



ARPA UPDATE AS OF AUGUST 15, 2022

CENTER FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Strategic Process

The Center for Economic Recovery (the Center) has completed the first phase of its process for rescue and transformation. Strategic frameworks developed with the support of priority leads (senior leadership from the Bibb administration), reflect Mayor Justin Bibb's overarching vision, objectives, goals and metrics for each priority area. Metrics will be further shaped by the initiatives funded, therefore we anticipate these being adjusted after each legislative docket. You can view the full strategic frameworks for each priority area [here](#).

THE OVERARCHING OBJECTIVES FOR EACH PRIORITY AREA ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Arts & Neighborhood Amenities

Promote and sustain public art, embedding art throughout public life.

Increase equitable access to green space through activated parks and green infrastructure.

Budget Stabilization

Ensure city's ability to maintain service and staffing levels in future economic downturns.

Enhance city's creditworthiness.

Civic Participation Fund

Explore effectiveness of participatory democracy approaches in Cleveland.

Engage historically-excluded communities in the civic process.

Boost sustained civic engagement.

Closing the Digital Divide

SHORT TERM

Promote digital adoption through education, devices and support.

Provide affordable, quality internet to qualifying residents.

LONG TERM

Build out fiber network across City.

Deploy Smart City technologies.

Education for Everyone

Stabilize and strengthen the educational foundation.

Establish an equitable family-friendly enrollment system.

Increase access to high-quality school.

Expand quality learning experiences through the Learning Innovation Center.

Housing for All

Improve housing stability and security for renters.

Build generational wealth by rebuilding homeownership.

Boost housing values in under-invested neighborhoods with targeted investments.

Create housing dashboard to guide interventions.

Support vulnerable populations with housing programs, assistance and services.

Lead-Safe Cleveland

Boost homeowner capacity to fix homes.

Build workforce capacity to address lead in homes.

Expand proactive prevention and lead testing.

Develop a holistic action plan.

Inclusive Economic Recovery

Leverage local and regional partnerships in business.

Position the City as a great place to build business and work.

Harness resources to activate key places.

Modern and Transparent City Hall

Allow residents and visitors to connect, communicate, and conduct their business with City Hall more efficiently and effectively.

Equip City Hall staff with the skills, systems and processes needed to improve services and delivery.

Provide residents and visitors who engage with City Hall a positive user experience.

Digitize city services to bring City Hall into the 21st century.

Violence Prevention & Public Safety

Provide high-quality violence prevention programs.

Expand violence interruption efforts.

Equip safety forces with innovative technologies that can enhance performance.

Progress Update

In August 2022, the Center made progress across a number of priority areas to stabilize the budget and close the digital divide. The Mayor's efforts for budget stabilization using ARPA Revenue Recovery funding has already yielded positive results. The City of Cleveland's issuer rating was upgraded by Moody's Investors Service from A1 to Aa3. This is the first time in 12 years that the City has received such an upgrade. This will result in lower borrowing costs and an expanded investor base for Cleveland. This demonstrates the City's proactive approach to financial management. In addition to enhancing the City's creditworthiness, tactics to stabilize the budget will promote the City's ability to maintain staffing and service levels through future economic downturns.

A Request for Proposals for Closing the Digital Divide – Digital Adoption and Affordable Access was released on June 30. Submissions are due on August 26. We are excited to have already received many proposals from both local and national organizations.

Collaboration

To strengthen our efforts and enhance our collaboration with Cleveland City Council, the Center now includes Council's Director of Policy, Jessica Colombi and Policy Analyst, Anne Tillie. The Center is excited to be working even more collaboratively with Council through this process and has already experienced a boost in momentum around priority areas, such as Violence Prevention & Public Safety and Housing for All as Council champions work

alongside Bibb administration leaders to scope out initiatives.

Additionally, the Center is pleased to have Office of Equal Opportunity Director Tyson Mitchell join the team of senior leaders. Director Mitchell will focus on bringing an equity lens to the allocation of ARPA dollars.

Meetings with national and local partners to incorporate best practices from across the country, shape ideas, and share our process continued this month. This includes the Brookings Institute's Transforming Cities Lab, the U.S. Council of Mayors, and the Ohio Mayors Alliance.

Proposed Initiatives

The Center is currently prioritizing initiatives to introduce to Council for a first reading at the September 12, 2022 meeting. Initiatives considered for funding have come from departments within the administration, City Council, and the community as proposals. The Center will be evaluating each proposal using the Evaluation Guide. Initiatives with the highest marks will be recommended to Mayor Bibb and Council.

