

FISCAL FOCUS SUMMARY

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds Program**

January 2023



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Office of the Auditor General
General Assembly
State of Rhode Island

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) Program

January 2023

SLFRF Program and Disbursement Information

through December 31, 2022

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State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Program – Introduction and Narrative**Section I****Background:**

In March 2021, President Biden signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021, which provided \$350.0 billion to assist state, local, and tribal governments to support their response to and recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency. Under ARPA, these funds are formally referred to as Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF). The funding is available to cover eligible expenditures obligated by December 31, 2024 and expended by December 31, 2026. From a State fiscal year perspective, this means funds will be available for use through FY 2027.

The allocation to Rhode Island totals \$1.8 billion from three sources, the State Fiscal Recovery Fund, Local Fiscal Recovery Fund and Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund. The State has been allocated \$1.13 billion from the State Fiscal Recovery Fund and \$112.3 million from the Capital Projects Fund; local governments will receive \$536.8 million from the Local Fiscal Recovery Fund. This summary will focus on the State's current appropriations and disbursements to date through December 31, 2022. This summary provides information regarding the State's planned and current use of its \$1.13 billion in SLFRF funding and details regarding the State's disbursement of Local Fiscal Recovery Funds.

What are the eligible uses for the \$1.13 billion in funding from the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Program?

The State may use SLFRF funds to:

- Replace lost public sector revenue, using this funding to provide government services up to the amount of revenue lost due to the pandemic.
- Respond to the far-reaching public health and negative economic impacts of the pandemic by supporting the health of communities and helping households, small businesses, impacted industries, nonprofits, and the public sector recover from economic impacts.
- Provide premium pay for essential workers, offering additional support to those who have and will bear the greatest health risks because of their service in critical sectors.
- 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.

The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds provide substantial flexibility for each jurisdiction to meet local needs within these four separate eligible use categories.

Appropriated uses of SLFRF and disbursements through December 31, 2022 are shown on pages 3 and 4.

Descriptions of the funding objectives in the State Fiscal Recovery Fund are provided on pages 9 through 12.

What is the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund?

The Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund (Capital Projects Fund), also authorized under ARPA, will address many challenges laid bare by the pandemic, especially in rural America, Tribal communities, and low- and moderate-income communities, helping to ensure that all communities have access to high-quality modern infrastructure (including broadband) needed to access critical services.

The Capital Projects Fund aims to:

- Directly support recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency by strengthening and improving the infrastructure necessary for participation in work, education, and health monitoring that will last beyond the pandemic.
- Enable investments in capital assets designed to address inequities in access to critical services.
- Contribute to the goal of providing every American with the modern infrastructure necessary to access critical services, including a high-quality and affordable broadband internet connection.

A key priority of this program is to make funding available for reliable, affordable broadband infrastructure and other digital connectivity technology projects. While the Capital Projects Fund is not a focus of this summary, information regarding the State's allocation and use of its capital projects fund award can be found at <https://pandemicrecovery.ri.gov/>.

Do municipalities receive any funding under SLFRF?

Municipalities receive funding from up to three distinct distributions from county, non-entitlement, and entitlement allocations. The entitlement community allocation does not flow through the State; Cranston, East Providence, Pawtucket, Providence, Warwick, and Woonsocket receive those funds directly. For those communities, only the county allocation is passed through the State budget. For the county government funds, the State is required to disburse those funds to each government within each county on a per capita basis with respect to the county population. Non-entitlement units of local government (NEUs), defined in section 603(g)(5) of the Social Security Act, as added by section 9901 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, are local governments typically serving populations of less than 50,000. NEUs include cities, villages, towns, townships, or other types of local governments.

NEUs will receive Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund payments through their State governments. State governments will receive a specific allocation of these funds from U.S. Treasury for this purpose and are responsible for distributing these funds to NEUs within their State. Award amounts are based on the population of the NEU.

