

Chatham County, Georgia

Recovery Plan Performance Report

American Rescue Plan Act

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal
Recovery Funds

August 31, 2021



Chatham County, Georgia Recovery Plan Performance Report

American Rescue Plan Act - Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Annual Report #1

Period Covered: May 11, 2021 – July 31, 2021

Due date: August 31, 2021



Chatham County, Georgia

2021 Recovery Plan

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

Chatham County is nestled on the Georgia coast along the Savannah River, which borders South Carolina. Its geographical location provides unique access to two major interstates, major rail lines, and shipping ports (see Figure 1). With a population of 291,228¹ people (see Figure 2 and Figure 3), Chatham County is the fifth largest county in Georgia and has a median age of 36.8 and a median household income of \$56,842 (Claritus, 2021). The City of Savannah is the County's largest municipality.

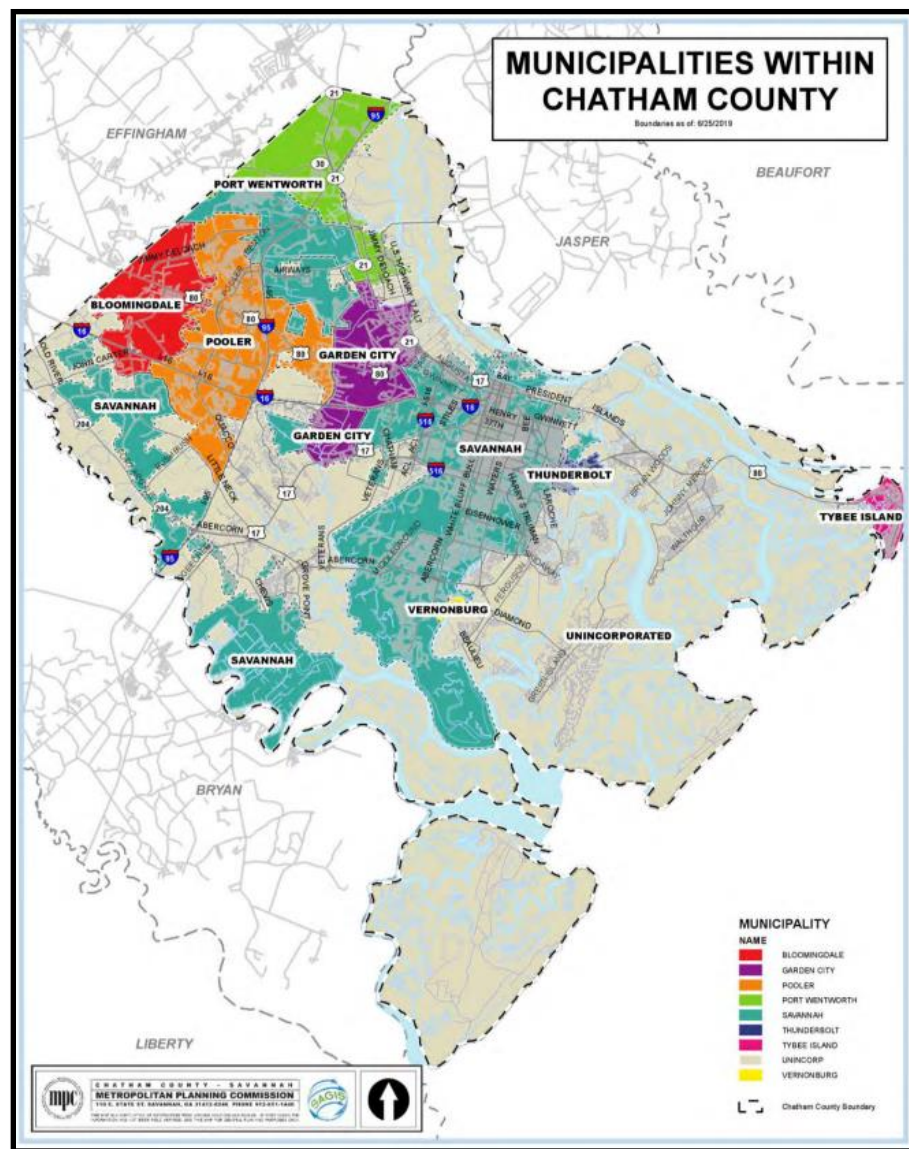


Figure 1 - Chatham County Map

¹ <https://www.coastalindicators.org/> - The updated 2020 Census data is expected to be released in September 2021.

