements, the recipient must submit written justification to Treasury detailing how the premium pay is otherwise responsive to workers performing essential work during the public health emergency. This may include a description of the essential worker’s duties, health, or financial risks faced due to COVID-19, and why the recipient determined that the premium pay was responsive. Treasury anticipates that recipients will easily be able to satisfy the justification requirement for front-line workers, like nurses and hospital staff.

Premium pay may be awarded in installments or lump sums (e.g., monthly, quarterly, etc.) and may be awarded to hourly, part-time, or salaried or non-hourly workers. Premium pay must be paid in addition to wages already received and may be paid retrospectively. A recipient may not use SLFRF to merely reimburse itself for premium pay or hazard pay already received by the worker, and premium pay may not be paid to volunteers.



Water & Sewer Infrastructure

The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds may be used to make necessary investments in water and sewer infrastructure. State, local, and Tribal governments have a tremendous need to address the consequences of deferred maintenance in drinking water systems and removal, management, and treatment of sewage and stormwater, along with additional resiliency measures needed to adapt to climate change.

Recipients may undertake the eligible projects below:

PROJECTS ELIGIBLE UNDER EPA'S CLEAN WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND (CWSRF)

Eligible projects under the CWSRF, and the final rule, include:

- ✓ Construction of publicly owned treatment works
- ✓ Projects pursuant to implementation of a nonpoint source pollution management program established under the Clean Water Act (CWA)
- ✓ Decentralized wastewater treatment systems that treat municipal wastewater or domestic sewage
- ✓ Management and treatment of stormwater or subsurface drainage water
- ✓ Water conservation, efficiency, or reuse measures
- ✓ Development and implementation of a conservation and management plan under the CWA
- ✓ Watershed projects meeting the criteria set forth in the CWA
- ✓ Energy consumption reduction for publicly owned treatment works
- ✓ Reuse or recycling of wastewater, stormwater, or subsurface drainage water
- ✓ Security of publicly owned treatment works

Treasury encourages recipients to review the EPA handbook for the [CWSRF](#) for a full list of eligibilities.

PROJECTS ELIGIBLE UNDER EPA'S DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND (DWSRF)

Eligible drinking water projects under the DWSRF, and the final rule, include:

- ✓ Facilities to improve drinking water quality
- ✓ Transmission and distribution, including improvements of water pressure or prevention of contamination in infrastructure and lead service line replacements
- ✓ New sources to replace contaminated drinking water or increase drought resilience, including aquifer storage and recovery system for water storage
- ✓ Green infrastructure, including green roofs, rainwater harvesting collection, permeable pavement
- ✓ Storage of drinking water, such as to prevent contaminants or equalize water demands
- ✓ Purchase of water systems and interconnection of systems
- ✓ New community water systems

Treasury encourages recipients to review the EPA handbook for the [DWSRF](#) for a full list of eligibilities.

Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds: Overview of the Final Rule



ADDITIONAL ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

With broadened eligibility under the final rule, SLFRF funds may be used to fund additional types of projects— such as additional stormwater infrastructure, residential wells, lead remediation, and certain rehabilitations of dams and reservoirs — beyond the CWSRF and DWSRF, if they are found to be “necessary” according to the definition provided in the final rule and outlined below.

- ✓ Culvert repair, resizing, and removal, replacement of storm sewers, and additional types of stormwater infrastructure
- ✓ Infrastructure to improve access to safe drinking water for individual served by residential wells, including testing initiatives, and treatment/remediation strategies that address contamination
- ✓ Dam and reservoir rehabilitation if primary purpose of dam or reservoir is for drinking water supply and project is necessary for provision of drinking water
- ✓ Broad set of lead remediation projects eligible under EPA grant programs authorized by the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act, such as lead testing, installation of corrosion control treatment, lead service line replacement, as well as water quality testing, compliance monitoring, and remediation activities, including replacement of internal plumbing and faucets and fixtures in schools and childcare facilities

A “necessary” investment in infrastructure must be:

- (1) responsive to an identified need to achieve or maintain an adequate minimum level of service, which may include a reasonable projection of increased need, whether due to population growth or otherwise,
- (2) a cost-effective means for meeting that need, taking into account available alternatives, and
- (3) for investments in infrastructure that supply drinking water in order to meet projected population growth, projected to be sustainable over its estimated useful life.

Please note that DWSRF and CWSRF-eligible projects are generally presumed to be necessary investments. Additional eligible projects generally must be responsive to an identified need to achieve or maintain an adequate minimum level of service. Recipients are only required to assess cost-effectiveness of projects for the creation of new drinking water systems, dam and reservoir rehabilitation projects, or projects for the extension of drinking water service to meet population growth needs. Recipients should review the supplementary information to the final rule for more details on requirements applicable to each type of investment.

APPLICABLE STANDARDS & REQUIREMENTS

Treasury encourages recipients to adhere to strong labor standards, including project labor agreements and community benefits agreements that offer wages at or above the prevailing rate and include local hire provisions. Treasury also encourages recipients to prioritize in their procurements employers with high labor standards and to prioritize employers without recent violations of federal and state labor and employment laws.

Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds: Overview of the Final Rule



Broadband Infrastructure

The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds may be used to make necessary investments in broadband infrastructure, which has been shown to be critical for work, education, healthcare, and civic participation during the public health emergency. The final rule broadens the set of eligible broadband infrastructure investments that recipients may undertake.

Recipients may pursue investments in broadband infrastructure meeting technical standards detailed below, as well as an expanded set of cybersecurity investments.

BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENTS

Recipients should adhere to the following requirements when designing a broadband infrastructure project:

1. **Identify an eligible area for investment.** Recipients are encouraged to prioritize projects that are designed to serve locations without access to reliable wireline 100/20 Mbps broadband service (meaning service that reliably provides 100 Mbps download speed and 20 Mbps upload speed through a wireline connection), but are broadly able to invest in projects designed to provide service to locations with an identified need for additional broadband investment. Recipients have broad flexibility to define need in their community. Examples of need could include:

- ✓ Lack of access to a reliable high-speed broadband connection
- ✓ Lack of affordable broadband
- ✓ Lack of reliable service

If recipients are considering deploying broadband to locations where there are existing and enforceable federal or state funding commitments for reliable service of at least 100/20 Mbps, recipients must ensure that SLFRF funds are designed to address an identified need for additional broadband investment that is not met by existing federal or state funding commitments. Recipients must also ensure that SLFRF funds will not be used for costs that will be reimbursed by the other federal or state funding streams.

2. **Design project to meet high-speed technical standards.** Recipients are required to design projects to, upon completion, reliably meet or exceed symmetrical 100 Mbps download and upload speeds. In cases where it is not practicable, because of the excessive cost of the project or geography or topography of the area to be served by the project, eligible projects may be designed to reliably meet or exceed 100/20 Mbps and be scalable to a minimum of symmetrical 100 Mbps download and upload speeds.

Treasury encourages recipients to prioritize investments in fiber-optic infrastructure wherever feasible and to focus on projects that will achieve last-mile connections. Further, Treasury encourages recipients to prioritize support for broadband networks owned, operated by, or affiliated with local governments, nonprofits, and co-operatives.



3. **Require enrollment in a low-income subsidy program.** Recipients must require the service provider for a broadband project that provides service to households to either:

- ✓ Participate in the FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)
- ✓ Provide access to a broad-based affordability program to low-income consumers that provides benefits commensurate to ACP

Treasury encourages broadband services to also include at least one low-cost option offered without data usage caps at speeds sufficient for a household with multiple users to simultaneously telework and engage in remote learning. Recipients are also encouraged to consult with the community on affordability needs.

CYBERSECURITY INVESTMENTS

SLFRF may be used for modernization of cybersecurity for existing and new broadband infrastructure, regardless of their speed delivery standards. This includes modernization of hardware and software.

APPLICABLE STANDARDS & REQUIREMENTS

Treasury encourages recipients to adhere to strong labor standards, including project labor agreements and community benefits agreements that offer wages at or above the prevailing rate and include local hire provisions. Treasury also encourages recipients to prioritize in their procurements employers with high labor standards and to prioritize employers without recent violations of federal and state labor and employment laws.



Restrictions on Use

While recipients have considerable flexibility to use Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to address the diverse needs of their communities, some restrictions on use of funds apply.

OFFSET A REDUCTION IN NET TAX REVENUE

- **States and territories may not use this funding to directly or indirectly offset a reduction in net tax revenue resulting from a change in law, regulation, or administrative interpretation beginning on March 3, 2021, through the last day of the fiscal year in which the funds provided have been spent.** If a state or territory cuts taxes during this period, it must demonstrate how it paid for the tax cuts from sources other than SLFRF, such as by enacting policies to raise other sources of revenue, by cutting spending, or through higher revenue due to economic growth. If the funds provided have been used to offset tax cuts, the amount used for this purpose must be repaid to the Treasury.

DEPOSITS INTO PENSION FUNDS

- **No recipients except Tribal governments may use this funding to make a deposit to a pension fund.** Treasury defines a “deposit” as an extraordinary contribution to a pension fund for the purpose of reducing an accrued, unfunded liability. While pension deposits are prohibited, recipients may use funds for routine payroll contributions connected to an eligible use of funds (e.g., for public health and safety staff). Examples of extraordinary payments include ones that:
 - ✖ Reduce a liability incurred prior to the start of the COVID-19 public health emergency and occur outside the recipient's regular timing for making the payment
 - ✖ Occur at the regular time for pension contributions but is larger than a regular payment would have been

ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

Additional restrictions and requirements that apply across all eligible use categories include:

- **No debt service or replenishing financial reserves.** Since SLFRF funds are intended to be used prospectively, recipients may not use SLFRF funds for debt service or replenishing financial reserves (e.g., rainy day funds).
- **No satisfaction of settlements and judgments.** Satisfaction of any obligation arising under or pursuant to a settlement agreement, judgment, consent decree, or judicially confirmed debt restructuring in a judicial, administrative, or regulatory proceeding is itself not an eligible use. However, if a settlement requires the recipient to provide services or incur other costs that are an eligible use of SLFRF funds, SLFRF may be used for those costs.
- **Additional general restrictions.** SLFRF funds may not be used for a project that conflicts with or contravenes the purpose of the American Rescue Plan Act statute (e.g., uses of funds that

Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds: Overview of the Final Rule



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

undermine COVID-19 mitigation practices in line with CDC guidance and recommendations) and may not be used in violation of the Award Terms and Conditions or conflict of interest requirements under the Uniform Guidance. Other applicable laws and regulations, outside of SLFRF program requirements, may also apply (e.g., laws around procurement, contracting, conflicts-of-interest, environmental standards, or civil rights).



Program Administration

The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds final rule details a number of administrative processes and requirements, including on distribution of funds, timeline for use of funds, transfer of funds, treatment of loans, use of funds to meet non-federal match or cost-share requirements, administrative expenses, reporting on use of funds, and remediation and recoupment of funds used for ineligible purposes. This section provides a summary for the most frequently asked questions.

TIMELINE FOR USE OF FUNDS

Under the SLFRF, funds must be used for costs incurred on or after March 3, 2021. Further, costs must be obligated by December 31, 2024, and expended by December 31, 2026.

TRANSFERS

Recipients may undertake projects on their own or through subrecipients, which carry out eligible uses on behalf of a recipient, including pooling funds with other recipients or blending and braiding SLFRF funds with other sources of funds. Localities may also transfer their funds to the state through section 603(c)(4), which will decrease the locality's award and increase the state award amounts.

LOANS

Recipients may generally use SLFRF funds to provide loans for uses that are otherwise eligible, although there are special rules about how recipients should track program income depending on the length of the loan. Recipients should consult the final rule if they seek to utilize these provisions.

NON-FEDERAL MATCH OR COST-SHARE REQUIREMENTS

Funds available under the "revenue loss" eligible use category (sections 602(c)(1)(C) and 603(c)(1)(C) of the Social Security Act) generally may be used to meet the non-federal cost-share or matching requirements of other federal programs. However, note that SLFRF funds may not be used as the non-federal share for purposes of a state's Medicaid and CHIP programs because the Office of Management and Budget has approved a waiver as requested by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services pursuant to 2 CFR 200.102 of the Uniform Guidance and related regulations.

SLFRF funds beyond those that are available under the revenue loss eligible use category may not be used to meet the non-federal match or cost-share requirements of other federal programs, other than as specifically provided for by statute. As an example, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provides that SLFRF funds may be used to meet the non-federal match requirements of authorized Bureau of Reclamation projects and certain broadband deployment projects. Recipients should consult the final rule for further details if they seek to utilize SLFRF funds as a match for these projects.

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

SLFRF funds may be used for direct and indirect administrative expenses involved in administering the program. For details on permissible direct and indirect administrative costs, recipients should refer to Treasury's [Compliance and Reporting Guidance](#). Costs incurred for the same purpose in like circumstances must be treated consistently as either direct or indirect costs.

Coronavirus State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds: Overview of the Final Rule



REPORTING, COMPLIANCE & RECOUPMENT

Recipients are required to comply with Treasury's [Compliance and Reporting Guidance](#), which includes submitting mandatory periodic reports to Treasury.

Funds used in violation of the final rule are subject to remediation and recoupment. As outlined in the final rule, Treasury may identify funds used in violation through reporting or other sources. Recipients will be provided with an initial written notice of recoupment with an opportunity to submit a request for reconsideration before Treasury provides a final notice of recoupment. If the recipient receives an initial notice of recoupment and does not submit a request for reconsideration, the initial notice will be deemed the final notice. Treasury may pursue other forms of remediation and monitoring in conjunction with, or as an alternative to, recoupment.

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Final Rule: Frequently Asked Questions

This document contains answers to frequently asked questions regarding the Final Rule of the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF, or Fiscal Recovery Funds). The final rule is effective on April 1, 2022. Treasury intends to update this document periodically in response to questions received from stakeholders. Recipients and stakeholders should consult the final rule for additional information, as this document does not describe all relevant requirements that apply to the SLFRF program. Recipients also may find helpful the Overview of the Final Rule, which provides a summary of major provisions of the final rule for informational purposes.

- For overall information about the program, including information on requesting funding, please see <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments>
- For general questions about SLFRF, please email SLFRF@treasury.gov.

Answers to frequently asked questions on distribution of funds to non-entitlement units of local government (NEUs) can be found in this FAQ supplement.

Answers to frequently asked questions on the taxability and reporting of payments from SLFRF can be found in this FAQ issued by the IRS.

The FAQs in this document are applicable to the final rule, although readers will notice that many have been incorporated from the FAQs that were available in connection with the interim final rule, because they remain applicable. Answers to frequently asked questions that are unique to the interim final rule remain available at Interim Final Rule: Frequently Asked Questions. A categorization is provided on the following page to assist in identifying the FAQs that remain largely the same as in the FAQ document associated with the interim final rule and the FAQs that are new or have been updated in conformity with the final rule.

