



REVIEW OF ULSTER COUNTY'S AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDING

**Office of the
Ulster County Comptroller
March S. Gallagher**





ULSTER COUNTY OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER

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Released December 2025

Executive Summary

Ulster County received \$34,491,474 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. This was an extraordinary amount of federal funds coming to the County to offset negative impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. The County had significant flexibility in using these funds and targeted the funds to a variety of projects and programs. The funds needed to be fully obligated by December 31, 2024, and fully expended by December 31, 2026. While the funds were fully obligated by the deadline, as of September 2025, there is still \$6,384,981 yet to be expended, more than half of which was allocated to municipal water and sewer projects.

The County chose to use the funds to support the Community College, provide grants to businesses and nonprofits, support municipal parks and infrastructure, support housing related projects, and fund a variety of mental health related programs and projects.

ARPA guidance was to allocate the funds to one-time expenses, which the County did for most of the funds; however, some programs and staffing are continuing as recurring operating expenditures for the County including the funding for three County staff positions, and for programs including food security grants, Children's Mental Health, and Mental Health in Schools.

Introduction

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was passed by Congress on March 10, 2021, and signed into law on March 11, 2021. It was the first major federal assistance paid to state and local governments with the intent of stimulating the economy. Prior to the Act, the federal government had prioritized direct aid to business owners and individuals rather than state and local governments. Aid was provided to individuals through small stimulus checks and enhanced unemployment benefits. Aid was provided to business owners through two rounds of forgivable Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans, Employee Retention Tax Credits (ERTC), and low interest Economic Injury Disaster Loans (EIDL) which included a grant component of up to \$10,000.

The ARPA authorized the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program, which allocated over \$329 billion in federal funding to state and local governments across the United States. New York State and its local governments received \$23 billion, of which \$12.7 billion went directly to the State of New York. Ulster County's share of the total allocation was \$34,491,474. The County received the money in two equal payments of \$17,245,737 on June 14, 2021, and June 16, 2022. The federal government required that this money be fully obligated by December 31, 2024, and expended (spent) by December 31, 2026.

In June of 2021, County Executive Pat Ryan shared a vision with the Ulster County Legislature on priorities for funding. The newly organized Legislature in 2022 created a special committee to address ARPA. On January 26, 2022, Ulster County's American Rescue Plan Act Special Committee held its first meeting. This Committee met periodically until the final meeting was held on October 3, 2024. The Committee passed resolutions directing how the money would be spent. Once passed, these resolutions moved to the entire County Legislature for final vote. After resolutions directing expenditures are voted on by the Legislature, it becomes the responsibility of the County Executive to ensure that funds are spent according to the resolutions.

The County Executive delegated the responsibility for the administration and reporting of ARPA SLFRF funds to their Commissioner of Finance. On August 17, 2021, resolution 332 of 2021 was submitted to the legislature at the request of the County Executive on behalf of the Department of Finance. The resolution amended the 2021 budget to create three new full-time positions in the Department of Finance to administer the federal funding.

Employees were hired to fill these positions in late November of 2021, and no payments were made to these employees until December. The Recovery and Resilience Division within the Finance Department was comprised of, a “Director of Recovery & Resilience,” an “Assistant to the Director of Recovery & Resilience,” and a “Recovery & Resilience Project Manager.” The Director of the Division is still with the County today, but the other positions have had turnover. The 2025 adopted operating budget defunded the vacant Assistant Director position and set the salary for the Director at \$103,135 and the Project Manager at \$81,192, for a total of \$184,327 in gross wages, exclusive of benefit allocations. The 2026 Executive Budget Recommendation includes these two positions funded at a total of \$196,020.

The Commissioner of Finance further delegated to the Director the responsibility for tracking ARPA funds, drafting contracts with subrecipients, monitoring subrecipients, and preparing and submitting Ulster County’s quarterly filings to the U.S. Department of Treasury (Treasury).

The Recovery and Resilience Division charged payroll and benefits totaling \$998,791.98 against the \$34 million grant, or 2.9%. This was reported to the Treasury as two separate projects, one called “SLFRF ADM 2021 – 2023” which represented the payroll expenditures of the Division for those years in the amount of \$689,652.52, and one called “SLFRF Adm 2024 (ARPA Admin)” which represented payroll expenditures of \$309,139.46. Payroll and related benefit expenses for these positions for 2025 and 2026 are funded by the County’s general appropriations, rather than the federal funding awarded.

How the County Spent the Awarded Money

The following chart summarizes the ARPA SLFRF reporting that Ulster County made to the Federal Department of the Treasury through September 30, 2025. Through that date, the County has reported to have “expended” or spent \$28,106,494, or 81.5% of the total ARPA SLFRF award on eligible projects. Additional information regarding the amounts spent for the 4th quarter of 2025 will be reported on January 31, 2026.

