

Counties and the American Rescue Plan Act Recovery Fund:

CLEAN WATER, SEWER & STORMWATER INFRASTRUCTURE

THE RECOVERY FUND AND INVESTMENTS IN WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE:

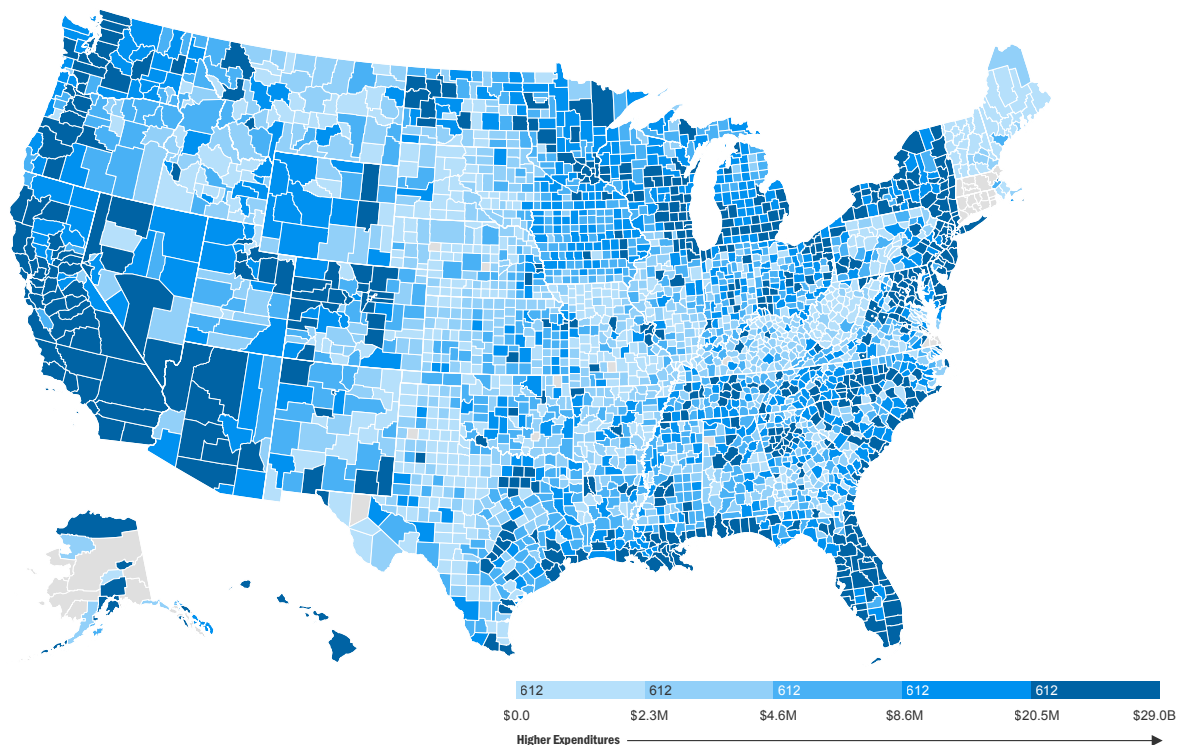
The Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (Recovery Fund), part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which NACo helped to develop and strongly advocated to pass, allocates \$65.1 billion. **These funds provide direct, flexible aid for every county, parish and borough in America.** Counties are on the front lines in delivering this aid to residents and are a driving force connecting communities and strengthening the economy.

As directed by the ARPA and the U.S. Department of Treasury, counties can invest Recovery Funds into a broad range of programs, services and projects under four categories: public sector revenue; public health and economic response; premium pay for essential workers and water, sewer and broadband infrastructure.

Since the enactment of the ARPA, America's counties have been working hard to develop Recovery Fund implementation plans that will help spur an equitable economic recovery across the nation. As sound financial stewards, **counties are investing these critical Recovery Funds to ensure the health and well-being of our nation's residents and the economic vitality of our local communities.** Many counties are in the preliminary stages of development and implementation of Recovery Fund Plans. This report highlights county investments to expand clean water practices, strengthen stormwater mitigation tactics and improve local sewer systems.

