

Seattle Rescue Plan: Update on Seattle's ARPA Spending

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Overview

- Key Takeaways
- Seattle Rescue Plan Summary
- Spending Status
- What SRP Has Accomplished

Key Takeaways

- Seattle's \$300 million in federal COVID recovery funding from ARPA provided critical support to individuals, families, workers, and businesses during this difficult time in history
- The City sought to distribute the funding equitably, and succeeded in reaching an ethnically diverse population around Seattle
- Seattle also leveraged a small part of this funding to scale up evaluation capacity in the City – which has been instrumental to producing the information shared in this presentation and the annual reports
- For more, see the [2023 SRP Performance Report](#) and [SRP Transparency Portal](#)

Seattle Rescue Plan Summary

Seattle received \$300M from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), including \$232M in local direct aid (flexible funding from the Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery [CLFR] funds) and other targeted aid under the umbrella of the “Seattle Rescue Plan.”

Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds	\$232.3M
Emergency Rental Assistance	\$31.1M
Transportation	\$13.5M
HOME Investment Partnerships Program	\$12.2M
Support for Seniors	\$7.8M
Shuttered Venues Support	\$3.2M
Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program	\$1.2M
National Endowment for the Arts	\$0.5M

Seattle Rescue Plan Summary

Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds \$232.3M

- Allocated to Seattle by formula
- Many uses, although with many rules
- Executive and Legislative branches collaborated to design the 1st package of spending
- Council held public hearings and Mayor held roundtable discussions with community groups
- 2nd package allocated via 2023 Budget process