ARPA SLFRF Budgeting & Spending Through 9/30/2025			
Project Name	Budgeted	Spent	Unspent
Ulster County Community College	7,628,421.13	7,628,421.13	-
Local Water and Sewer Grants	6,979,440.00	3,587,588.97	3,391,851.03
Housing Related Projects	4,030,871.59	3,234,579.98	796,291.61
County Payroll	3,162,130.81	3,162,130.81	-
Crisis Stabilization Center	2,999,999.18	2,978,674.18	21,325.00
Rail Trail Improvements	2,100,000.00	2,100,000.00	-
Local Park Improvement Grants	1,543,865.00	1,118,780.04	425,084.96
Non-Profit Grants	1,466,749.46	1,466,749.46	-
Small Business Grants	925,973.83	925,973.83	-
Agricultural Crisis Relief Grants	889,702.00	155,684.56	734,017.44
Mental Health in Schools	750,000.00	750,000.00	-
Children's Mental Health Clinic	730,000.00	222,900.13	507,099.87
Security for the Center for Well-Being	378,190.00	126,049.52	252,140.48
Food Security Grant Program	275,000.00	178,395.44	96,604.56
Ellenville Assistance Payment	178,116.00	178,116.00	-
Behavioral Health Needs Assessment	158,015.00	61,616.00	96,399.00
Emergency Wireless Access Program	130,000.00	90,834.00	39,166.00
Green Energy Job Training	90,000.00	90,000.00	-
Food Security and Access	75,000.00	49,999.45	25,000.55
Total	34,491,474.00	28,106,493.50	6,384,980.50

Ulster County Community College (100% Complete)

By far the largest use of SLFRF funds both budgeted and spent to date has been for payments to the Ulster County Community College. Two projects called “Ulster County Community College” and “Ulster County Tuition Share” totaling \$7,628,421 represented 22.1% of the total federal money the County received. These payments to the Community College have been the easiest for the County to complete, as they represent annually recurring ordinary expenditures the County Department of Finance makes to the College on a routine basis. These expenditures have since returned to 100% County funded. There was no resolution passed by the County Legislature that specifically authorized using SLFRF funds for payments to the College. Rather, a series of resolutions were passed in 2024 approving the use of SLFRF funding for the generic term “government services”, allowing the County to report these ordinary payments as a use of ARPA funds.

Local Water & Sewer Grants (51.4% Complete)

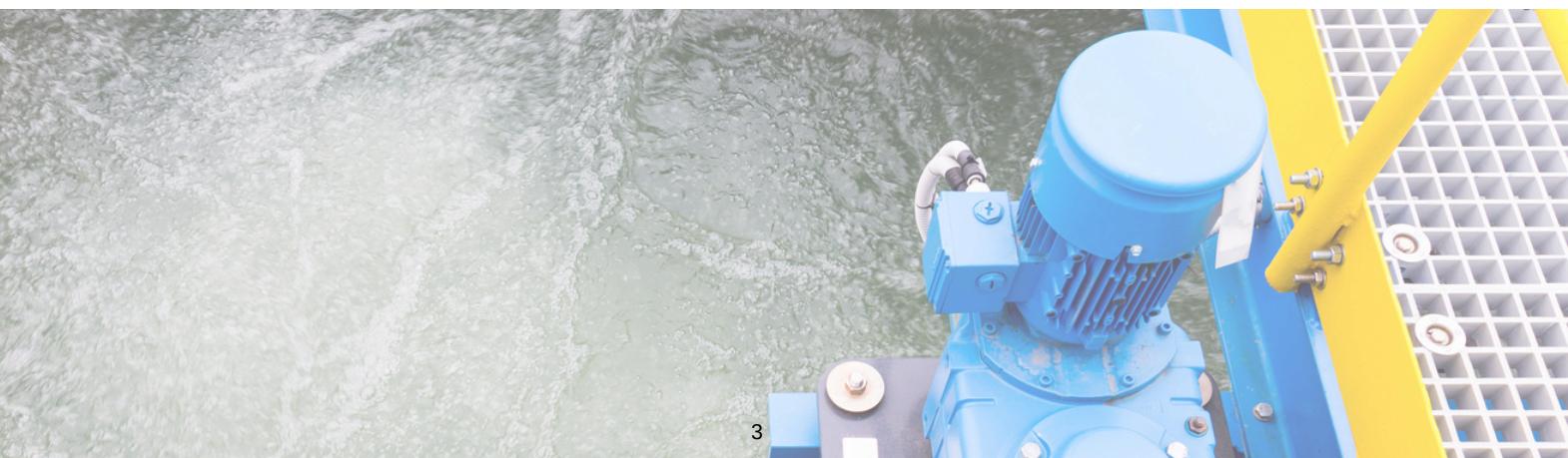
The County awarded grants to the towns and villages situated within its borders for water and sewer improvements. These grants were up to \$500,000 for qualifying projects. We have also included a separate \$2 million award made to the Town of Ulster for a Route 28 extension to run water and sewer lines to a RUPCO supportive housing project for unhoused individuals and families at the former Quality Inn. This project was included here because of the nature of the work performed.

