

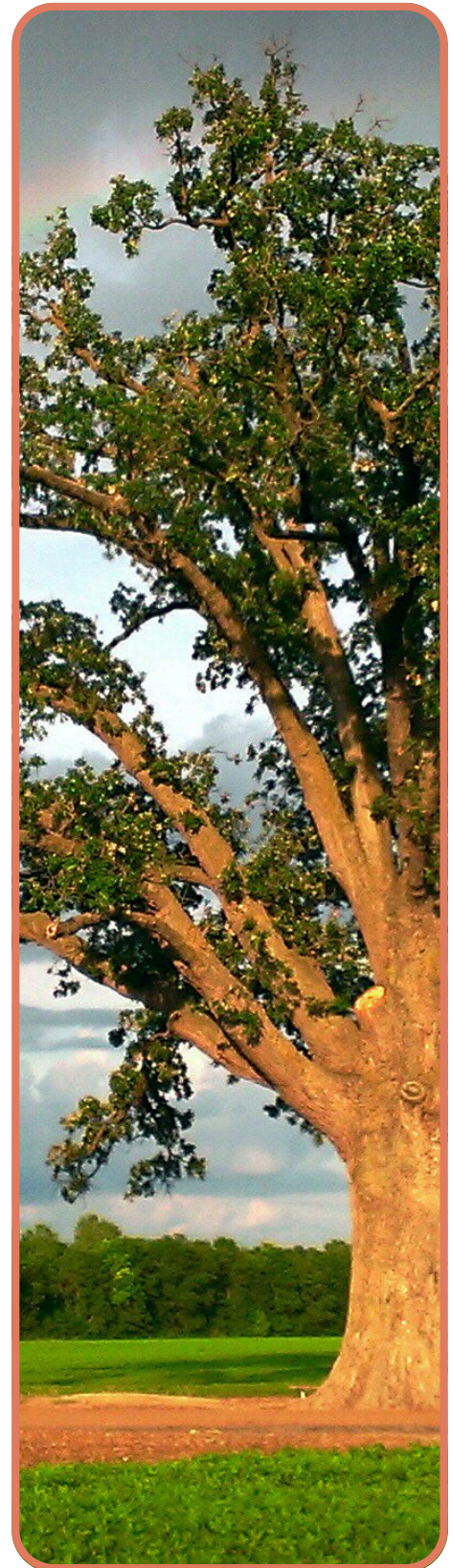
American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Progress Update



August 2025

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Community Partners,

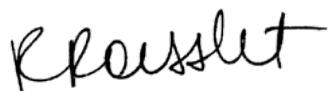
On behalf of the City of Columbia, we want to extend our sincere thanks for your hard work, dedication, and partnership in carrying out ARPA-funded projects in our community.

The American Rescue Plan Act was designed as an investment not only in economic recovery, but also in the health and well-being of residents as we emerged from the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Your efforts are bringing this vision to life, making a meaningful difference across priority areas including access to services, affordable housing, mental health, community violence prevention, homelessness, and workforce development.

We appreciate your commitment to advancing this important work and helping build a healthier, more equitable future. We look forward to seeing the lasting positive effects your projects will have on our community and local economy for years to come.

On behalf of our team — Mia Heckman, Jordan Bales, Sarah Varvaro, Michelle Shikles, and Matthew Lue — thank you for all that you do to support our residents.

With gratitude,



Rebecca Roesslet
Director

Columbia/Boone County Public Health and Human Services



ARPA-Funded Partners



Background

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was signed into federal law in 2021 to provide emergency economic support to U.S. cities and towns in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The City of Columbia was awarded \$25.2 million to invest in the community and those who have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. A summary of how these funds were allocated is provided below.

2022 Community Engagement

- A robust community engagement process using surveys and focus groups identified community members' experiences and their funding priorities.

Six **priority areas** were identified. Then, local organizations were invited to submit letters of intent and proposals on how they would address these areas.

- Access to Services
- Affordable Housing
- Community Violence
- Homelessness
- Workforce Development & Support
- Mental Health

2022 - 2023 Proposals Submitted and Scored

- Organizations' proposals were scored based on alignment with priority areas, demonstration of need, efficiency, equity impact, outcome measurement, and sustainability.