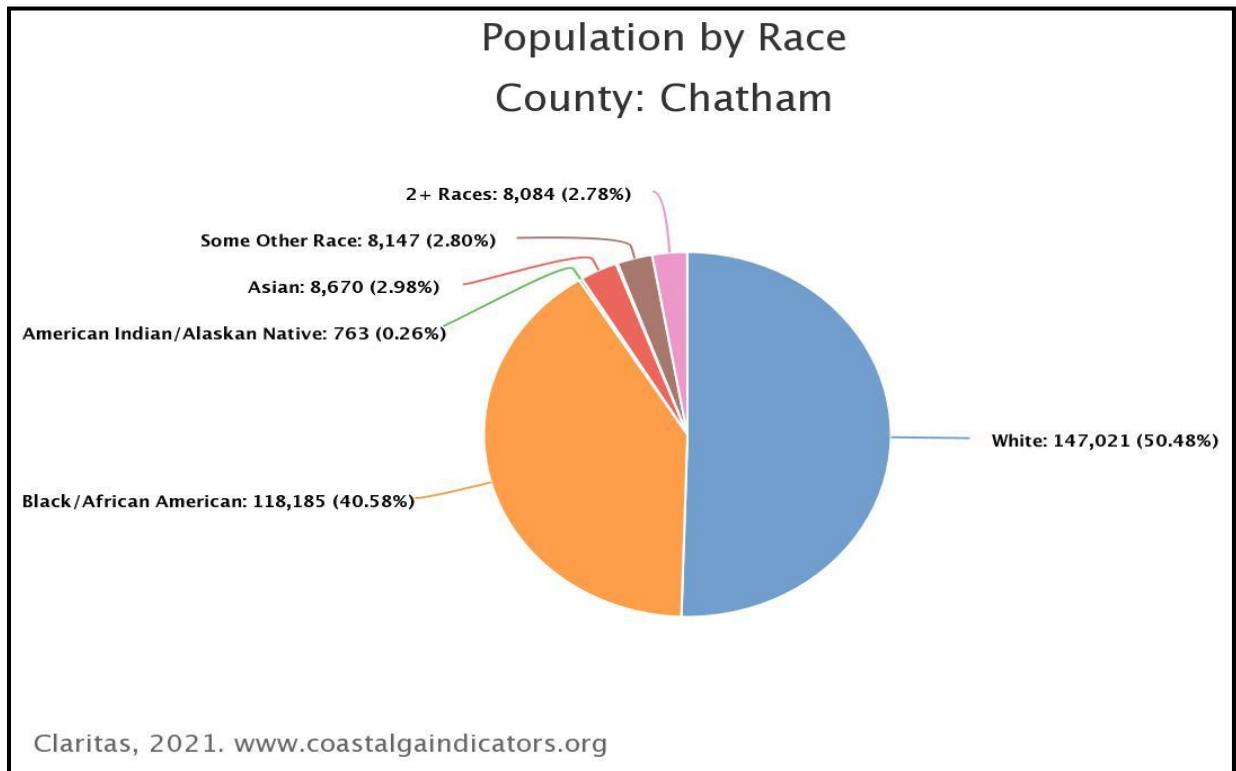


Figure 2 - Population by Race

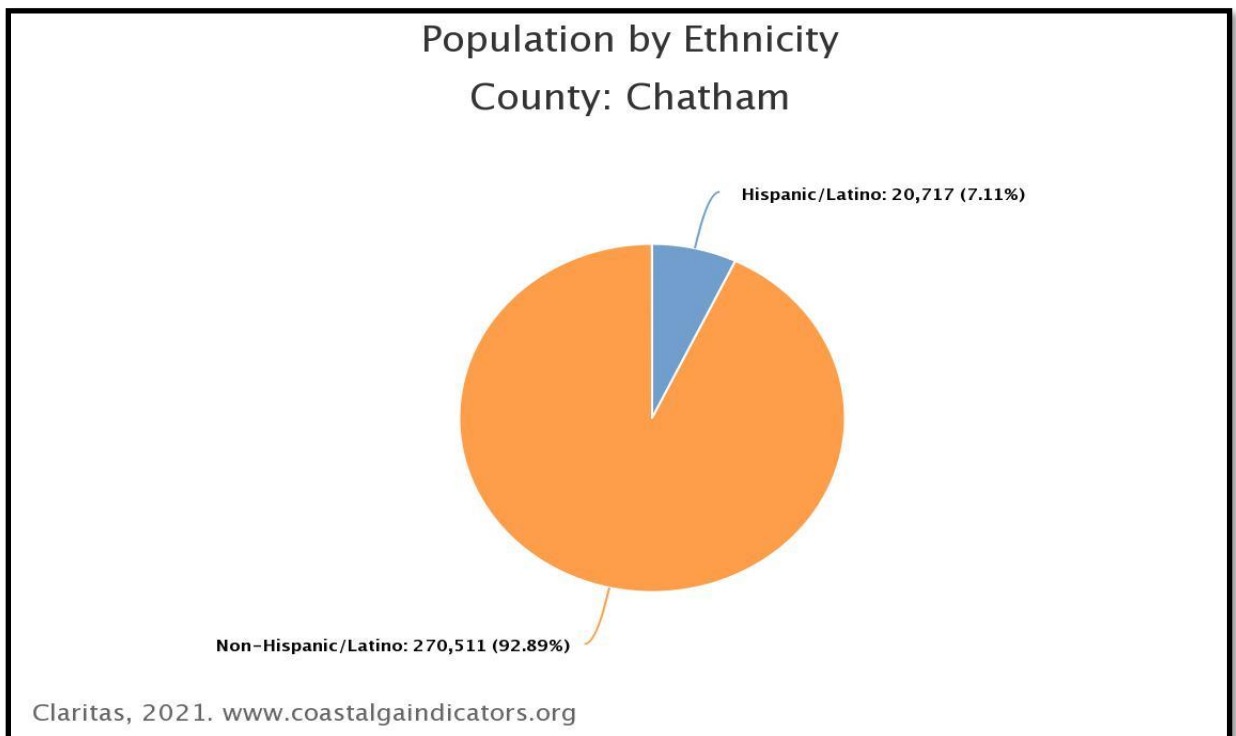


Figure 3 - Population by Ethnicity

Since receiving the American Rescue Plan Act – Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (CSLFRF) allocation in May 2021 (see Figure 4), Chatham County elected officials and staff have done much research and fact gathering on appropriate and allowable uses for long-term community-wide impact. Finance staff calculated the revenue loss formula while Strategic Planning worked with various units of government and local stakeholders to gather citizen input. Chatham County has reviewed qualitative and quantitative data to determine the best use of the local recovery funds to respond to the pandemic and promote an equitable economic recovery.