Water & Sewer Project ARPA Grants Through 9/30/2025			
Municipality	Total Budget	Expenditures	Amount Remaining
Town of Ulster 114 Route 28 Extension	2,000,000.00	1,352,432.71	647,567.29
Town of Marlborough	500,000.00	213,175.75	286,824.25
Town of New Paltz	500,000.00	150,182.39	349,817.61
Town of Ulster	500,000.00	424,999.99	75,000.01
Town of Rosendale	500,000.00	38,311.96	461,688.04
Town of Lloyd	500,000.00	500,000.00	-
Village of New Paltz	500,000.00	425,000.00	75,000.00
Town of Marbletown	500,000.00	-	500,000.00
Town of Shawangunk	500,000.00	-	500,000.00
Village of Saugerties	396,000.00	84,834.93	311,165.07
Town of Saugerties	364,297.00	259,608.27	104,688.73
Town of Gardiner	90,782.00	80,681.97	10,100.03
Town of Woodstock	66,000.00	34,000.00	32,000.00
Town of Esopus	38,000.00	-	38,000.00
Town of Wawarsing	24,361.00	24,361.00	-
Totals	6,979,440.00	3,587,588.97	3,391,851.03

Several of the local municipalities awarded water and sewer grants have not drawn down any of their grants. These grants are on a reimbursement basis, meaning that the funds must be spent by the local municipality before they can be reimbursed. The County contracts included a provision that withheld 15% of the project until completion, a common practice referred to as “retainage”, which could hinder the County meeting the Federal requirement that expenditure of the funds be completed by the end of 2026. Below is the language in the County contracts with the Towns that requires retainage:

Retainage of Subaward. The County will retain the last Fifteen percent (15%) of the Subaward until the Subrecipient and project engineer has submitted the Project Completion Certificates satisfactory to the County. The County shall disburse to the Subrecipient the retained proceeds within forty-five (45) days after the County accepts the Project Completion Certificates.

After the 9/30/25 Treasury filing, these municipalities may have incurred additional expenditures and billed the County which is not reflected in the chart above.



Housing Development & Related Projects (80.2% Complete)

To address the affordability crisis ongoing in Ulster County, the Legislature directed SLFRF funding to several housing development projects. These are shown in the chart below.

Housing Development & Related Projects Through 9/30/2025			
Project Name	Budgeted	Expenditures	Unspent
Golden Hill Jail Demolition	1,462,246.85	1,462,246.85	-
Elizabeth Manor Affordable Housing	699,997.12	699,997.12	-
Silver Gardens	600,000.00	500,000.00	100,000.00
Green Energy Retrofits	400,000.00	-	400,000.00
Eviction Prevention Services	376,041.62	376,041.62	-
Brownfields Program	247,586.00	196,294.39	51,291.61
Commissary Kitchen	245,000.00	-	245,000.00
Total	4,030,871.59	3,234,579.98	796,291.61

Golden Hill

The goal of the Golden Hill project was to demolish the former County jail and prepare the land for construction of the Golden Hill apartment complex by developer Pennrose. Although the Request for Proposals for the project did not anticipate the County would bear the cost of demolition, these expenses were ultimately covered using ARPA funds. Construction of the apartment complex is now complete.

Elizabeth Manor

The County purchased a property on Elizabeth Street in the City of Kingston with the goal of turning it into emergency and/or affordable housing. After purchase, it was determined that the building could not be used, and that demolition of the current structure was ultimately required. The County transferred the building to its newly established Housing Development Corporation, which in turn transferred it to a developer to demolish the existing structure and construct a new affordable housing project in its place.

Silver Gardens

The County awarded a \$600,000 grant to RUPCO to install a geothermal system at a newly constructed senior housing complex in the Town of Lloyd. The first two \$250,000 payments required under the contract were reflected in the Q3, 2025 filing. The final payment of \$100,000 was made in the fourth quarter of 2025, after completion of the project, and is not reflected in the chart above.

Green Energy Retrofits

This is another ARPA contract that was awarded to RUPCO in the amount of \$400,000. The goal of this program is to provide weatherization assistance to Ulster County homeowners who are under a certain income threshold. The program was designed to assist a minimum of 10 households. Applicants with the lowest income were to be prioritized in the application review and selection process. At the beginning of the fourth quarter of 2025, RUPCO invoiced the County for work performed at three homeowner's properties for a total of \$48,758.93. This contract requires retainage of 10% be withheld by the County until completion, so 90% of the amount billed, or \$43,883.04 was paid to the vendor in October.