COUNTIES EXPEND BILLIONS IN INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS

Annually, counties invest **\$134 billion** in building, maintaining and operating physical infrastructure and public works. Counties across the nation are utilizing Recovery Funds to strengthen water and sewer infrastructure by expanding the impact of these investments.



Source: NACo Analysis of U.S. Census Bureau - Census of Individual Governments: Finance, 2017

COUNTIES PLAN TO INVEST RECOVERY FUNDS TO:



**CREATE FLOOD
MITIGATION PLANS**



**BOLSTER CLEAN WATER
INFRASTRUCTURE**



**STRENGTHEN SEWER
SYSTEM EFFICIENCY**



**CONNECT COMMUNITIES
EXPERIENCING WATER SHORTAGES**



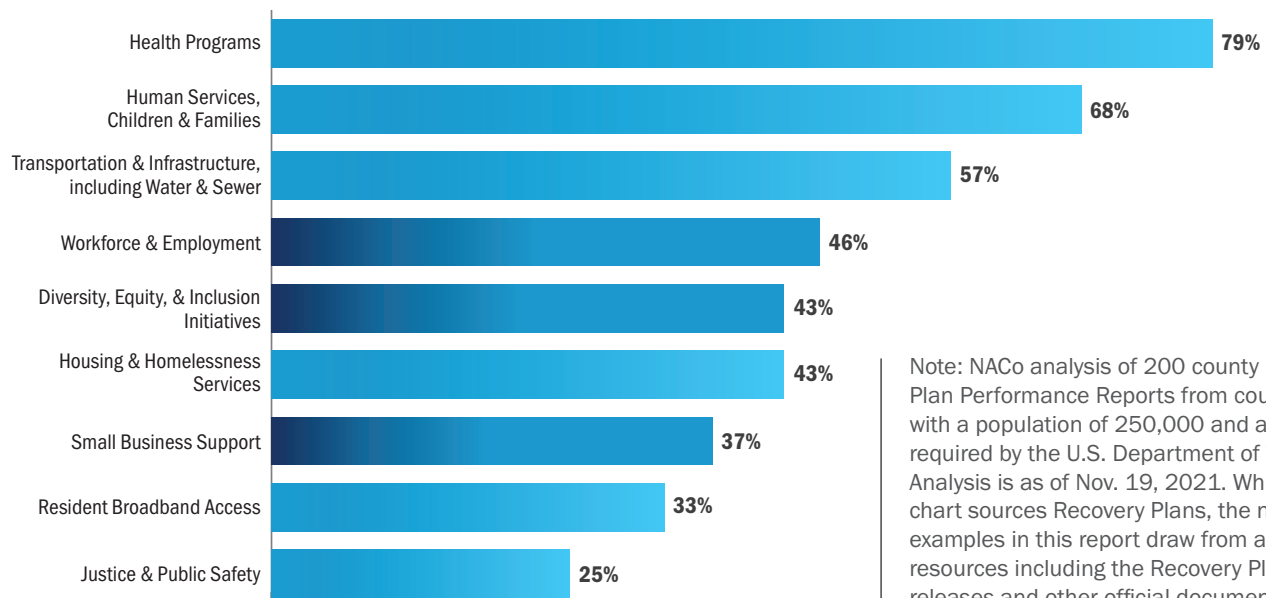
**ENHANCE DISASTER
RESILIENCY**



**INCREASE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY
AND OPPORTUNITIES**

COUNTIES ARE EXPANDING WATER & SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE THROUGH STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS

How will counties invest the funds? NACo analysis of 200 county ARPA Recovery Fund plans reveals county-designed investments in the community across key areas of need. These local priorities are found within county plans at the rate displayed in the chart, **e.g., 57 percent of county plans include investments in transportation and infrastructure, including water and sewer.** The darker bars are the investment categories adjacent to water and sewer that support the continuation and expansion of services in counties. The examples in this report further illustrate the allocations to support infrastructure at the local level.