Throughout these FAQs, Treasury may refer readers to relevant sections of the Overview of the Final Rule. The Overview of the Final Rule provides a summary of major provisions of the final rule for informational purposes and is intended as a brief, simplified user guide to the final rule provisions. The descriptions provided in the Overview summarize key provisions of the final rule but are non-exhaustive, do not describe all terms and conditions associated with the use of SLFRF funds, and do not describe all requirements that may apply to this funding. Any SLFRF funds received are also subject to the terms and conditions of the agreement entered into by Treasury and the respective jurisdiction, which incorporate the provisions of the final rule and the guidance that implements this program.

FAQ Categorization

Category	FAQ #
FAQs retained with slight modifications from the <u>Interim Final Rule: Frequently Asked Questions</u> document (please note that FAQ numbering has changed between the two documents)	#1.1 – #1.2, #1.4 – 1.7, #2.10, #2.12 – #2.13, #3.8 – #3.13, #4.3, #4.5, #6.10 – #6.11, #6.14, #8.1, #8.3, #10.1 – #10.2, #11.1 – 11.3, #11.6 – 11.12, #12.1 – 12.2
New or Substantially Updated FAQs	#1.3, #1.8, #2.1 – #2.9, #2.11, #2.14 – #2.24, #3.1 – 3.7, #3.14, #4.1 – #4.2, #4.4, #4.6, #4.7 – #4.10, #5.1 – #5.4, #6.1 – #6.9, #6.12 – #6.13, #6.15 – #6.16, #8.2, #11.4 – #11.5, Section 13

1. Eligibility and Allocations

1.1. Which governments are eligible for funds?

The following governments are eligible:

- States and the District of Columbia
- Territories
- Tribal governments
- Counties
- Metropolitan cities
- Non-entitlement units, or smaller local governments

1.2. Which governments receive funds directly from Treasury?

Treasury distributes funds directly to each eligible state, territory, metropolitan city, county, or Tribal government. Smaller local governments that are classified as non-entitlement units receive funds through their applicable state government.

1.3. Are special-purpose units of government eligible to receive funds?

Special-purpose units of local government are not eligible to receive an award as a recipient under the SLFRF program; however, a state, territory, local, or Tribal government may transfer funds to a special-purpose unit of government to carry out a program or project on its behalf as a subrecipient. Special-purpose districts perform specific functions in the community, such as fire, water, sewer or mosquito abatement districts. A recipient can also provide funds to an entity that is special-purpose government for the purpose of directly benefitting the entity as a result of the entity experiencing a public health impact or negative economic impact of the pandemic.

1.4. How are funds being allocated to Tribal governments, and how will Tribal governments find out their allocation amounts?

\$20 billion of Fiscal Recovery Funds was reserved for Tribal governments. The American Rescue Plan Act specified that \$1 billion would be allocated evenly to all eligible Tribal governments. The remaining \$19 billion was to be distributed using an allocation methodology determined by Treasury, which was based on enrollment and employment.

There were two payments to Tribal governments. Each Tribal government's first payment included (i) an amount in respect of the \$1 billion allocation that was to be divided equally among eligible Tribal governments and (ii) each Tribal government's pro rata share of the Enrollment Allocation. Tribal governments were notified of their allocation amount and delivery of payment 4-5 days after completing request for funds in the Treasury Submission Portal. The deadline to make the initial request for funds was June 21, 2021.

The second payment included a Tribal government's pro rata share of the Employment Allocation. There was a \$1,000,000 minimum employment allocation for Tribal governments. In late June 2021, Tribal governments received an email notification to re-enter the Treasury Submission Portal to confirm or amend their 2019 employment numbers that were submitted to Treasury for the CARES Act's Coronavirus Relief Fund. To receive an Employment Allocation, including the minimum employment allocation, Tribal governments must have confirmed employment numbers by July 23, 2021. Treasury calculated employment allocations for those Tribal governments that confirmed or submitted amended employment numbers by the deadline. In August, Treasury communicated to Tribal governments the amount of their portion of the Employment Allocation and the anticipated date for the second payment.

1.5. My county is a unit of general local government with population under 50,000. Will my county receive funds directly from Treasury?

Yes. All counties that are units of general local government receive funds directly from Treasury and should apply via the [online portal](#). The list of county allocations is available [here](#).

1.6. My local government expected to be classified as a non-entitlement unit. Instead, it was classified as a metropolitan city. Why?

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) defines, for purposes of the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CLFRF), metropolitan cities to include those that are currently metropolitan cities under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program but also those cities that relinquish or defer their status as a metropolitan city for purposes of the CDBG program. This would include, by way of example, cities that are principal cities of their metropolitan statistical area, even if their population is less than 50,000. In other words, a city that is eligible to be a metropolitan city under the CDBG program is eligible as a metropolitan city under the CLFRF, regardless of how that city has elected to participate in the CDBG program.

Unofficial allocation estimates produced by other organizations may have classified certain local governments as non-entitlement units of local government. However, based on the statutory definitions, some of these local governments should have been classified as metropolitan cities.

1.7. In order to receive and use funds, must a recipient government maintain a declaration of emergency relating to COVID-19?

No. Neither the statute establishing the SLFRF nor the final rule requires recipients to maintain a local declaration of emergency relating to COVID-19.

1.8. Can nonprofit or private organizations receive funds? If so, how?

Yes. Under section 602(c)(3) of the Social Security Act, a State, territory, or Tribal

government may transfer funds to a “private nonprofit organization . . . , a Tribal organization . . . , a public benefit corporation involved in the transportation of passengers or cargo, or a special-purpose unit of State or local government.” Similarly, section 603(c)(3) authorizes a local government to transfer funds to the same entities (other than Tribal organizations). The interim final rule clarified that the lists of transferees in sections 602(c)(3) and 603(c)(3) are not exclusive, and the final rule clarified that recipients may transfer funds to any entity to carry out, as a subrecipient, an eligible activity on behalf of the SLFRF recipient (transferor), as long as they comply with the SLFRF Award Terms and Conditions and other applicable requirements. A transferee receiving a transfer from a recipient under sections 602(c)(3) and 603(c)(3) will be considered a subrecipient and will be expected to comply with all subrecipient reporting requirements.

Additionally, a recipient can provide funds to an entity, including a nonprofit organization, for the purpose of directly benefitting the entity as a result of the entity experiencing a public health impact or negative economic impact of the pandemic. In this instance, these entities will be considered beneficiaries, not subrecipients, and will not be expected to comply with subrecipient reporting requirements. Beneficiary reporting requirements will apply.

The ARPA does not authorize Treasury to provide SLFRF funds directly to nonprofit or private organizations. Thus, a nonprofit or private organization should seek funds from SLFRF recipient(s) in their jurisdiction (e.g., a State, local, territorial, or Tribal government).

2. Eligible Uses – Responding to the Public Health Emergency / Negative Economic Impacts

2.1. If a use of funds is not explicitly permitted in the final rule as a response to the public health emergency and its negative economic impacts, does that mean it is prohibited?

No. The final rule provides a non-exhaustive list of enumerated uses that respond to pandemic impacts. The final rule also presumes that some populations experienced pandemic impacts and are eligible for responsive services. Recipients also have broad flexibility to (1) identify and respond to other pandemic impacts and (2) serve other populations that experienced pandemic impacts, beyond the enumerated uses and presumed eligible populations. Recipients can also identify groups or “classes” of beneficiaries that experienced pandemic impacts and provide services to those classes.

2.2. What types of services are eligible as responses to the negative economic impacts of the pandemic?

Eligible uses to respond to the negative economic impacts of the pandemic include assistance to households and communities; assistance to small businesses and nonprofits; aid to impacted industries; and uses to support public sector capacity and workforce. For

an overview of the eligible uses within each of these subcategories, please see pages 12-13 and 16-34 of the Overview of the Final Rule. The eligible uses within this category include programs and services to respond to impacts of the pandemic on households and communities, such as:

- Cash assistance
- Food assistance (e.g., child nutrition programs, including school meals) & food banks
- Childcare and early learning services, home visiting programs, services for child welfare-involved families and foster youth & childcare facilities
- Programs or services to support long-term housing security, including development of affordable housing and permanent supportive housing

They also include uses to bolster public sector capacity and workforce, such as:

- Payroll and covered benefits for public safety, public health, health care, human services and similar employees of a recipient government, for the portion of the employee's time spent responding to COVID-19.
- Payroll and covered benefits for additional public sector workers up to a pre-pandemic baseline that is adjusted for historic underinvestment in the public sector, providing additional funds for employees who experienced pay cuts or were furloughed, avoiding layoffs, providing worker retention incentives, and paying for ancillary administrative costs related to hiring, support, and retention.

These tools can allow recipients not only to bring back laid-off workers, but to address critical shortages of teachers, instructional aides, transportation workers, behavioral health workers, and other key government personnel, by funding positions at competitive wages and improving job quality in these sectors (see FAQs [#2.15](#), [#2.16](#), [#2.17](#)).

Recipients also have broad flexibility to identify and respond to other pandemic impacts and serve other populations that experienced pandemic impacts, beyond the enumerated uses. For more information on identifying eligible uses beyond those enumerated, please see pages 32-34 of the Overview of the Final Rule.

2.3. What types of COVID-19 response, mitigation, and prevention activities are eligible?

Please see pages 12-14 of the Overview of the Final Rule for a non-exhaustive list of enumerated eligible uses relating to COVID-19 mitigation and prevention, as well as information about how to design other responses that are not included in the list.

2.4. May recipients use funds to respond to the public health emergency and its negative economic impacts by providing direct cash transfers to households?

Yes. Cash transfers, like all eligible uses in the public health and negative economic impacts category, must respond to the negative economic impacts of the pandemic on a household or class of households. Recipients may presume that low- and moderate-income households (as defined in the final rule), as well as households that experienced unemployment, food insecurity, or housing insecurity, experienced a negative economic impact due to the pandemic. Recipients may also identify other households or classes of households that experienced a negative economic impact of the pandemic and provide cash assistance that is reasonably proportional to, and not grossly in excess of, the amount needed to address the negative economic impact. For example, in the ARPA, Congress authorized Economic Impact Payments to households at certain income levels, identifying and responding to a negative economic impact of the pandemic on these households.

Treasury has reiterated in the final rule that responses to negative economic impacts should be reasonably proportional to the impact that they are intended to address. Uses that bear no relation or are grossly disproportionate to the type or extent of harm experienced would not be eligible uses. Reasonably proportional refers to the scale of the response compared to the scale of the harm. It also refers to the targeting of the response to beneficiaries compared to the amount of harm they experienced; for example, it may not be reasonably proportional for a cash assistance program to provide assistance in a very small amount to a group that experienced severe harm and in a much larger amount to a group that experienced relatively little harm. Please also see questions 7-10 from the [IRS-issued FAQ](#) on SLFRF relating to the taxability of cash transfers.

2.5. May recipients use funds to respond to the public health emergency and its negative economic impacts by replenishing unemployment funds?

Recipients may only use SLFRF funds for contributions to unemployment insurance trust funds and repayment of the principal amount due on advances received under Title XII of the Social Security Act up to an amount equal to (i) the difference between the balance in the recipient's unemployment insurance trust fund as of January 27, 2020 and the balance of such account as of May 17, 2021, plus (ii) the principal amount outstanding as of May 17, 2021 on any advances received under Title XII of the Social Security Act between January 27, 2020 and May 17, 2021. Further, recipients may use SLFRF funds for the payment of any interest due on such Title XII advances.

Additionally, a recipient that deposits SLFRF funds into its unemployment insurance trust fund to fully restore the pre-pandemic balance may not draw down that balance and deposit more SLFRF funds, back up to the pre-pandemic balance. Through December 31, 2024, recipients that deposit SLFRF funds into an unemployment insurance trust fund, or use SLFRF funds to repay principal on Title XII advances, may not take action to reduce benefits available to unemployed workers by changing the computation method governing regular unemployment compensation in a way that results in a reduction of average weekly benefit amounts or the number of weeks of benefits

payable (i.e., maximum benefit entitlement).

2.6. May funds be used to reimburse recipients for costs incurred by state, local and Tribal governments in responding to the public health emergency and its negative economic impacts prior to passage of the American Rescue Plan?

Use of SLFRF is generally forward looking. The final rule permits funds to be used to cover costs incurred beginning on March 3, 2021.

2.7. May recipients use funds for general economic development?

Generally, no. General economic development – activities that do not respond to negative economic impacts of the pandemic but rather seek to more generally enhance the jurisdiction’s business climate – would generally not be eligible under this eligible use category.

To identify an eligible use of funds under the public health and negative economic impacts category, a recipient must identify a beneficiary or class of beneficiaries that experienced a harm or impact due to the pandemic, and eligible uses of funds must be reasonably designed to respond to the harm, benefit the beneficiaries that experienced it, and be related and reasonably proportional to that harm or impact. For example, job training and other supports – like childcare, transportation, and subsidized employment – for unemployed workers may be used to address negative economic impacts of the public health emergency and be eligible.

2.8. How can recipients use funds to assist the travel, tourism, and hospitality industries? May recipients use funds to assist impacted industries other than travel, tourism, and hospitality?

Please see pages 24-25 of the [Overview of the Final Rule](#).

2.9. How does the final rule help address the disparate impact of COVID-19 on certain populations and geographies?

In recognition of the long-standing disparities in health and economic outcomes in underserved communities that have amplified and exacerbated the impacts of the pandemic, the final rule identifies certain populations as “disproportionately impacted” by the pandemic and enumerates a broad range of services and programs to address health disparities, to build stronger communities through investments in neighborhoods, to address educational disparities, to provide rental assistance vouchers or assistance relocating to areas of greater economic opportunity, and other eligible uses to respond to negative economic impacts in disproportionately impacted communities.

Specifically, Treasury will presume that certain populations were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic and therefore automatically eligible to receive responsive services. See page 19 of the [Overview of the Final Rule](#) for a full list of the

populations presumed disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. Recipients may also provide responsive services to other populations, households, or geographic areas disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. In identifying these disproportionately impacted communities, recipients should be able to support their determination for how the pandemic disproportionately impacted the populations, households, or geographic areas to be served.

Treasury has provided a non-exhaustive list of eligible responses to serve disproportionately impacted communities on page 20 of the Overview of the Final Rule. Note that these are an enhanced set of responses available in addition to responses available to respond to impacts of the pandemic on households and communities (including those listed on page 18 of the Overview).

2.10. May recipients use funds to pay for vaccine incentive programs (e.g., cash or in-kind transfers, lottery programs, or other incentives for individuals who get vaccinated)?

