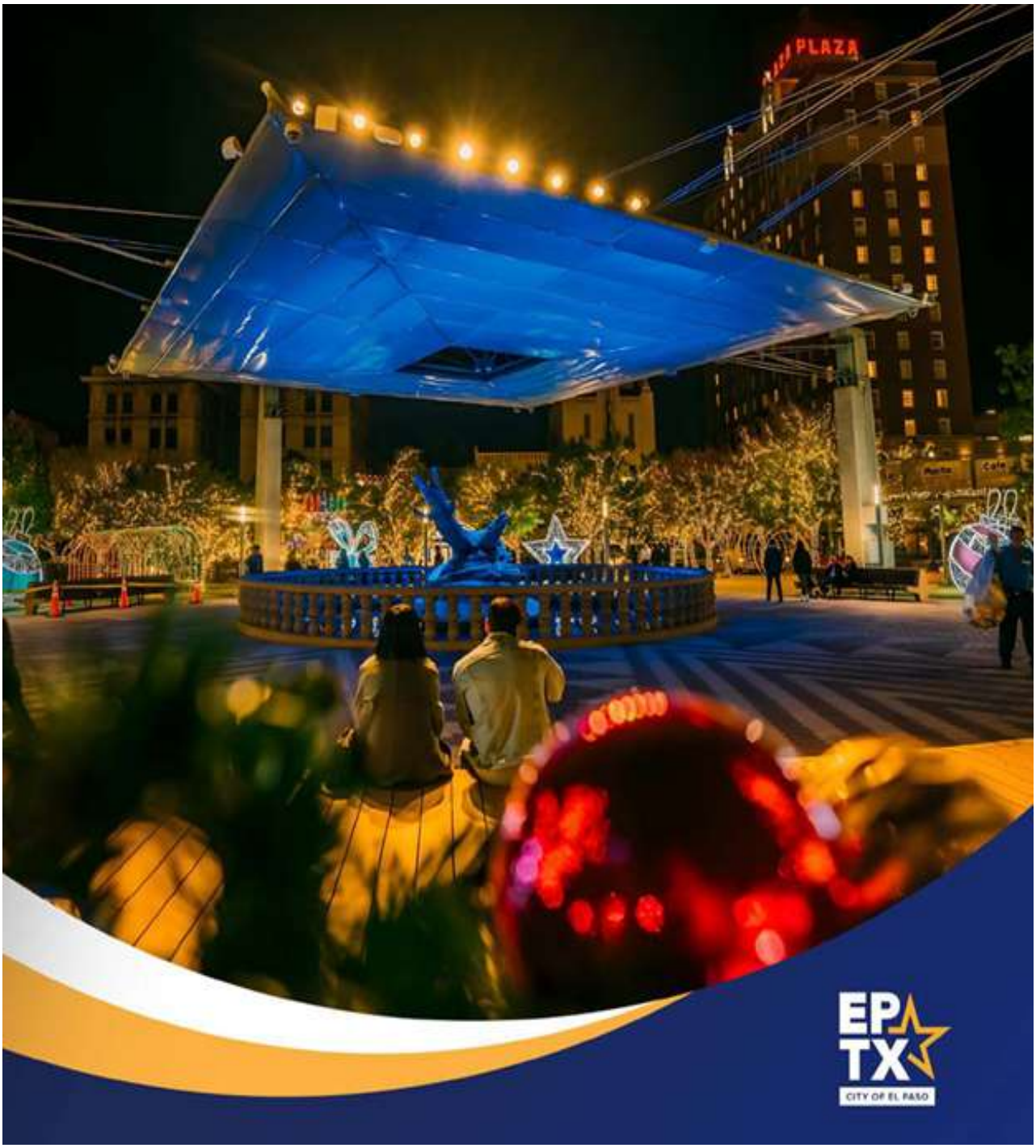
EL PASO FISCAL RECOVERY PLAN



July 2026

CORONAVIRUS STATE AND LOCAL FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS
FOR THE PERIOD JULY 2022 TO JULY 2026

GENERAL OVERVIEW

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This annual report provides an update on the programs implemented by the City of El Paso which are funded with State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds under the American Rescue Plan Act.