Emergency Rental Assistance \$31.1M

Transportation \$13.5M

HOME Investment Partnerships Program \$12.2M

Support for Seniors \$7.8M

Shuttered Venues Support \$3.2M

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program \$1.2M

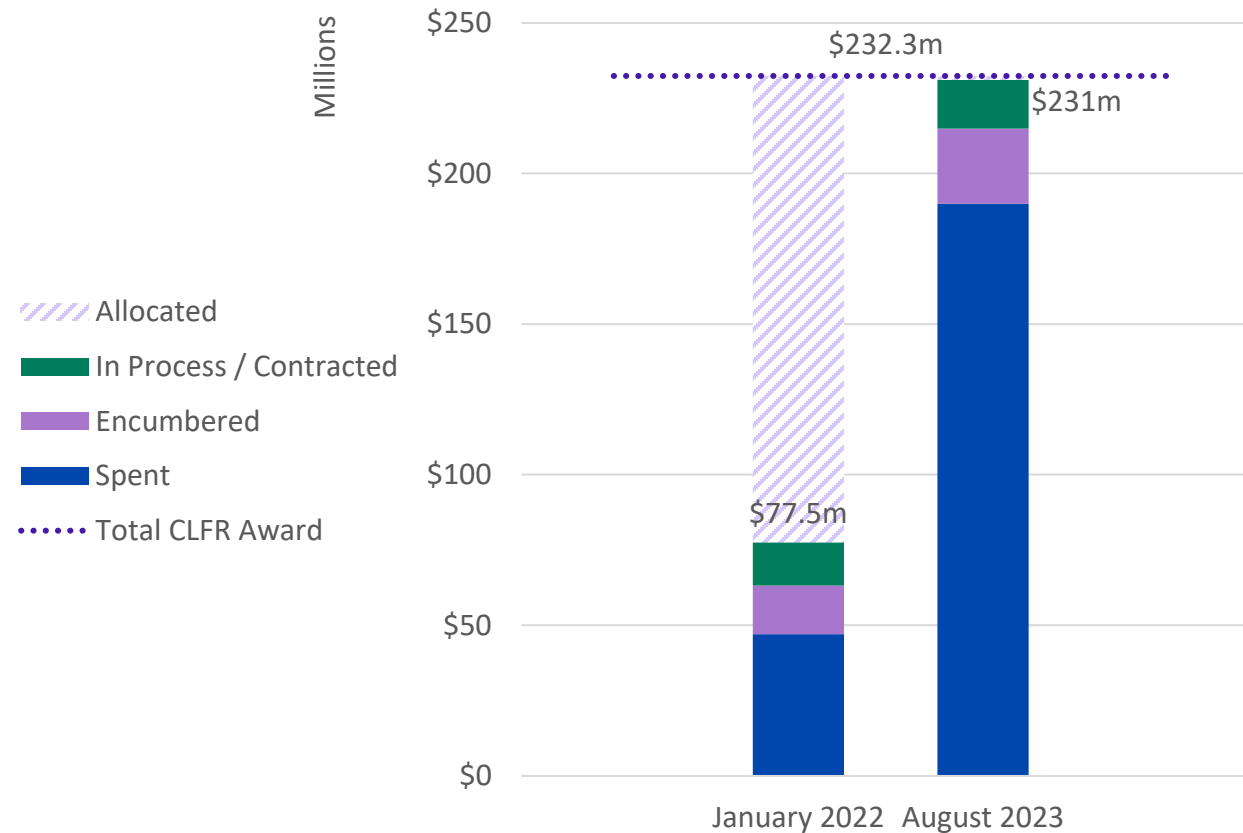
National Endowment for the Arts \$0.5M

- Grants with specific uses
- Some allocated to Seattle by formula, some won by application

Five Themes of Seattle's ARPA Spending



CLFR Progress Since January 2022



- 100% allocated since December 2021
- **As of August 2023, Departments have spent more than 80% (\$190M) of all CLFR funding**

What SRP Has Accomplished

Measuring Progress: Key Findings



\$28.6 million in **emergency flexible funding** to individuals, families, childcare workers, and businesses



Provided services to over **3,500 small businesses** and grants to over **50 business associations**



Provided free childcare for **690 kids** and awarded funding to projects that will create **311 new childcare slots**



Supported over **300,000 meals** and an additional **1,000,000 food bank visits**



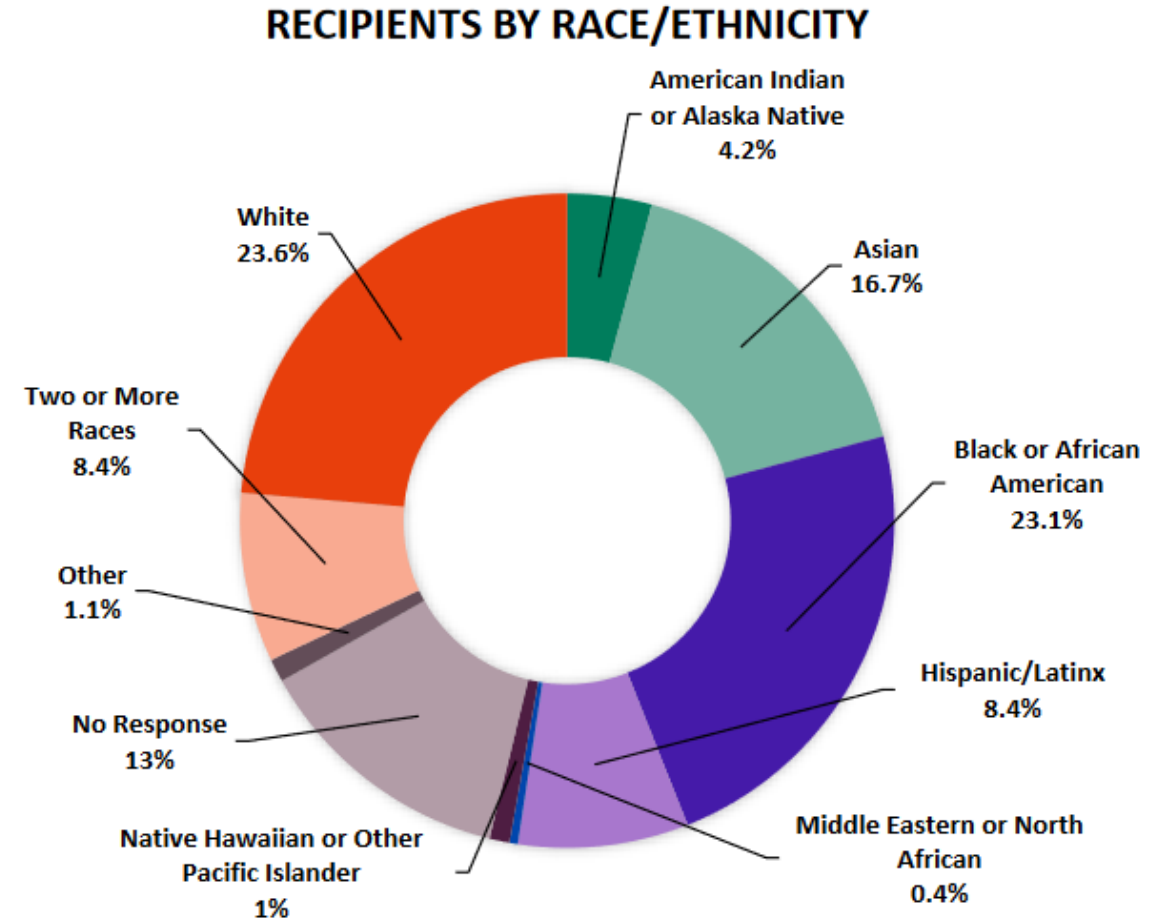
Collected over **3.2 million pounds of litter** and cleaned **100k square feet of graffiti**



