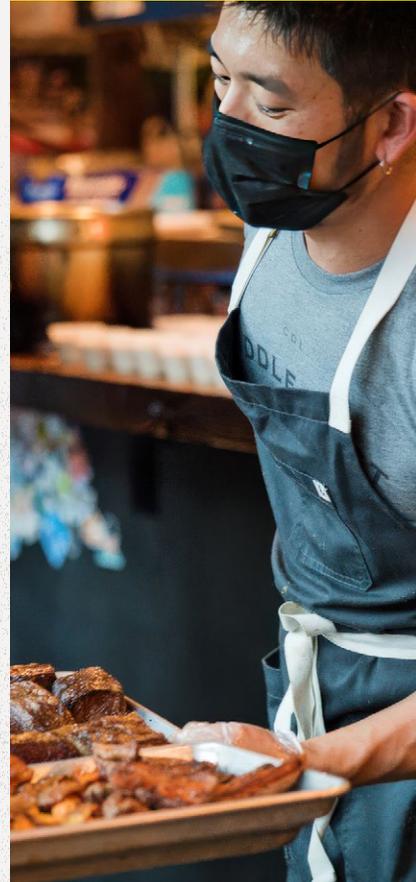




Seattle Rescue Plan

Executive Summary



SEATTLE'S STRATEGY
TO RECOVER FROM THE
COVID-19 PANDEMIC

20
24



In early 2020, the Seattle area became the initial epicenter of the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States.

Despite quick and decisive community efforts to curb the virus's spread, its impacts permeated our region, resulting in significant economic, social, and health-related loss. Historically marginalized communities experienced disproportionate impacts, including higher per capita COVID-19 cases, increased hospitalization rates, and higher mortality rates.

To address the far-reaching effects of the pandemic, the City of Seattle received more than \$300 million from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA). This emergency funding was a crucial lifeline for our community, particularly those facing the greatest hardships. We used this historic infusion of emergency funding to provide services to our community and support those who were most in need.



\$300M

received

FROM AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT



A key part of the Rescue Plan strategy was to partner with community organizations.

While Seattle is still recovering from the pandemic, the City responded to the COVID-19 crisis prioritizing quick actions, strategic programming, and equitable support to our residents who needed the most help. The Seattle Rescue Plan (SRP) both helped residents with essential services and helped the City strengthen internal infrastructure so that it could serve residents more effectively. Seattle is moving forward from the pandemic as a more resilient city with a stronger ability to measure, evaluate, and continuously improve our services.



JAN 2020
First U.S. COVID-19 case confirmed in Washington State



FEB 2020
Gov. Inslee issues COVID-19 emergency proclamation

MARCH 2020
Congress passes the **\$2.2T CARES Act**



JUNE 2020
Seattle opens first Covid-19 testing site

OCTOBER 2020
Seattle distributes **1M** items of PPE



MARCH 2021
Seattle opens the largest civilian run vaccination site in the nation

MARCH 2021
Congress passes the **\$1.9T American Rescue Plan Act**

JUNE 2021
Seattle City Council authorizes first round of SRP spending



FEB 2022
Seattle closes its City-led vaccination clinics, having administered over

333,000 doses

MAY 2022
Seattle City Council authorizes next round of SRP spending

OCT 2022
Gov. Inslee ends COVID-19 emergency order

APR 2023
\$226M of CLFR funds deployed

75%

APR 2024
\$276M of SRP funds deployed

90%

What was the Seattle Rescue Plan?

The City of Seattle received over \$300M from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA), including \$232M in local direct aid from the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CLFR). It appropriated these funds as part of a series of spending packages known collectively as the Seattle Rescue Plan. CLFR funding is required to be spent or appropriated by December 31, 2024. This influx of funding presented a unique opportunity to both respond to Seattle's immediate needs while planting seeds for the community's long-term recovery.



Supporting City Workers & Services

13 PROGRAMS

GOAL: The City of Seattle is equipped to serve its residents and reopen equitably and safely.

Community Well-Being & Reopening Services

22 PROGRAMS

GOAL: All communities have their basic needs met, such as food, childcare, and more.