On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States, the Governor of Texas and the Mayor of El Paso declared a state of disaster in relation to the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). The COVID-19 pandemic is a public health crisis that has required immediate action from the City of El Paso to relieve the emergency needs of our residents. This includes but has not been limited to protect the health and safety of the community and to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency. On March 11, 2021, the federal government enacted the American Rescue Plan Act ("ARPA") which established the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund and Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Fund ("CSLFRF"). The City of El Paso is a recipient of the ARPA-CSLFRF grant in the amount of $154,345,135 which has been received in two tranches; the first half was received on May 12, 2021, in the amount of $77,172,567.50 and the second half of equal value was received on June 6, 2022.

The primary use of the CSLFRF funds for the City of El Paso is to respond and recover from the public health emergency of the COVID-19 pandemic. On July 27, 2021, City Council approved the use of $15 million for expenses incurred during the public health response to COVID-19 since March 3, 2021, through August 31, 2021. These expenses include testing, mega vaccination sites, quarantine and isolation and community outreach.

In October 2021, the City of El Paso began to ramp up testing in preparation for a surge of positive cases in the winter months. We experienced a surge of cases through January 2022 despite vaccination rates at a high rate of 90%+ of vaccinated for our vulnerable population of those over 65 years of age and those individuals with pre-existing conditions (all graphs may be found at www.epstrong.org).

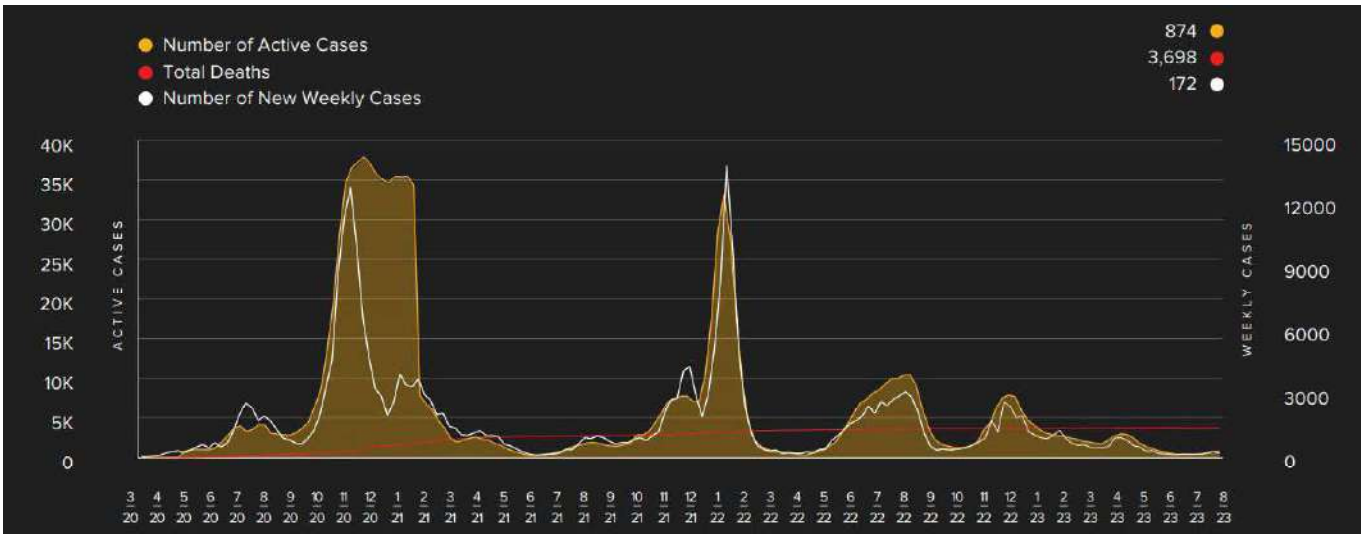
On January 18, 2022, City Council approved an additional $7.8M from the CSLFRF for the expenditures incurred from September 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 to address the expenditures incurred for the response to the surge. There is a continued focus on vaccinations to reduce the severity of the symptoms, hospitalization time and improving patient outcomes. Vaccinations, combined with the testing of individuals presenting minor symptoms, while encouraging the community to quarantine when exposed to a known positive case, will help prevent the spread of infection. The City of El Paso hosted mass vaccination sites across the region to assist all providers with the testing demand. Despite our efforts to address the new variants of COVID-19, daily positive cases reached new record levels when compared to winter of 2020. Our efforts were to reduce the time for test results to improve quarantine times, inform the public about the changing variants, associated symptoms, and infection rates along with treatments to reduce the severity and length of the illness.