Yes. Under the final rule, recipients may use SLFRF funds to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency, including expenses related to COVID-19 vaccination programs.

Programs that provide incentives reasonably expected to increase the number of people who choose to get vaccinated, or that motivate people to get vaccinated sooner than they otherwise would have, are an allowable use of funds so long as such costs are reasonably proportional to the expected public health benefit.

2.11. How can recipients use funds to support workers returning to work?

Under the final rule, recipients may use SLFRF funds under the public health and negative economic impacts eligible use category to provide assistance to individuals who want and are available for work, including job training, public jobs programs and fairs, support for childcare and transportation to and from a jobsite or interview, cash and other incentives for newly employed workers, subsidized employment, grants to hire underserved workers, assistance to unemployed individuals to start small businesses, and development of job and workforce training centers.

2.12. What staff are included in “public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees”? Would this include, for example, 911 operators, morgue staff, medical examiner staff, or EMS staff?

As discussed in the final rule, funds may be used for payroll and covered benefits expenses for public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees, for the portion of the employee’s time that is dedicated to responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Public safety employees would include police officers (including state police officers),

sheriffs and deputy sheriffs, firefighters, emergency medical responders, correctional and detention officers, and those who directly support such employees such as dispatchers and supervisory personnel. Public health employees would include employees involved in providing medical and other health services to patients and supervisory personnel, including medical staff assigned to schools, prisons, and other such institutions, and other support services essential for patient care (e.g., laboratory technicians, medical examiner or morgue staff) as well as employees of public health departments directly engaged in matters related to public health and related supervisory personnel. Note that this category encompasses both public health and health care employees; both are treated as public health employees for the purposes of this eligible use category. Human services staff include employees providing or administering social services; public benefits; child welfare services; and child, elder, or family care, as well as others.

2.13. May recipients use funds to establish a public jobs program?

Yes. Under the public health and negative economic impacts eligible use category, the final rule permits a broad range of services to unemployed or underemployed workers and other individuals that suffered negative economic impacts from the pandemic. That can include public jobs programs, subsidized employment, combined education and on-the-job training programs, or job training to accelerate rehiring or address negative economic or public health impacts experienced due to a worker's occupation or level of training. The broad range of permitted services can also include other employment supports, such as childcare assistance or assistance with transportation to and from a jobsite or interview.

2.14. Can funds be used for investments in affordable housing?

Yes. Under the final rule, "Development, repair, and operation of affordable housing and services or programs to increase long-term housing security" is an enumerated eligible use to respond to impacts of the pandemic on households and communities.

Affordable housing projects must be responsive and proportional to the harm identified. This test may be met by affordable housing development projects—which may involve large expenditures and capital investments—if the developments increase the supply of long-term affordable housing for low-income households. While there may be less costly (or non-capital) alternatives to affordable housing development, a comprehensive response to the widespread housing challenges underscored by the pandemic will require the production of additional affordable homes, and targeted affordable housing development is a cost-effective and proportional response to this need.

For purposes of this test, Treasury will presume that any projects that would be eligible for funding under either the National Housing Trust Fund (HTF) or the Home Investment Partnerships Program (HOME) are eligible uses of SLFRF funds. Note that these programs use different income limits than the definitions of low- and moderate-income adopted by Treasury. Given the severity of the affordable housing shortage, and the ways in which the pandemic has exacerbated the need for affordable, high-quality dwelling units, Treasury has determined that the households served by these federal housing programs have been

impacted by the pandemic and its negative economic impacts and that development of affordable housing consistent with these programs is a related and reasonably proportional response to those impacts. Additionally, affordable housing projects provided by a Tribal government are eligible uses of SLFRF funds if they would be eligible for funding under the Indian Housing Block Grant program, the Indian Community Development Block Grant program, or the Bureau of Indian Affairs Housing Improvement Program.

Note that other affordable housing projects, beyond those eligible under HOME and HTF, may also be eligible uses of SLFRF funds, as discussed in the final rule.

To further support sustainable and durable homeownership, recipients may consider offering down payment assistance, such as through contributions to a homeowner's equity at origination or that establish a post-closing, mortgage reserve account on behalf of the borrower that may be utilized to make a missed or partial mortgage payment at any point during the life of the loan (e.g., if the borrower faces financial stress). Homeownership assistance that would be eligible under the Community Development Block Grant (at 24 CFR 507.201(n)) is also an eligible use of SLFRF funds.

2.15. Can I use funds to raise public sector wages and hire public sector workers?

Yes. Under the increased flexibility of the final rule, SLFRF funding may be used to support a broader set of uses to restore and support public sector employment. Eligible uses include hiring up to a pre-pandemic baseline that is adjusted for historic underinvestment in the public sector, providing additional funds for employees who experienced pay cuts or were furloughed, avoiding layoffs, providing worker retention incentives, including reasonable increases in compensation, and paying for ancillary administrative costs related to hiring, support, and retention.

Under the set of eligible uses for public-sector rehiring, recipients may fill vacancies and add additional employees using SLFRF funds (see pages 4385-4387 of the final rule and pages 27-28 of the [Overview of the Final Rule](#)). Recipients have two options to restore pre-pandemic employment, depending on the recipient's needs. First, if the recipient simply wants to hire back employees for pre-pandemic positions, recipients may use SLFRF funds to hire employees for the same positions that existed on January 27, 2020 but that were unfilled or eliminated as of March 3, 2021. Recipients may use SLFRF funds to cover payroll and covered benefits for such positions through the period of performance.

Second, if the recipient wants to hire above the pre-pandemic baseline and/or would like to have flexibility in positions, recipients may use SLFRF funds to pay for payroll and covered benefits associated with the recipient increasing its number of budgeted FTEs up to 7.5 percent above its pre-pandemic baseline. Filling these roles may require recipients to increase wages and improve benefits above and beyond what they currently offer, especially in roles with historically low wages and acute staffing needs. This compensation would be an eligible use of SLFRF funds.

SLFRF funds also may be used to provide worker retention incentives, including

reasonable increases in compensation to persuade employees to remain with the employer as compared to other employment options. Retention incentives must be entirely additive to an employee's regular compensation, narrowly tailored to need, and should not exceed incentives traditionally offered by the recipient or compensation that alternative employers may offer to compete for the employees. Treasury presumes that retention incentives that are less than 25 percent of the rate of base pay for an individual employee or 10 percent for a group or category of employees are reasonably proportional to the need to retain employees, as long as other requirements are met.

2.16. How can funds be used to improve job quality and address labor supply challenges in the education and childcare sectors?

SLFRF funds can pay for the full salary and benefits of many school and childcare staff, including increased wages needed to recruit and retain excellent staff, and to fund premium pay, bonuses, training, and other worker supports. Some examples of potential uses of funds related to supporting the education and childcare sectors are provided below:

- Under the public health and negative economic impacts eligible use category, SLFRF funds can be used broadly for re-hiring public sector staff, such as school staff, to restore the public sector, including payroll and covered benefits for new or re-hired public employees (see [FAQ #2.15](#))
 - Even where the recipient, such as the municipality, does not have budgetary authority over a school district, it may choose to sub-award SLFRF funds to districts and other government entities for these purposes (see [FAQ #2.17](#)).
- SLFRF can fund premium pay for essential workers, including school personnel and childcare providers working in person in both the public and private sector, to compensate them for their service during the pandemic (see pages 35-36 of the [Overview of the Final Rule](#) and [section 5 of the FAQs](#)).
- Under the public health and negative economic impacts eligible use category, SLFRF can fund supports for unemployed and underemployed workers, including hiring bonuses, training, and other labor supports, regardless of sector (see [FAQ #2.11](#)).
 - Under this provision, recipients can help childcare providers and school districts by strengthening pipelines into these sectors, including by using SLFRF funds to train potential workers to fill in-demand roles in childcare and education, including as school bus drivers, school nutrition staff, paraprofessionals, and other staff.
- Childcare subsidies and other supports for childcare programs – public or private – that serve low- and moderate-income families, are broadly eligible uses of SLFRF funding under the public health and negative economic impacts eligible use category (see [FAQ](#)

#2.25). These subsidies can support improvements to wages and job quality that make childcare employment an attractive career.

- Recipients can also provide assistance to small businesses under the public health and negative economic impacts eligible use category – which many state and local governments can use to help childcare small businesses expand their business, raise wages for workers, and complete training and other technical assistance to support high-quality care, given the impacts these businesses have faced over the course of the pandemic (see pages 21-22 of the Overview).

2.17. How can recipients use funds to invest in their public sector workforce when the recipient government is not the direct employer, as is the case with some transit agencies and local educational agencies?

Under the increased flexibility of the final rule, SLFRF funds may be used to support a broader set of uses to restore and support public sector employment as a response to the pandemic and its negative economic impacts (see FAQ #2.15).

Treasury acknowledges that funding models for public sector workers vary drastically across jurisdictions, and the direct employer of a public sector worker may be an entity separate from the SLFRF recipient government, like an independent transit agency or local educational agency (LEA), rather than the recipient government itself. Recipients may still use SLFRF funds to hire workers in these sectors under such circumstances.

Using the calculation detailed on page 4386 of the final rule and pages 27-28 of the Overview of the Final Rule, a recipient may calculate at an entity level the actual number of FTEs for the entity and the adjusted pre-pandemic baseline for the entity. The difference between the actual number of FTEs and the adjusted pre-pandemic baseline represents the number of FTEs that can be hired using SLFRF funds.

A recipient may then transfer funds to the entity, which would act as a subrecipient and cover payroll, covered benefits, and other costs associated with hiring up to this number of FTEs. A recipient may, in addition, “transfer” the FTEs it may hire based on its own calculation to the entity. A recipient may not, however, perform the calculation on the behalf of an entity, and then “transfer” to itself, or to any other entity, any of the FTEs able to be hired by the entity.

As an illustrative example, consider a recipient county government that would like to fund the salary and benefits costs for hiring teachers in a school district.

The school district has 2000 budgeted FTEs on January 27, 2020. The school district’s pre-pandemic baseline is 2000 FTEs; its adjusted pre-pandemic baseline is $2000 * 1.075 = 2150$ FTEs. The county’s pre-pandemic baseline is 1000 FTEs; its adjusted pre-pandemic baseline is $1000 * 1.075 = 1075$ FTEs. Now, assume that on March 3, 2021, the school district had 1800 budgeted FTEs in total, and the county had 1000 budgeted FTEs.

The county would be able to transfer funds to the school district to hire up to 350 FTEs with SLFRF funds (that is, $2150 - 1800 = 350$ FTEs), and additionally, “transfer” up to 75 FTEs to the school district (that is, $1075 - 1000 = 75$ FTEs). If the county decided to “transfer” all of its 75 FTEs to the school district, then the school district could hire up to $350 + 75 = 425$ FTEs using funds from the county. However, the county may not directly hire any more than 75 FTEs under this public sector hiring provision, and may not use any of the funds for the 350 FTEs able to be hired by the school district to fund any of the county’s FTE positions.

This public sector rehiring provision is a powerful tool for addressing staffing needs and shortages across government.

2.18. Can I use SLFRF funds to provide childcare to households?

Yes. Childcare and early learning services, home visiting programs, services for child welfare involved families and foster youth are an enumerated use eligible to respond to impacts of the pandemic on households and communities. These eligible uses can include new or expanded services, increasing access to services, efforts to bolster, support, or preserve existing providers and services, and similar activities. Further, improvements to or new construction of childcare, daycare, and early learning facilities are eligible capital expenditures, subject to the other eligibility standards for capital expenditures.

2.19. How can funds be used for “installation and improvement of ventilation systems in congregate settings, health care settings, or other public facilities” like commercial buildings, office buildings, schools, nursing homes, multi-family residential buildings, and restaurants?

As a general matter, ventilation improvements, including updates to HVAC systems, improved air filtration, and increased outdoor air flow, can help reduce the concentration and risk of exposure to aerosols, and thus infection with COVID-19.¹ The National COVID-19 Preparedness Plan specifies that improving ventilation and air filtration is a key component of keeping schools and businesses safely open. Although improvements to ventilation and air cleaning cannot on their own eliminate the risk of airborne transmission of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recommended taking steps to improve indoor air quality (IAQ) including optimizing fresh air ventilation, enhancing air filtration and cleaning, and managing the way air flows as components of a larger approach that may include individual actions and layered prevention strategies.

Under the SLFRF program, funds for installation and improvement of ventilation systems can be used for projects that respond to the pandemic’s public health impacts and provide longer-term benefits, including the inspection, testing, commissioning, maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrading of HVAC systems to improve indoor air quality in

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/ventilation.html>;
<https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/indoor-air-and-coronavirus-covid-19>.

facilities. Projects can include assessing current HVAC systems, updating HVAC systems, updating air filters, installing functional windows for improved ventilation, repairing windows and doors, installing in-room air cleaning devices, and other projects for improving indoor air quality. For a more extensive guide of how to effectively use funds for ventilation improvements, Treasury recommends reviewing EPA's Clean Air in Buildings Challenge, a call to action and a set of guiding principles and best practices to assist building owners and operators with improving IAQ in buildings, as well as EPA's resource page on "Ventilation and Coronavirus (COVID-19)." For a guide on federal programs and resources to support school infrastructure, including ventilation improvements, Treasury recommends consulting the "White House Toolkit: Federal Resources for Addressing School Infrastructure Needs." Further, Treasury recommends that recipients engage with public health and infection prevention professionals to develop and support an effective COVID-19 mitigation strategy. Finally, Treasury recommends that recipients ensure that the inspection, testing, commissioning, maintenance, repair, replacement, and upgrading of ventilation systems is performed by a skilled, trained, and certified workforce.

Recipients that undertake ventilation system investments under the public health and negative economic impacts eligible use category should review capital expenditure requirements in the final rule and note that capital expenditures must be related and reasonably proportional to the pandemic impact identified.

2.20. In what types of buildings can recipients use funds to install and improve of ventilation systems?

In addition to directly installing and improving ventilation systems in congregate settings, health care settings, or other public facilities, recipients may grant or loan funds to businesses, non-profits, and other entities that may benefit from COVID-19 mitigation measures.

In making these investments, Treasury recommends that recipients consult with public health and infection prevention professionals and that recipients ensure work is performed by a workforce that is skilled, trained, and certified in ventilation systems work. Many buildings would benefit from ventilation improvements, including settings where risk of infection is higher, such as when people are indoors for prolonged periods of time, are in crowded environments, or are performing activities that increase emission of respiratory fluids (such as speaking loudly, singing, or exercising).² This includes commercial buildings, office buildings, dense worksites, schools, nursing homes and other long-term care facilities, multi-family residential buildings, restaurants, correctional facilities, transportation hubs, and public transit vehicles, among other locations. Recipients are encouraged to consider congregate settings and other key locations as priorities for installation and improvement of ventilation systems. Please note that use of funds is not limited to government-owned public facilities and funds may be distributed by recipients to private businesses, non-profits, and others for COVID-19 mitigation and prevention, as

² <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus/indoor-air-and-coronavirus-covid-19>.

the final rule clarifies that recipients may identify the general public as the impacted population for COVID-19 prevention and mitigation services. Recipients should review capital expenditure requirements for the public health and negative economic impacts eligible use category in the final rule before undertaking investments in ventilation systems.