Housing & Homelessness

10 PROGRAMS

GOAL: Residents have access to safe, affordable, and stable housing.

Community & Small Business Recovery

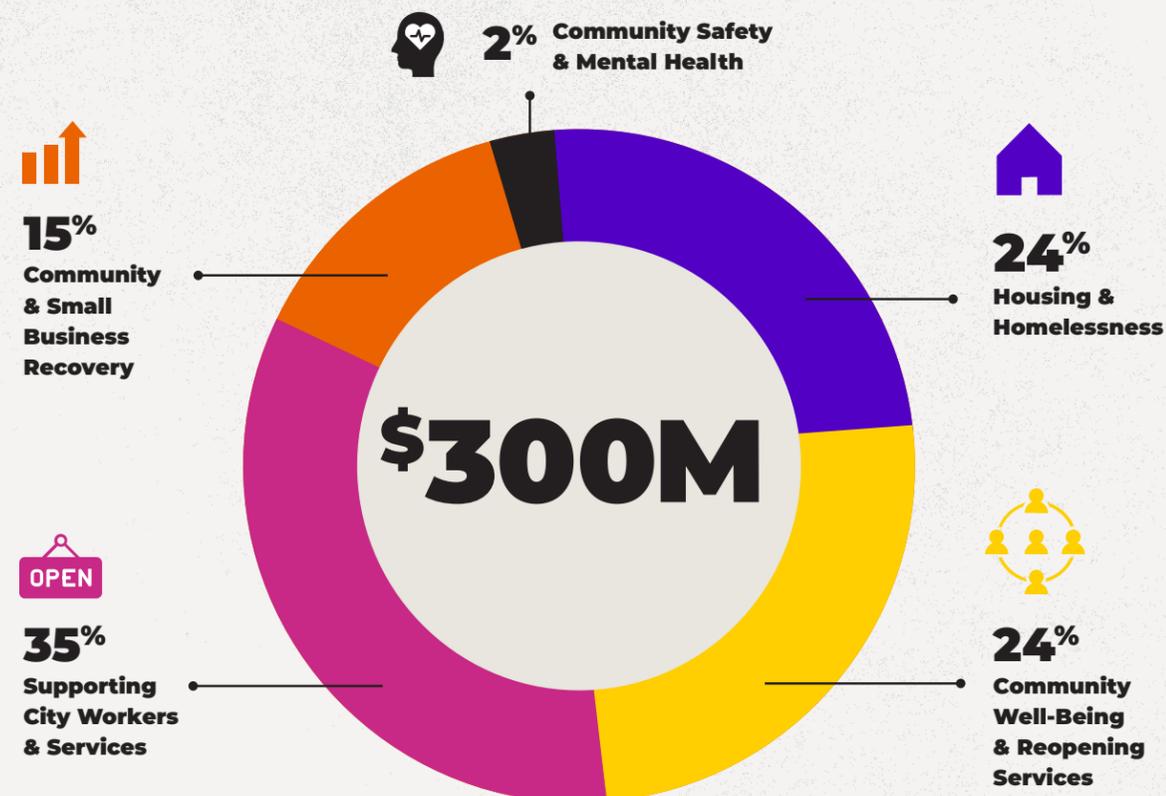
24 PROGRAMS

GOAL: Businesses and creative industries have the resources needed for recovery.

Community Safety & Mental Health

6 PROGRAMS

GOAL: All communities can access support for mental health and violence prevention and intervention.



Key Results:

- ✓ Reached over **3,400** participants with services to bridge the digital divide
- ✓ Supported **5,830** households in affordable housing
- ✓ Funded over **1,000,000** food bank visits and over 300,000 meals
- ✓ Provided services for **6,390** people experiencing or at risk of homelessness
- ✓ Supported **2,260** small businesses with services ranging from one-on-one consulting to flexible grant funding and more
- ✓ Funded community partners to support public events and activations that drew over **770,700** attendees across the city
- ✓ Provided over **5,100** employment opportunities for artists and creative workers to facilitate and perform at workshops, events, and cultural activations
- ✓ Broke ground on first two of five facilities that will create **288** new childcare slots

Partnership with the Community

City departments worked closely with their contractors and used community outreach to effectively identify and meet dynamic community needs. This included client surveys, listening sessions, and advisory panels. For example, the Office of Arts & Culture's Cultural Organization Reopening Grants program used a group of community panelists to select grant recipients.