Since January 2022, our response has shifted to close the mass testing sites as we continued to experience a decline in positive cases. This allowed the City of El Paso to shift our focus to the recovery of our community by using the information we learned through CARES funded recovery and sustainability programs, continued dialogue with our partners and those in our community poised to address the long-term sustainability of our City.

On May 9, 2022, Mayor and Council approved the remaining $115.9 million in various projects. These projects range from the use of revenue replacement for critical public safety needs to combatting the negative economic impacts of COVID-19 on small businesses, households, and vulnerable populations. In addition to these initiatives, the City of El Paso worked together with the County of El Paso, Region 19 and the local school districts to identify gaps in internet service. With this study, the City of El Paso has allocated a portion of their funding for broadband services for the Last Mile to expand the backbone to the areas that are 54% below the poverty line.

On May 6, 2024, an amendment to the plan was provided to City Council for their consideration. City Council approved the reallocation of $11,154,312 from the CSLFRF for the following new programs: Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus, El Paso Computes and a Public Health Clinic in the Medical Center of Americas.

From May 2022 through July 2024, the City of El Paso continued to ensure that public health and safety are at the forefront of its strategic economic and health recovery plan. The graph below depicts the continued reduction in cases and the overall impact since the beginning of the pandemic.



In summary, the efforts of the City of El Paso in response to this public health emergency are reducing the negative impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic across the nation. The use of ARPA-CSLFRF funds has enabled us to continue prompt responsiveness and maintain vigilant during a time of unprecedented adversity.

Use of Funds

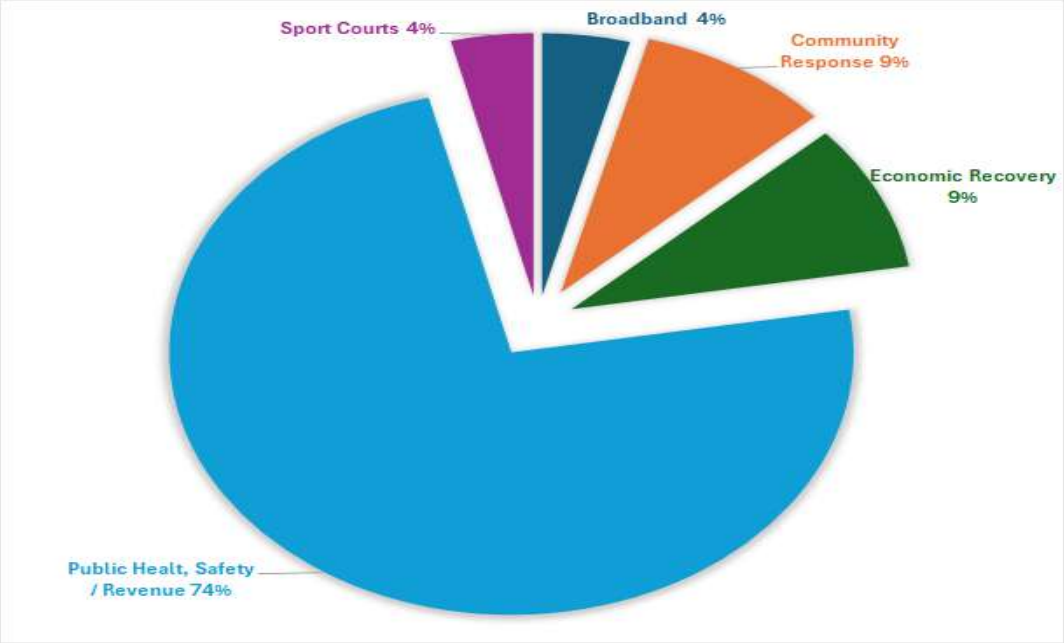
The City of El Paso is using CSLFRF under the major categories as identified by the guidance.