For more information on ventilation system upgrades for school settings, Treasury recommends consulting:

- Creating Healthy Indoor Air Quality in Schools: <https://www.epa.gov/iaq-schools>
- Efficient and Healthy Schools campaign: <https://efficienthealthyschools.lbl.gov/>
- Efficient and Healthy Schools website: <https://www.energy.gov/eere/buildings/efficient-and-healthy-schools>

For more information on ventilation system upgrades for office and other commercial building settings, Treasury recommends consulting:

- Enhancing Health with Indoor Air: <https://sftool.gov/learn/about/626/enhancing-health-indoor-air>
- Sustainable Response to COVID-19: <https://sftool.gov/learn/about/625/sustainable-response-covid-19>
- Better Buildings Resource Center: Building Operations during COVID-19 <https://betterbuildingssolutioncenter.energy.gov/covid19>

For more information on ventilation system upgrades for residential settings, Treasury recommends consulting:

- Improving Ventilation in Your Home: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/Improving-Ventilation-Home.html>
- Ventilation in Buildings: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/ventilation.html>

2.21. Can SLFRF funds be used to support public school facility improvements, upgrades, and new construction – such as those that make buildings more energy efficient, increase their use of renewable energy, address capacity constraints, and respond to health and safety concerns?

Yes. There are numerous ways in which SLFRF funds may be used to support public school facility improvements and upgrades.

First, as part of the public health and negative economic impacts (PH-NEI) eligible use category, SLFRF funds may be used address educational disparities in disproportionately impacted communities,³ which may include funding improvements or new construction of schools and other educational facilities or equipment. Recipients may consider energy

³ Please see FAQ 2.9 for more on disproportionately impacted communities, and the [Overview of the Final Rule](#) (p.19) for a list of presumed disproportionately impacted communities. For services to address educational disparities, Treasury will recognize Title I eligible schools as disproportionately impacted and responsive services that support the school generally or support the whole school as eligible.

efficiency improvements as part of their facility investments, and may also use funds for pre-project development costs, such as assessment of building conditions, energy audits, feasibility studies, HVAC commissioning and testing, and lead testing, that are tied to or reasonably expected to lead to an eligible investment in school facilities to address educational disparities in disproportionately impacted communities. Recipients should review and comply with the requirements applicable to capital expenditures under the public health and negative economic impacts eligible use category as outlined in the final rule.⁴

Second, as part of the PH-NEI eligible use category, recipients may use funds for adaptations to schools for the purpose of mitigating the spread of COVID-19, including for ventilation improvements. Similar to the above, recipients should ensure compliance with the capital expenditure requirements for the eligible use category.

Third, as part of the water and sewer infrastructure eligible use category, recipients may invest in certain projects to support lead remediation, including replacement of internal plumbing and faucets and fixtures in schools and childcare facilities. Recipients can also invest in certain green water infrastructure projects. Eligible water and sewer projects are generally aligned with those allowable under the EPA's Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds, and Treasury has added additional eligible projects as part of the final rule. Recipients should review and comply with the specific requirements provided for in the water and sewer infrastructure eligible use category as outlined in the final rule.

Fourth, as part of the revenue loss eligible use category, which is the broadest eligible use category that is capped by either the \$10 million standard allowance (up to a recipient's award size) or a recipient's calculated revenue loss, recipients may use SLFRF funds on government services. These government services include any service traditionally provided by a government unless Treasury has stated otherwise. Eligible government services that may be covered under the revenue loss eligible use category include maintenance, improvement, or new construction of public school facilities, including those that address over-crowding and capacity constraints, support energy efficiency, and respond to health and safety concerns, among other purposes.

Under the SLFRF program, recipients must obligate all funds by December 31, 2024 and expend funds by December 31, 2026. Recipients may transfer funds to other entities, including local educational agencies, to carry out as a subrecipient an eligible use of funds by the recipient, as long as they comply with program requirements. Recipients should note that the Davis-Bacon Act requirements (prevailing wage rates) do not apply to projects funded solely with award funds from the SLFRF program, except for certain SLFRF-funded construction projects undertaken by the District of Columbia. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) does not apply to Treasury's administration of the SLFRF program, although projects supported with SLFRF funds may still be subject to NEPA review if they are also funded by other federal financial assistance programs.

⁴ Please see the [Overview of the Final Rule](#) (p. 30-31) for a summary of capital expenditure requirements for the public health and negative economic impacts eligible use category.

2.22. Would investments in improving outdoor spaces (e.g., parks) be an eligible use of funds as a response to the public health emergency and/or its negative economic impacts?

There are multiple ways that investments in improving outdoor spaces could qualify as eligible uses; several are highlighted below, though there may be other ways that a specific investment in outdoor spaces would meet eligible use criteria.

First, in recognition of the disproportionate negative economic impacts on certain communities and populations, the final rule includes enumerated eligible uses in disproportionately impacted communities for developing neighborhood features that promote improved health and safety outcomes, such as parks, green spaces, recreational facilities, sidewalks, pedestrian safety features like crosswalks, projects that increase access to healthy foods, streetlights, neighborhood cleanup, and other projects to revitalize public spaces.

Second, recipients may provide assistance to disproportionately impacted small businesses. The final rule included rehabilitation of commercial properties, storefront improvements, and façade improvements as enumerated eligible assistance to these small businesses.

Third, recipients can assist small businesses, nonprofits, or other entities to create or enhance outdoor spaces to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 (e.g., restaurant patios).

Recipients pursuing many of these uses should also note the eligibility standards for capital expenditures in the final rule, which are summarized on pages 30-31 of the [Overview of the Final Rule](#).

2.23. Would expenses to address a COVID-related backlog in court cases be an eligible use of funds as a response to the public health emergency?

Yes. The final rule maintains that SLFRF funds may be used to address administrative needs of recipient governments that were caused or exacerbated by the pandemic. Please see pages 4388-4389 of the final rule. During the COVID-19 public health emergency, many courts were unable to operate safely during the pandemic and, as a result, now face significant backlogs. Court backlogs resulting from the inability of courts to safely operate during the COVID-19 pandemic decreased the government's ability to administer services. Therefore, steps to reduce these backlogs, such as implementing COVID-19 safety measures to facilitate court operations, hiring additional court staff or attorneys to increase speed of case resolution, and other expenses to expedite case resolution are eligible uses.

2.24. Can funds be used for eviction prevention efforts or housing stability services?

Yes. Treasury provided a non-exhaustive list of eligible services in the final rule: Rent, rental arrears, utility costs or arrears (e.g., electricity, gas, water and sewer, trash removal, and energy costs, such as fuel oil), reasonable accrued late fees (if not included in rental or utility arrears), mortgage payment assistance, financial assistance to allow a homeowner to reinstate a mortgage or to pay other housing-related costs related to a period of forbearance, delinquency, or default, mortgage principal reduction, facilitating mortgage interest rate reductions, counseling to prevent foreclosure or displacement, relocation expenses following eviction or foreclosure (e.g., rental security deposits, application or screening fees).

Treasury also clarified that assistance to households for delinquent property taxes, for example to prevent tax foreclosures on homes, was permissible under the interim final rule and continues to be so under the final rule. In addition, Treasury also clarified that recipients may administer utility assistance or address arrears on behalf of households through direct or bulk payments to utility providers to facilitate utility assistance to multiple consumers at once, so long as the payments offset customer balances and therefore provide assistance to households. The public health and negative economic impacts eligible use category also includes emergency assistance for individuals experiencing homelessness, either individual-level assistance (e.g., rapid rehousing services) or assistance for groups of individuals (e.g., master leases of hotels, motels, or similar facilities to expand available shelter). Please see page 4360 of the final rule for further relevant clarifications.

3. Eligible Uses – Revenue Loss

3.1. Does a recipient need to calculate or provide proof of its revenue loss to use funds for government services?

Recipients may elect a “standard allowance” of up to \$10 million to spend on government services through the period of performance. The standard allowance is available to all recipients and offers a simple, convenient way to determine revenue loss, instead of using the full formula specified in the final rule. Recipients must make a one-time, irrevocable election to either take the standard allowance or calculate revenue loss. Recipients must indicate this choice in their Project and Expenditure Reports due April 30, 2022. Recipients who elect the standard allowance do not have to produce any further demonstration or calculation of revenue loss.

Electing the standard allowance does not increase or decrease a recipient’s total allocation. For example, a recipient with an allocation of \$6 million would be allowed to claim no more than \$6 million as revenue loss to use for government services, and a recipient with an allocation of \$12 million would be allowed to claim the full \$10 million standard allowance and use the remaining allocation towards other eligible use categories. Recipients who elect to calculate revenue loss by formula must do so as articulated in the

final rule and described in the [Overview of the Final Rule](#) and [FAQ #3.6](#).

3.2. Can revenue loss funds be used for a purpose that is not explicitly listed as an example of a government service in the Overview of the Final Rule or Final Rule?

Yes. Government services generally include any service traditionally provided by a government, unless Treasury has stated otherwise. Common examples are listed on page 11 of the [Overview of the Final Rule](#) and page 4408 of the final rule, but these lists are not exhaustive. In addition to the common examples described in the final rule, many recipients and stakeholders have asked if using funds for activities like payroll for specific public sector staff, renovations to particular government facilities, and equipment to facilitate and improve government services such as health services, waste disposal, road building and maintenance, and water and sewer services would be eligible as government services. Treasury is clarifying here that under the final rule, payroll for government employees, contracts, grants, supplies and equipment, rent, and the many other costs that governments typically bear to provide services are costs that could comprise the costs of government services, and are eligible uses of funds.

Revenue loss is the most flexible eligible use category under the SLFRF program, and funds are subject to streamlined reporting and compliance requirements. Recipients should be mindful that certain restrictions, which are detailed further in the Restrictions on Use section in the Overview of the Final Rule and Final Rule and apply to all eligible use categories, apply to government services as well. Note also that every use that is eligible under other eligible use categories is also eligible under revenue loss, because those eligible uses are also services provided by recipient governments, and Treasury encourages recipients to use their funds for investments that serve the needs of their communities and build a stronger and more equitable recovery.

3.3. Can revenue loss funds be used for a project eligible under other eligible use categories, such as addressing the public health and negative economic impacts of the pandemic, providing premium pay, or investing in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure?

Yes. The revenue loss eligible use category allows recipients to expend funds with flexibility and streamlined reporting requirements, including on expenditures that would not be eligible under other eligible use categories, like general infrastructure repairs. Recipients may also use revenue loss funds to carry out investments that would be eligible under other eligible use categories, because those eligible uses are also services provided by recipient governments. Treasury encourages the use of government services funds on uses enumerated in these categories, including but not limited to affordable housing, childcare investments, supporting public sector workers, job training and workforce development, and investments in public health.

3.4. How is revenue defined for the purpose of the revenue loss calculation formula?

The final rule adopts a definition of “General Revenue” that is based on, but not identical,

to the Census Bureau’s concept of “General Revenue from Own Sources” in the Annual Survey of State and Local Government Finances.

General Revenue means money that is received from tax revenue, current charges, and miscellaneous general revenue, excluding refunds and other correcting transactions and proceeds from issuance of debt or the sale of investments, agency or private trust transactions, and intergovernmental transfers from the Federal Government, including transfers made pursuant to section 9901 of the American Rescue Plan Act. General Revenue also includes revenue from liquor stores that are owned and operated by state and local governments. General Revenue does not include revenues from utilities, except recipients may choose to include revenue from utilities that are part of their own government as General Revenue provided the recipient does so consistently over the remainder of the period of performance. Revenue from Tribal business enterprises must be included in General Revenue.

Please see the appendix for a diagram of the final rule’s definition of General Revenue within the Census Bureau’s revenue classification structure.

3.5. Will revenue be calculated on an entity-wide basis or on a source-by-source basis (e.g. property tax, income tax, sales tax, etc.)?

Recipients should calculate revenue on an entity-wide basis. This approach minimizes the administrative burden for recipients, provides for greater consistency across recipients, and presents a more accurate representation of the net impact of the COVID-19 public health emergency on a recipient’s revenue, rather than relying on financial reporting prepared by each recipient, which vary in methodology used and which generally aggregate revenue by purpose rather than by source.

Recipients should classify revenue sources as they would if responding to the U.S. Census Bureau’s Annual Survey of State and Local Government Finances. According to the Census Bureau’s Government Finance and Employment Classification manual, the following is an example of current charges that would be included in a state or local government’s General Revenue from own sources: “Gross revenue of facilities operated by a government (swimming pools, recreational marinas and piers, golf courses, skating rinks, museums, zoos, etc.); auxiliary facilities in public recreation areas (camping areas, refreshment stands, gift shops, etc.); lease or use fees from stadiums, auditoriums, and community and convention centers; and rentals from concessions at such facilities.”

Please refer to the appendix for further details on the definition of General Revenue.

3.6. For recipients not electing the \$10 million standard allowance, what is the formula for calculating the reduction in revenue?

Recipients calculate revenue loss at four distinct points in time, either at the end of each calendar year (e.g., December 31 for years 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023) or the end of each fiscal year of the recipient. Under the flexibility provided in the final rule, recipients can

choose whether to use calendar or fiscal year dates but must be consistent throughout the period of performance. To calculate revenue loss at each of these dates, recipients must follow a four-step process:

- a. Calculate revenues collected in the most recent full fiscal year prior to the public health emergency (i.e., last full fiscal year before January 27, 2020), called the base year revenue.
- b. Estimate counterfactual revenue, which is equal to the following formula, where *n* is the number of months elapsed since the end of the base year to the calculation date:

$$\text{base year revenue} \times (1 + \text{growth adjustment})^{n/12}$$

The *growth adjustment* is the greater of either a standard growth rate—5.2 percent—or the recipient’s average annual revenue growth in the last full three fiscal years prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

- c. Identify actual general revenue, which equals revenues collected over the twelve months immediately preceding the calculation date. Under the final rule, recipients must adjust actual revenue totals for the effect of tax cuts and tax increases that are adopted after the date of adoption of the final rule (January 6, 2022). Specifically, the estimated fiscal impact of tax cuts and tax increases adopted after January 6, 2022, must be added to or subtracted from the calculation of actual revenue for purposes of calculation dates that occur on or after April 1, 2022. Recipients may subtract from their calculation of actual revenue the effect of tax increases enacted prior to the adoption of the final rule. Note that recipients that elect to remove the effect of tax increases enacted before the adoption of the final rule must also remove the effect of tax decreases enacted before the adoption of the final rule, such that they are accurately removing the effect of tax policy changes on revenue.
- d. Revenue loss for the calculation date is equal to counterfactual revenue minus actual revenue (adjusted for tax changes) for the twelve-month period. If actual revenue exceeds counterfactual revenue, the loss is set to zero for that twelve-month period. Revenue loss for the period of performance is the sum of the revenue loss for each calculation date.