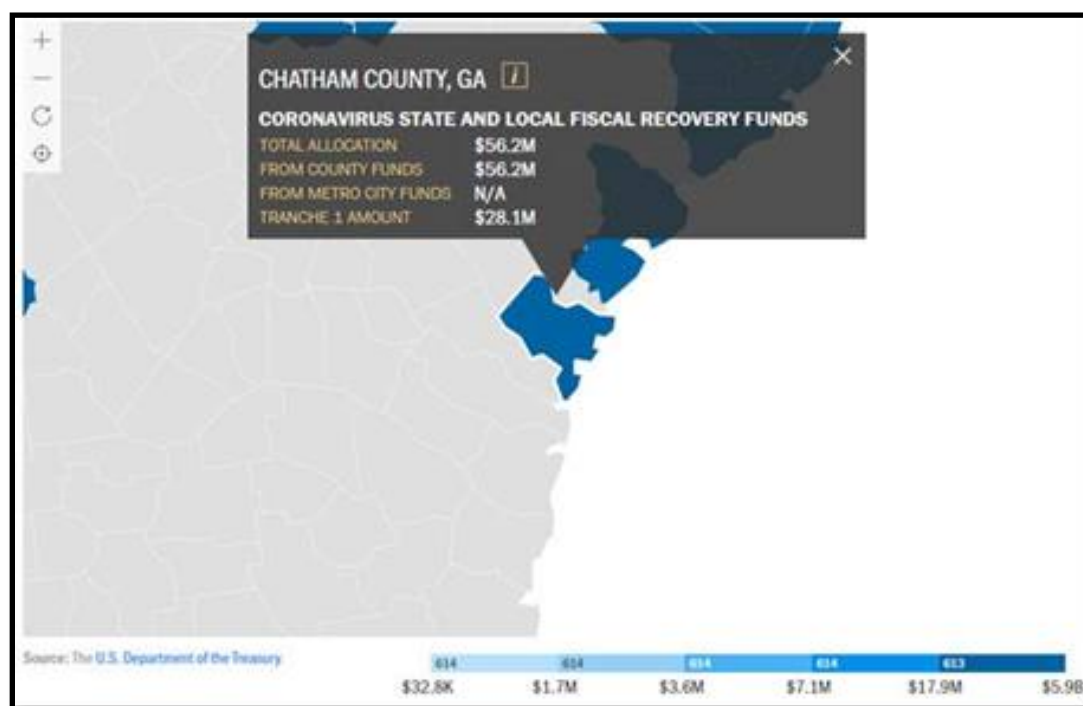


Figure 4 – Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Allocation

Our Elected Officials have expressed interest in longstanding infrastructure projects including water and sewer projects as well as broadband. Chatham County will also explore how best to support small businesses that are trying to rebound during the economic downturn impacted by the lack of staff and facility layout changes that reduced the capacity to serve people. We will investigate ways to ensure local community-based non-profit organizations who have worked tirelessly to support individuals and families (providing food, shelter, vaccines and more) can continue meeting the needs of our most vulnerable populations. Chatham leaders are interested in expanding and enhancing our support system at the intersection of public safety and behavioral health. Strategies are being explored to address the judicial caseload backlog by providing more staff, expanding space for jury trials, and the use of innovative technology. Finally, Chatham County wants to ensure that our community is more prepared to respond to all types of public health emergencies and build resiliency among our residents and the essential workforce.

Uses of Funds

In August 2021, Chatham County will host workshops to inform and educate the Board of Commissioners, Constitutional Officers, and critical staff on the allowable uses of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. Following the workshop, all county departments will be asked to submit requests for projects and initiatives aligning with the Chatham Community Blueprint, the Board priorities and alignment with ARPA allowable use of funds. External agencies will also follow a similar process.

Leadership staff will review and rank projects based on specific needs in our community and ensuring programmatic outcomes are clearly stated with performance measures. Recommendations will then be shared with the Board for final consideration. Based on initial conversations and preliminary view of community indicators, the staff will recommend projects and associated budgets as shown in Figure 5. It is understood that all projects must meet the guidelines and align within one of the Eligible Expenditure Categories as provided by U.S. Treasury (see Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category section) however, nothing has been obligated or expended as of July 31, 2021. Upon approval of the projects, intergovernmental agreements and or memorandums of understanding will be executed defining roles, financial commitment, project timeline, performance measures and reporting expectations.

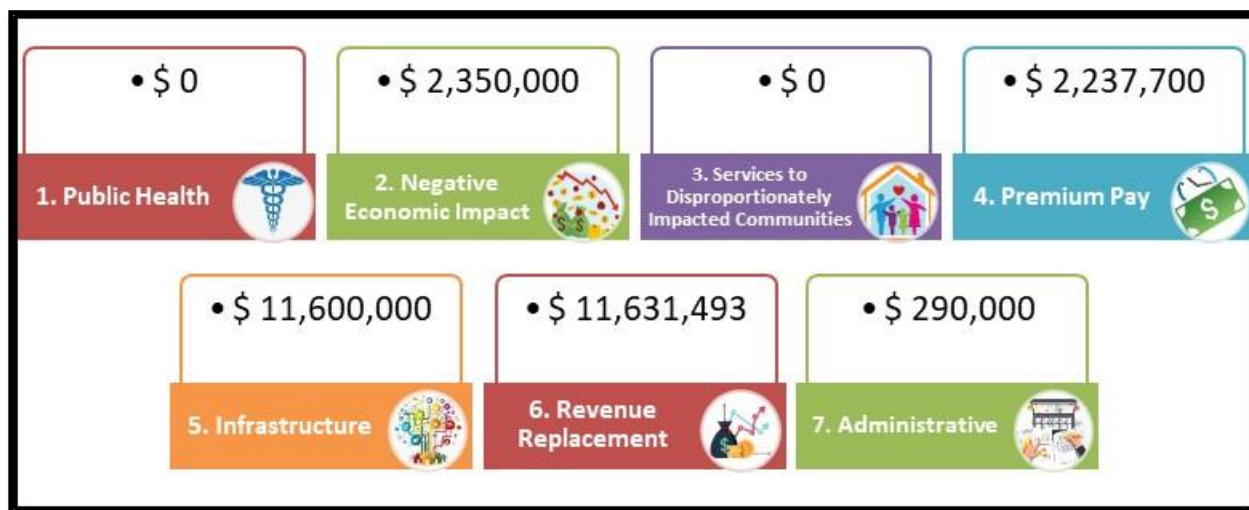


Figure 5 - Proposed Budget by Category (First Tranche)

Chatham County has identified revenue replacement using calculation tools provided by GA Department of Community Affairs, Carl Vinson Institute of Government, and Georgia Finance Officers Associations (See Figure 6).