Summary by Project

As the City of El Paso transitions from response to recovery, there is a continued focus to maintain a healthy community. The City of El Paso saw that COVID-19 identified those comorbidities that put our community at risk of hospitalization. It highlighted the gaps in access to healthcare and preventable health disparities. Our community is predominantly Hispanic. As a result, we see a higher rate of diabetes, hypertension, obesity, asthma and heart disease. This high-risk population was most vulnerable and experienced the devasting impact of COVID-19, resulting in high hospitalization rates and shocking morbidity rates. As a result of this tragedy in our community, it is critical that we use it as an opportunity to learn and address our community vulnerabilities mitigating these risks and developing long-term strategies for recovery and to be a sustainable City.

The initial call for proposals to have a positive and lasting impact on our community totaled $237.3 million in needs for across the community. From this total we prioritized the needs into the following Strategic Opportunities – Community Response and Recovery, Economic Response and Recovery, City Services/Operations and Public Health and Safety. These Strategic Opportunities match up with the federal categories as defined in the Final Rule, with our priority being the Public Health and Safety along with the revenue replacement in support of the Police Department for a total 73%.

The table below includes the Strategic Opportunities and the corresponding federal category with the approved funding level. Each program will support these major projects as listed below:



Initiatives/Projects funded with State and Local Recovery Funds

Project Description	Total
Public Health and Safety Response: Testing and Vaccination	62,655,072
Public Health Relocation	17,320,787
Self-contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Replacement	6,586,686
P25 Radio Communications Infrastructure	8,173,947
Body Worn Cameras	6,600,000
City Watch Expansion - Surveillance Cameras/FLIR trucks	6,968,704
Mobile Command	1,300,000
CIT Expansion	4,189,680
Support of Homelessness	5,340,000
Support of Families	6,832,268
Sports Court Reconstruction & resurfacing and Playground Replacement	6,000,000
Broadband - "Last Mile" - Expand City Backbone to Area with 54% below poverty Line	6,380,763
El Paso Computes	1,997,228
Economic Recovery: Business Grants and Local Business Support	14,000,000
Total Estimated Costs	**$154,345,135**

Programs

Public Health and Safety Response and Revenue Replacement - $113.8 million

The Public Health and Safety Recovery Plan still included several key focus areas on the public health and safety response.

Below are the initiatives, programs and projects included:

Project Description	Total
Public Health and Safety Response: Testing and Vaccination	62,655,072
P25 Radio Communications Infrastructure	8,173,947
Public Health Relocation	17,320,787
Self-contained Breathing Apparatus	6,586,686
Police Programs	19,058,383
Total	**$113,794,875**

The Public Health and Safety Response includes funding for the health recovery plan of our community. This allocation supports the City's response to COVID-19 by providing services to the community and ensuring the City workforce has proper protective equipment and tools. Community services provide testing sites, contact tracing, and vaccine incentives. Support for City employees provides personal protective equipment, employee testing, and vaccine incentives. Resources allocated to the City's response are estimated to be utilized through FY 2026. Additionally, this allocation supports the administration, reporting, and oversight of ARPA funds from FY 2022 through December 2026.

Public Health and Safety Response - $62.6 million

Isolation and Quarantine: Recommendations evolved as more scientific information was available; there was a shift in focus from quarantine to isolation and Epidemiology continue to perform contact tracing and focused case investigations on congregate settings. The Cluster Management Task Force (CMTF) was very active at the evaluating period and slowly had less activity as infection rates declined.

Testing and Vaccinations: Testing became more widely available and with the emergency approval of rapid testing and other laboratories able to perform Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) testing, access to testing became less of an issue, accessibility to reliable testing was accomplished by opening testing centers across the community in drive through locations and COVID-19 clinics recently acquired. Testing centers initially were staffed by City personnel and later, as demand decreased, was made available via automated kiosks. Up to now, testing continues to be made available to the community free of charge.