The supplementary information in the final rule provides an example of this calculation, which recipients may find helpful, in the Revenue Loss section. Recipients should see the final rule for the full description of the requirements to reflect the effect of tax cuts and tax increases on actual revenue.

3.7. Are recipients expected to demonstrate that reduction in revenue is due to the COVID-19 public health emergency?

Under the final rule, any diminution in actual revenue calculated using the formula above would be presumed to have been “due to” the COVID-19 public health emergency, in the

case of both the standard allowance and the formula, which, as discussed above adjusts for certain tax policy changes.

3.8. May recipients use pre-pandemic projections as a basis to estimate the reduction in revenue?

No. Treasury is disallowing the use of projections to ensure consistency and comparability across recipients and to streamline verification. However, in estimating the revenue shortfall using the formula above, recipients may incorporate their average annual revenue growth rate in the three full fiscal years prior to the public health emergency.

3.9. In calculating revenue loss, are recipients required to use audited financials?

Where audited data is not available, recipients are not required to obtain audited data. Treasury expects all information submitted to be complete and accurate.

3.10. In calculating revenue loss, should recipients use their own data, or Census data?

Recipients should use their own data sources to calculate General Revenue, and do not need to rely on published revenue data from the Census Bureau. Treasury acknowledges that due to differences in timing, data sources, and definitions, recipients' self-reported General Revenue figures may differ somewhat from those published by the Census Bureau.

3.11. Should recipients calculate revenue loss on a cash basis or an accrual basis?

Recipients may calculate revenue loss on a cash, accrual, or modified accrual basis, provided that recipients are consistent in their choice of methodology for all inputs of the revenue loss calculation throughout the period of performance and until reporting is no longer required.

3.12. In identifying intergovernmental revenue for the purpose of calculating General Revenue, should recipients exclude all federal funding, or just federal funding related to the COVID-19 response? How should local governments treat federal funds that are passed through states or other entities, or federal funds that are intermingled with other funds?

In calculating General Revenue, recipients should exclude all intergovernmental transfers from the federal government. This includes, but is not limited to, federal transfers made via a state to a locality pursuant to the Coronavirus Relief Fund or Fiscal Recovery Funds. To the extent federal funds are passed through states or other entities or intermingled with other funds, recipients should attempt to identify and exclude the federal portion of those funds from the calculation of General Revenue on a best-efforts

basis.

3.13. What entities constitute a government for the purpose of calculating revenue loss?

In determining whether a particular entity is part of a recipient's government for purposes of measuring a recipient's General Revenue, recipients should identify all the entities included in their government and the General Revenue attributable to these entities on a best-efforts basis. Recipients are encouraged to consider how their administrative structure is organized under state and local statutes. In cases in which the autonomy of certain authorities, commissions, boards, districts, or other entities is not readily distinguishable from the recipient's government, recipients may adopt the Census Bureau's criteria for judging whether an entity is independent from, or a constituent of, a given government. Recipients may not include independent entities in calculating General Revenue. For an entity to be independent, it generally meets all four of the following conditions:

- The entity is an organized entity and possesses corporate powers, such as perpetual succession, the right to sue and be sued, having a name, the ability to make contracts, and the ability to acquire and dispose of property.
- The entity has governmental character, meaning that it provides public services, or wields authority through a popularly elected governing body or officers appointed by public officials. A high degree of responsibility to the public, demonstrated by public reporting requirements or by accessibility of records for public inspection, also evidences governmental character.
- The entity has substantial fiscal independence, meaning it can determine its budget without review and modification by other governments. For instance, the entity can determine its own taxes, charges, and debt issuance without another government's supervision.
- The entity has substantial administrative independence, meaning it has a popularly elected governing body, or has a governing body representing two or more governments, or, in the event its governing body is appointed by another government, the entity performs functions that are essentially different from those of, and are not subject to specification by, its creating government.

If an entity does not meet all four of these conditions, a recipient may classify the entity as part of the recipient's government and include the portion of General Revenue that corresponds to the entity.

To further assist recipients in applying the foregoing criteria, recipients may refer to the Census Bureau's *Individual State Descriptions: 2017 Census of Governments* publication, which lists specific entities and classes of entities classified as either independent (defined by Census as "special purpose governments") or constituent

(defined by Census as “dependent agencies”) on a state-by-state basis. Recipients should note that the Census Bureau’s lists are not exhaustive and that Census classifications are based on an analysis of state and local statutes as of 2017 and subject to the Census Bureau’s judgment. Though not included in the Census Bureau’s publication, state colleges and universities are generally classified as dependent agencies of state governments by the Census Bureau.

If an entity is determined to be part of the recipient’s government, the recipient must also determine whether the entity’s revenue is covered by the final rule’s definition of General Revenue. For example, some cash flows may be outside the definition of General Revenue. In addition, note that the definition of general revenue includes Tribal enterprises in the case of Tribal governments. Refer to [FAQ #3.4](#) and the Appendix for the components included in General Revenue.

3.14. How should recipients that receive multiple allocations (e.g., a city and a county consolidated government) calculate their revenue loss?

If a government entity receives a combined award (e.g., in its capacity both as an NEU and as a Unit of General Local Government (UGLG) within a non-UGLG county), it must determine its revenue loss only once as the combined entity. The government entity may not, for example, elect the standard allowance once as an NEU and once as an UGLG (i.e., it would only be able to claim up to a total of \$10 million standard allowance against all of its awards). Similarly, if the government entity elects to calculate its revenue according to the formula set out in the final rule, it must do so on a combined basis.

In the case of an award to an UGLG within a non-UGLG county under section 603(b)(3)(B)(ii) of the Social Security Act, the UGLG is considered the prime recipient of this award. Therefore, the prime recipient in this circumstance may treat these transferred funds as its own award for purposes of the revenue loss determination.

For example, if an NEU receives \$2 million in its NEU distribution, and then receives an additional \$13 million as an UGLG within a non-UGLG county, and the NEU elects the standard allowance of \$10 million in revenue loss, the NEU would be able to spend up to a total of \$10 million on government services under revenue loss against its awards, and would be able to spend the remaining \$5 million in other expenditure categories.

4. Eligible Uses – General

4.1. How do I know if a specific use is eligible?

The best way to begin evaluation of whether a specific use is an eligible use of SLFRF funds is to consider which of the four eligible use categories the use may fall into.

As a reminder, there are four eligible use categories, ordered below from the broadest and most flexible to the most specific. The [Overview of the Final Rule](#) serves as a summary of the major provisions of each category.

- Replace lost public sector revenue, using this funding to provide government services up to the amount of revenue loss due to the pandemic. (pages 9-11 of the Overview)
- Support the COVID-19 public health and economic response by addressing COVID-19 and its impact on public health as well as addressing economic harms to households, small businesses, nonprofits, impacted industries, and the public sector. (pages 12-34 of the Overview)
- Provide premium pay for eligible workers performing essential work, offering additional support to those who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical sectors. (pages 35-36 of the Overview)
- Invest in water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, making necessary investments to improve access to clean drinking water, to support vital wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and to expand affordable access to broadband internet. (pages 37-40 of the Overview)

The SLFRF program provides substantial flexibility for each jurisdiction to meet local needs within these eligible use categories. In general, recipients should think about what services they are trying to provide, and for which groups or populations, and assess whether this use of funds would fit within the parameters of the eligible use category as outlined in the Overview and the final rule. Recipients also should be mindful that various forms of assistance have been made available during the pandemic (e.g., Economic Injury Disaster Loans through the U.S. Small Business Administration), and certain restrictions on duplications of benefits may apply.

Revenue loss eligible use category

If a use does not appear to be eligible under the water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure, premium pay, or public health and negative economic impacts eligible use categories, then recipients should consider using funds under the revenue loss eligible use category. The revenue loss eligible use category provides recipients broad latitude to use funds for the provision of government services to the extent of reduction in revenue due to the pandemic.

All recipients may elect a “standard allowance” of up to \$10 million to spend on government services through the period of performance (see [FAQ #3.1](#)), or elect to calculate their revenue loss under the formula provided in the final rule. Under this eligible use category, government services generally include any service traditionally provided by a government, unless Treasury has stated otherwise (see [FAQ #3.2](#)). While recipients can refer to common examples on page 11 of the Overview of the Final Rule and page 4408 of the final rule, these lists are not exhaustive. Every use that is eligible under other eligible use categories is also eligible under revenue loss.

Public health and negative economic impacts eligible use category

To assess the eligibility of a use under the public health and negative economic impacts eligible use category, recipients may refer initially to the non-exhaustive lists of enumerated uses that respond to pandemic impacts, and the lists of populations presumed to have experienced pandemic impacts and be eligible for responsive services. These lists appear in the Overview and the final rule organized by sub-categories around the types of assistance a recipient may provide. Recipients should first determine the sub-category where their use of funds may fit (e.g., public health, assistance to households, assistance to small businesses), based on the entity that experienced the health or economic impact. Then, recipients should refer to the relevant section for more details on each sub-category of eligible responses.

If a recipient intends to provide enumerated uses of funds to populations presumed eligible, then the use of funds is clearly consistent with the final rule. However, if the intended expenditure does not match an enumerated use serving a presumed eligible population, that does not necessarily mean it is ineligible. Recipients can consider using the broad flexibility available in this eligible use category to (1) identify and respond to other pandemic impacts and (2) serve other populations that experienced pandemic impacts, beyond the enumerated uses and presumed eligible populations. Recipients can also identify groups or “classes” of beneficiaries that experienced pandemic impacts and provide services to those classes.

Premium pay eligible use category

To assess whether a use falls under the premium pay eligible use category, recipients can follow the steps outlined on p. 35-36 of the Overview, and refer to the FAQs in [section 5](#).

Water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure eligible use category

To assess whether a use falls under the water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure category, recipients can consult p. 37-40 of the Overview, and refer to the FAQs in [section 6](#).

Recipients should also note the restrictions on use, which are applicable across all eligible use categories, and summarized on p. 41-42 of the Overview.

When assessing whether a specific use is eligible, recipients are not required to submit planned expenditures for prior approval by Treasury, and Treasury is not pre-approving proposed expenditures or calculations of revenue loss. Recipients should review the final rule and the Overview of the Final Rule, and consult with counsel as needed, to evaluate whether a particular expenditure is an eligible use of funds.

4.2. May recipients use funds to invest in traditional infrastructure projects other than water, sewer, and broadband projects (e.g. roads, bridges)?

As discussed in [FAQ #3.2](#), recipients have broad flexibility to use revenue loss funds to provide government services, which generally include any service traditionally provided by a government. These services may include, but are not limited to, maintenance of infrastructure or pay-go spending for building of new infrastructure, including roads.

Under the public health and negative economic impacts eligible use category, a general infrastructure project typically would not be considered an eligible response unless the project responds to a specific pandemic-related public health need (e.g., investments in facilities for the delivery of vaccines) or a specific negative economic impact of the pandemic (e.g., affordable housing).

4.3. May recipients use funds to pay interest or principal on outstanding debt?

No. The final rule maintains the restriction on the use of funds for debt service for the reasons described on page 4430 of the final rule and clarifies that this restriction applies to all eligible use categories.

This applies to paying interest or principal on any outstanding debt instrument, including, for example, short-term revenue or tax anticipation notes, or paying fees or issuance costs associated with the issuance of new debt.

4.4. Are governments required to submit proposed expenditures to Treasury for approval?

No. Recipients are not required to submit planned expenditures for prior approval by Treasury. Recipients are subject to the requirements and guidelines for eligible uses contained in the final rule. For more information on compliance and reporting, please see the SLFRF Compliance and Reporting Guidance.

4.5. Do restrictions on using funds to cover costs incurred beginning on March 3, 2021 apply to costs incurred by the recipient (e.g., a State, local, territorial, or Tribal government) or to costs incurred by households, businesses, and individuals benefiting from assistance provided using funds?

The final rule permits funds to be used to cover costs incurred beginning on March 3, 2021. This limitation applies to costs incurred by the recipient (i.e., the state, local, territorial, or Tribal government receiving funds). Recipients may use SLFRF funds to provide assistance to households, businesses, and individuals within the eligible use categories described in the final rule for economic harms experienced by those households, businesses, and individuals prior to March 3, 2021. For example,

- Public Health/Negative Economic Impacts – Recipients may use SLFRF funds to

provide assistance to households – such as rent, mortgage, or utility assistance – for economic harms experienced or costs incurred by the household prior to March 3, 2021 (e.g., rental arrears from preceding months), provided that the cost of providing assistance to the household was not incurred by the recipient prior to March 3, 2021.

- Premium Pay – As discussed further in [FAQ #5.2](#), recipients may provide premium pay retrospectively for work performed at any time since the start of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Such premium pay must be “in addition to” wages and remuneration already received and the obligation to provide such pay must not have been incurred by the recipient prior to March 3, 2021. Employers may not simply reimburse themselves for pay already received by the employee.
- Revenue Loss – The final rule gives recipients broad latitude to use funds for the provision of government services to the extent of reduction in revenue due to the pandemic. If the recipient has elected to calculate lost revenue, the calculation begins with the recipient’s revenue in the last full fiscal year prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency. However, use of funds for government services must be forward looking for costs incurred by the recipient after March 3, 2021.
- Investments in Water, Sewer, and Broadband – Recipients may use SLFRF funds to make necessary investments in water, sewer, and broadband. See [FAQ Section 6](#). Recipients may use funds to cover costs incurred for eligible projects planned or started prior to March 3, 2021, provided that the project costs covered by the funds were incurred after March 3, 2021.

4.6. May recipients use funds to satisfy non-federal matching requirements?

Generally, yes, if using funds available under the revenue loss eligible use category, and no, if using funds under any other eligible use category, except as discussed further below.

Funds available under the revenue loss eligible use category (sections 602(c)(1)(C) and 603(c)(1)(C) of the Social Security Act) generally may be used to meet the non-federal cost-share or matching requirements of other federal programs. However, note that SLFRF funds may not be used as the non-federal share for purposes of a state’s Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Programs (CHIP) because the Office of Management and Budget has approved a waiver as requested by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services pursuant to 2 CFR 200.102 of the Uniform Guidance and related regulations.