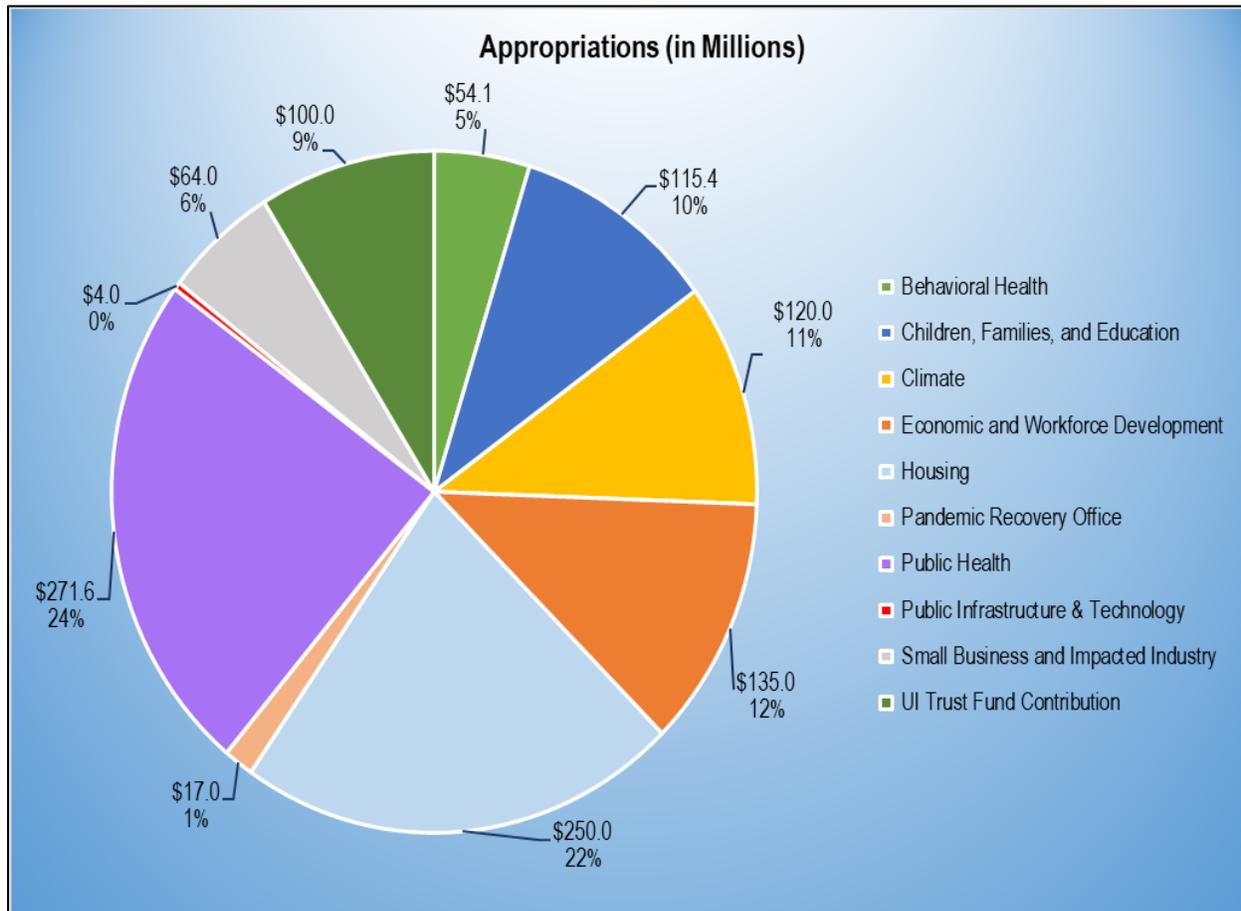
The State will receive the SLFRF funding for NEUs in several tranches for distribution to non-entitlement communities. Total funding disbursed to municipalities for county and NEU allocations approximates \$264 million. Details of these disbursements is shown on page 8. These funds are separate and distinct from the State's \$1.13 billion awarded under SLFRF.

Will the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program be audited in conjunction with the State Single Audit for fiscal year 2022?

The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program will be audited by the Office of the Auditor General as part of the 2022 State Single Audit. Due to the amount of expenditures (\$83 million) for the program in fiscal 2022, SLFRF qualifies as a major program for the State of Rhode Island as defined by federal Uniform Guidance (Title 2 US Code of Federal Regulations, Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards*). The audit will evaluate the State's compliance with a variety of federal requirements relating to the use of SLFRF program funding.