Eviction Prevention Services

The County contracted with local nonprofit Legal Services of the Hudson Valley to provide low-income Ulster County tenants with the information, resources, services, and support they need to exercise their rights, including access to free legal representation, when facing eviction from their homes. The contract has been extended and is now entirely County funded.

Brownfields Program

The County contracted with two local engineering firms to investigate and test properties that have suspected environmental contamination and have been taken or are eligible to be taken by the County for delinquent taxes.

Commissary Kitchen

This is another RUPCO project. The goal of the project is to create an “incubator” space for food service small business start-ups in a former restaurant attached to the former hotel at 144 Rt. 28 in the Town of Ulster, the same site for which ARPA funds were used to extend water and sewer. The former hotel is being renovated to be used for transitional housing.

County Payroll (100% Complete)

The County used ARPA funding to cover payroll costs for a few specific projects, shown below:

County Payroll Funded by ARPA			
Project Name	Budget	Expenditures	Unspent
Pandemic Front Line Pay for Union Workers	1,413,982.76	1,413,982.76	-
Recovery & Resilience Division Payroll	998,791.98	998,791.98	-
Call Center (CSN) Payroll	361,190.25	361,190.25	-
POD Payroll, COVID-19 Response	324,995.46	324,995.46	-
Agricultural Crisis Relief Coordinator	63,170.36	63,170.36	-
Total	3,162,130.81	3,162,130.81	-



Front Line Pay for Union Workers

The front line pay project was additional pay for workers who were deemed essential to “maintain critical infrastructure and continued critical services and functions.” Generally, to be eligible for this pay, workers had to be in person (rather than remote) for more than half of their time worked between March 15, 2021, through June 6, 2021.

Recovery & Resilience Division Payroll

This is payroll for the 3 staff charged with the administration of various County ARPA programs for 2021 through 2024. It was reported to Treasury as two projects, one from 2021 through 2023, and another for 2024. As noted above, one position was eliminated in the 2025 budget, but two positions continue to be funded with 100% County funds.

Constituent Services Navigator (CSN) Payroll

This was payroll for employees who worked a call center that was opened during the pandemic to address the massive influx of calls that the County was receiving. The center was cut from the 2023 budget by the County Legislator following a 2022 Comptroller’s Audit showing that the number of calls the center was receiving had dramatically decreased as the Pandemic wound down.

COVID-19 Response & Vaccine Point of Distribution (POD) Payroll

This was primarily payroll for the front-line workers staffing vaccination sites.

Agricultural Crisis Relief Coordinator

This project provided funding in 2024 for a position to run a program to provide support to Ulster County farmers as they recovered from the pandemic. This position is housed within the Department of Economic Development and is now 100% County funded. The main support provided by the County to local farms has been in the form of grants administered by a local nonprofit.



Crisis Stabilization Center (99.3% Complete)

This project is for the acquisition, design, and renovation of the building at 368 Broadway in Kingston. The intent was for the building to be used for the provision of mental health services. The building was budgeted to be purchased for two million dollars, and the remainder was to be spent on renovation of the facility. The center is nearing completion.

Rail Trail Improvements (100% Complete)

The County funded renovations to sections of rail trail performed by the Open Space Institute (OSI). OSI partnered with local towns and villages to renovate a 6.25-mile section of the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail in New Paltz and Gardiner, a 3.5-mile section of the D&H/O&W Rail Trail in Rochester and Wawarsing, and a 2.1-mile section of the D&H/O&W rail trail in the Village of Ellenville.

Local Park Improvement Grants (72.5% Complete)

The County awarded grants to the towns and villages situated within its borders for parks improvements. These grants were up to \$100,000 for qualifying projects. Below is a summary of all the awards made and the spending reported by the County to Treasury on these projects through 9/30/2025.

