

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA OFFICE OF STATE BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT



Employment First State for Individuals with Disabilities

ROY COOPER GOVERNOR KRISTIN WALKER STATE BUDGET DIRECTOR

May 31, 2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Phil Berger, President Pro-Tempore of the Senate

Representative Tim Moore, Speaker of the House of Representatives

Brian Matteson, Director of Fiscal Research Division

FROM: Stephanie McGarrah, Director of the NC Pandemic Recovery Office

SUBJECT: North Carolina Pandemic Recovery Office

Per Session Law 2020-4, Section 4.3.(b), as amended, the North Carolina Pandemic Recovery Office is required to submit a monthly report to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations regarding the staffing, expenditures, and activities of the Office.

The report is attached for your review. If you have questions, please email them to stephanie.mcgarrah@osbm.nc.gov.

Attachments

Report on NC Pandemic Recovery Office Operations and Activities

Overview of the Office

In May 2020, Governor Cooper established the NC Pandemic Recovery Office (NCPRO) to oversee and coordinate the fiscal response to the COVID-19 pandemic. NCPRO is responsible for overseeing the distribution of the \$3.6 billion in Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF) from the U.S. Treasury to provide support to state agencies, local governments, nonprofits, hospitals, educational institutions, and research organizations. NCPRO established a system for distributing, tracking, auditing, and providing guidance to more than 2,000 recipients of the funds provided by CRF.

In addition to CRF, NCPRO is responsible for the oversight, administration, and federal reporting for seven additional COVID-19 recovery programs: (1) the Governors Emergency Education Relief (GEER) program, (2) Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA), (3) Homeowners Assistance Fund (HAF), (4) Economic Development Administration Tourism Grant Funds, (5) Economic Development Administration Strategy Funds, (6) Capital Projects Fund, and (7) American Rescue Plan Act State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF). NCPRO is responsible for providing technical guidance and support to all county and municipal governments that received funds from the American Rescue Plan Act Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (LFRF), and funds for the 525 municipalities that are flowing through the State.

North Carolina received \$222.7 million in GEER funds from the CARES Act and CRSSA Act, which come to the State from the U.S. Department of Education. The Governor is responsible for awarding funds to education entities under GEER I and GEER II programs (totaling \$137.8 million); federal law allocates the remaining \$84.8 million to the Emergency Assistance for Non-public Schools program, which is administered by NCDPI, with NCPRO providing oversight and federal reporting. GEER funds must be expended by December 31, 2023 (GEER 1 by December 2022 and GEER 2 by December 2023). Reporting and oversight activities are required through the first quarter of 2024, and federal audits of GEER funds will continue through the end of 2025.

The Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) program assists households that are unable to pay rent and utilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic with \$979 million in federal funds awarded to the State of North Carolina through the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The U.S. Treasury allocated an additional \$280 million directly to 18 local governments, and \$24.4 million was provided to five tribal governments in North Carolina for the ERA Program. NCPRO is responsible for the oversight, administration, and federal reporting for the state's allocation of the ERA funds. Additionally, NCPRO is working with the local and tribal governments to coordinate programs and is providing technical assistance where needed.

North Carolina received \$273.3 million for the Housing Assistance Fund (HAF) through ARPA to provide financial assistance to homeowners experiencing hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Funds from this program may be used to prevent homeowner delinquencies, defaults, foreclosures, and other homeowner-related expenses. NCPRO is responsible for the oversight, administration, and federal reporting for the state's allocation of HAF funds.

The State of North Carolina received \$5.4 billion in American Rescue Act State Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF), and local governments in North Carolina directly received \$2.7 billion in Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (LFRF). North Carolina received the remaining \$352,692,103.50 of the \$705 million to distribute to

520 municipalities in accordance with U.S. Treasury rules and guidance after distributing \$342,638,945.92 of the LFRF to 521 of the 525 municipalities in 2021. In addition, NCPRO hosted webinars in collaboration with the Local Pandemic Recovery Stakeholder Group — to provide guidance to local governments regarding the use of ARPA funds. NCPRO also participated in several panel discussions with the UNC School of Government (SOG) "Basics of ARPA" course for local governments during the month of October 2021. NCPRO is partnering with the SOG to host learning communities to discuss the federal and state requirements since March 2022. We are also partnering with the NC League of Municipalities and the NC Regional Council of Governments to host four (4) ARP Expert Tours, located in Hickory, Greensboro, Rocky Mount, and Wallace NC, during the months September and October. We continue to host bi-weekly Interagency meetings for our state agencies and monthly meetings with the Local Pandemic Recovery Stakeholder Group to discuss federal and state requirements. We partnered with Management Concepts to host a two-day training for over sixty (60) state agency representatives, titled "Monitoring Federal Grants for Pass-Through Entities". Lastly, during November 2022, NCPRO contracted with Deloitte Development, LLC to develop performance measures framework, create a technical assistance toolkit to support administering agencies, and develop dashboards to support the tracking of ARPA funding, project performance and outcomes.