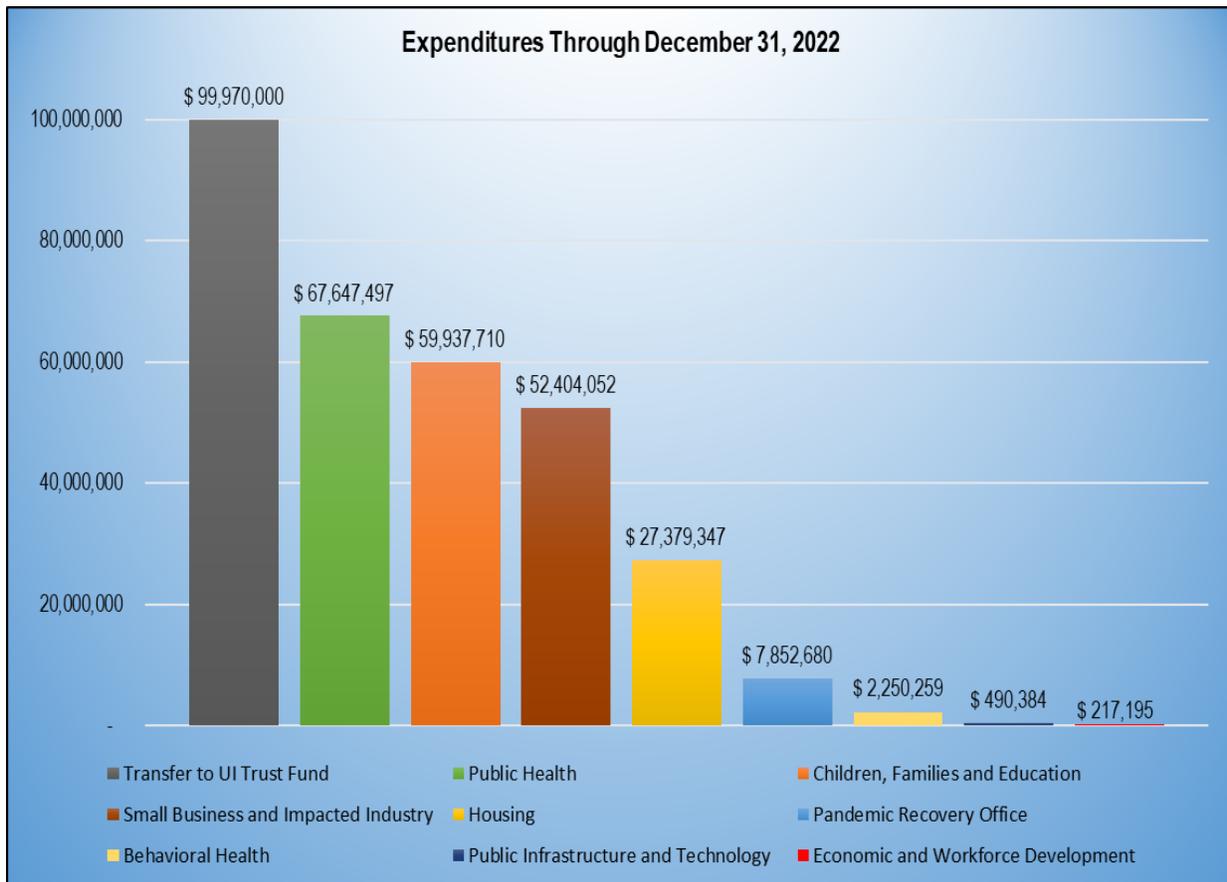
How has Rhode Island appropriated its SLFRF Funding?

As part of the Fiscal Year 2023 Appropriation Act, the General Assembly authorized \$1.13 billion in total appropriations through Fiscal 2027 (detailing amounts obligated by December 31, 2024, and expended by December 31, 2026) as follows:



Where has Rhode Island distributed (disbursed) SLFRF funding as of December 31, 2022?

Of the \$318 million disbursed through December 31, 2022, the appropriated funding to the Unemployment Insurance Trust was the largest programmatic disbursement. Additionally, disbursements to hospitals, healthcare providers, childcare providers, Rhode Island Commerce to assist businesses impacted by the pandemic, and Rhode Island Housing to administer programs for affordable housing were amongst the earlier SLFRF disbursements as shown in the below distribution by program objectives:



Section III

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Program							
Appropriation Timeline by State Fiscal Recovery Program							
Project	Appropriations						Total
	Fiscal 2022	Fiscal 2023	Fiscal 2024	Fiscal 2025	Fiscal 2026	Fiscal 2027	
9-8-8 Hotline	\$ -	\$ 1,875,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,875,000
Adult Education Investment	-	2,000,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	-	-	5,000,000
Predevelopment Program	-	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	-	10,000,000
Aid to the Convention Center	5,000,000	5,000,000	-	-	-	-	10,000,000
HealthSource RI (HSRI) Auto-Enrollment Program	-	1,288,710	-	-	-	-	1,288,710
Bioscience Investments	-	5,000,000	15,000,000	9,000,000	1,000,000	-	30,000,000
Blue Economy Investments	-	10,000,000	40,000,000	20,000,000	-	-	70,000,000
Butler Hospital Short Term Stay Unit	-	8,000,000	-	-	-	-	8,000,000
Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics	-	30,000,000	-	-	-	-	30,000,000
Child Care Enhanced TEACH Program	-	1,333,000	667,000	-	-	-	2,000,000
Child Care Family Provider Support	300,000	300,000	-	-	-	-	600,000
Child Care Retention Bonuses	18,700,000	18,700,000	-	-	-	-	37,400,000
Child Care Workforce Registry and Quality Improvements	-	950,000	550,000	500,000	-	-	2,000,000
Community Revitalization	-	15,000,000	10,000,000	-	-	-	25,000,000
COVID-19 Ongoing Response	-	73,000,000	75,052,439	38,819,129	-	-	186,871,568
Crisis Intervention Trainings	-	550,000	550,000	550,000	550,000	-	2,200,000
DCYF Workforce Stabilization	12,334,175	-	-	-	-	-	12,334,175
DCYF Workforce Stabilization Supplemental (Year Two)	-	2,500,000	-	-	-	-	2,500,000
DCYF Sign-on Bonuses	165,825	-	-	-	-	-	165,825
Destination Marketing	-	1,500,000	1,500,000	-	-	-	3,000,000
Development of Affordable Housing	15,000,000	30,000,000	30,000,000	25,000,000	-	-	100,000,000
Down Payment Assistance	-	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	-	-	30,000,000
Early Intervention Provider Relief and Recovery	5,500,000	5,500,000	-	-	-	-	11,000,000
Enhanced Real Jobs	-	10,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	-	-	30,000,000
Health Care Facilities: Hospitals	-	45,000,000	-	-	-	-	45,000,000
Health Care Facilities: Nursing Homes	-	30,000,000	-	-	-	-	30,000,000
Health Care Facilities: Community Health Centers	-	2,500,000	-	-	-	-	2,500,000
Permanent Supportive Housing: Crossroads	-	10,000,000	-	-	-	-	10,000,000
Homelessness Infrastructure	-	5,000,000	-	-	-	-	5,000,000
Hospitality, Tourism, and Events (HTE) Direct Grants	8,199,000	-	-	-	-	-	8,199,000
Hospitality, Tourism, and Events (HTE) Marketing	3,129,000	-	-	-	-	-	3,129,000
Hospitality, Tourism, and Events (HTE) Placemaking	2,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	2,000,000
Homelessness Assistance Programs	1,500,000	7,000,000	7,000,000	6,000,000	-	-	21,500,000
Lead Abatement and Fire Safety Upgrades in Foster Homes	-	1,500,000	375,000	-	-	-	1,875,000
Minority Business Accelerator	-	2,000,000	4,000,000	-	-	-	6,000,000
Nonprofit Assistance	-	20,000,000	-	-	-	-	20,000,000
Electric Heat Pumps	-	5,000,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	-	-	25,000,000
OHCD Support and Capacity	500,000	500,000	500,000	-	-	-	1,500,000
Pandemic Recovery Office Operating Costs	7,011,307	4,948,839	1,621,728	1,621,728	1,621,728	125,449	16,950,779
Pediatric Provider Relief and Recovery	7,500,000	7,500,000	-	-	-	-	15,000,000
Port of Davisville	-	6,000,000	19,360,000	27,000,000	7,640,000	-	60,000,000
Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility	-	12,000,000	-	-	-	-	12,000,000
Public Health Clinics	-	4,000,000	-	-	-	-	4,000,000
Public Health Response Warehouse Support	-	2,000,000	-	-	-	-	2,000,000
R-Line Free Service Pilot	-	2,500,000	-	-	-	-	2,500,000
Safety Barriers Study	-	1,000,000	-	-	-	-	1,000,000
Site Acquisition Program	12,000,000	3,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	-	-	25,000,000
Small Business Direct Grants	13,415,000	-	-	-	-	-	13,415,000
Small Business Public Health Capital Improvements	7,668,750	-	-	-	-	-	7,668,750
Small Business Technical Assistance	10,588,250	-	-	-	-	-	10,588,250
South Quay Marine Terminal	-	12,000,000	23,000,000	-	-	-	35,000,000
Statewide Broadband Planning and Mapping	500,000	-	-	-	-	-	500,000
Statewide Housing Plan	-	2,000,000	-	-	-	-	2,000,000
Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence	-	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,500,000	-	-	10,500,000
Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund Contribution	-	100,000,000	-	-	-	-	100,000,000
Workforce Housing	-	12,000,000	8,000,000	-	-	-	20,000,000
Total	\$ 131,011,307	\$ 535,945,549	\$ 279,676,167	\$ 170,990,857	\$ 13,311,728	\$ 125,449.00	\$ 1,131,061,057

Source: Information Posted on the State's Pandemic Recovery Office Website.