Local Park Improvement Grants				
Town Name	Project Name	Budget	Actual	Unspent
Esopus	Cas Landi Park Playground Renovation	50,000.00	50,000.00	-
Gardiner	Majestic Park Pump Track & ADA Accessibility	96,615.00	86,015.20	10,599.80
Hurley	Additional Improvements to West Hurley Park	80,000.00	12,018.54	67,981.46
Lloyd	Lewis C. DiStasi Pavilion	100,000.00	100,000.00	-
Marbletown	Marbletown Town Park Improvements	100,000.00	-	100,000.00
Marlborough	Park Field Improvement & Energy Efficient Lighting	100,000.00	100,000.00	-
New Paltz (Town)	Henry W. DuBois Drive Bicycle Pedestrian Project	100,000.00	100,000.00	-
Olive	Davis Park Fence Replacement	17,250.00	17,250.00	-
Plattekill	Replacement of Playground Equipment	100,000.00	100,000.00	-
Rochester	Town Park Bathroom and Revitalization	100,000.00	-	100,000.00
Rosendale	Rosendale Community Center Park Improvements	100,000.00	85,000.00	15,000.00
Saugerties (Town)	Saugerties Adaptive / Wheelchair Pickleball Project	100,000.00	85,000.00	15,000.00
Shawangunk	Playground Additions for the Town Parks	100,000.00	85,000.00	15,000.00
Ellenville	Berme Road Park	100,000.00	100,000.00	-
Wawarsing	Berme Road Park	100,000.00	98,496.30	1,503.70
New Paltz (Village)	Hasbrouck Park Athletic Court Rehabilitation	100,000.00	-	100,000.00
Ulster	Town of Ulster Orlando St. Softball Field Lighting	100,000.00	100,000.00	-
		Total	1,543,865.00	1,118,780.04
				425,084.96

After the 9/30/25 Treasury filing, these municipalities may have incurred additional expenditures and billed the County which will not be reflected in the chart above.

Non-Profit Grants (100% Complete)

The County awarded 50 grants totaling \$1,466,749.46 to Ulster County based nonprofits. Below lists of all the award recipients and amounts paid.

Contract #	Non-Profit Recovery and Resilience Grant Recipient	Expenditures
2022-561	Arc Mid-Hudson, The	49,999.00
2022-532	Ashokan Center Inc	49,999.00
2022-527	Catskill Animal Sanctuary Inc	49,999.00
2022-552	Circle of Friends for the Dying	49,999.00
2022-557	Memorial United Methodist Church	49,999.00
2022-529	New Paltz Rescue Squad Inc	49,999.00
2022-549	Ulster County Habitat for Humanity Inc	49,999.00
2022-585	Ulster Immigrant Defense Network	49,999.00
2022-584	Stockade Works Inc	49,500.00
2022-573	Ulster County Community Action Committee Inc	49,500.00
2022-575	United Way of Ulster County Inc	49,000.00
2022-565	Resource Center for Accessible Living Inc	45,318.00
2022-534	Women's Studio Workshop Inc	43,839.00
2022-543	Catskill Ballet Theatre Inc	40,000.00
2022-603	Center for Creative Education	40,000.00
2022-545	Rip Van Winkle Council BSA	40,000.00
2022-572	Ulster Community College Foundation Inc	40,000.00
2022-602	VFW post 8645 Veterans Of Foreign Wars	40,000.00
2022-530	Pine Hill Community Center LTD	39,596.00
2022-558	Mentor Me of Ulster County	38,980.10
2022-574	Unison Learning Center Inc	35,840.00
2022-528	Lamouree-Hackett American Legion Post 72	32,200.00
2022-544	Hudson River Maritime Museum	30,000.00
2022-569	TMI Project	26,000.00
2022-555	People's Place, The	25,067.00
2022-551	Beyond The 4 Walls Outreach Program, Inc	25,000.00
2022-548	Children's Home of Kingston, The	25,000.00
2022-546	Rosendale Theatre Collective Inc	25,000.00
2022-533	Wild Earth Wilderness School	25,000.00
2022-547	American Legion Dept of NY Rosendale-Tillson Post	24,999.50
2022-567	Shadowland Artists Inc	22,000.00
2022-542	Breast Cancer Options	20,000.00
2022-563	Phillies Bridge Farm Project Inc	20,000.00
2022-570	The Rose Women's Care Service: Community Resource	19,701.04
2022-568	Southern Ulster Performing Arts Company, NFP	18,750.00
2023-720	Ulster County Historical Society	18,327.96
2022-550	Woodstock Symphony Orchestra	18,269.00
2022-576	YMCA of Kingston and Ulster County	16,743.16
2022-524	Arm of the Sea Productions Inc	16,689.00
2022-593	Denizen Theatre Inc	16,000.00
2022-564	Phoenicia Library	15,000.00
2022-531	Sarah Hull Hallock Free Library	14,000.00
2022-556	Marlboro Free Library	12,861.00
2022-554	Kingston Midtown Arts Districts	10,000.00
2022-559	Mill Brook Preserve Inc	10,000.00
2022-553	Clinton Avenue United Methodist Church	8,500.00
2022-601	Friends of the Kingston Library	5,049.70
2022-562	Performing Arts of Woodstock, Inc	5,027.00
2022-526	Ars Choralis	5,000.00
2022-560	Morton Memorial Library	5,000.00
	Total ARPA NPRRG Expenditures	1,466,749.46

Small Business Grants (100% Complete)

The County contracted with its component unit, the Ulster County Economic Development Alliance (UCEDA) to administer this grant program. Called “CARES 2,” the program was modeled on an earlier program funded through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act of 2020. An [audit conducted by the Ulster County Comptroller’s office](#) found that many of the award recipients were not eligible according to County criteria to receive grants under the program. As a result of this finding, the County divided the program into two separate projects for the filings with the Treasury Department. Cares 2 was the grant program for the eligible grant awardees, and Cares 2.1 was for all the ineligible awardees. In total, \$925,974 was paid under the two different programs.