Staffing, Funding and Responsibilities of NC Pandemic Recovery Office

The North Carolina Pandemic Recovery Office is organizationally located in the Office of State Budget and Management. The office hired its first staff in May 2020 and added most staff within the first three months of operation to complete its primary duties:

- Develop the systems, processes, and procedures to efficiently disburse the federal recovery dollars as appropriated,
- Disburse federal funds in a timely manner to assist recipients in responding to the pandemic,
- Monitor changing US Treasury guidance,
- Provide technical assistance to recipients and assist in program development design,
- Meet federal and state reporting requirements,
- Identify the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on North Carolina's people, communities, and businesses,
- Address gaps in recovery funding for underserved people, places, and businesses, and
- Audit the recipients of federal dollars to ensure compliance with federal and state laws.

All the positions within the office are time-limited, temporary, or contract-based (I.e., employees who have been temporarily reassigned from state agencies). Because the office was established in May 2020, it has operated remotely from its inception, and it continues to operate in a hybrid remote and inperson environment in accordance with guidance from DHHS and OSHR.

Additional positions have been added as noted in table 1 as NCPRO has been tasked with administering additional federal funds, and auditing and federal reporting requirements have increased in frequency and volume.

Table 1: Summary of NCPRO Staffing and Expenditures, March 2020 – April 2023

| Table 1: Summary of | Total Number of | Total Personnel | Total Non- | Total Cost by |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| Month | Staff | Cost | Personnel Cost | Month |
| March 2020 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| April 2020 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| May 2020 | 3 | 8,591.07 | 0 | 0 |
| June 2020 | 12 | 67,352.03 | 749.52 | 68,101.55 |
| July 2020 | 15 | 119,815.90 | 4,588.03 | 124,403.93 |
| August 2020 | 15 | 130,740.75 | 38,592.20 | 169,332.95 |
| September 2020 | 15 | 136,148.22 | 8,145.64 | 144,293.86 |
| October 2020 | 15 | 136,485.55 | 1,407.52 | 137,893.07 |
| November 2020 | 16 | 126,366.83 | 2,409.89 | 128,776.72 |
| December 2020 | 16 | 178,025.30 | 12,848.23 | 190,873.53 |
| January 2021 | 18 | 149,403.42 | 7,537.26 | 156,940.68 |
| February 2021 | 17 | 155,859.82 | 8,804.60 | 164,664.42 |
| March 2021 | 18 | 141,641.95 | 21,407.67 | 163,049.62 |
| April 2021 | 23 | 168,626.56 | 883,422.23 ¹ | 1,052,048.79 |
| May 2021 | 25 | 175,851.73 | 6,155.37 | 182,007.10 |
| June 2021 | 29 | 278,819.41 | 3,225.22 | 282,044.63 |
| July 2021 | 29 | 200,350.51 | 27,965.34 | 228,315.85 |
| August 2021 | 32 | 218,647.84 | 37,655.50 | 256,303.34 |
| September 2021 | 32 | 268,239.75 | 84,126.80 | 352,366.55 |
| October 2021 | 31 | 269,178.59 | 13,003.93 | 282,182.52 |
| November 2021 | 32 | 284,207.97 | 59,379.55 | 343,587.52 |
| December 2021 | 34 | 248,388.44 | 45,578.92 | 293,967.36 |
| January 2022 | 34 | 205,263.74 | 19,189.36 | 224,453.10 |
| February 2022 | 34 | 266,488.26 | 5,256.36 | 271,744.62 |
| March 2022 | 26 | 328,067.30 | 123,609.27 ² | 451,676.57 |
| April 2022 | 26 | 265,747.09 | 49,606.16 | 315,353.25 |
| May 2022 | 25 | 297,458.27 | 19,754.33 | 317,212.60 |
| June 2022 | 25 | 262,144.44 | 50,765.82 | 312,910.26 |
| July 2022 | 24 | 270,455.46 | 264,739.79 ³ | 535,195.25 |
| August 2022 | 25 | 298,179.31 | 30,837.46 | 329,016.77 |
| September 2022 | 25 | 387,393.14 | 35,544.42 | 422,937.56 |
| October 2022 | 25 | 297,989.67 | 46,975.25 | 344,964.92 |
| November 2022 | 27 | 332,055.97 | 3,210.43 | 335,266.40 |
| December 2022 | 27 | 351,471.59 | 48,501.51 | 399,973.10 |

¹ McKinsey & Company was paid \$825,000 to conduct a comprehensive broadband analysis for the State of North Carolina.