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Program Disbursements by State Fiscal Recovery Program Category Through December 31, 2022			
Program Category	Expenditures		
	Fiscal 2022 Expenditures	Fiscal 2023 Through December 31, 2022	Total
Transfer to UI Trust Fund	\$ -	\$ 99,970,000	\$ 99,970,000
Health Care Facilities: Non-Profit Hospital Assistance	-	40,472,742	40,472,742
Small Business Financial and Technical Assistance	18,347,476	7,983,296	26,330,772
Health Care Facilities: Nursing Facilities Assistance	-	20,083,443	20,083,443
Nonprofit Assistance / Food Insecurity	-	19,994,000	19,994,000
Child Care Investment	12,624,420	3,035,839	15,660,259
Development of Affordable Housing	14,740,825	-	14,740,825
Site Acquisition	6,000,000	5,998,200	11,998,200
DCYF Provider Workforce Stabilization	6,827,878	3,256,818	10,084,696
Aid to the Convention Center	-	9,997,000	9,997,000
Pediatric Health Care Recovery	5,965,100	2,734,090	8,699,190
Aid to Tourism, Hospitality, and Events Industries	8,199,001	-	8,199,001
Pandemic Recovery Office	1,147,604	6,705,076	7,852,680
Early Intervention Recovery	4,051,215	1,448,350	5,499,565
Health Care Facilities: For-Profit Hospital Assistance	-	4,513,757	4,513,757
HTE Placemaking Direct Grants	-	2,999,100	2,999,100
Small Business Public Health Capital Improvements: Ventilation	66,875	2,685,443	2,752,318
Health Care Facilities: Health Centers Assistance	-	2,499,250	2,499,250
Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics	-	2,250,259	2,250,259
HTE Marketing: Airport Corporation	-	1,000,000	1,000,000
HTE Marketing: Tourism Regions	-	749,400	749,400
Statewide Broadband Planning and Mapping	269,200	221,184	490,384
Housing Stability Services	-	317,872	317,872
Predevelopment and Capacity Building (OHCD Support)	78,609	188,076	266,685
HTE Marketing: Regional Marketing	-	250,000	250,000
Enhanced Real Jobs	-	217,195	217,195
HTE Admin	-	126,461	126,461
Public Health Response Warehouse Support	-	65,690	65,690
Homelessness Assistance Training	-	54,360	54,360
Supplies WKS: Warehouse Operating	-	12,615	12,615
Homelessness Assistance: Warming Center & Shelter	-	1,405	1,405
	\$ 78,318,203	\$ 239,830,921	\$ 318,149,124

Section V

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Program Detail Vendor/Entity Disbursements Greater Than \$500,000 Through December 31, 2022			
Vendor/Entity Description	Expenditures		
	Fiscal 2022 Expenditures	Fiscal 2023 Through December 31, 2022	Total
Transfer to UI Trust Fund	\$ -	\$ 99,970,000	\$ 99,970,000
Rhode Island Commerce Corporation	27,083,328	16,018,910	43,102,238
RI Housing & Mortgage Finance Corp	20,734,603	5,998,200	26,732,803
Rhode Island Community Foundation	-	19,994,000	19,994,000
Public Consulting Group Inc. (PCG) (3)	12,620,669	3,035,839	15,656,508
Rhode Island Hospital	-	14,075,265	14,075,265
RI Convention Center Authority	-	9,997,000	9,997,000
Miriam Hospital	-	5,192,832	5,192,832
Women & Infants Hospital Of Rhode Island	-	4,857,780	4,857,780
Kent County Memorial Hospital	-	4,216,829	4,216,829
Alvarez & Marsal Public Sector Services	645,000	2,731,575	3,376,575
South County Hospital Healthcare System	-	2,685,878	2,685,878
Rhode Island Health Center Association	-	2,499,250	2,499,250
Prospect Chartercare Rwmc LLC	-	2,408,164	2,408,164
Prospect Chartercare Sjsrsi LLC	-	2,105,593	2,105,593
Landmark Medical Center	-	1,992,026	1,992,026
Newport Hospital	-	1,955,147	1,955,147
Butler Hospital	-	1,926,538	1,926,538
Westerly Hospital	-	1,892,849	1,892,849
Emma Pendleton Bradley Hospital	125,444	1,743,662	1,869,106
Harmony Hill School Inc.	695,200	441,475	1,136,675
Saint Antoine Residence	-	1,016,767	1,016,767
Berkshire Place Snf LLC	-	946,152	946,152
Tides Family Services Inc.	523,036	397,227	920,263
Aslc Opco RI I LLC	-	918,502	918,502
Family Service Of Rhode Island	391,125	452,663	843,788
Lincolnwood Operator LLC	-	797,915	797,915
Communities For People Inc.	429,439	366,402	795,841
St. Mary's Home For Children	455,919	312,989	768,908
Elmhurst Operator LLC	-	697,005	697,005
Riverview Operator LLC	-	683,310	683,310
Community Care Alliance	296,058	369,987	666,045
NAFI Connecticut Inc.	400,298	235,277	635,575
Bannister Operations Associates LLC	-	633,525	633,525
Holiday Retirement Home Inc.	-	610,850	610,850
Child And Family Services Of Newport County Inc.	361,554	244,430	605,984
Con-V-Care Inc.	-	595,870	595,870
ASLC RI II LLC	-	586,386	586,386
Boys Town New England Inc.	368,180	212,209	580,389
Ocean Tides Inc.	363,706	203,996	567,702
Gateway Healthcare Inc.	-	540,000	540,000
Cedar Crest Nursing Centre Inc.	-	536,490	536,490
Pezzelli Nursing Home Inc.	-	535,260	535,260
Charlesgate Nursing Center	-	505,114	505,114
Friendly Home Inc.	-	503,902	503,902
Pawtucket SNF Operator LLC	-	501,611	501,611
Early Intervention Recovery (Various EI Providers) (1)	4,050,000	1,448,350	5,498,350
Pediatric Healthcare and Family Practice Recovery (Various Healthcare Providers) (1)	5,766,613	2,697,840	8,464,453
Other Expenditures Recorded by Journal Entries (2)	898,815	3,243,288	4,142,103
Vendors/Entities - Total Disbursements less than \$500K (individually)	2,109,216	13,298,792	15,408,008
	\$ 78,318,203	\$ 239,830,921	\$ 318,149,124
<i>Source: Summary prepared from data extracted from the State Accounting System</i>			
Notes:			
(1) Providers disbursed through State's MMIS system - Recorded in State Accounting system in aggregate, detail not recorded.			
(2) These expenditures represent costs charged to SLFRF accounts by journal entry.			
(3) State contracted with PCG to administer disbursements to child care providers.			