As per instructed on the Interim Final Rule adopted by the U.S. Department of the Treasury on May 10, 2021, the revenue loss should be calculated as of four points in time: December 31, 2020; December 31, 2021; December 31, 2022; and December 31, 2023, following a four-step process below:



- 1) The revenue in the last full fiscal year prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency, which is called the base year revenue (FY2019).
 - 2) Then, for purposes of measuring revenue growth in the counterfactual trend, the “growth adjustment” is the greater of 4.1 percent² **or** the average annual revenue growth over the three full fiscal years prior to the COVID-19 public health emergency (FY2017, FY2018, and FY2019).
 - 3) Identify actual revenue collected over the past 12-month period ending December 31, 2020.
 - 4) The extent of the reduction in revenue is equal to “counterfactual revenue” less actual revenue.
- Total amount calculated for calendar year 2020 is \$17,422,179.51.

All formulas were reviewed by our external auditors and confirmed to be accurate.


Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds		 Carl Vinson Institute of Government UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA			
Revenue Loss Calculation Worksheet (Data entry required in red highlighted cells)					
Step 1	Select the month your fiscal year ends from the drop-down menu.	June			
Step 2	Enter revenue amounts from the TED data for fiscal years 2017, 2018, and 2019.	FY17	\$ 298,623,682.00	The amount for each year includes all general fund revenue, enterprise funds (other than utilities), and intergovernmental revenues from state and local governments. Do not include utility revenue from gas, electric, water, and transit; proceeds from debt issuance; proceeds from the sale of any asset; or any federal intergovernmental revenue including federal pass through funds from the state.	
		FY18	\$ 324,711,509.00		
		FY19	\$ 339,609,783.52		
		Compound rate of growth	6.642%	This is the compound rate of growth for your government from FY2017 through FY2019.	
	Rate for calculations	6.642%	This is the greater of the compound rate of growth above and 4.1%.		
Step 3	Enter the actual amounts for the same revenue sources used to calculate revenue for FY17 through FY19 entered above.	Actual Revenue	Counterfactual Growth Rate	Counterfactual Revenue	CSLFRF Funds Available
	Actual revenue for calendar year 2020	\$ 356,578,295.00	110.127%	\$ 374,000,474.51	\$ 17,422,179.51
	Actual revenue for calendar year 2021	\$ -	117.441%	\$ 398,841,303.27	
	Actual revenue for calendar year 2022	\$ -	125.241%	\$ 425,332,041.09	
	Actual revenue for calendar year 2023	\$ -	133.560%	\$ 453,582,273.70	

Figure 6 - Revenue Loss Calculation Worksheet

Chatham County was one of the first counties in Georgia to launch the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERA) in February 2021. Recognizing the need across our community for relief in rental and utility support Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) were created with community-based non-profit organizations who already have efficient systems in place for the distribution of funds and tracking of clients to ensure equitable and fair practices are followed for the most in-need in our community. As of July 31, 2021 Chatham County expended \$2,233,777

² Interim Final Rule pages 57-58: The option of 4.1 percent represents the average annual growth across all State and Local government “General Revenue from Own Sources” in the most recent three years of available data.

assisting 974 households (see Figure 7). We continue to work with Magistrate Court, local property owners, utility providers, and tenants to accept applications. For more information about the Chatham County Emergency Rental Assistance Program please visit [Chatham County, Georgia | Emergency Rental Assistance Program \(ERAP\) \(chathamcountyga.gov\)](https://chathamcountyga.gov/Georgia-Emergency-Rental-Assistance-Program-ERAP)