² BerryDunn was paid \$100,746 to create a comprehensive administrative program design and organizational development plan to manage statewide ARPA funding.

³ BerryDunn was paid \$258,189.00 to create a comprehensive administrative program design and organizational development plan to manage statewide ARPA funding.

| Month | Total Number of Staff | Total Personnel Cost | Total Non- Personnel Cost | Total Cost by Month |
|---------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| January 2023 | 27 | 309,850.13 | 688,329.33 ⁴ | 998,179.46 |
| February 2023 | 26 | 308,753.96 | 3,033.46 | 311,787.42 |
| March 2023 | 26 | 357,123.34 | 130,175.80 | 487,299.14 |
| April 2023 | 26 | 325,993.67 | 168,565.06 | 494,558.73 |

Table 2: Detailed NCPRO Staffing Report

| Month | Number of Staff Hired | Position Number | Permanent, Temporary, Time-limited, or Contract (Start and End Dates Noted for Temporary Positions) | Funding Source for Each Position | Total Funds Spent on Salary and Benefits for Personnel |
|----------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|---|---|--|
| March 2020 | 0 | | | | |
| April 2020 | 0 | | | | |
| May 2020 | 2 | 65031177 | Time-limited | CRF | 40.504.07 |
| | 3 | 65031225 | Time-limited | | \$8,591.07 |
| | | 65031201 | Time-limited | | |
| June 2020 | | 65031279 | Time-limited | CRF | |
| | 9 | 65031327 | Time-limited | | 67,352.03 |
| | | 65031328 | Time-limited | | |
| | | 65031332 | Time-limited | | |
| | | 65031375 | Time-limited | | |
| | | 65031400 | Time-limited | | |
| | | 65031500 | Time-limited | | |
| | | 1383460 | Contract | | |
| | | 1667049 | Contract | | |
| July 2020 | 3 | 65031553 | Time-limited | CRF | |
| | | 65031576 | Time-limited | | 119,815.90 |
| | | 2275732 | Temporary (7/1/2020 – 6/1/2021) | | |
| August 2020 | 0 | | | | 130,740.75 |
| September 2020 | 0 | | | | 136,148.22 |
| October 2020 | 0 | | | | 136,485.55 |
| November 2020 | 1 | 1155703 | Temporary (11/4/2020 through 4/30/2021) | CRF | 126,366.83 |
| December 2020 | 0 | | | | 178,025.30 |
| January 2021 | 2 | 65032485 00627194 | Time-limited | CRF | 149,403.42 |

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⁴ Deloitte Consulting was paid \$678,212.00 to assist state agencies in developing performance measures for SFRF projects.

| Month | Number of Staff Hired | Position Number | Permanent, Temporary, Time-limited, or Contract (Start and End Dates Noted for Temporary Positions) | Funding Source for Each Position | Total Funds Spent on Salary and Benefits for Personnel |
|----------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|---|---|--|
| | | | Temporary (1/26/2021 – | | |
| | | | 12/10/2021) | | |
| February 2021 | 0 | | | | 155,859.82 |
| March 2021 | 1 | 825243 | Temporary (3/22/2021 – | CRF | 141,641.95 |
| | | | 12/10/2021) | | |
| April 2021 | 5 | 2197186 | Time-limited | CRF | 168,626.56 |
| | | 1165961 | Time-limited | | |
| | | 639639 | Time-limited | | |
| | | 2310512 | Temporary (4/19/2021 – | | |
| | | 216573 | 12/10/2021) Temporary (4/19/2021 – | | |
| | | 2103/3 | 12/10/2021) | | |
| May 2021 | 2 | 65032594 | Time-limited | CRF | 175,851.73 |
| IVIAY ZUZI | | 65009917 | Temporary (5/17/2021 – | CINI | 173,831.73 |
| | | 03003317 | 12/10/2021 | | |
| June 2021 | 4 | 963300 | Time-limited | CRF | 278,819.41 |
| | · | 2122768 | Time-limited | | |
| | | 20686861 | Temporary | | |
| | | 2314325 | Temporary | | |
| July 2021 | 2 | 60080066 | Temporary | CRF | 200,350.51 |
| | | 60080107 | Temporary | | |
| August 2021 | 3 | 1320441 | Temporary | CRF | 218,647.84 |
| | | 863585 | Time-limited | | |
| | | 1521242 | Time-limited | | |
| September 2021 | 0 | | | | 268,239.75 |
| October 2021 | 0 | | | | 269,178.59 |
| November 2021 | 2 | 65034018 | Time-limited | CRF | 284,207.97 |
| | | 65034040 | Time-limited | | |
| December 2021 | 3 | 65034040 | Time-limited | CRF | 248,388.44 |
| | | 2343928 | Temporary | | |
| | | 65004275 | Temporary | | |
| January 2022 | 1 | 65031328 | Time-limited | CRF | 205,263.74 |
| February 2022 | 0 | | | | 146,265.36 |
| March 2022 | 1 | 2296865 | Time-limited | ARPA | 167,613.26 |
| April 2022 | 0 | | | | 265,747.09 |
| May 2022 | 1 | 65031575 | Time-limited | ARPA | 297,458.27 |
| June 2022 | 2 | 65032485 | Time-limited | ARPA | 262,144.44 |