Section VI

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Program			
State Disbursements to Municipalities For County and Non-Entitlement Unit Distributions			
Through December 31, 2022			
Municipality	Expenditures		
	Fiscal 2022 Expenditures	Fiscal 2023 Through December 31, 2022	Total
City of Central Falls	\$ 2,924,504	\$ 2,924,504	\$ 5,849,008
City of Cranston	7,910,937	7,910,937	15,821,874
City of East Providence	4,624,619	4,624,619	9,249,238
City of Newport	3,636,799	3,636,799	7,273,598
City of Pawtucket	7,003,941	7,003,941	14,007,882
City of Providence	17,470,082	17,470,082	34,940,164
City of Warwick	7,867,039	7,867,039	15,734,078
City of Woonsocket	4,054,821	4,054,821	8,109,642
Town of Barrington	2,399,176	2,399,176	4,798,352
Town of Bristol	3,275,272	3,275,272	6,550,544
Town of Burrillville	2,518,888	2,518,888	5,037,776
Town of Charlestown	1,169,622	1,169,622	2,339,244
Town of Coventry	5,203,818	5,203,818	10,407,636
Town of Cumberland	5,270,176	5,270,176	10,540,352
Town of East Greenwich	1,960,829	1,960,829	3,921,658
Town of Exeter	974,287	974,287	1,948,574
Town of Foster	709,156	709,156	1,418,312
Town of Glocester	1,542,808	1,542,808	3,085,616
Town of Hopkinton	1,204,595	1,204,595	2,409,190
Town of Jamestown	821,695	821,695	1,643,390
Town of Johnston	4,404,542	4,404,542	8,809,084
Town of Lincoln	3,286,032	3,286,032	6,572,064
Town of Little Compton	519,201	519,201	1,038,402
Town of Middletown	2,374,516	2,374,516	4,749,032
Town of Narragansett	2,293,960	2,293,960	4,587,920
Town of New Shoreham	153,937	153,937	307,874
Town of North Kingstown	3,934,062	3,934,062	7,868,124
Town of North Providence	4,885,034	4,885,034	9,770,068
Town of North Smithfield	1,880,423	1,880,423	3,760,846
Town of Portsmouth	2,574,485	2,574,485	5,148,970
Town of Richmond	1,156,919	1,156,919	2,313,838
Town of Scituate	1,603,635	1,603,635	3,207,270
Town of Smithfield	3,272,581	3,272,581	6,545,162
Town of South Kingstown	4,535,612	4,535,612	9,071,224
Town of Tiverton	2,340,739	2,340,739	4,681,478
Town of Warren	1,570,905	1,570,905	3,141,810
Town of West Greenwich	954,559	954,559	1,909,118
Town of West Warwick	4,328,470	4,328,470	8,656,940
Town of Westerly	3,344,917	3,344,917	6,689,834
	\$ 131,957,593	\$ 131,957,593	\$ 263,915,186

Note: These disbursements are from the Local Fiscal Recovery Fund allocation to Rhode Island which is separate and distinct from the State's \$1.13 billion State Fiscal Recovery award.

State Fiscal Recovery Fund Program Descriptions

Section VII

Housing

Development of Affordable Housing: Recovery funds to provide an enhanced level of gap financing for affordable housing development. This creates an additional directed subsidy as a match to multiple sources of financing.

Site Acquisition: Recovery funds to continue a site acquisition program administered by Rhode Island Housing which began during 2020 in response to the coronavirus pandemic. The program subsidizes developers to acquire property to develop into long-term affordable and supportive housing for people experiencing homelessness.

Down Payment Assistance: Recovery funds for a new program to provide down payment assistance for qualified first-time home buyers.

Workforce Housing: Recovery funds to support a new affordable workforce housing program for Rhode Island families. The program is aimed at increasing the housing supply for families earning up to 120 percent of area median income.

Affordable Housing Predevelopment: Recovery funds for a new program to reduce pre-construction barriers to housing development including prerequisite environmental studies and legal work.