2023 Funding Awarded to Organizations

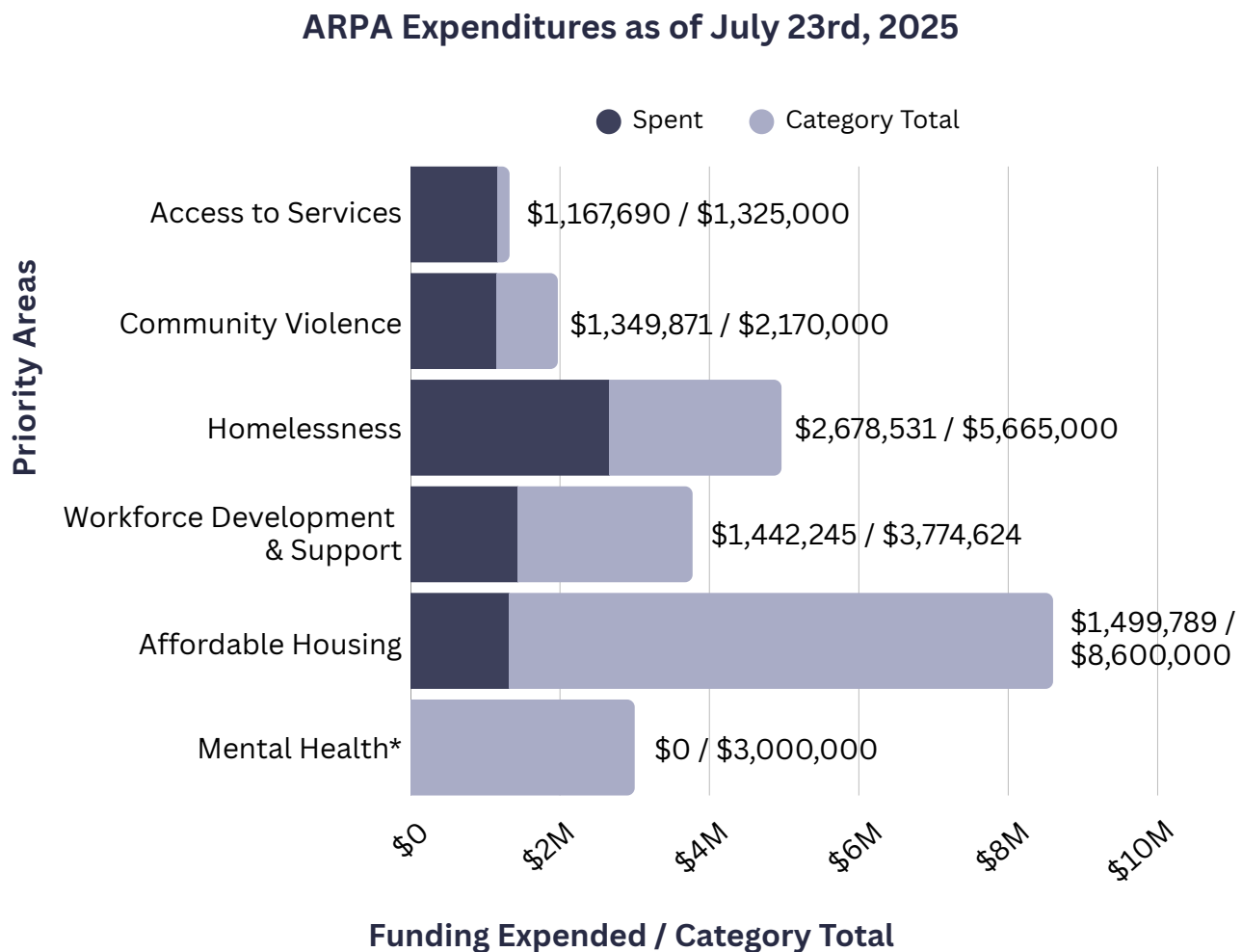
- High-scoring proposals were presented to City Council for approval. Next, award notifications were issued to the selected organizations.

2024 - 2026 Final Contracts in Place

- ARPA contracts were drafted and executed. Implementation efforts are currently underway with ARPA funding ending in October of 2026.

Expenditures by Priority Area

Organizations have been hard at work implementing their programs and projects in the community. The graph below displays funding expended and category totals by priority area to date.



*Efforts to address the sixth priority area, Mental Health, are moving forward in partnership with Burrell Behavioral Health, with construction of the Rapid Access Unit planned for 2026.

Access to Services

Key Partners

- ▶ The Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri
- ▶ Heart of Missouri CASA
- ▶ Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Missouri

Community Impact

- ▶ Over **325,000 pounds** of food distributed
- ▶ Expansion to **serve 100% of children in need**
- ▶ Provision of **site-based mentorship for youth**

Rendering of **Heart of Missouri CASA's** new building to expand their capacity for serving children in foster care

📍 1901 Pennsylvania Ave.