Vaccination was rolled out through mega centers and as the vaccine became more readily available to providers, other options became available to the community. El Paso was able to achieve 75% vaccination rate of eligible individuals by January 2022. With the recently acquired COVID-19 clinics, vaccination was made available at those locations to increase accessibility and as demand decreased, services continued adjusting the need. Vaccine continues to be available to the public through the COVID clinics free of charge.

Multidisciplinary teams of personnel from the Fire Department (FD) and Department of Public Health (DPH) supported the vaccination efforts at congregate settings along with the CMTF. As vaccination rates increased and the number of unvaccinated individuals in high-risk groups was relaxed, the group focus shifted to other priority areas.

Community Education and Outreach Activities: Multidisciplinary teams from DPH and FD provided educational seminars and materials to requesting agencies. Priority was given to schools, congregate settings and other organizations providing services to high-risk groups. The JIC continued its support of unifying messages, while controlling misinformation and rumors. Relevant data information was and continues to be provided to media and other stakeholders addressing any other concerns. JIC also continued supporting the EPStrong website dedicated to COVID specific information such as data, orders, recommendations etc. The Fire Department and Department of Public Health created a data

dashboard specifically for COVID with the input from the COVID Taskforce comprised of local healthcare experts.

The operating funding continues to support the following public health clinics:

- 7380 Remcon
- 9566 Railroad
- 9341 Alameda

These clinics have added capacity to address the gaps in the healthcare needs our community faces. We have transitioned these clinics from COVID-19 testing and vaccination clinics to providing the healthcare clinics for their neighborhood.

P-25 Interoperability - $8.2 million

The project is over 86% completed. Completed tasks for this project include the replacement of older antennas and transmission lines, improvements to the microwave network, increased radio channels capacity, and replacement of outdated public safety dispatch computers. Additional major milestones are expected to be completed by the end of the 2025 calendar year.

Public Health Department Relocation - $17.3 million

The following information is the proposed breakdown by facility for the Health Department Relocation.

Description	Total
Railroad Facility	8,455,222
New Medical Center of Americas Location	8,865,565
Total	**$17,320,787**

The funding is to support Phase I and Phase II of the Public Health Department relocation. Included in the Phase I is the transition of administration and clinical services to the new Railroad Facility. Functions that will be moving include fiscal services, lab administration, Medicaid waiver program, immunization and family planning, Tuberculosis and Disease Intervention Specialist. The Medical Center of the Americas Clinic is a new clinic to continue to serve the population in central El Paso. This potential acquisition and renovation of a property is to provide clinical services to include TB, DIS, immunization and family planning.

Body Worn Cameras - $6.6 million

City Council committed the Body Worn Camera project to further promote public trust and transparency of our Police Department. This funding combined with other grants helped the EPPD deploy over 700 body worn cameras for Patrol and Traffic Units. This included vehicle integration, a 5-year service agreement, and cloud-based system that has proven to be extremely helpful.

Mobile Command Post - $1.3 million (Completed)

EPPD received a new mobile command post to utilize in support of major incident investigations throughout the City. The previous mobile command post was fitted with specialized equipment, but was malfunctioning, outdated and did not fit specific needs. This investment resulted in an updated, temperature-controlled command post with access to internet, live video streaming capabilities that is critical during major incidents.

City Watch Expansion- $7 million (Infrastructure Portion Completed)

The EPPD augmented public safety in critical areas through addition of dedicated City Watch staff, and deployment of camera systems at strategic locations throughout the City, to help reduce crime in specific areas of town. The cameras are being used as a crime deterrent and to assist with evidence when a crime has been committed. The El Paso Police Department (EPPD) worked with our City Facilities and Parks and Recreation departments along with crime analysts to determine the best location for surveillance. The remaining expenses are attributed to staff, operating expenses and continuous development of this program.

Crisis Intervention Team - $4.2 million

Our Crisis Intervention Team Program in partnership with the Emergence Health Network (EHN) have been working together to assist citizens suffering from a mental health diagnosis with guidance, resources and intervention. Since the implementation of the unit, there has been an increase in demand for follow up requests, meetings and statistics. This has provided funding for 7 of our 25 CIT unit officers and partial funding for 22 EHN personnel.

Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus Replacement - $6.6 million

The health and safety of our first responders is paramount for the City of El Paso. Without the dedication of the men and women of our public safety departments, we would not have the quality of life our community deserves. The replacement of the Fire Department's Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) is a life line for our firefighters during an emergency. An SCBA provides breathing air, along with communication capabilities that keep our first responders safe during an emergency.

Community Recovery

Programs include addressing homelessness, supporting families and addressing community vulnerabilities.

Community Programs - $12.1 million

In over 600 days of COVID response, the City of El Paso has always kept a resilient and inclusive recovery in mind. Today, as our community moves forward, there are still 3 key areas requiring focused investment in order to build the foundation for recovery.

It is the interconnected vulnerabilities that become the barrier to a resilient recovery. The proposed 3-Step Plan is depicted below to illustrate the first phase of funding and the focus with the remaining $3 million to address the second phase.

Addressing Homelessness - $5.3 million

This investment is leveraged against other federal funding sources targeted at establishing a facility capable of providing ongoing shelter and support services as well as permanent housing opportunities for individuals experiencing homelessness.

Long Term sustainability of this program is supported by the implementation of a permanent housing program. This has been a clearly identified gap in our community.

Supporting Families - $6.8 million

This is inclusive of early childhood care for Before and After School Care at After School Care sites and eight-day Camp Sites to serve families with school aged children during the summers and intersession breaks. Additionally, this will support capacity to provide critical mental healthcare to youth in our community. These programs work to remedy the learning losses caused by the pandemic and increase access to mental healthcare allowing our children to reach their fullest potential resulting in long-term success of our community.

Sports Court and Playground Replacements - $6 million

Deferred investment in our Parks and Recreation Department was addressed as part of the Live Active campaign and included the replacement or resurfacing of 84 sports courts and 7 substandard playgrounds. Over 80% of the project is complete and expected to be completed by the end of 2024.

Broadband Infrastructure - $6.4 million

There are two parts to this project: part 1 includes short-term goals and part 2 is a long-term solution.

Phase 1 of the Broadband Expansion (BE) project is complete, with the upgrade of over 200 computers which accessible by the public in Community Services centers.

Phase 2 of the project involves the expansion of fiber infrastructure with construction 70% completed. Sixty-seven percent of the total budget has been expended.

El Paso Computes - $2 million

The program kicked off in October 2024, and as of March 31, 2025, 8% of the budget has been allocated to support the efforts. Over 80 local district teachers attended workshops delivered in Spring 2025, covering topics such as Computational Thinking and Artificial Intelligence for Elementary and Middle School educators in the El Paso area. Additionally, UTEP has awarded scholarships to 6 Education students to support the implementation of a high-quality post-baccalaureate Computer Science certification pathway with a residency.

Economic Recovery

The strategies and programs in this investment address solutions, both short-term and long-term, for businesses to recover from the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and achieve long-term resiliency. Long-term resiliency requires intentional immediate relief.

Focus on El Paso's Small Businesses - $ 14 million

With 83% of El Paso County businesses with fewer than 20 employees, it is a critical focus for our business community and a vibrant economy.

El Paso County saw a reduction of 12 percent in small business revenue from January 2020 to May 2021.

A focused strategy to helping our small businesses recover.

These three areas are the pillars to our economic development strategies of Improve Access to Capital, Address Workforce Needs, Strengthen Entrepreneurial Support Ecosystem and Support Strong Partnerships to Optimize Growth.

The City of El Paso together with our community partners continue to work to ensure equity, resilience, and sustainability for the most vulnerable El Pasoans by giving voice to the underrepresented, supporting a strong system of human services and investing in El Paso homes, families, and neighborhoods.

The strategies we use to support the economic recovery include increasing access to capital, address the workforce needs, strengthen entrepreneurial support ecosystem, and support strong partnerships to optimize growth. The City of El Paso will continue to identify grants and partnerships to leverage resources in support of our community and a long-tern sustainable recovery.