Home Repair and Community Revitalization: Recovery funds for a new program to support critical home repairs and redeveloping residential or commercial properties, and public and community spaces.

Predevelopment and Capacity Building: Recovery funds for consultants to provide administrative support to the Office of Housing and Community Development. The funding is intended to assist with managing the increased resources for federal and other housing related programs and address the lack of administrative capacity as a barrier to implementing affordable housing initiatives.

Homelessness Assistance Program: Recovery funds to provide housing navigation, stabilization, and mental health services for people experiencing homelessness.

Homelessness Infrastructure: These funds shall be used to support a program to respond to pandemic-related homelessness, including but not limited to, acquisition or construction of temporary or permanent shelter and other housing solutions, of which ten million (\$10,000,000) shall support Crossroads Rhode Island sponsored housing development-based and/or housing-based solutions, wrap-around services and administrative costs of implementation.

Statewide Housing Plan: Recovery funds for FY 2023 for a statewide comprehensive housing plan to assess current and future housing needs, consider barriers to homeownership and affordability, and identify services needed for increased investments toward disproportionately impacted individuals and communities. These funds will support municipal planning efforts.

Economic and Workforce Development

Enhanced Real Jobs: Recovery funds to support the Real Jobs RI program. The program's functions are to place employees in job openings, advance skills of employed people, and create a talent pipeline for businesses. Funds would support job partnerships to connect employers adversely impacted by the pandemic to workforce training program enrollees.

Blue Economy Investments: Recovery funds for blue economy-related capital investments. Investment areas include, but are not limited to, ports and shipping, defense, marine trade, ocean-based renewables, aquaculture, and tourism. This appropriation was contingent on the State receiving the required U.S. Department of Commerce EDA Challenge Grant. The State was unsuccessful in obtaining the grant, thus the funds will require reprogramming by the General Assembly.

Bioscience Investments: Recovery funds for a new project to finance a wetlab facility and provide technology development supports. The investment is intended to make it easier for academic research to find private sector applications. Lack of wetlab space appropriate for use by newly founded life science companies is specifically noted as an obstacle for biomedical innovation in Rhode Island's 2020 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. This appropriation was contingent on the State receiving the required U.S. Department of Commerce EDA Challenge Grant. The State was unsuccessful in obtaining the grant, thus the funds will require reprogramming by the General Assembly.

Section VII (Cont.)

Small Business & Impacted Industry

Aid to the Convention Center: Recovery funds for capital projects (and certain operating expenses) at the Convention Center, Amica Mutual Pavilion and Veterans Auditorium.

Small Business and Technical Assistance: Recovery funds to provide grants and technical assistance to businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Appropriations included direct payments to businesses for lost revenue, funding for technical assistance for building long-term business capacity, and funding to support capital improvements for public health.

Assistance to Impacted Industries (Hospitality, Tourism, and Events): Recovery funds to address the negative impacts of the pandemic to the tourism, hospitality, and events industry.

Minority Business Accelerator: Recovery funds to establish a new minority business accelerator that would provide technical assistance, loans, and programming space.

Destination Marketing: These funds shall be used for destination tourism marketing in support of airline routes to Rhode Island T.F. Green International Airport. The Commerce Corporation is required to supply equivalent matching funds out of its portion of the state hotel tax.

Public Health

Ongoing COVID-19 Response: Recovery funds to help the State continue its response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Funds would be used for testing, contact tracing, vaccinations, and mitigation efforts.

Auto-Enrollment Program: Recovery funds for HealthSource RI to automatically enroll qualified individuals who are transitioning off Medicaid at the end of the COVID-19 emergency into qualified public health plans. The funding also supports one month of premiums.

Healthcare Facilities: These funds shall address the ongoing staffing needs of hospitals, nursing facilities and community health centers related to the COVID-19 public health emergency totaling \$77.5 million. This includes \$45.0 million that shall be allocated to hospitals, or systems if hospitals are members of one, to include a base payment equivalent to \$1.0 million per hospital with the remaining based on a hospital's pro rata share of operating expenses from the 2021 cost reports and \$30.0 million for distribution to nursing facilities based on the number of Medicaid beds days from the 2020 facility cost reports, provided at least 80 percent is dedicated to direct care workers. There is \$2.5 million to be distributed to the community health centers through the Rhode Island Health Center Association to support direct care staffing needs.

Public Health Response Warehouse Support: These funds shall be allocated for warehouse support of PPE and other necessary COVID-19 response related supplies.

Children, Families, and Education

Nonprofit Assistance: Recovery funds in FY 2023 for the Rhode Island Foundation to distribute to nonprofit organizations to address needs that have been exacerbated by COVID-19, including housing and food insecurity and behavioral health issues.

Pediatric Recovery: Recovery funds to provide financial support to pediatric providers and incentives based on increased developmental and psychosocial behavioral screenings.

