



Richland County's Executive Summary Of the American Rescue Plan Survey

When the County received funding from the American Rescue Grant the development of a survey with guiding principles of, "Encourage community interaction." The survey's intent was to maintain and encourage racial, ethnic, economic, cultural, and other types of diversity." The County was able to develop a baseline in creating potential projects that will serve as the guide for the use of funds, throughout the term of the Recovery Plan. The county will continue meeting with residents, community organizations, and businesses and update this plan accordingly. Below is the top 10 priorities according to participant's response:

1. Services for abused and Neglected Children at sixty-six (66%)
2. Street improvements – sixty-five percent (65%)
3. Mental Health - sixty- four percent (64.39%)
4. Support Services - sixty- four percent (63.93%)
5. Transitional Housing – sixty-three (63.15%)
6. Emergency Shelters – Sixty-two(61.85)
7. Permanent Housing – Sixty-one(60.99)
8. Broadband Infrastructure -Sixty-one (60.78)
9. Services for Victims of Domestic Violence-Sixty-one (60.52)
10. Veterans- Fifty-Eight- (57.44)

The survey was divided into eight separate selections that composed of: Housing, Public Infrastructure Improvement, Public Facilities, Public Safety & Community Services, Economic and Workforce Development, Downtown Development/Revitalization, What Type of Business/Services Do you feel need to be recruited to downtown and Neighborhood Needs.

There are a few items that came in that were fifty percent or more that are noteworthy: Special housing for Elderly (54%), the safety of your neighborhood during the day (54%), Youth Services (52%), Day Care Services (52%), Special Needs Services (51%), Rental Assistance (51%), Substance Abuse Services (50%) and Flood/Drainage Improvements (50%). The County maybe consider this additional information should they want to pursue these activities or projects at a later date.

The survey also allowed participants to address specific issues they deem serious or concerns in the community. The comments list below are direct responses that were part of the survey:

- Homelessness and people directly affected by COVID to find safe available shelters to help get back on feet is my main concern.
- Crime prevention, more police and courts to process criminals
- Education and internet services
- Need for transitional housing for formerly incarcerated people
- Housing Counseling Services

Additional, there were request from local agencies and their recommendations for projects and the use of American Rescue Funds: The agencies name is listed below but due to the fact that a proposal or request was submitted, it would be too lengthy to add to this summary. *List of Agencies:

- Midlands Fatherhood Coalition/ ARC
- Eau Claire Cooperative Health Center, Inc. (d/b/a Cooperative Health)
- FoodShare South Carolina
- Affordable Housing Trust Fund - More Justice
- Midlands Technical College Richland County ARPA Proposal- Free College for Richland County High School Graduates
- Homeless No More - Community Center/Hub for At-Risk and Homeless Families
- Homeless No More - Affordable Housing for Families At-Risk of Homelessness with Children
- Columbia Food Policy Committee

(*Please note that this may not be a complete list of every agency that has submitted a request or proposal but will be added to the official record and documented as a part of the community input).

The American Rescue funds are in constant flux and subject to change according the Department of Treasury. The County will continue make the necessary changes to address all federal requirements as well as community needs.