| Month | Number of Staff Hired | Position Number | Permanent, Temporary, Time-limited, or Contract (Start and End Dates Noted for Temporary Positions) | Funding Source for Each Position | Total Funds Spent on Salary and Benefits for Personnel |
|----------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|---|---|--|
| | | 1865673 | Temporary | | |
| July 2022 | 2 | 02371183 01865673 | Temporary | ARPA | 270,455.46 |
| August 2022 | 1 | 00787504 | Time-limited | ARPA | 298,179.31 |
| September 2022 | 0 | | | | 387,393.14 |
| October 2022 | 0 | | | | 297,989.67 |
| November 2022 | 2 | 2230694 2375768 | Time-limited | ARPA | 332,055.97 |
| December 2022 | 0 | | | | 351,471.59 |
| January 2023 | 0 | | | | 309,850.13 |
| February 2023 | 0 | | | | 308,753.96 |
| March 2023 | 0 | | | | 357,123.34 |
| April 2023 | 0 | | | | 325,993.67 |

Activities of NC Pandemic Recovery Office During the 2020 Calendar Year

During the 2020 calendar year, NCPRO was focused on administration, oversight, disbursement, and reporting for the state's \$3.6 billion in Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF), as well as identifying the impacts of the pandemic on North Carolina's people, communities, and businesses. The first round of the Governor's Emergency Education Relief Fund (GEER) was included in the CARES Act, and NCPRO was involved in determining how to best allocate those funds and in developing oversight, administration, and reporting functions for the GEER program. Because the CRF dollars were set to expire on December 30, 2020, NCPRO also worked with CRF recipients to reallocate funds to make sure they were used before the deadline. When President Trump signed the Consolidated Appropriations Act into law on December 27, 2020, which extended the CRF expenditure deadline, NCPRO shifted its focus to making sure CRF recipients understood the new deadline and guidance from the U.S. Treasury. In addition, the Consolidated Appropriations Act included funds for the Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) program.

<u>Activities of NC Pandemic Recovery Office During the 2021 Calendar Year</u>

During the 2021 calendar year, NCPRO was focused on learning the federal requirements of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and the funds that were provided to states and local governments for pandemic recovery – State Fiscal Recovery Funds, Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, additional Emergency Rental Assistance Funds, Homeowners Assistance Funds, Capital Projects Funds, Economic Development Administration Tourism and Strategy funds, and State Small Business Credit Initiative funds (managed by NC Department of Commerce). NCPRO improved grants management, reporting, and data management functions and processes to better manage these additional funds and to support local governments and state agency partners. Lastly, NCPRO worked to get state agencies and subrecipients to use the rest of their Coronavirus Relief Funds for the December 31, 2021, expenditure deadline. NCPRO also worked to distribute the first tranche of Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to the 525 local governments that US Treasury

designated as Non-Entitlement Units of Government (NEUs). NCPRO and our partners – UNC School of Government, the Councils of Government, the NC League of Municipalities, and the NC Association of County Commissioners – provided extensive assistance and guidance to local governments so that they could receive and use these funds. NCPRO also completed reporting requirements for federal funds and worked to set up MOUs and grant agreements for the new funds the state received.