If a recipient seeks to use SLFRF funds to satisfy match or cost-share requirements for a federal grant program, it should first confirm with the relevant awarding agency that no waiver has been granted for that program, that no other circumstances enumerated under 2 CFR 200.306(b) would limit the use of SLFRF funds to meet the match or cost-share requirement, and that there is no other statutory or regulatory impediment to using the SLFRF funds for the match or cost-share requirement.

SLFRF funds beyond those that are available under the revenue loss eligible use category

may not be used to meet the non-federal match or cost-share requirements of other federal programs, other than as specifically provided for by statute. As an example, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provides that SLFRF funds may be used to meet the non-federal match requirements of authorized Bureau of Reclamation projects and certain broadband deployment projects. Recipients should consult the final rule for further details if they seek to utilize SLFRF funds as a match for these projects.

4.7. May recipients pool funds for regional projects?

Yes, provided that the project is itself an eligible use of SLFRF funds for each recipient that is contributing to the pool of funds and that recipients are able to track the use of funds in line with the reporting and compliance requirements of the SLFRF. In general, when pooling funds for regional projects, recipients may expend funds directly on the project or transfer funds to another government or other entity that is undertaking the project on behalf of multiple recipients. To the extent recipients undertake regional projects via transfer to another organization or government, recipients would need to comply with the rules on transfers specified in the final rule supplementary information. A recipient may transfer funds to a government outside its boundaries (e.g., county transfers to a neighboring county, or an NEU transferring its funds to a County), provided that the transferor can document that the transfer constitutes an eligible expense of the transferor government and that its jurisdiction receives a benefit proportionate to the amount transferred.

4.8. May recipients fund a project with both ARPA funds and other sources of funding (e.g., blending, braiding, or other pairing funding sources), including in conjunction with financing provided through a debt issuance?

Generally, yes, provided that the costs are eligible costs under each source program and are compliant with all other related statutory and regulatory requirements and policies, including restrictions on use of funds.

The recipient must comply with applicable reporting requirements for all sources of funds supporting the SLFRF projects.

Recipients may source funding for a project in multiple ways, including, but not limited to, the following:

- Using funds available under the revenue loss eligible use category for non-federal match (see [FAQ #4.6](#))
- Pooling funds for a joint project with another SLFRF recipient (see [FAQ #4.7](#))
- Transferring funds to a subrecipient to finance a project that also uses other sources of funding

- Blending or braiding SLFRF funds with other sources of government funding, including debt issuance, to pursue a project

Localities may also transfer their funds to the state through section 603(c)(4) of the Social Security Act, which will decrease the locality's award and increase the state award amounts.

Note that using a recipient blending and braiding funds in conjunction with other sources of funding is distinct from using funds for non-federal match. In the case of non-federal match, the recipient would be using SLFRF funds to satisfy cost-sharing or matching requirements in order to qualify for another source of federal funding, while blending and braiding refers to using multiple sources of funding for complementary purposes.

If the entirety of a project is funded with SLFRF funds, then the entire project must be an eligible use. The use of funds would be subject to the deadline on obligating funds no later than December 31, 2024 and expending funds no later than December 31, 2026. If a project is only partially funded with SLFRF funds, then the portion of the project funded must be an eligible use and the SLFRF funds must also be obligated by December 31, 2024 and expended by December 31, 2026. In either case, recipients must be able to, at a minimum, determine and report to Treasury on the amount of SLFRF funds obligated and expended and when such funds were obligated and expended.

SLFRF funds may not be used to fund the entirety of a project that is partially, although not entirely, an eligible use under Treasury's final rule. However, SLFRF funds may be used for a smaller component project that does constitute an eligible use, while using other funds for the remaining portions of the larger planned project that does not constitute an eligible use. In this case, the "project" for SLFRF purposes under this program would be only the eligible use component of the larger project. For example, a recipient government may use SLFRF funds to subsidize the production of affordable housing units as a response to the pandemic and its negative economic impacts and use other funds to build other parts of a larger development that contains these affordable units.

4.9. May funds be used to make loans or other extensions of credit ("loans") to support an eligible use?

Yes. SLFRF funds may be used to make loans, provided that the loan supports an activity that is an eligible use of funds, the SLFRF funds used to make the loan are obligated by December 31, 2024 and expended by December 31, 2026, and the cost of the loan is tracked and reported in accordance with the points below. For example, a recipient may, consistent with the requirements of the interim final rule and final rule, use funds to finance the construction of affordable housing, or to finance a necessary investment in water, sewer or broadband.

Funds must be used to cover "costs incurred" by the recipient between March 3, 2021, and December 31, 2024, and funds must be expended by December 31, 2026. Accordingly, recipients must be able to determine the amount of funds used to make a loan.

- For loans that mature or are forgiven on or before December 31, 2026, the recipient must account for the use of funds on a cash flow basis, consistent with the approach to loans taken in the Coronavirus Relief Fund.

- Recipients may use SLFRF funds to fund the principal of the loan and in that case must track repayment of principal and interest (i.e., “program income,” as defined under 2 CFR 200).

- When the loan is made, recipients must report the principal of the loan as an expense.

- Repayment of principal may be re-used only for eligible uses and subject to restrictions on timing of use of funds. Interest payments received prior to the end of the period of performance will be considered an addition to the total award and may be used for any purpose that is an eligible use of funds. Recipients are not subject to restrictions under 2 CFR 200.307(e)(1) with respect to such payments.

- For loans with maturities longer than December 31, 2026, the recipient may use funds for only the projected cost of the loan.

- Recipients can project the cost of the loan by estimating the subsidy cost. The subsidy cost is the estimated present value of the cash flows from the recipient (excluding administrative expenses) less the estimated present value of the cash flows to the recipient resulting from a loan, discounted at the recipient’s cost of funding and discounted to the time when the loan is disbursed. The cash flows are the contractual cash flows adjusted for expected deviations from the contract terms (delinquencies, defaults, prepayments, and other factors). A recipient’s cost of funding can be determined based on the interest rates of securities with a similar maturity to the cash flow being discounted that were either (i) recently issued by the recipient or (ii) recently issued by a unit of state, local, or Tribal government similar to the recipient.

- Recipients may also treat the cost of the loan as equal to the expected credit losses over the life of the loan based on the Current Expected Credit Loss (CECL) standard. Recipients may measure projected losses either once, at the time the loan is extended, or annually over the period of performance.

- Under either approach for measuring the amount of funds used to make loans with maturities longer than December 31, 2026, recipients would not be subject to restrictions under 2 CFR 200.307(e)(1) and need not separately track repayment of principal or interest.

- Additionally, recipients may use funds for eligible administrative expenses

incurred in the period of performance, which include the reasonable administrative expenses associated with a loan made in whole, or in part, with funds. See section IV.E of the final rule.

- Contributions to Revolving Loan Funds. A recipient may contribute funds to a revolving loan fund if the loaned SLFRF funds are restricted to financing eligible uses under the public health emergency/negative economic impacts, premium pay, and necessary water, sewer and broadband categories (or under the government services category if the contribution to the revolving fund is made using revenue loss funds). The funds contributed using SLFRF funds must be limited to the projected cost of loans made over the life of the revolving loan fund, following the approach described above for loans with maturities longer than December 31, 2026.

- Loans funded with SLFRF funds under the revenue loss eligible use category. Notwithstanding the above, if a recipient uses revenue loss funds to fund a loan, whether or not the maturity of the loan is after December 31, 2026, the loaned funds may be considered to be expended at the point of disbursement to the borrower, and repayments on such loans are not subject to program income rules. Similarly, any contribution of revenue loss funds to a revolving loan fund may also follow the approach of loans funded under the revenue loss eligible use category.

4.10. May funds be used for outreach to increase uptake of federal assistance like the Child Tax Credit or federal programs like SNAP?

Yes. Eligible uses to address negative economic impacts include “assistance accessing or applying for public benefits or services.” This can include benefits navigators or marketing efforts to increase consumer uptake of federal tax credits, benefits, or assistance programs that respond to negative economic impacts of the pandemic.” Of note, per the final rule, allowable uses of funds for evaluations may also include other types of program evaluations focused on program improvement and evidence building.

5. Eligible Uses – Premium Pay

5.1. What criteria should recipients use in identifying workers to receive premium pay?

SLFRF may be used to provide premium pay to eligible workers performing essential work during the pandemic or to provide grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who perform essential work. Premium pay may be awarded to eligible workers up to \$13 per hour. Premium pay must be in addition to wages or remuneration (i.e., compensation) the eligible worker otherwise receives. Premium pay may not exceed \$25,000 for any single worker during the program.

Premium pay must be responsive to eligible workers performing essential work during the pandemic, and like the interim final rule, the final rule emphasizes the need for recipients to prioritize premium pay for lower-income workers. Premium pay that would go to a worker whose total pay is above 150% of the greater of the state or county average annual wage for all occupations (with or without the premium) requires specific justification for how it responds to the needs of these workers unless that worker is not exempt from the Fair Labor Standards Act overtime provisions.

For a detailed description of what constitutes an eligible worker and essential work as well other premium pay requirements, please see pages 35-36 of the [Overview of the Final Rule](#).

5.2. May recipients provide premium pay retroactively for work already performed?

Yes. Treasury encourages recipients to consider providing premium pay retroactively for work performed during the pandemic, recognizing that many essential workers have not yet received additional compensation for their service during the pandemic. SLFRF funds may not be used to reimburse a recipient or eligible employer grantee for premium pay or hazard pay already received by the employee. To make retroactive premium payments funded with SLFRF funds, a recipient or eligible employer grantee must make a new cash outlay for the premium payments and the payments must be in addition to any wages or remuneration the eligible worker already received.

5.3. Can SLFRF be used to pay for benefits and taxes associated with premium pay wages?

Premium pay is taxable as wage income, and therefore, employers are encouraged to treat the premium pay earned by the employee just as they would other wage income and withhold from the additional pay any required taxes. For further guidance, please see the [FAQ published by the IRS on SLFRF](#).

5.4. Does non-base compensation, such as overtime, count toward the 150% pay threshold? Is the 150% threshold calculated based off of income only from the awarding employer or from an employee's total yearly compensation?

Yes, non-base compensation, including overtime and bonuses, counts toward the 150% pay threshold; however, the 150% pay threshold does *not* take into account other sources of income earned by an employee (e.g., income from a second job). For an hourly employee, or an employee that does not have a year's worth of earnings, an employer should extrapolate the hourly wage at an annual rate by multiplying the hourly rate by forty hours per week and then by fifty-two weeks per year.

6. Eligible Uses – Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure

6.1. What types of water and sewer projects are eligible uses of funds?

Eligible water and sewer projects are outlined on pages 37-38 of the Overview of the Final Rule. Under the interim final rule, SLFRF funds could be used to fund projects that would be eligible under EPA’s Clean Water State Revolving Fund or Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. With broadened eligibility under the final rule, SLFRF funds may also be used to fund additional types of projects — such as additional stormwater infrastructure, residential wells, lead remediation, and certain rehabilitations of dams and reservoirs — beyond the CWSRF and DWSRF, if they are found to be “necessary” according to the definition provided in the final rule and outlined on page 38 of the Overview.

6.2. May recipients use funds as a non-federal match for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) or Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)?

Per FAQ #4.6, SLFRF funds available for the provision of government services, up to the amount of the recipient’s reduction in revenue due to the public health emergency (the revenue loss eligible use category), may be used to meet the non-federal cost-share or matching requirements of other federal programs, including the CWSRF and DWSRF programs administered by the EPA. Per FAQ #4.9, loans funded under the revenue loss eligible use category may be deemed expended at the point of disbursement. Thus, recipients using SLFRF funds available under revenue loss for non-federal matching requirements for the DWSRF or CWSRF may consider funds expended at the point the recipient makes the deposit into the State Revolving Funds. Recipients using SLFRF funds available under revenue loss should log projects under expenditure category 6.2.

As further noted in FAQ #4.6, SLFRF funds beyond those that are available under the revenue loss eligible use category may not be used to meet the non-federal match or cost-share requirements of other federal programs, other than as specifically provided for by statute. Recipients using funds under the eligible use category for water and sewer infrastructure may not use funds as a state match for the CWSRF and DWSRF.

6.3. Does the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) apply to projects funded with SLFRF funds?

NEPA does not apply to Treasury’s administration of the funds, including funds expended under the revenue loss, public health and negative economic impacts, and water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure eligible use categories. Projects supported with payments from the funds may still be subject to NEPA review if they are also funded by other federal financial assistance programs or have certain federal licensing or registration requirements.

6.4. What types of broadband projects are eligible uses of funds?

Recipients are required to design projects that, upon completion, reliably meet or exceed

symmetrical 100 Mbps download and upload speeds where practicable. More details on eligible broadband projects, including eligible areas for investment and the affordability requirement, are outlined on pages 39-40 of the Overview of the Final Rule.

6.5. For broadband investments, may recipients use funds for related programs such as cybersecurity or digital literacy training?

Yes. In the final rule, Treasury maintained the enumerated eligible use for assistance to households for internet access and digital literacy programs. Recipients may use funds to provide assistance to households facing negative economic impacts due to the pandemic, including digital literacy training and other programs that promote access to the Internet.

SLFRF may be used for modernization of cybersecurity for existing and new broadband infrastructure, regardless of their speed delivery standards. This includes modernization of hardware and software. Under the final rule, recipients may also invest in general cybersecurity upgrades, unrelated to broadband infrastructure, under the revenue loss eligible use category.

6.6. Do I need pre-approval for my water, sewer, or broadband project?

See FAQ #4.4. Generally, recipients are not required to submit planned expenditures for prior approval by Treasury and recipients are subject to the requirements and guidelines for eligible uses contained in the final rule.

While recipients must ensure that water and sewer infrastructure projects pursued are eligible under the final rule, recipients are not required to obtain project pre-approval from Treasury or any other federal agency when using SLFRF funds for necessary water and sewer infrastructure projects unless otherwise required by federal law. For projects that are being pursued under the eligibility categories provided through the DWSRF or CWSRF programs, project eligibilities are based on federal project categories and definitions for the programs and not on each state's eligibility or definitions. While reference in the final rule to the DWSRF, CWSRF, or other federal water programs is provided to assist recipients in understanding the types of water and sewer infrastructure projects eligible to be funded with SLFRF, recipients do not need to apply for funding from the applicable state programs or through any federal water program. Similarly, besides eligible project categories, the final rule does not incorporate other program requirements or guidance that attach to the DWSRF, CWSRF, or other federal water programs. However, as noted above, recipients should be aware of other federal or state laws or regulations that may apply to construction projects or water and sewer projects, independent of SLFRF funding conditions, and that may require preapproval from another federal or state agency.

6.7. For broadband infrastructure investments, what are eligible areas of investment?

Recipients are encouraged to prioritize projects that are designed to serve locations without access to reliable wireline 100/20 Mbps broadband service, but are broadly able to invest in projects designed to provide service to locations with an identified need for additional

broadband investment. For more details, see page 39 of the [Overview of the Final Rule](#).