Cares 2 awardees and the amounts that they were paid can be seen below:

CARES 2 Eligible Awardees	Total Award	Total Spent	Unspent
L'Impatience LLC	35,000.00	35,000.00	-
Early Childhood Visionary Center	35,000.00	35,000.00	-
DM Dry Cleaners	35,000.00	35,000.00	-
Common Table	34,969.00	34,969.00	-
Electric Valley Media LLC DBA Shawangunk Journal	30,000.00	30,000.00	-
Mountaintop Waldorf, LLC	25,000.00	25,000.00	-
Paws of Distinction	25,000.00	25,000.00	-
Nina Schmidbaur LCSW Psychotherapy P.C.	5,000.00	5,000.00	-
Westwind Orchard, LLC	35,000.00	35,000.00	-
Schaller Enterprises Inc. DBA Americas Best Value Inn New Paltz	33,781.28	33,781.28	-
Crane Acupuncture & Holistic Medicine	35,000.00	35,000.00	-
HeartMoves Inc	35,000.00	35,000.00	-
Sport of Iron Fitness	13,828.00	13,828.00	-
Evolve Functional Fitness	5,000.00	5,000.00	-
Libolt & Sons Inc. (D/B/A Affordable Housing Concepts)	35,000.00	35,000.00	-
Pritzker Studio & Gallery	5,600.00	5,600.00	-
Carole Amper Inc dba Toucan Hats	35,000.00	35,000.00	-
Stone House Tavern (alanlinda llc)	35,000.00	35,000.00	-
Community Compost Company LLC	5,000.00	5,000.00	-
Au Mas Turque LLC d/b/a Masa Midtown	7,990.00	7,803.32	186.68
Sadies Babies, LLC dba: The Little Gym of Kingston	32,569.00	32,569.00	-
Total	538,737.28	538,550.60	186.68

Cares 2.1 Awardees and the payments made to them were as follows:

CARES 2 Ineligible Awardees / “CARES 2.1”	Total Award	Total Spent	Unspent Award
Minard Farms Beverage Company Inc	5,000.00	5,000.00	-
HUDSY Cooperative LCA/HUDSY LLC	34,660.00	34,660.00	-
Costas & Tate Insurance Agency Inc	35,000.00	35,000.00	-
So Handmade LLC	6,409.00	6,408.59	0.41
Wardell Pottery	17,769.00	17,766.83	2.17
Belleayre Rentals LLC DBA Belleayre Lodge	34,294.00	34,236.68	57.32
Catskill Construction Consultants Inc	5,000.00	5,000.00	-
Starlite Motel LLC	35,000.00	35,000.00	-
Wet Behind The Ears LLC DBA MIRABAI OF WOODSTOCK	20,000.00	20,000.00	-
Harana Market	5,000.00	5,000.00	-
Hurds Family LLC	35,000.00	35,000.00	-
SJ Galaxy Construction LLC	35,000.00	34,962.94	37.06
Dixon Roadside	23,655.00	15,564.19	8,090.81
Bryt Life Foods Corp	20,000.00	20,000.00	-
Northeast Off Road Adventures	34,000.00	34,000.00	-
Joe Lingeman	17,324.00	17,324.00	-
Accord Market	32,500.00	32,500.00	-
Total	395,611.00	387,423.23	8,187.77



Agricultural Crisis Relief Grants (17.5% Complete)

The County contracted with its Soil and Water District (a component unit of the County) for \$200,000 to purchase environmentally friendly farming equipment. Another contract was entered into with a local nonprofit called the Hudson Valley Agri-Business Development Corporation (HVADC) in the amount of \$689,702 to make grants to local farms. Under the contract, the nonprofit will charge the County a 15% fee (\$103,455.30) to administer the grant program. The County Executive announced in July of 2025 that HVADC had awarded the grants to nine farms with grant amounts ranging from \$25,000 to \$75,000. One of the grant awardees, Westwind Orchard, LLC, had also been a grant recipient under the CARES 2 small business grant award program.