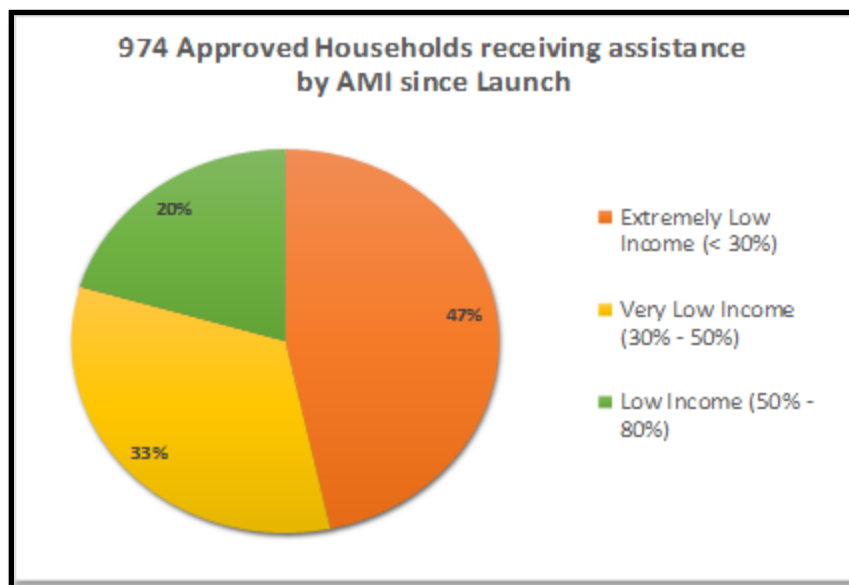


Figure 7 - Total Households Assisted by AMI³ since ERAP was Launched

Promoting Equitable Outcomes

Chatham County has a population of 291,228⁴ per current Census data with median household income of \$56,842 (Claritus, 2021). According to the 2015-2019 American Community Survey, 15.1% of Chatham County residents are living below the federal poverty level. Chatham County has a violent crime rate of 679.8 crimes per 100,000 population, compared to a US crime rate of 386.5 crimes per 100,000 population (County Health Rankings, 2014-2016). In 2018, 80.2% of Chatham County residents aged 18-64 had some type of health insurance coverage (US Census Bureau, 2018). Per the 2021 IRS Section 42(d)(5)(B), Chatham County has 24 Qualified Census Tracts (see Figure 8).

³ The FY2020 median family incomes for Savannah, Ga metropolitan services area is estimated at \$71,987, rounded to the nearest \$100: meaning that we will use \$72,000 as the Area Median Income (AMI). The 30% of AMI = \$21,600, the 50% of AMI = \$36,000, and the 80% of AMI = \$57,600.

⁴ <https://www.coastalindicators.org/> - The updated 2020 Census data is expected to be released in September 2021.