6.8. May recipients use payments from the SLFRF for “middle mile” broadband projects?

Yes. Under the final rule, recipients may use payments from the SLFRF for “middle-mile projects,” but Treasury encourages recipients to focus on projects that will achieve last-mile connections—whether by focusing on funding last-mile projects or by ensuring that funded middle-mile projects have potential or partnered last-mile networks that could or would leverage the middle-mile network.

6.9. For broadband infrastructure investments, what does the requirement to “reliably” meet or exceed a broadband speed threshold mean?

See page 39 of the [Overview of the Final Rule](#), as well as pages 4419-4420 of the final rule.

6.10. May recipients use funds for pre-project development for eligible water, sewer, and broadband projects?

Yes. To determine whether funds can be used on pre-project development for an eligible water or sewer project, recipients should consult whether the pre-project development use or cost is eligible under the Drinking Water and Clean Water State Revolving Funds (DWSRF and CWSRF, respectively). Generally, the CWSRF and DWSRF often allow for pre-project development costs that are tied to an eligible project, as well as those that are reasonably expected to lead to a project. For example, the DWSRF allows for planning and evaluations uses, as well as numerous pre-project development costs, including costs associated with obtaining project authorization, planning and design, and project start-up like training and warranty for equipment. Likewise, the CWSRF allows for broad pre-project development, including planning and assessment activities, such as cost and effectiveness analyses, water/energy audits and conservation plans, and capital improvement plans.

Similarly, pre-project development uses and costs for broadband projects should be tied to an eligible broadband project or reasonably expected to lead to such a project. For example, pre-project costs associated with planning and engineering for an eligible broadband infrastructure build-out is considered an eligible use of funds, as well as technical assistance and evaluations that would reasonably be expected to lead to commencement of an eligible project (e.g., broadband mapping for the purposes of finding an eligible area for investment).

All funds must be obligated by recipients within the statutory period between March 3, 2021 and December 31, 2024, and expended to cover such obligations by December 31, 2026.

6.11. May funds be used to support energy or electrification infrastructure that would be used to power new water treatment plants and wastewater systems?

The EPA's [Overview of Clean Water State Revolving Fund Eligibilities](#) describes eligible energy-related projects. This includes a "[p]ro rata share of capital costs of offsite clean energy facilities that provide power to a treatment works." Thus, SLFRF funds may be used to finance the generation and delivery of clean power to a wastewater system or a water treatment plant on a pro-rata basis. If the wastewater system or water treatment plant is the sole user of the clean energy, the full cost would be considered an eligible use of funds. If the clean energy provider provides power to other entities, only the proportionate share used by the water treatment plant or wastewater system would be an eligible use of funds.

6.12. How should states and local governments assess whether a stormwater management project, such as a culvert replacement, is an eligible project?

Pages 37-38 of the [Overview of the Final Rule](#) describe the overall approach that recipients must take to evaluate the eligibility of water or sewer projects. With broadened eligibility under the final rule, a wide range of culvert repair, resizing, and removal, replacement of storm sewers, and additional types of stormwater infrastructure are eligible projects, as outlined further in the final rule.

6.13. May recipients use funds for road repairs and upgrades that occur in connection with an eligible water or sewer project?

Yes, recipients may use SLFRF funds for road repairs and upgrades directly related to an eligible water or sewer project. For example, a recipient could use funds to repair or repave a road following eligible sewer repair work beneath it. However, use of funds for general infrastructure projects is subject to the limitations described in [FAQ #8.1](#). Water and sewer infrastructure projects are often a single component of a broader transportation infrastructure project, for example, the implementation of stormwater infrastructure to meet Clean Water Act established water quality standards. In this example, the components of the infrastructure project that interact directly with the stormwater infrastructure project may be funded by SLFRF funds.

6.14. May funds be used to build or upgrade broadband connections to schools or libraries?

As outlined in the final rule, recipients may use SLFRF funds to invest in broadband infrastructure that, where practicable, is designed to deliver service that reliably meets or exceeds symmetrical upload and download speeds of 100 Mbps to households or businesses with an identified need for additional broadband investment. "Businesses" in this context refers broadly to include non-residential users of broadband, including private businesses and institutions that serve the public, such as schools, libraries, healthcare facilities, and public safety organizations.

6.15. Are eligible water, sewer, and broadband infrastructure projects, eligible capital expenditures under the public health and negative economic impacts eligible use category, and eligible projects under the revenue loss eligible use category subject to the Davis-Bacon Act?

The Davis-Bacon Act requirements (prevailing wage rates) do not apply to projects funded solely with award funds from the SLFRF program, except for SLFRF-funded construction projects undertaken by the District of Columbia. The Davis-Bacon Act specifically applies to the District of Columbia when it uses federal funds (SLFRF funds or otherwise) to enter into contracts over \$2,000 for the construction, alteration, or repair (including painting and decorating) of public buildings or public works. Recipients may be otherwise subject to the requirements of the Davis-Bacon Act when SLFRF award funds are used on a construction project in conjunction with funds from another federal program that requires enforcement of the Davis-Bacon Act. Additionally, corollary state prevailing-wage-in-construction laws (commonly known as “baby Davis-Bacon Acts”) may apply to projects. Please refer to [FAQ #4.8](#) concerning projects funded with both SLFRF funds and other sources of funding.

Treasury has indicated in its final rule that it is important that capital expenditure projects and necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure be carried out in ways that produce high-quality results, avert disruptive and costly delays, and promote efficiency. Treasury encourages recipients to ensure that capital expenditure projects and water, sewer, and broadband projects use strong labor standards, including project labor agreements and community benefits agreements that offer wages at or above the prevailing rate and include local hire provisions, not only to promote effective and efficient delivery of high-quality projects, but also to support the economic recovery through strong employment opportunities for workers. Using these practices in projects may help to ensure a reliable supply of skilled labor that would minimize disruptions, such as those associated with labor disputes or workplace injuries.

Treasury has also indicated in its reporting guidance that recipients will need to provide documentation of wages and labor standards for capital expenditure projects and infrastructure projects over \$10 million, and that these requirements can be met with certifications that the project is in compliance with the Davis-Bacon Act (or related state laws, commonly known as “baby Davis-Bacon Acts”) and subject to a project labor agreement. Please refer to the Reporting and Compliance Guidance for more detailed information on the reporting requirement.

6.16. What is the difference between using funds for eligible water and sewer projects and using funds under revenue loss for non-federal match for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) or Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)?

As noted in [FAQ #6.1](#) and the Overview of the Final Rule, eligible projects that a recipient may fund under the water and sewer infrastructure eligible use category of SLFRF include eligible projects under EPA’s CWSRF and EPA’s DWSRF. Recipients may also fund

certain additional projects, including a wide set of lead remediation, stormwater infrastructure, and aid for private wells and septic units. Per [FAQ #6.6](#), recipients spending SLFRF funds under the water and sewer eligible use category are not required to obtain project pre-approval from Treasury or any other federal agency unless otherwise required by federal law.

Projects that recipients undertake with SLFRF funds under the water and sewer eligible use category are separate and distinct from projects that a recipient manages through their CWSRF and DWSRF. As noted in [FAQ #4.6](#) and [FAQ #6.2](#), recipients may use funds under the revenue loss eligible use category for non-federal matching requirements, including for EPA's Clean Water State Revolving Fund and EPA's Drinking Water State Revolving Fund. By contrast, funds spent under the water and sewer infrastructure eligible use category may not be used to meet non-federal matching requirements.

7. Non-Entitlement Units (NEUs)

Answers to frequently asked questions on distribution of funds to NEUs can be found in this [FAQ supplement](#).

8. Ineligible Uses

8.1. May recipients use funds to replenish a budget stabilization fund, rainy day fund, or similar reserve account?

No. Funds made available to respond to the public health emergency and its negative economic impacts are intended to help meet pandemic response needs and provide immediate stabilization for households and businesses. Contributions to rainy day funds and similar reserve funds would not address these needs or respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency, but would rather be savings for future spending needs. Similarly, funds made available for the provision of governmental services (to the extent of reduction in revenue) are intended to support direct provision of services to citizens. Contributions to rainy day funds are not considered provision of government services, since such expenses do not directly relate to the provision of government services.

8.2. What is meant by a pension “deposit”? Can governments use funds for routine pension contributions for employees whose payroll and covered benefits are eligible expenses?

In the context of the restriction on deposits into pension funds, “deposit” means an extraordinary payment of an accrued, unfunded liability. The term deposit does not refer to routine contributions made by an employer to pension funds as part of the employer's obligations related to payroll, such as either a pension contribution consisting of a normal cost component related to current employees or a component addressing the amortization of unfunded liabilities calculated by reference to the employer's payroll costs.

In general, if an employee's wages and salaries are an eligible use of SLFRF funds, recipients may treat the employee's covered benefits as an eligible use of funds.

8.3. May recipients use Fiscal Recovery Funds to fund Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)?

OPEB refers to benefits other than pensions (see, e.g., Governmental Accounting Standards Board, "Other Post-Employment Benefits"). Treasury has determined that Sections 602(c)(2)(B) and 603(c)(2) of the Social Security Act, which refer only to deposits to pensions funds, do not prohibit SLFRF recipients from funding OPEB. Recipients may use funds for eligible uses, and a recipient seeking to use SLFRF funds for OPEB contributions would need to justify those contributions under one of the four eligible use categories.

9. Reporting

Recipients should consult the Recipient Compliance and Reporting Responsibilities page on Treasury's website to access the latest Compliance and Reporting Guidance. Recipients should consult this guidance for additional detail and clarification on recipients' compliance and reporting responsibilities. User guides, which also contain FAQs pertaining to reporting, are provided for additional information.

10. Miscellaneous

10.1. Are recipients required to remit interest earned on SLFRF payments made by Treasury?

No. SLFRF payments made by Treasury to states, territories, and the District of Columbia are not subject to the requirement of the Cash Management Improvement Act and Treasury's implementing regulations at 31 CFR Part 205 to remit interest to Treasury. SLFRF payments made by Treasury to local governments and Tribes are not subject to the requirements of 2 CFR 200.305(b)(8) and (9) to maintain SLFRF award funds in an interest-bearing account and remit interest earned above \$500 on such payments to Treasury. Moreover, interest earned on SLFRF award funds is not subject to program restrictions. Finally, states may retain interest on payments made by Treasury to the state for distribution to NEUs that is earned before funds are distributed to NEUs, provided that the state adheres to the statutory requirements and Treasury's guidance regarding the distribution of funds to NEUs. Such interest is also not subject to program restrictions.

Among other things, states and other recipients may use earned income to defray the administrative expenses of the program, including with respect to NEUs.

10.2. May recipients use funds to cover the costs of consultants to assist with managing and administering the funds?

Yes. Recipients may use funds for administering the SLFRF program, including costs of consultants to support effective management and oversight, including consultation for ensuring compliance with legal, regulatory, and other requirements.

11. Operations

11.1. How do I know if my entity is eligible?

The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 set forth the jurisdictions eligible to receive funds under the SLFRF program, which are:

- States and the District of Columbia
- Territories
- Tribal governments
- Counties
- Metropolitan cities (typically, but not always, those with populations over 50,000)
- Non-entitlement units of local government, or smaller local governments (typically, but not always, those with populations under 50,000)

11.2. How does an eligible entity request payment?

Eligible entities (other than non-entitlement units) must submit their information to the Treasury Submission Portal. Please visit the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund website for more information on the submission process.

11.3. I cannot log into the Treasury Submission Portal or am having trouble navigating it. Who can help me?

If you have questions about the Treasury Submission Portal or for technical support, please email covidreliefitsupport@treasury.gov.

11.4. What do I need to do to receive my payment?

All eligible payees are required to have a Unique Entity ID (UEI) as part of registration in addition to maintaining an active registration in the System for Award Management (SAM) (<https://www.sam.gov>).

Eligible payees must have a bank account enabled for Automated Clearing House (ACH) direct deposit. Payees with a Wire account are encouraged to provide that information as well.

More information on these and all program pre-submission requirements can be found on the [SLFRF website](#).

11.5. Why is Treasury employing ID.me for the Treasury Submission Portal?

ID.me is only required for submitting applications for funding in the Treasury Portal. ID.me is not required for users accessing the Treasury portal to complete reporting.

ID.me provides secure digital identity verification to those government agencies and healthcare providers to validate the individual entity – and block fraudulent attempts to access online services. All personally identifiable information provided to ID.me is encrypted and disclosed only with the express consent of the user. Please refer to ID.me Contact Support for assistance with your ID.me account. Their support website is <https://help.id.me>.

11.6. Why is an entity not on the list of eligible entities in the Treasury Submission Portal?

The ARPA lays out which governments are eligible for payments. The list of entities within the Treasury Submission Portal includes entities eligible to receive a direct payment of funds from Treasury, which include states (defined to include the District of Columbia), territories, Tribal governments, counties, and metropolitan cities.

Eligible non-entitlement units of local government will receive a distribution of funds from their respective state government and should not submit information to the Treasury Submission Portal.

If you believe an entity has been mistakenly left off the eligible entity list, please email SLFRF@treasury.gov.

11.7. What is an Authorized Representative?

An Authorized Representative is an individual with legal authority to bind the government entity (e.g., the Chief Executive Officer of the government entity). An Authorized Representative must sign the Acceptance of Award terms for it to be valid.

11.8. How do I know the status of my request for funds (submission)?

Entities can check the status of their submission at any time by logging into the [Treasury Submission Portal](#).

11.9. My Treasury Submission Portal submission requires additional information/correction. What is the process for that?

If your Authorized Representative has not yet signed the award terms, you can edit your submission within the Treasury Submission Portal. If your Authorized Representative has signed the award terms, please email SLFRF@treasury.gov to request assistance with updating your information.

11.10. My request for funds was denied. How do I find out why it was denied or appeal the decision?

Please check to ensure that no one else from your entity has applied, causing a duplicate submission. Please also review the list of all eligible entities on the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund website.

If you still have questions regarding your submission, please email SLFRF@treasury.gov.

11.11. When will entities get their money?

Before Treasury is able to execute a payment, a representative of an eligible government must submit the government's information for verification through the Treasury Submission Portal. The verification process takes approximately four business days. If any errors are identified, the designated point of contact for the government will be contacted via email to correct the information before the payment can proceed. Once verification is complete, the designated point of contact of the eligible government will receive an email notifying them that their submission has been verified. Payments are generally scheduled for the next business day after this verification email, though funds may not be available immediately due to processing time of their financial institution.

11.12. How does a local government entity provide Treasury with a notice of transfer of funds to its State?

For more information on how to provide Treasury with notice of transfer to a state, please email SLRedirectFunds@treasury.gov.