Mental Health in Schools (100% Complete)

The County contracted with Albany based nonprofit La Salle School Inc. to provide “Behavioral Mental Health programming embedded with Ulster County school districts.” The contract was for a total of \$979,241, with \$750,000 funded using ARPA SLFRF funds and the remainder coming from New York State. The County entered into another \$800,000 contract with the La Salle in 2025 to provide the same services, this time funded primarily by County taxpayers. The State funded \$214,000 of the new contract and the County funded \$586,000. ARPA SLFRF funds were not intended to be used to create new recurring expenditures for local governments, but that appears to be what happened here. The program was generally understood to be successful, as several of the school districts requested that the County continue funding it.



Children’s Mental Health Clinic (30.5% Complete)

The County contracted with local nonprofit The Children’s Home of Poughkeepsie, N.Y. to provide mental health outpatient and rehabilitative services for youth at the County’s Center for Well-Being, located at 368 Broadway in Kingston. The services began under the contract on 10/1/2024 and will continue through 12/31/2026. The County believes that this program will become self-sustaining by invoicing managed care organizations for clinical services to people ages 5 to 21 years old.

Security for the Center for Well-Being (33.3% Complete)

This project is for security to be provided by the County Sheriff’s office at the Department of Mental Health’s facility, located at 368 Broadway in Kingston. This will become a recurring cost for the County.

Food Security Grant Program (64.9% Complete)

This project represents a contract with nonprofit Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley Inc. for \$275,000 to distribute funds to local emergency food providers, such as food pantries. The contract allowed for a 5% administrative fee to be charged by the organization, and the remaining amount was to be disbursed to grant recipients. This contract originally expired in June of 2025, but was amended to extend until June of 2026. With a new entirely County funded contract in place to provide funding for the same purpose, it remains unclear if the remaining \$96,605 will be paid to the organization to make grants with.



Village of Ellenville Assistance Payment (100% Complete)

This project was described by the County to Treasury as “Emergency support from Ulster County lost revenue to the Village of Ellenville, a severely distressed municipality in Ulster County that was utilized to support payroll for the Village's municipal employees.” Payment was made to the Village in February of 2024.

Behavioral Health Needs Assessment (39%)

Ulster County entered into a \$158,015 contract with a Massachusetts based nonprofit called Human Services Research Institute to complete an assessment of the behavioral health needs of Ulster County that includes needs related to adults, youth, and families with mental health, addiction, and intellectual/developmental disabilities. So far, the County has only been billed for the first two tasks of the project, which are predominately planning, meetings, and conducting “listening sessions.” Shown here is a full chart of the work plan outlined in the contract:

Month	1	2	3	4	5	6
Task 1: Project Management						
Work plan finalized	X					
Regular meetings with County	X	X	X	X	X	X
System Goals Exploration	X					
Task 2: Communications and Community Engagement						
Communications Plan	X					
Study Infographic	X					
Community Listening Sessions	X	X				
Task 3: Data Collection and Analysis						
Identify & compile public use data	X	X	X			
Develop asset map/inventory	X	X	X			
Submit Data Profile				X		
Submit asset map				X		
Identify & obtain data from programs funded by the county	X	X	X			
Develop interview guides	X	X				
Conduct key informant interviews		X	X	X	X	
Conduct on-site focus groups		X		X		
Site visits	X	X		X		X
Mixed methods data analysis		X	X	X	X	
Task 4: Reporting and Dissemination						
Report outline & table shells		X				
Memo of emerging themes				X		
Draft final report					X	
Final report & presentation						X

Emergency Wireless Access Program (69.9% Complete)

The project was described as follows to Treasury: “This program is to provide funding for wireless internet service during emergencies at publicly accessible locations in Ulster County.”

The County relies on the nonprofit Community Foundations of the Hudson Valley to disburse grants to the entities shown in the chart below. Payment of the first “tranche” of funding, plus the half of the nonprofit’s total administrative fee of \$6,500 was made in the third quarter of 2025, while tranche 2 remains unspent as of 9/30/2025.

Grantee	Grant Amount	Tranche 1	Tranche 2
Hudson Valley LGBTQ Community Center	\$10,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$2,000.00
Morton Memorial Library	\$10,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$2,000.00
People's Place	\$10,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$2,000.00
Town of Esopus Library	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
Town of Hardenburgh	\$10,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$2,000.00
Town of Hurley	\$10,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$2,000.00
Town of Hurley Fire Department	\$10,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$2,000.00
Town of Lloyd	\$10,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$2,000.00
Town of Shawangunk	\$5,720.00	\$4,576.00	\$1,144.00
United Way of Ulster County	\$10,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$2,000.00
Woodstock Public Library District	\$10,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$2,000.00
Wraparound Services of the Hudson Valley	\$7,510.00	\$6,008.00	\$1,502.00
Total	\$108,230.00	\$87,584.00	\$20,646.00

Green Energy Jobs Training (100% Complete)

The County contracted with a Kingston based nonprofit called Citizens for Local Power. The contract called for the County to pay the Organization \$90,000 in administrative fees to run a “green job training program.” The County made final payment to the organization in January of 2025.