Note: NACo analysis of 200 county Recovery Plan Performance Reports from counties with a population of 250,000 and above, as required by the U.S. Department of Treasury. Analysis is as of Nov. 19, 2021. While the bar chart sources Recovery Plans, the narrative examples in this report draw from a variety of resources including the Recovery Plans, press releases and other official documents.



ATLANTIC COUNTY, N.J.

Atlantic County is bolstering its stormwater infrastructure by utilizing \$270,000 in Recovery Funds to maintain 20 storm basins and 200 outfall pipes. These projects will **help reduce flooding and lessen the demand on public stormwater drainage systems**, ultimately protecting both people and property in the region as the community recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.



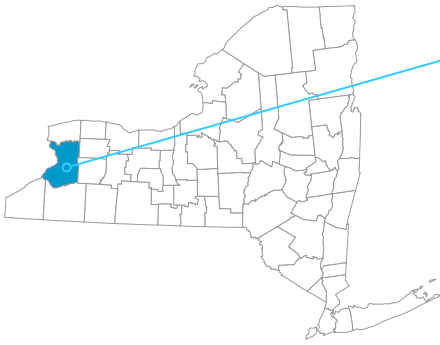
DELAWARE COUNTY, IND.

Delaware County will **enhance economic activity by extending water and sewer service to an industrial park** in the area. This \$1.5 million investment will help facilitate growth of the industrial park and revitalize county industry as businesses begin to recuperate from the economic downturn due to the pandemic. Additionally, the county is utilizing Recovery Funds to **extend water and sewer services to a rehabilitated motel that will house the county's homeless veteran population**, which increased significantly during the pandemic.



EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH, LA.

East Baton Rouge Parish is **implementing stormwater management best practices** through a wide array of infrastructure projects, including storm drain cleanout, roadside ditch cleaning, channel clearing and drainage improvements to several neighborhoods. The parish has experienced severe flooding in the past and Recovery Funds will allow the community to bolster much needed capital infrastructure.



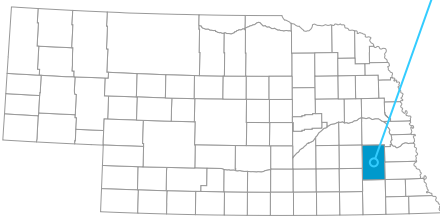
ERIE COUNTY, N.Y.

Erie County is decreasing the county's electrical usage by funding improvements to its Sewer Districts. The county is allocating \$10.3 million in Recovery Funds to support projects such as sewer replacements, manhole rehabilitation and piping improvements. These improvements will **not only increase infrastructure efficiency but reduce the county's carbon footprint in the long term.**



GENESEE COUNTY, MICH.

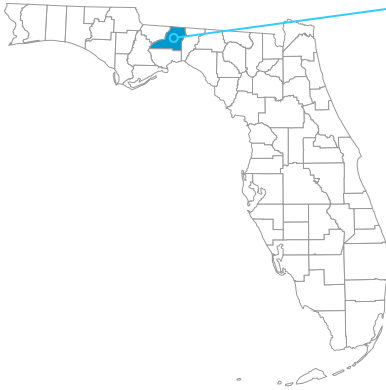
Genesee County is strengthening community resiliency by allocating \$2 million to construct a 1 million-gallon elevated storage tank that will serve 34 communities across the county. **This elevated tank will provide emergency water service, supplement peak demand service and expand fire protection for residents.** The partnership between the Board of Commissioners and the Genesee County Drain Commissioner's Office will also eliminate the need for a water rate increase, which would negatively affect vulnerable residents.



LANCASTER COUNTY, NEB.