Increase access to Capital + Address workforce needs - $6.2 million

- **Small Business grants** - leverage grants to increase accessibility to leverage other capital access programs
- **Small Business loans** - grow the DreamMaker fund, which is like a revolving loan fund
- **Financial Literacy** - Improve financial literacy to increase access to capital
- **Workforce Development** - Upskill the workforce + align with small business needs

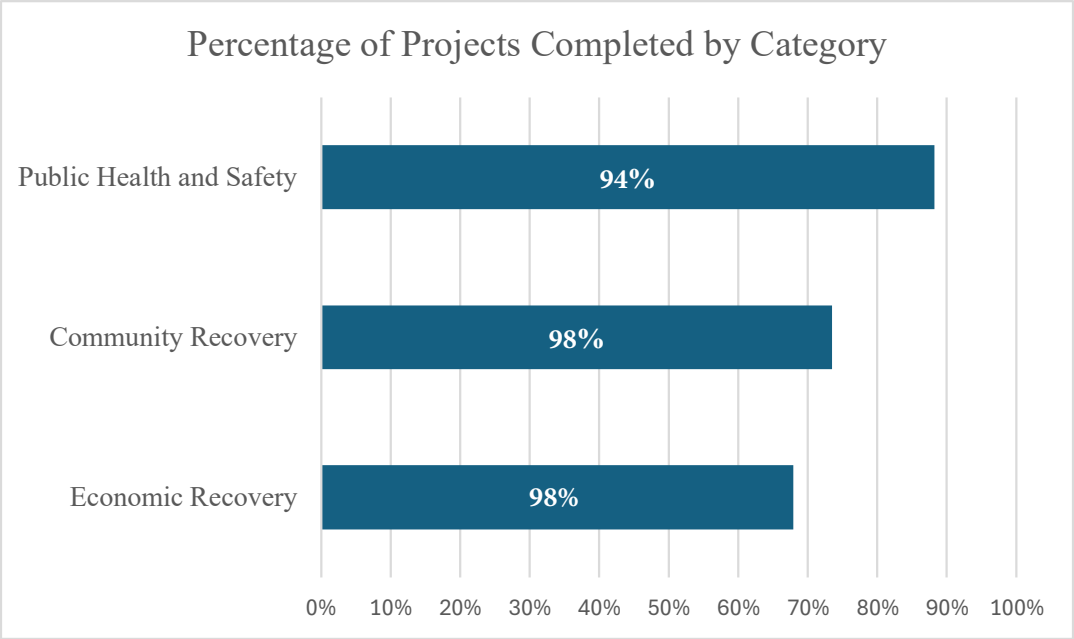
Action to Strengthen the Entrepreneurial Support Ecosystem - $4.8 million

- **Marketing Campaign Partnerships –** Expand and augment Buy El Paso Campaign
- **Small Business Resource Centers –** Partner with Hispanic Chamber of Commerce for launch of **Procurement Academy**
    - Launch of **Small Business Liaison Program**
    - 4 FTEs (Economic Development Liaisons)
    - "Boots on the ground" approach to small business advocacy
    - Visit and survey businesses to share our real-time insights with Entrepreneurial Support Organizations (ESOs)

- **Marketing Campaign Partnerships**
    - Better Business Bureau Amendment for the expansion of Buy El Paso Rewards program, now supported by Bludot
- **Digital Transformation Support**
    - Increase capacity for Project Vida's microenterprise technical assistance
- **Business One Stop Shop (BOSS)**
    - First of its kind program to provide **place-based intervention** for small businesses, growing businesses or aspiring entrepreneurs
    - Location selected at El Paso International Airport
    - **"Gateway to Business"**
    - Builds on existing Small Business Assistance efforts:
    - Entrepreneur Support Organizations (ESOs) Coalition
    - **Aspen Institute** Latinos & Society: City Learning & Action Lab Initiative
    - **Supply El Paso** implementation

Growing the Advanced Manufacturing Industry Cluster - $3.0 million

- **Builds on the strength of an existing partnership** that secured El Paso as a finalist in the EDA's nationally competitive Build Back Better Regional Challenge
- **Advanced Manufacturing District** and **Innovation Factory**
    - Funding for Tenant Improvements and Rental Assistance
    - Support early-stage companies disproportionately affected by the pandemic

State and Local Fiscal Recovery Update – As of June 2026

83% of all Projects are Completed