394 City workers supported, including **328 firefighters**

Measuring Progress: Equity Goals

- 100% of reporting programs provided services to equity priority neighborhoods, while just under 85% of programs served most of their clients in those areas
- Just over 60% of clients identify as Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) for programs with demographic data in 2022-2023
- Measurement & Evaluation Team capacity building with department staff succeeded in increasing quality demographic data collection in CLFR programs from 52% last year to 71% this year



Measuring Progress: Community Well-Being & Reopening

Program	Notable Metrics
CiviForm	People applying for benefits through CiviForm unified application can see up to \$25,000 in possible total savings
Healthy Streets	193% increase in the number of people walking and biking per-day when compared to streets that were improved with a standard Neighborhood Greenway
Scholarships for Childcare	Provided childcare for 690 kids across 22 different locations in Seattle
Digital Bridge	Just under 300 participants were provided digital access and skill building support, with 94% of participants receiving a laptop and 97% attending digital literacy trainings
Digital Equity	Almost 2,000 additional participants across 11 community organizations were informed and educated about low-income internet programs



“My partner and I use this route almost daily to commute, run errands, visit local businesses and recreate. It’s been a huge blessing since we have been able to bike much more than before...”
– Ballard Resident, Healthy Streets location



“I think that everything that facilitators taught me is valuable. Something that I consider was important to me was learning how to send and reply to an email. I learned to make an online appointment to get the COVID-19 vaccine. I am very thankful because I have learned to look for resources on my own and not depend on somebody else...I am 62 years old, and these classes have been a gift to me.”
- Rosario, Digital Equity participant with Villa Comunitaria

Measuring Progress: Community and Small Business Recovery

Program	Notable Metrics
Cultural Organization Reopening Grants	• 154 cultural organizations awarded funding to reopen safely and sustainably
Seattle Restored	• 33 businesses placed in pop-up locations across Seattle
Neighborhood Economic Recovery Grants	• 1,967 businesses supported through funding neighborhood associations across the city • Funding also supported public events that attracted 196,000 attendees



“The grant has been a tremendous asset to One Reel’s work in reopening following COVID-19 and moving the organization to better serve the visual arts community. It has allowed us to compensate local writers and artists for their contributions and provides invaluable revenue to cover printing and distribution costs for PublicDisplay.ART, staffing costs associated with the publication and the gallery, and hosting a free, open to the public arts exhibit for the community.”

– One Reel, Cultural Organization Reopening Grant recipient

Measuring Progress: Housing & Homelessness

Program	Notable Metrics
Multifamily Housing Acquisition	• 160 units of affordable housing created so far, with an additional 285 units to be developed
Capacity Building for Housing Providers	• 1,647 households served through funding for affordable housing providers
Emergency Rental Assistance	• Over 5,000 households received financial assistance through the first phase. • 69% of households identified as BIPOC and 69% of households had incomes between 0-50% AMI.