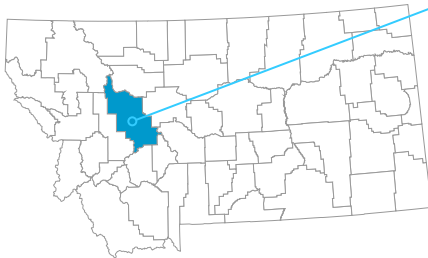
Lancaster County is working to **alleviate water shortages in rural communities through the Rural Water Project**, supported by \$4 million in Recovery Funds. The county will enter an interlocal agreement with Rural Water District No. 1 to construct two new water wells and upgrade water distribution lines for residents experiencing water availability shortages. This critical infusion of federal relief funds from the ARPA will bolster infrastructure connectivity across the county.

LEON COUNTY, FLA.



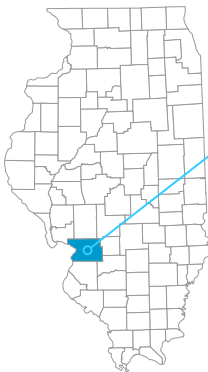
Leon County is improving the region's water quality by allocating \$12.6 million to support the "Septic-to-Sewer" Project. In partnership with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, **the county will convert hundreds of septic tanks to central sewer in the Wakulla Springs Primary Springs Protection Zone.** This significant investment of Recovery Funds will allow the county to fulfill its project commitments that were disrupted during the pandemic due to increases in construction costs. **These upgrades will also bolster the economy by helping create employment opportunities for local workers.**

LEWIS AND CLARK COUNTY, MONT.

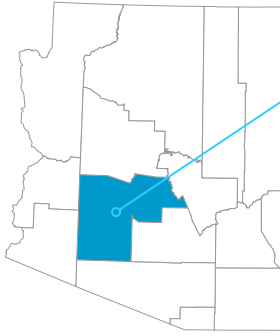


Lewis and Clark County is promoting disaster resiliency through a \$250,000 investment in the Eastgate Village Water and Sewer Association. The investment will install another deep well, upgrade the pump house with a bypass system and add emergency generators. **These upgrades will ensure residents will still be able to access water in the event of an earthquake and bolster firefighting capabilities.**

MADISON COUNTY, ILL.



Madison County will boost infrastructure security through a \$160,000 allocation of Recovery Funds. The county will **upgrade local sewer infrastructure cybersecurity by purchasing a monitoring service to protect digital systems from ransomware attacks,** in addition to implementing multifactor authentication to better secure access to county systems.



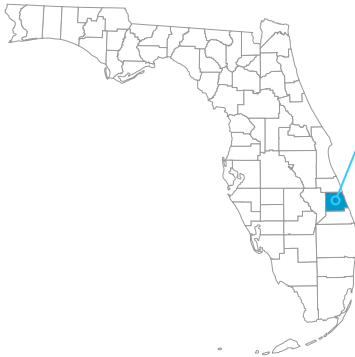
MARICOPA COUNTY, ARIZ.

Maricopa County will enhance **drinking water quality at recreational sites that serve at least 1.1 million visitors each year.** Improvements include replacing aging water pumps, rehabilitating water wells and upgrading software to efficiently manage the systems. This \$3 million investment of Recovery Funds will span **four distinct recreational sites that are key to maintaining community wellness and tourism in the county.**



SHELBY COUNTY, ALA.

Shelby County **is investing in long-term capital improvements** through a \$9.4 million allocation to expand a ductile iron water line that will strengthen local infrastructure and bolster future resiliency.



ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FLA.

St. Lucie County is **utilizing Recovery Funds to develop a new Stormwater Master Plan.** This plan will help the county better understand its overall infrastructure, how stormwater currently drains and any past efforts to address these needs. This vital investment will allow the county to prepare against the effects of sea level rise and bolster disaster resiliency as the community recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic.



660 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NW
SUITE 400 • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001
202.393.6226 • WWW.NACo.ORG

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