Program Success Story

The Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri *The Food Bank Market*

A family relocated to Missouri for their son's medical treatment. When their housing plan became unsafe, they were referred to The Food Bank's Resource Navigator. The navigator **connected them with food, housing, medical supplies, and assistive services** for their son. With this support, the family felt relief and hope that they will be able to spend more time together.



Affordable Housing

Key Partners

- ▶ Central Missouri Community Action (CMCA)
- ▶ Columbia Housing Authority (CHA)
- ▶ Columbia Community Land Trust

Community Impact

- ▶ Development of **14 affordable housing units** providing **homeownership opportunities** to low-income families
- ▶ Replacement of aging infrastructure in downtown Columbia with **79 energy-efficient affordable housing units**
- ▶ Development of **permanently affordable housing units** under the land trust model

Rendering and groundbreaking ceremony for **CMCA's** units at Providence Landing to expand single family home ownership in the 1st Ward



📍 Between Providence and N. 4th Street



Rendering and resident engagement meetings for **CHA's** Park Avenue development to address the need for housing and services for low-income families

📍 Along Park Avenue off Providence



Community Violence

Key Partners

- ▶ In2Action
- ▶ Columbia Supreme
- ▶ Destiny of H.O.P.E.
- ▶ United Community Builders
- ▶ Boone County Nature School

Community Impact

- ▶ Over **5,000 hours of youth mentoring, academic support, and family therapy**
- ▶ **1,093 rides provided to youth** for program access
- ▶ Nearly **1,500 academic enrichment hours** connecting students to nature
- ▶ Development of a **22,500 sq. ft. community youth activities center** with programming and supportive services
- ▶ Expansion of **reentry and recovery supportive services** through a new eight-bed respite house for women



Rendering and construction of **United Community Builders** Beacon of Light Community Center to serve children and families with the greatest need

📍 1801 Towne Drive

Before and after pictures of **In2Action's** Respite House expanding critical respite housing needs

📍 Corner of Sylvan Ln and Eastwood Dr



Community Violence

Program Success Stories



On and offsite youth programming



Destiny of H.O.P.E.

Active Learners Day and After School Program

A young man referred to Destiny of H.O.P.E. after being suspended from Hickman High School due to **behavioral challenges** and **gang involvement** has made remarkable progress. Initially resistant to support, he gradually engaged in the Active Learners Day Program. With consistent guidance and support, he **became a positive influence among his peers**. Today, he has returned to Hickman High School, maintains a B average, and is **on track to graduate** with his class. Destiny of H.O.P.E. continues to work closely with him and his family to build healthier connections and keep him engaged in constructive activities.

Columbia Supreme *Youth Mentoring Program*

This year, Columbia Supreme's freshmen girls demonstrated remarkable growth both on and off the court. Initially unsure of their ability to compete at the varsity level, they found critical support through **dedicated coaching** and **mentoring**. The program helped them **build confidence, discipline, and resilience** while fostering strong family connections and a positive mindset. As a result, these young athletes have not only **achieved academic and athletic success**, but have also developed the skills and self-belief to overcome challenges in all areas of their lives.

Homelessness

Key Partners

- Love Columbia
- True North
- Room at the Inn
- CoMo Mobile Aid Collective
- Voluntary Action Center (VAC)

Community Impact

- **\$78,000 in rental and utility assistance**
- Over **5,000 rides provided** to people who are chronically homeless
- Over **3,400 hours of expanded street outreach**
- Construction of **10 transitional housing units for families experiencing homelessness**
- Construction of a **24/7 emergency shelter**, resource hub, and medical clinic to serve individuals experiencing chronic and unsheltered homelessness

Construction and rendering of **VAC's** Opportunity Campus. The low-barrier, Housing First shelter will provide coordinated services under one facility

📍 Corner of Business Loop 70 and Bowling St



Construction of **Love Columbia's** 10-plex to provide transitional housing and supportive services to families experiencing homelessness

📍 NW corner of Ash St and College Ave

Homelessness

Program Success Stories

CoMo Mobile Aid Collective (COMAC) *Homeless Street Outreach Program*

An individual **suffered from a vehicle fire** and needed skin grafts and nearly four months of recovery. COMAC arranged a hotel stay and provided **extensive medical advocacy** throughout their healing.