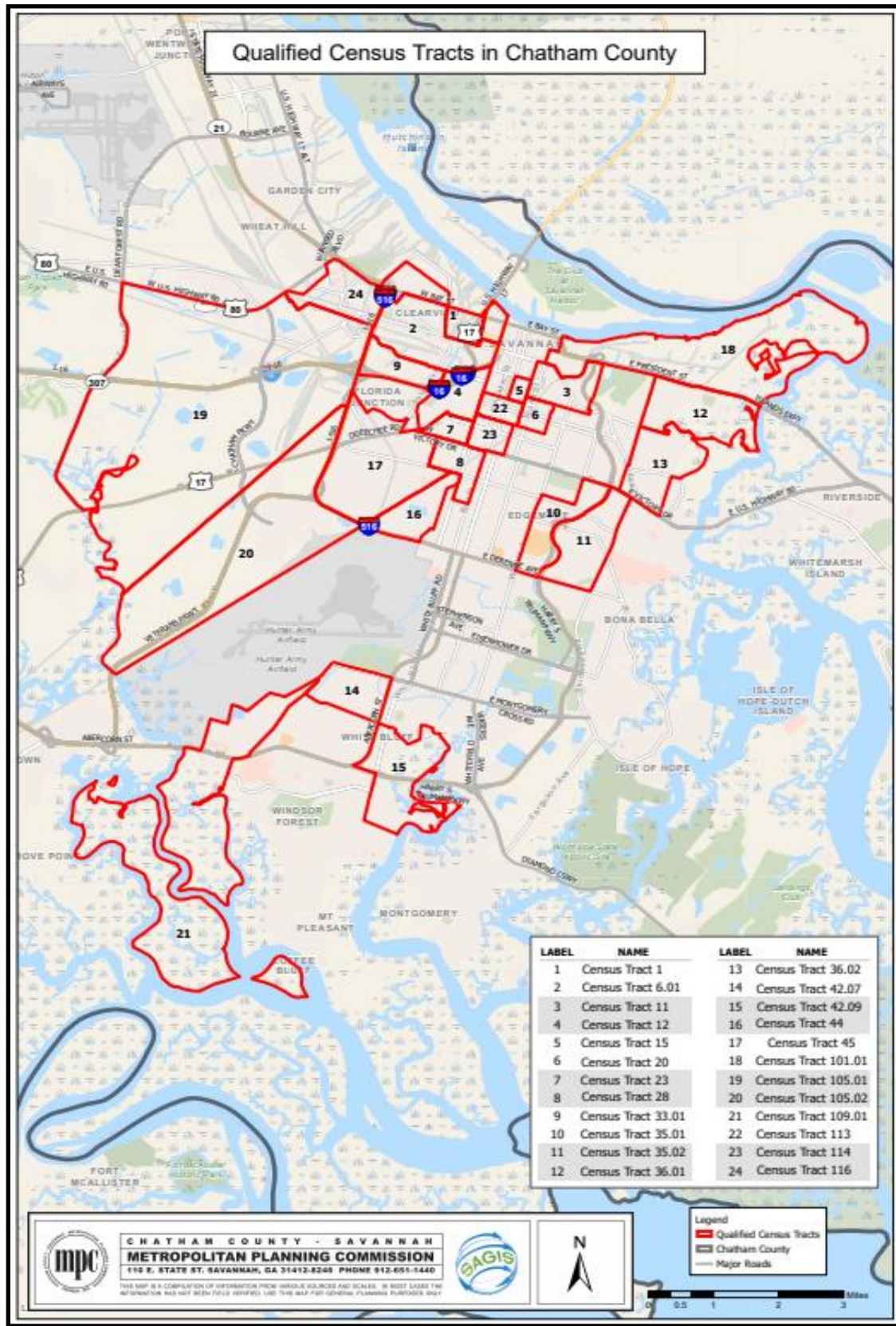


Figure 8 - Qualified Census Tracts in Chatham County

Chatham County supports the efforts of the Healthy Savannah and the REACH initiative funded by CDC to promote Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health. Chatham County is affiliated with the Savannah REAL (Racial Equity and Leadership) Task Force within the City of Savannah. We have been actively engaged in systems change endeavor to alter the narrative of deep-rooted racial inequities in our community. Chatham County pledges to promote equitable outcomes in all services and programming. As initiatives and projects are considered, demographic data and social determinant indicators will be taken into consideration with focus on the qualified census tracts.

Community Engagement

Chatham County is one of the three initial funders of the Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition. The Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition (CGIC) is comprised of community members and advocates working together through a comprehensive, coordinated approach for planning and accountability and serves as a resource for agencies addressing overall health and well-being while leveraging resources for community initiatives. The purpose of CGIC is to **improve community well-being** by engaging and leading the community to work collectively (community stakeholders – providers and recipients of service, funders, elected officials) in its development of strategic priorities that guide policy, programs and resource allocation. Over the past few years there has been growing awareness of the need to integrate community indicators and performance measurement efforts at the community level to better assess the position and progress of our community's well-being and to better engage citizens and other key stakeholders in the development and use of community indicators and performance measures by governmental and non-profit organizations. Chatham County will continue our relationship with CGIC and plan to expand the contract to host community forums in each of the eight County districts this fall to affirm community priorities and gather input on service delivery strategies (see Figure 9).



Figure 9 - Community Priorities

Learn more about the Community Engagement at [Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition \(coastalgaindicators.org\)](https://coastalgaindicators.org) and learn more about Chatham County efforts specific to ARPA at [Chatham County, Georgia | American Rescue Plan Act \(ARPA\) \(chathamcountyga.gov\)](https://chathamcountyga.gov)



Labor Practices

Chatham County is an equal opportunity employer and has an equal opportunity procurement policy. Chatham County Human Resources Department and Purchasing Department take pride in utilization of disadvantaged and minority individuals and/or business enterprises in carrying out the desired work. Chatham County does not discriminate against any persons or businesses regardless of race, color, religion, age, sex, national origin or handicap. Chatham County is a Drug-Free Workplace and therefore mandates that employees of the County and or its contractors will not engage in the unlawful manufacture, sale, distribution, possession, or use of a controlled substance or marijuana during the performance of the stated job.

Use of Evidence

As we consider potential projects and programs for funding, Chatham County will implement evidence-based models where necessary ensuring pre and post assessments and collection of qualitative and quantitative data. Performance measures will be established for each approved project with stated goals and objectives – outputs and outcomes. We have a current contract with a third party evaluation firm to assist in data analysis, should that be determined necessary based on the funding priorities of the Board.



Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category

Nothing has been obligated or expended as of July 31, 2021.

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
1	Expenditure Category: Public Health		
1.1	COVID-19 Vaccination	0	0
1.2	COVID-19 Testing	0	0
1.3	COVID-19 Contact Tracing	0	0
1.4	Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, etc.)	0	0
1.5	Personal Protective Equipment	0	0
1.6	Medical Expenses (including Alternative Care Facilities)	0	0
1.7	Capital Investments or Physical Plant Changes to Public Facilities that respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency	0	0
1.8	Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)	0	0
1.9	Payroll Costs for Public Health, Safety, and Other Public Sector Staff Responding to COVID-19	0	0
1.10	Mental Health Services	0	0
1.11	Substance Use Services	0	0
1.12	Other Public Health Services	0	0
2	Expenditure Category: Negative Economic Impacts		
2.1	Household Assistance: Food Programs	0	0
2.2	Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid	0	0
2.3	Household Assistance: Cash Transfers	0	0
2.4	Household Assistance: Internet Access Programs	0	0
2.5	Household Assistance: Eviction Prevention	0	0
2.6	Unemployment Benefits or Cash Assistance to Unemployed Workers	0	0
2.7	Job Training Assistance (e.g., Sectoral job-training, Subsidized Employment, Employment Supports or Incentives)	0	0
2.8	Contributions to UI Trust Funds*	0	0
2.9	Small Business Economic Assistance (General)	0	0
2.10	Aid to nonprofit organizations	0	0
2.11	Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality	0	0



Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
2.12	Aid to Other Impacted Industries	0	0
2.13	Other Economic Support	0	0
2.14	Rehiring Public Sector Staff	0	0
3	Expenditure Category: Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities		
3.1	Education Assistance: Early Learning	0	0
3.2	Education Assistance: Aid to High-Poverty Districts	0	0
3.3	Education Assistance: Academic Services	0	0
3.4	Education Assistance: Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Services	0	0
3.5	Education Assistance: Other	0	0
3.6	Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care	0	0
3.7	Healthy Childhood Environments: Home Visiting	0	0
3.8	Healthy Childhood Environments: Services to Foster Youth or Families Involved in Child Welfare System	0	0
3.9.	Healthy Childhood Environments: Other	0	0
3.10	Housing Support: Affordable Housing	0	0
3.11	Housing Support: Services for Unhoused persons	0	0
3.12	Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance	0	0
3.13	Social Determinants of Health: Other	0	0
3.14	Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators	0	0
3.15	Social Determinants of Health: Lead Remediation	0	0
3.16	Social Determinants of Health: Community Violence Interventions	0	0
4	Expenditure Category: Premium Pay		
4.1	Public Sector Employees	0	0
4.2	Private Sector: Grants to other employers	0	0
5	Expenditure Category: Infrastructure		
5.1	Clean Water: Centralized wastewater treatment	0	0
5.2	Clean Water: Centralized wastewater collection and conveyance	0	0
5.3	Clean Water: Decentralized wastewater	0	0
5.4	Clean Water: Combined sewer overflows	0	0
5.5	Clean Water: Other sewer infrastructure	0	0
5.6	Clean Water: Storm water	0	0
5.7	Clean Water: Energy conservation	0	0
5.8	Clean Water: Water conservation	0	0



Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
5.9	Clean Water: Nonpoint source	0	0
5.10	Drinking water: Treatment	0	0
5.11	Drinking water: Transmission & distribution	0	0
5.12	Drinking water: Transmission & distribution: lead remediation	0	0
5.13	Drinking water: Source	0	0
5.14	Drinking water: Storage	0	0
5.15	Drinking water: Other water infrastructure	0	0
5.16	Broadband: “Last Mile” projects	0	0
5.17	Broadband: Other projects	0	0
6	Expenditure Category: Revenue Replacement		
6.1	Provision of Government Services	0	0
7	Administrative and Other		
7.1	Administrative Expenses	0	0
7.2	Evaluation and data analysis	0	0
7.3	Transfers to Other Units of Government	0	0
7.4	Transfers to No entitlement Units (States and Territories only)	0	0

PROJECT INVENTORY

There were not current, active approved projects in Chatham County as of July 31, 2021.

PERFORMANCE REPORT

As of July 31, 2021, there were no active projects or performance measures to report for Chatham County.