“In some cases, the isolation of the pandemic exacerbated mental health conditions and substance use for many residents. These funds allow us to navigate lost revenues and cover the costs of our normal operations and maintenance.”

– Compass Housing Alliance, Capacity Building for Housing Providers program

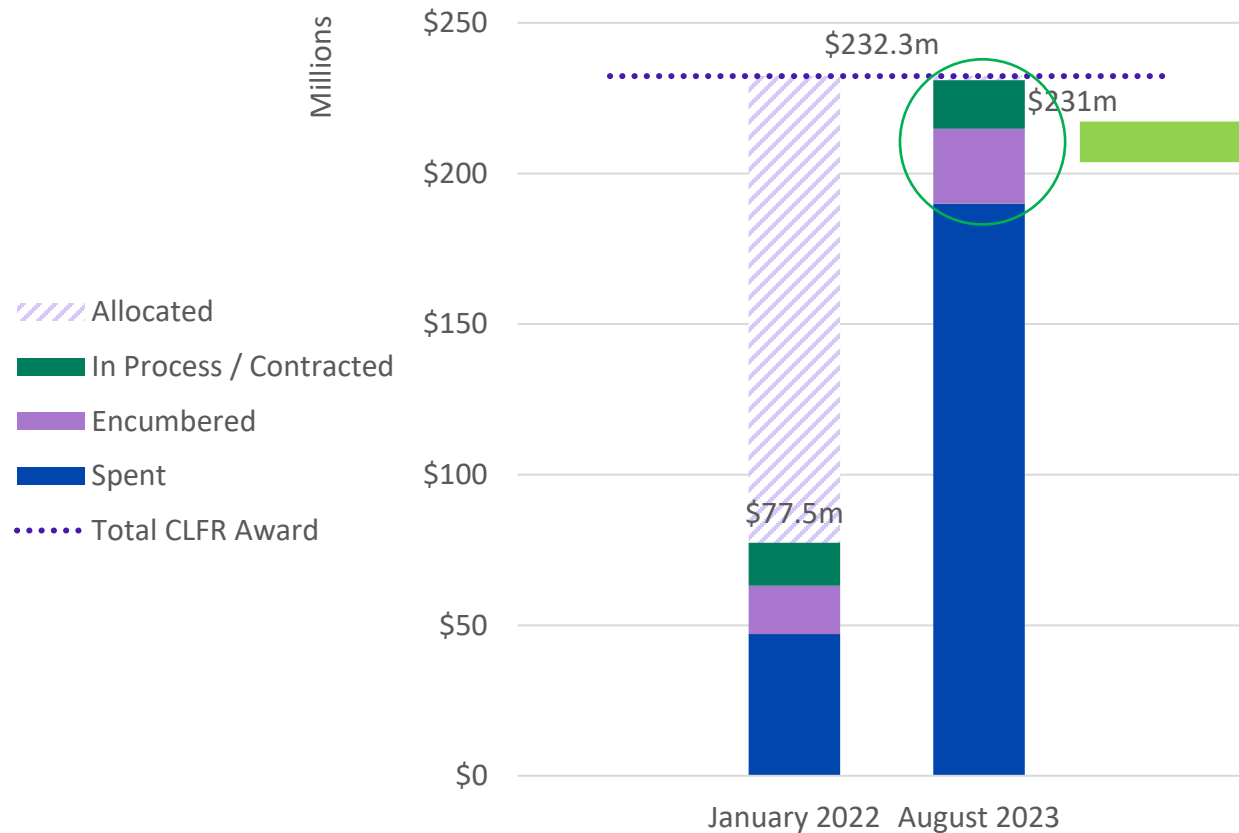
Measuring Progress: Community Safety & Mental Health

Program	Notable Metrics
Behavioral Health for Youth and Families	• 2,300 youth served by behavioral health resources including a Teen Link Help Line, suicide prevention training, and crisis counseling
Gender-Based Violence Response Services	• 8,600+ services provided in response to reports of gender-based violence including advocacy, legal services, temporary housing, and more