12. Tribal Governments

12.1. Do Treasury's pandemic recovery program awards terms and conditions impose civil rights laws on Tribes?

The award terms and conditions for Treasury's pandemic recovery programs, including SLFRF, do not impose antidiscrimination requirements on Tribal governments beyond what would otherwise apply under federal law. Treasury has amended its reporting

requirements with respect to the SLFRF, Treasury's Emergency Rental Assistance Program, and Homeowner Assistance Fund to reflect this clarification.

12.2. How does a Tribal government determine its allocation?

Tribal governments received information about their allocation when their submission to the Treasury Submission Portal was confirmed to be complete and accurate.

13. Uniform Guidance

13.1. What provisions of the Uniform Guidance for grants apply to these funds? Will the Single Audit requirements apply?

Most of the provisions of the Uniform Guidance (2 CFR Part 200) apply to this program, including the Cost Principles and Single Audit Act requirements. Recipients should refer to the Assistance Listing for detail on the specific provisions of the Uniform Guidance that do not apply to this program. The Assistance Listing will be available at <https://sam.gov/fal/7cecfdef62dc42729a3fdcd449bd62b8/view>.

For information related to Single Audit requirements specifically, please refer to the Compliance Supplement materials released by the Office of Management and Budget.

13.2. Do federal procurement requirements apply to SLFRF?

Yes. The procurement standards for federal financial assistance are located in the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards at 2 CFR 200.317 through 2 CFR 200.327 and apply to procurements using SLFRF funds. Pursuant to 2 CFR 200.317, recipients that are non-state entities, such as, metropolitan cities, counties, non-entitlement units of local government, and Tribes must comply with the procurement standards set forth in 2 CFR 200.318, through 2 CFR 200.327, when using their SLFRF award funds to procure goods and services to carry out the objectives of their SLFRF award. States, the District of Columbia, and U.S. Territories must follow their own procurement policies pursuant to 2 CFR 200.317, as well as comply with the procurement standards set forth at 2 CFR 200.321 through 2 CFR 200.323, and 2 CFR 200.327 when using their SLFRF award funds to procure goods and services to carry out the objectives of their SLFRF award. *See also* SLFRF Award Terms and Conditions.

Recipients are prohibited from using SLFRF funds to enter into subawards and contracts with parties that are debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation in Federal assistance programs. *See* 2 CFR 200.214.

Moreover, a contract made under emergency circumstances under the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) cannot automatically be transferred over to SLFRF. These programs are subject to different treatment under the Uniform Guidance. Under the CRF program, recipients are permitted to use their own procurement policies to acquire goods and

services to implement the objectives of the CRF award. Under the SLFRF program, recipients are required to follow the procurement standards set out in 2 CFR Part 200 (Uniform Guidance) pursuant to the SLFRF Award Terms and Conditions executed by the recipients in connection with their SLFRF awards.

13.3. What is the threshold for competitive bidding for my government?

As stated above, recipients are required to comply with the procurement standards set forth in 2 CFR 200.317 through 2 CFR 200.327 of the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards (Uniform Guidance). Pursuant to 2 CFR 200.317, States, the District of Columbia, and U.S. Territories should refer to the competitive bidding thresholds described in their own procurement policies and procedures. Other non-federal entities, such as metropolitan cities, counties, non-entitlement units of local government, and Tribes must adhere to the competitive bidding thresholds set forth in 2 CFR 200.320 for the relevant procurement methods.

2 CFR 200.320 describes methods of procurement based on two procurement thresholds. There are two thresholds that recipients should keep in mind related to procurement requirements: the Micro purchase threshold (MPT) and the Simplified Acquisition Threshold (SAT).

Micro-purchase threshold (MPT) - 2 CFR 200.320(a)(1): Purchase of supplies and services for a price below the MPT, currently set at \$10,000, are not required to be solicited competitively. However, there are circumstances when a recipient may have a MPT that is greater than \$10,000. For example, all non-Federal entities may increase their MPT up to \$50,000 if they follow the protocols described in 200.320(a)(1)(iv). Additionally, non-federal entities such as metropolitan cities, counties, non-entitlement units of local government, and Tribes may use their own MPT if they follow the protocols described in 200.320(a)(1)(iv).

Simplified Acquisition Threshold (SAT) - 2 CFR 200.320(a)(2): Purchases of property and services at a price above the recipient's MPT and below the SAT, currently set at \$250,000, may be made following the small purchase procedures described in the definition of SAT in 2 CFR 200.1 and 2 CFR 200.320(a)(2). Procurement of property and services at a price above the SAT must follow the formal procurement methods outlined in 2 CFR 200.320(b).

13.4. Can a recipient prequalify firms for projects funded with SLFRF?

The Uniform Guidance permits recipients to use prequalified lists of persons, firms, or products so long as a list is current and includes enough qualified sources to ensure maximum open and free competition. The Uniform Guidance does not specifically define the term "current" for purposes of 2 CFR 200.319(e), and Treasury has not adopted additional guidance regarding this requirement as it applies to the SLFRF. As such, recipients must determine when a prequalified list would be sufficiently current, and a recipient must not preclude potential bidders from qualifying during the solicitation period.

See 2 CFR 200.319(e). Furthermore, recipients may not utilize this provision to evade conducting their procurement transactions in a manner that provides for full and open competition.

Recipients should be mindful that other provisions of the Uniform Guidance inform the procurement requirements. For example, metropolitan cities, counties, non-entitlement units of local government, and Tribes must have and use documented procurement procedures, consistent with binding State, local, and Tribal laws and regulations. See 2 CFR 200.318(a).

13.5. Where can one find the most current information on assuring minority-owned businesses are included in the awards process?

The most up-to-date information on assuring that minority-owned businesses are included in the procurement process is located in 2 CFR 200.321, *Contracting with small and minority businesses, women's business enterprises, and labor surplus area firms*.

13.6. Is there certain language that needs to be included in a bidding package?

Treasury does not require that there be specific language included in bidding packages, but SLFRF recipients must ensure all contracts made with SLFRF award funds contain the applicable contract provisions listed in 2 CFR Part 200, Appendix II.

13.7. Are recipients allowed to leverage existing contracts?

Recipients may leverage existing contracts for SLFRF activities if the existing contracts conform to the procurement standards in the Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards in 2 CFR Part 200 (Uniform Guidance). States, the District of Columbia, and U.S. Territories must follow their own procurement policies pursuant to 2 CFR 200.317 as well as comply with the procurement standards set forth at 2 CFR 200.321 through 2 CFR 200.323, and 2 CFR 200.327. All other recipients must follow 2 CFR 200.318, *General procurement standards*, through 200.327, *Contract provisions*.

13.8. Would an interlocal agreement—an agreement entered into between governments to effectuate an eligible use of the funds—or a cooperative purchase agreement need to be bid out?

States, the District of Columbia, and U.S. Territories must follow their own procurement policies pursuant to 2 CFR 200.317 as well as comply with the procurement standards set forth at 2 CFR 200.321 through 2 CFR 200.323, and 2 CFR 200.327. All other recipients must follow 2 CFR 200.318, *General procurement standards*, through 200.327, *Contract provisions*.

Recipients should consult the applicable procurement standards or policies to determine whether a cooperative purchase agreement must be bid out. Information on when

competition is required and when exceptions to competition are permitted are located in 2 CFR 200.319, *Competition*, and 2 CFR 200.320, *Methods of procurement to be followed*.

It is permissible for recipients to use interlocal agreements but procurement standards set forth in the Uniform Guidance may still apply.

13.9. How is a “contract” different than a “subaward?”

The Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards in 2 CFR Part 200 (Uniform Guidance) provides definitions for “contract” and “subaward.” A *contract* is a legal instrument by which a recipient or subrecipient purchases property or services needed to carry out the project or program under a federal award. A *subaward* is distinct from a contract in that a subaward is an award provided by a recipient of a federal award to a subrecipient to carry out part of a federal award on behalf of the recipient. Recipients may make subawards through any form of legal agreement, including an agreement that the recipient considers a contract. See 2 CFR 200.331 for more information on the differences between contracts and subawards.

13.10. What other background laws must recipients comply with?

SLFRF recipients must comply with all laws outlined in the SLFRF Award Terms and Conditions that the recipients accepted in connection with their SLFRF award and all other applicable executive orders, federal statutes, and regulations in carrying out their SLFRF award. Recipients must also provide for such compliance by other parties in any agreements it enters into with other parties relating to the award. The award terms listed specific statutes and regulations that apply to the award, but the award terms made clear that these lists were not exclusive. Particularly in the case of the SLFRF, it’s not possible to enumerate the full list of federal statutes, regulations and executive orders that may be applicable to the award given that the range of eligible uses of funds is so broad, including the provision of government services.

13.11. How does Treasury treat program income?

Per 2 CFR 200.307, Treasury is specifying here that recipients may add program income to the Federal award. Any program income generated from SLFRF funds must be used for the purposes and under the conditions of the Federal award.

Program income includes but is not limited to income from fees for services performed, the use or rental of real or personal property acquired under federal awards, the sale of commodities or items fabricated under a federal award, license fees and royalties on patents and copyrights, and principal and interest on loans made with federal award funds. Interest earned on advances of federal funds **is not** program income. For more information on what constitutes “Program Income” please see 2 CFR 200.1.

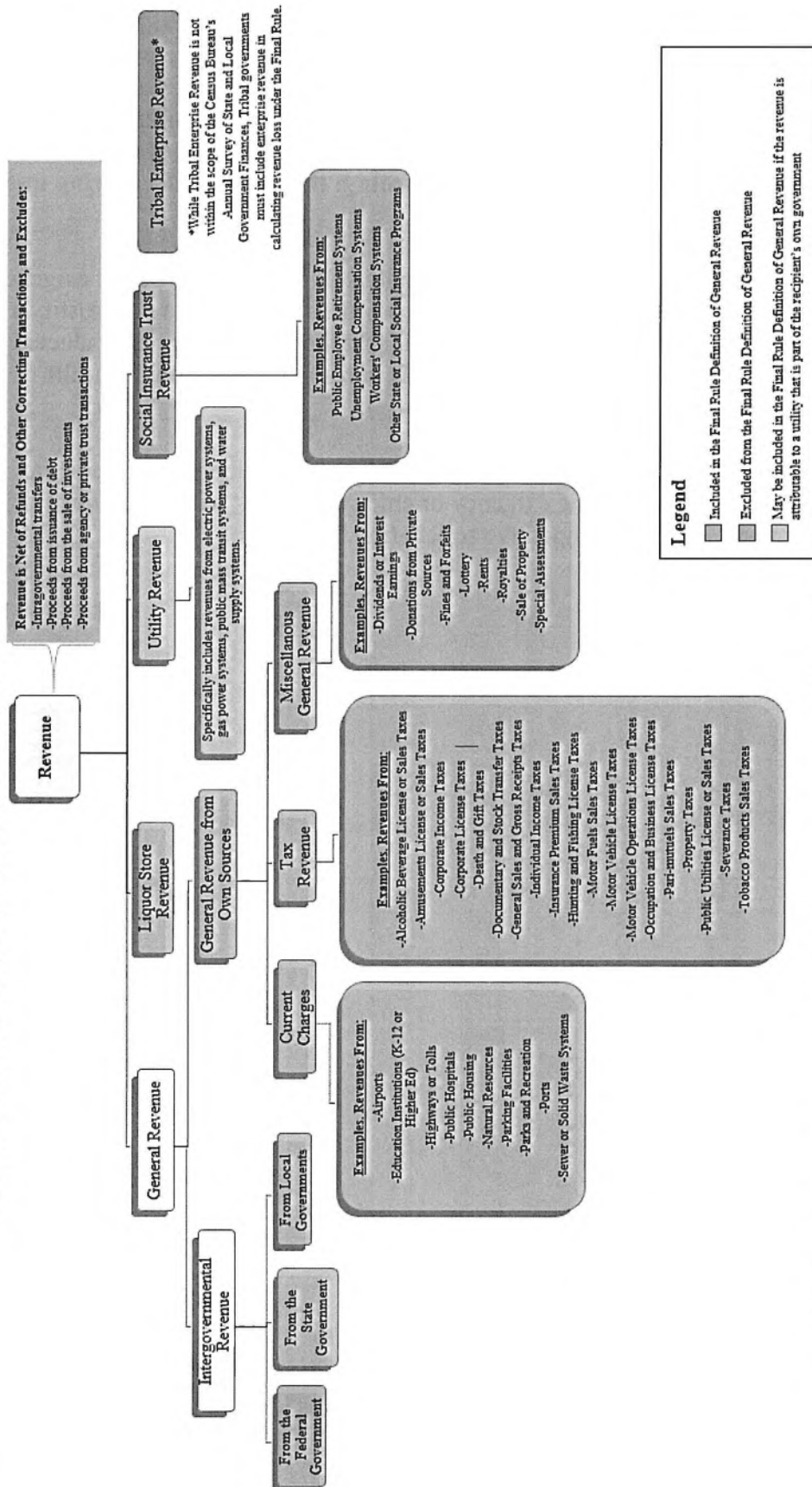
13.12. Does COVID-19 and the national emergency qualify as "exigency" as a special circumstance under 2 CFR 200.320 (c) in which a noncompetitive procurement can be used? If so, may a contract utilizing this special circumstance have a term that extends beyond the national emergency? For example, may a County execute a contract (without going through a competitive solicitation) immediately with a contractor to provide services with a term through the end of 2024, relying upon this special circumstance?

The COVID-19 public health emergency does not itself qualify as a "public exigency or emergency" under 2 CFR 200.320 (c). In other words, a recipient may not justify a noncompetitive procurement simply on the basis that the procurement is conducted during the public health emergency or that the project is in response to the public health emergency.

Instead, the recipient must make its own assessment as to whether in the case of a particular project there is a public exigency or emergency that "will not permit a delay resulting from publicizing a competitive solicitation."

Appendix

Final Rule Definition of General Revenue Within the Census Bureau Classification Structure of Revenue



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census Government Finance and Employment Classification Manual, 2006; Annual Survey of State and Local Government Finances

Chapter 42. Departments and Commissions

Part 1. Department of Police

Article VIIA. Identification of Law Enforcement Officers

§ 42-54.1. Provision of business card after interaction.

In order to foster trust between the community and the Police Department and to increase transparency in police practices, the Department shall maintain a policy requiring sworn officers to provide members of the public with whom they have had an interaction with a business card, even in the absence of a request, in situations that do not result in an arrest or summons. The term "interaction" shall be defined in the Department's standard operating procedures. Such business cards shall include the name, rank and command of the officer and the contact information for the Citizens' Police Review Board established in accordance with Article **XLIV** of Part **33** of this chapter.

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