Food Security and Access (66.7% Complete)

The County contracted with Family of Woodstock to develop, convene, and assign appropriate staff to a working group called the “Ulster County Food Security and Access Network” or UCFSAN. No money went to food pantries or their staff as a result of this \$75,000 project. It was simply the establishment of a working group which is supposed to make recommendations to plans and update documents.

Revenue Replacement

Ulster County reported estimated revenue loss of \$14,031,357 in 2020 to the Department of Treasury. Following Treasury guidance, this amount of the ARPA SLFRF funds could have been used for any service traditionally provided by a government. Ulster County chose to use the lost revenue allowance for the following projects:

Revenue Replacement Project Name	Budget	Expenditures	Remaining
Agricultural Crisis Relief	889,702.00	155,684.56	751,121.20
Parks - Municipal Improvements	1,143,865.00	820,283.74	616,165.93
Emergency Wireless Access Program	130,000.00	90,834.00	130,000.00
Brownfields Program	247,586.00	196,294.39	51,721.61
Ulster County Community College	6,969,872.00	6,969,872.00	-
Rail Trail Improvements	2,100,000.00	2,100,000.00	-
Ulster County Community College Tuition Share	658,549.13	658,549.13	-
Small Business Assistance 2 (Cares 2.1)	387,423.23	387,423.23	-
Constituent Service Navigator (CSN)	361,190.25	361,190.25	-
Ellenville - Government Services	178,116.00	178,116.00	-
Agri. C.R.C. 2024	63,170.36	63,170.36	-
Total Reported	13,129,473.97	11,981,417.66	1,549,008.74

Potentially Recurring Costs

Guidance from the [Office of the New York State Comptroller](#), [Government Finance Officers Association](#), and others cautioned municipal recipients of ARPA funding to use the funds for one-time expenditures, not recurring costs because ARPA was a one-time revenue. Ulster County heeded that advice for most ARPA expenditures; however, ARPA was used to fund several recurring programs and positions.

Projects Originally Funded by ARPA that Became Recurring Costs to the County					
Expenditure		Expended Under			
Type	Project Name	ARPA	2025 Budget	2026 Budget	County Costs
Personnel	Recovery & Resilience Division	998,791.98	200,543.00	211,016.00	411,559.00
Personnel	Agricultural Crisis Relief Coordinator	63,170.36	92,818.40	124,060.40	216,878.80
Program	Eviction Prevention Services	376,041.62	503,668.76	640,000.00	1,143,668.76
Program	Food Security Grants	178,395.44	440,000.00	390,000.00	830,000.00
Program	Mental Health in Schools	750,000.00	800,000.00	1,004,643.00	1,804,643.00
Total		2,366,399.40	2,037,030.16	2,369,719.40	4,406,749.56

Not only were recurring operating expenditures funded with ARPA, but Ulster County has seen increases to those costs over the last two years resulting in \$2.4 million in recurring costs in the 2026 budget. The Recovery & Resilience Division positions were discussed during the budget sessions but ultimately an amendment to cut the positions was rejected.

Conclusion

Ulster County received a total of \$34.49 million in federal aid through the American Rescue Plan Act's State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds program. As of September 30, 2025, the County has allocated funding across a diverse portfolio of projects designed to address both immediate pandemic-related needs and long-term community recovery and resilience. Investments have supported education through significant contributions to the Ulster County Community College, expanded water and sewer infrastructure, and funded critical housing initiatives that aim to ease the County's affordability crisis. The County also directed funds to support frontline workers, COVID-19 response payroll, nonprofit and small business recovery, legal eviction defense, and economic development.

Notably, administrative oversight of the funds was centralized within a dedicated Recovery and Resilience Division, which ensured compliance with federal reporting requirements and guided spending in accordance with legislative directives. While most projects are complete or near completion, some—particularly those on a reimbursement basis or involving construction—remain underway and will require close monitoring to ensure the final \$6.38 million in expenditures are made before the December 31, 2026, federal deadline.

Despite guidance to spend the ARPA funds on one-time, rather than recurring expenditures, the County did create several positions and programs that are now continuing with County support including the Director of Recovery and Resilience, the Recovery & Resilience Project Manager, the Agricultural Crisis Relief Coordinator, the eviction services prevention contract with Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, food security grants, and Mental Health in Schools.

As the County winds down the ARPA program, ongoing costs will now be supported through general appropriations. This report highlights both the scope and the complexity of Ulster County's efforts to steward these funds, and it provides a comprehensive record of the County's use of its once-in-a-generation federal recovery allocation.