“Because of this funding, we are able to increase our capacity to meet the various needs of our communities by creating access to therapy and other wellness services that youth and families in our communities would otherwise not be able to access or afford. We’ve built a community of BIPOC mental health and wellness practitioners to contribute to the mission and vision of the Taking Root healing justice initiative...”
– Powerful Voices, Behavioral Health for Youth and Families program recipient

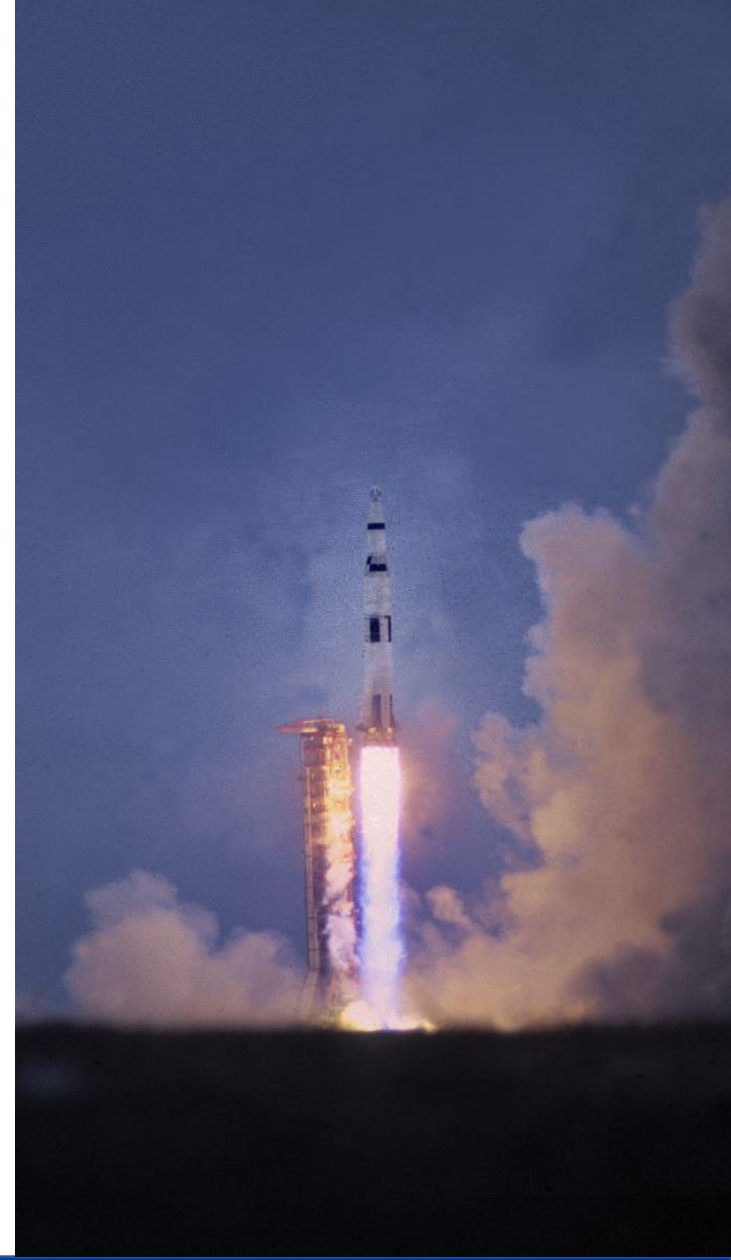
Wrapping Up in 2024



Departments anticipate spending down the remaining funding (\$42M) by the 12/31/2024 grant period end date.

Leveraging This Experience to Improve the City's Impact

- CLFR grant came with performance reporting requirements, so Seattle added a small team in Innovation and Performance to lead this work around the City
- Much of the content in this presentation would not have been produced without this team:
 - data showing what many programs accomplished
 - quotes from residents and partner organizations
- Growing the Culture: adapting this framework for other evaluation efforts



Questions?