Early Intervention Recovery: Recovery funds to provide financial support to early intervention providers and performance bonuses for providers when hitting certain targets, such as reducing staff turnover and restoring the number of families receiving services to pre-pandemic levels.

Provider Workforce Stabilization: Recovery funds to provide workforce stabilization payments to staff of congregate care and community-based providers contracted by the Department of Children, Youth and Families, consistent with the supplemental budget passed by the Assembly in January 2022. This funding was in response to providers reporting a high number of vacancies and staff recruitment issues which have resulted in a capped or reduced capacity.

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Foster Home Lead Abatement & Fire Safety: Recovery funds for lead abatement and fire suppression upgrades for foster families.

Child Care Support: Recovery funds primarily to provide retention bonuses for direct care staff at child care centers and licensed family-based care providers. Funds would also be used to waive any fees for new family child care providers, including application fees and background checks. It would also be used for quality improvements, creating a workforce registry, and education opportunities for direct care staff. The Child Care Enhanced Teach Program, Family Provider Support, Retention Bonuses, and Workforce Registry and Quality Improvements Programs constitute the Child Care Support funding objectives.

Support for Survivors of Domestic Violence: Recovery funds to provide supportive services to victims of domestic violence and assault.

Adult Education Investment: Recovery funds directly distributed through the Office of Adult Education to nonprofit adult education providers to expand access to educational programs and literary services.

Behavioral Health

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics: Recovery funds to support the certified community behavioral health clinics to increase services and supports in response to mental health needs during the public health emergency.

9-8-8 Hotline: Recovery funds to create a 9-8-8 hotline to maintain compliance with the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020 and Federal Communication Commission-adopted rules to ensure a consistent level of service.

Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility: Recovery funds to establish a psychiatric residential treatment facility to provide intensive residential treatment options for adolescent girls and young women who face severe and complex behavioral health challenges. Currently, female youth who would otherwise be served at in-state facilities are placed in out-of-state high-end residential facilities.

Crisis Intervention Trainings: Recovery funds to provide training and technical assistance.

Butler Hospital Short-Term Stay Unit: These funds shall be allocated to support construction of a 25-bed short stay unit at Butler Hospital to provide behavioral healthcare services, crisis intervention and other related services.

Turnpike and Bridge Authority – Safety Barriers Study: These funds shall be used by the Turnpike and Bridge Authority to conduct a study to identify and evaluate the options to prevent and address the risk of suicide on bridges under its purview. The selection of a vendor to conduct the study shall be done through a request for proposals process.

Public Infrastructure & Technology

Statewide Broadband Planning and Mapping: Recovery funds authorized in 2021-H 6494, Substitute A, for broadband infrastructure planning work. It includes a needs assessment, statewide mapping of broadband access and cost, and one new Broadband Director position at the Commerce Corporation.

Main Streets Revitalization: Recovery funds to recapitalize the Main Street RI Streetscape Improvement Fund. The 2015 Assembly authorized the Commerce Corporation to award loans, matching grants and other forms of financing to enhance sidewalks, wayfinding signage, and lighting in order to create an attractive environment in local business districts. The program has been appropriated \$3.0 million, all of which has been awarded. The proposal also extends the sunset date one year to December 31, 2023.

RIPTA R-Line Free Service Pilot: These funds shall be allocated to the Rhode Island Public Transit Authority (RIPTA) to provide free fare bus route service along the “R Line” for a twelve (12) month period beginning September 1, 2022. RIPTA will track ridership data and submit a report to the General Assembly and the Governor no later than March 1, 2024.

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Climate

Electric Heat Pump Grant Program: Recovery funds to support low and moderate-income households, and community organizations to purchase and install energy efficient electric heat pumps.

Port of Davisville: Recovery funds to support infrastructure at the Port of Davisville. The proposal would expand on existing funding to develop port infrastructure intended to create job opportunities, invest in marine transportation, and make capital improvements to prepare for offshore wind development.

South Quay Marine Terminal: Recovery funds, intended to represent phase one of a larger project, and would fund design and initial waterfront development. Since FY 2020, the Commerce Corporation has awarded \$15.0 million from Rebuild Rhode Island tax credits and \$0.2 million in Site Readiness grants to Rhode Island Waterfront Enterprises for initial dredging, infrastructure upgrades, and design work needed to support a proposed new South Quay Marine Terminal in East Providence to accommodate offshore wind development.

Administration

Pandemic Recovery Office: The Pandemic Recovery Office (PRO) is responsible for compliance and oversight of the programming of the State Fiscal Recovery Funding. The PRO is funded from 1.5 percent of the grant award, consistent with the federal allowance for these expenses. The 2021 Assembly authorized a 1.0 percent assessment on covered grants to fund the operations. The Governor's plan assumes \$17.0 million of resources are available but the plans for how the funding mechanism will work are currently being developed.