A key part of the Seattle Rescue Plan strategy was to partner with trusted community organizations across the city. Seattle was able to distribute funding, services, and resources quickly, effectively, and transparently to those who needed it the most by working with organizations who had existing relationships with those communities. Seattle contracted with or provided funding to over 350 local organizations using Seattle Rescue Plan funds.

350
organizations

WERE PROVIDED SEATTLE
RESCUE PLAN FUNDS



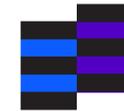
Meeting Equity Goals

Most Seattle Rescue Plan programs were designed to serve geographic communities and demographic groups that were disproportionately affected by the pandemic. Across programs that reported demographic data, nearly 50% of people served identified as BIPOC. All programs that reported geographic data provided services in Seattle neighborhoods that are historically lower-income and more racially diverse.

50%
served
identified
as BIPOC

Piloting New Approaches

The City used SRP funding to implement **25 new programs**. Some are innovative pilot projects that the city has leveraged CLFR dollars to explore. Some will continue beyond 2025.



Acquiring new buildings for affordable housing

Housing affordability is one of the most acute challenges facing Seattle. The City provided CLFR funding to two affordable housing developers, Low-Income Housing Institute and Africatown Community Land Trust, to rapidly acquire four apartment buildings in 2021.

1 BUILDING

275
shelter units

3 BUILDINGS

190
low-income households



Making City services more accessible

As many residents struggled to make ends meet during the COVID-19 emergency, Seattle invested in making City benefits and discounts more accessible. CiviForm is an innovative portal designed as a simple one-stop shop to quickly and conveniently apply for City services to save residents time and money.

16,000
applications

SUBMITTED

20
minutes saved

PER APPLICATION



Investing in Seattle's artists and cultural organizations

Artists were some of the hardest-hit by COVID-19. Seattle invested SRP funding to ensure creative agencies and workers could survive and thrive. The Office of Arts & Culture contracted with community partners to provide millions in assistance for organizations to reopen safely and sustainably, offer employment opportunities for creative workers, and host technical assistance webinars to help build equity into organizational practices.



Piloting new ways to support small businesses

Countless small businesses have struggled to weather the impact of the pandemic, and BIPOC business owners were disproportionately affected. The Seattle Office of Economic Development leveraged federal relief funding to expand their programs and services to support small businesses. This included emergency grants, a new grant program for neighborhood business associations, and consulting services to help owners navigate legal, technical, and financial challenges.

Improving Reporting and Data Collection

While we quickly deployed emergency funding and resources, it was equally important to ensure the aid was spent responsibly, equitably, and transparently. This is why Seattle used a small portion of funding to create a new team to manage the SRP funds and report on their use. The SRP Measurement and Evaluation team works with departments to track spending and performance and publishes detailed spending information on an online transparency portal.

Our improvement in data collection year over year shows the impact of a growing culture of data and performance evaluation in Seattle's government. While the Seattle Rescue Plan reporting is nearing completion, this new infrastructure for performance reporting is here to stay. This will help us continue to measure and improve our ability to serve our residents equitably and effectively.

Thank You

From 2021-2024, Seattle has so far deployed \$276M in emergency funding. Thank you to Seattle's federal delegation, Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, Representatives Adam Smith (WA-09) and Pramila Jayapal (WA-07), and the Biden-Harris administration for providing essential funding and support at a critical junction for our city. The success of this plan would not have been possible without the creativity, tenacity, and dedication of hundreds of public servants, community-based organizations, and other important partners across the city who helped develop and implement it.

2021-2022

23 PROGRAMS

52%

collected client demographic data

83%

collected geographic data

2022-2023

35 PROGRAMS

71%

collected client demographic data

86%

collected geographic data

2023-2024

19 PROGRAMS

89%

collected client demographic data

68%

collected geographic data

