

Direct federal funds build stronger communities

2025



How direct federal investments in Washington's cities and towns sparked economic growth, innovation, and community revitalization

In 2021, Washington cities received a lifeline of more than \$1.2 billion in State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF). This crucial injection of direct federal dollars provided the leaders of Washington cities and towns the opportunity to engage with their residents, businesses, and nonprofits to develop projects and programs that revitalized their communities in both the short and long term.

The direct federal funding has been a cornerstone of success for these communities. Without this vital support, many communities across Washington state would have struggled to overcome the severe fiscal impacts of the pandemic. Direct federal funding with limited red tape and bureaucracy has been crucial not only to enable communities to swiftly address long-standing unmet needs, but also to foster economic growth and community well-being.

The federal funds have helped communities thrive, fostering resilience and growth during a time of unprecedented challenges.

Washington state project & program highlights:

City of Dayton

Pop: 2,445 | 5th District

Project: Broadband infrastructure



Dayton partnered with the Port of Columbia to use \$335,000 of the city's ARPA funds to secure a \$2 million state grant to build out local broadband infrastructure. Because of the city's investment, over 1,100 households and 140 businesses will have access to 1 Gbps speeds.

Town of Hartline

Pop: 180 | 4th District

Project: Updated water meters



Hartline invested \$43,000 in 103 new remote-read water meters, allowing town staff to quickly and efficiently gather residents' water usage each month instead of visiting each home one-by-one.

City of Waitsburg

Pop: 1,185 | 5th District

Project: Overhaul of water & sewer systems



In partnership with the local port, Waitsburg invested \$600,000 to overhaul the city's antiquated water and sewer systems—relining pipes, adding well generators, adding manholes, and mapping the entire system. The investment was the largest in the city's 144-year history.

City of SeaTac

Pop: 31,740 | 9th District

Project: Local business support



SeaTac worked with a local economic development group to develop a three-pronged \$3.5 million program for local businesses. The program provides funding for childcare startups, trains local businesses on how to transfer businesses online, and creates capital access programs for new businesses.

City of Gig Harbor

Pop: 13,060 | 6th District

Project: Regional food bank investment



Gig Harbor contributed \$500,000 to the Gig Harbor Peninsula FISH Food Bank to help build a new facility. The food bank was a critical resource during the pandemic, serving 11 zip codes across the Key Peninsula. Because of the significant ARPA investment, the food bank was able to open its new facility in July 2022.

City of Castle Rock

Pop: 2,460 | 3rd District

Project: Local infrastructure investments



Castle Rock allocated nearly \$650,000 to fund street improvements in the city's downtown area, enhance local parks and playgrounds, and invest in much-needed critical water and stormwater upgrades.

more on back 

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City of Port Angeles

Pop: 20,240 | 6th District

Project: Local business support



Port Angeles provided \$500,000 in operational support to a private ferry company that connects the city to Canada. Pre-pandemic, the ferry shuttled 120,000 vehicles and nearly 500,000 people between the U.S. and Canada annually, resulting in a \$64 million economic impact for the city. The city's support helped the company retain 75 full-time staff employed during the pandemic.

City of Sultan

Population: 6,730 | 8th District

Project: Downtown revitalization



Sultan saw a meteoric rise in population during the pandemic. In just two years, the population grew from 5,000 to over 6,000. The city is investing hundreds of thousands of ARPA dollars to revitalize the city's downtown area as well as to support local businesses as the city adjusts to its new population growth.

City of Lakewood

Pop: 64,150 | 10th District

City of Tacoma

Pop: 220,800 | 6th, 9th, & 10th District

Project: Enhanced homeless shelter



The cities of Lakewood and Tacoma partnered with Pierce County to invest \$8.8 million for the purchase and transformation of a 94-room hotel into a 120-person enhanced shelter. After two years, the hotel will shift from serving as an enhanced shelter to providing permanent supportive housing.

City of Pasco

Pop: 81,280 | 4th District

Project: Utility assistance



Pasco established a \$1.2 million utility assistance program for residents to pay off their past due account balances or to receive credit towards future bills. Drawing on previous experience running a similar program under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, city leaders and staff increased their promotion of the program and streamlined the application process.

City of Kenmore

Pop: 24,230 | 1st District

Project: Direct household assistance



Kenmore distributed \$1 million in direct cash assistance to households with an income at or below 50% of the area median income (AMI). In partnership with the Northshore Schools Foundation, the city collected and approved applications from September 2021 to March 2022. Eligible households received \$2,000 plus \$250 per additional person in the household.

City of Grandview

Pop: 11,250 | 4th District

Project: Downtown revitalization



Grandview is investing 25% of its ARPA funds to revitalize its downtown. Part of the city's plan includes providing five \$10,000 grants to small, local, independent businesses to relocate to the city's downtown core. In 2022, the city distributed \$385,000 in funding to dozens of existing local businesses.

City of Yakima

Pop: 98,650 | 4th District

Project: Support for victims of domestic violence



Yakima is providing \$2 million to fund a domestic violence program and shelter in partnership with the YWCA. The program provides services to those in emergency domestic violence situations, as well as to those referred by an outside agency.

City of Bellingham

Pop: 95,960 | 2nd District

Project: Support for childcare facilities



Bellingham provided \$1.1 million in capital assistance to two childcare facilities in its community. Both facilities will be on the ground floor of new low-income housing developments serving families with children.

City of Puyallup

Pop: 43,420 | 10th District

Project: Relocation assistance



Puyallup provided \$263,966 to help residents affected by the sale of their mobile home park. The neighborhood was made up of 42 households including low-income families and seniors, many of whom did not speak English. The city provided two housing case managers fluent in Spanish to help residents find new housing, along with \$5,000 in relocation grants to eligible households.

City of Everett

Pop: 114,200 | 2nd District

Project: Supportive long-term housing



Everett invested \$483,224 to build 40 pallet shelters. The new housing site will provide stable housing and resources for previously unhoused individuals between the ages of 40 and 60.

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