Another individual was a patient who received a cornea transplant. Because this was an outpatient procedure, they spent the night before in a shelter during an arctic blast, checked in for surgery at 5 a.m., and were discharged on foot before 11 a.m. on the east side of town. COMAC **provided a week of hotel lodging and multiple daily health visits** to support their recovery.

COMAC's outreach continues to improve health and stability for people experiencing homelessness.



Mental Health

Key Partner

- Burrell Behavioral Health

Community Impact

- State-of-the-art **behavioral health center** breaking down barriers to behavioral health services for low-income individuals and families



Rendering of **Burrell's** Rapid Access Unit

📍 70 E Leslie Ln.

The Rapid Access Unit is a Walk-in Crisis Center and access point for individuals in need of immediate psychiatric care, Medication-Assisted Treatment for opioid use, psychiatric assessment, initial assessment eligibility determination, brief therapy, peer support services, up to 24-hour observation, referral to appropriate follow up treatment and more.

Workforce Development & Support

Key Partners

- ▶ Central Missouri Community Action
- ▶ City of Refuge
- ▶ Columbia Chamber of Commerce
- ▶ Impact Support Services
- ▶ Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture
- ▶ Flourish
- ▶ First/Last Mile Valet Service

Community Impact

- ▶ Over **5,000 hours of job coaching** and/or **training** for veterans, youth, people with disabilities, and low-income individuals
- ▶ Over **4,300 hours of community collaboration** and **career exploration** for students and educators
- ▶ **1,419 rides** transporting employees to and from their work

Program Success Story

Impact Support Services Career Services Program

Impact Support Services recently assisted an individual passionate about pursuing a career in janitorial work. By building trust and understanding their goals, the Career Specialist provided **personalized support**, including **weekly job shadowing** at local businesses. These experiences helped them **gain confidence** and **clarity** about their career options. With encouragement and guidance, they successfully **secured a janitorial position** at a day service program for children, fulfilling their goal of making a positive impact in the community.



Impact Support Services
participant at a job
placement

Workforce Development

Program Success Story

Flourish

Community-Based Internship Programs

During the summer of 2024, a high school student participating in the Prep II internship program faced **significant challenges with housing and food insecurity** while managing personal difficulties. Despite these obstacles, they showed exceptional dedication to professional advancement and growth within the healthcare field. This student successfully **earned their Certified Nursing Assistant certification, completed a paid internship** with MU Health Care's Sterile Processing Department, and worked closely with a case manager to develop **budgeting skills and access to mental health services**. Their hard work was rewarded when they **secured a part-time position** in the same department where they interned.



Flourish's Prep II participants at their internship sites

Appendix

Additional Success Stories

Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture *Veteran Urban Farm*

After completing a rehabilitation program, Levi* continued to **struggle with suicidal thoughts, low confidence, and substance use**. When he joined the Veterans Urban Farm, he found both **purpose** and **support**. Through meaningful work and conversations with staff, he gradually grew more hopeful. Levi shared that for the first time, he felt he could tell his son there are good people in the world. He later credited the program's Veterans Program Manager with saving his life. Today, Levi is **optimistic about the future** and **finds peace** through creative expression, decorating both the farm and his new apartment.

*Name has been changed to protect privacy



*Columbia Center for Urban
Agriculture's Veteran Urban Farm*

Appendix

Additional Success Stories

True North of Columbia *Housing Assistance Program*

Lucy* was able to remain in the apartment she had shared with her abuser, avoiding homelessness after he left, thanks to **financial assistance that helped cover rent and expenses** during the transition. Once her lease ended, she successfully **moved into a new apartment** she could **sustain** on her single income.

Robin* left a domestic violence situation while pregnant and entered True North's **emergency shelter**. Staff assisted her in finding **stable housing**, extended **financial assistance services**, and provided crucial time to prepare for her new baby. Robin continues to work full time as her pregnancy allows and is on the waiting list for Section 8 housing.

Mary* was referred by Love Columbia after fleeing abuse and experiencing homelessness with her three children. She secured an apartment but was unable to pay rent beyond the first month. True North's **financial assistance allowed her to stay housed** while she searched for employment, and staff continues to help her work towards financial stability.

*Names have been changed to protect privacy

Destiny of H.O.P.E. *Active Learner's Day Program & After School Program*

A middle school student who was expelled and facing legal issues has made significant progress while enrolled in Destiny of H.O.P.E.'s program. With **strong support** from school administration and program staff, the student has persevered and **continued their education** and is now **on track to start 9th grade** at the same pace as his peers.

For **questions** about this report, please contact the ARPA Team at
ARPA@CoMo.gov.