Activities of NC Pandemic Recovery Office During the 2022 Calendar Year

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SFRF & LFRF):

- Provided continual analysis of evolving SFRF reporting and compliance guidance issued by the
 US Treasury and analyzed federal and state statutory provisions for their applications to SFRF
 projects, and ongoing intensive implementation and project-specific technical assistance for
 SFRF projects to agencies, partners, subrecipients, and other stakeholder groups on the
 appropriations and eligible uses of SFRF.
- Disbursed the second tranche of Local Fiscal Recovery Funds to local governments totaling \$343,200,465.07.
- Finalized development and implemented PANGRAM, the software system North Carolina Pandemic Recovery Office now uses to manage pandemic recovery grants.
- For state and non-state entities receiving State Fiscal Recovery Funds, NCPRO developed and refined internal procedures for contracting, prepared Memorandums of Understanding, executed 169 grant agreements, and disbursed \$1,339,337,954.08 in State Fiscal Recovery Funds to 78 state and non-state entities.
- In partnership with NCPRO and the NC Association of Regional Councils of Government, The NC
 League of Municipalities launched the American Rescue Plan Expert Tour in Sept. of 2022 to
 provide in-person guidance and expertise to over 500 ARPA grant recipients across the state.
 Alongside leaders from other state, local, and academic organizations, NCPRO staff hosted help
 desks, presented case studies, and served on expert panels.
- Partnered with Deloitte Consulting to develop a performance measures framework, create a
 technical assistance toolkit, and build templates and internal and external dashboards to
 facilitate the tracking of ARPA funding, project performance, and project outcomes.
- Hosted two Subrecipient Monitoring Training sessions for over 60 state agency representatives.

Homeowner's Assistance Funds (HAF) and Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA)

- Disbursed \$33.6 million to the NC Housing Finance Agency (HFA) and continued to provide technical assistance and support to the HFA during implementation of the statewide Homeowner Assistance Fund program.
- Disbursed Emergency Rental Assistance I funds to county ERA Programs and Emergency Rental Assistance II funds to the State ERA (HOPE) Program and four county ERA Programs.
- Began working with internal work groups, the State ERA (HOPE) Program, and county ERA
 Programs on close-out of the ERA I Program.
- Worked on incorporating new data and information in response to US Treasury's revised reporting and close-out guidance for ERA 1.

Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF)

- Provided intensive guidance to CRF recipients including hospitals, nonprofits, and counties
 regarding outstanding balances and project closeout processes, successfully closing 70 CRF
 projects.
- Disbursed \$178,576,742.20 in Coronavirus Relief Funds as reallocations according to NC session laws in 2022.
- Maintained close-out tracking system for Coronavirus Relief Funds recipients to aid close-out, recoupment, and reallocation of Coronavirus Relief Funds
- Submitted final reports on CRF Funds to both the NC General Assembly and the US Treasury, officially marking the closeout of all \$3.6 billion in Coronavirus Relief Funding for NC.

Governor's Emergency Education Relief and Emergency Assistance for Nonpublic Schools (GEER & EANS):

- Supported the Governor's office and the Office of State Budget and Management with Governor's Emergency Education Relief program planning.
- Continued to provide technical assistance and monitor the progress of agencies implementing the Governor's Emergency Education Relief / Emergency Assistance for Nonpublic Schools, and Emergency Rental Assistance Programs.
- Prepared and submitted the Annual Performance Report to U.S. Department of Education on Governor's Emergency Education Relief I and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds.
- Disbursed Governor's Emergency Education Relief I (GEER I) funds totaling \$39,477,904.75 to
 four (4) sub-recipients including the UNC System Office, the NC Community College System, the
 NC Department of Public Instruction, and the NC Department of Commerce; Disbursed
 Governor's Emergency Education Relief II (GEER II) funds totaling \$5,781,567.84 to six (6) subrecipients including the UNC System Office, the NC Community College System, Communities in
 Schools of NC, NC Education Corps, the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources State
 Libraries, and NC Business Committee for Education.

Audit-related activities, functions, and assignments to ensure compliance of federal relief funds:

- Monitored all federal funds to ensure compliance with applicable federal and state regulations, including Uniform Guidance and the Cash Management Improvement Act.
- Consulted as needed with Coronavirus Relief Funds state agencies and subrecipients on single audit compliance issues.
- Completed 4 CRF audits, the FY22 Annual Audit Report, and the final CRF audit report.
- Prepared and submitted the State Fiscal Recovery Funds Compliance Supplement to the North Carolina Treasurer
- Developed the FY23 Audit Plan

Transparent outreach strategy and data analytics:

- Maintained internal online dashboard to track the North Carolina Economy and its recovery efforts (developed in partnership with the North Carolina Government Data Analytics Center (GDAC) and SAS Institute)
- Continued regular meetings to work with the Local Government Pandemic Recovery Stakeholder group, sharing information about North Carolina's pandemic recovery and learning about ongoing challenges facing various communities across the state, and held bi-weekly American

- Rescue Plan Act State Fiscal Recovery Fund Interagency meetings with State Agencies regarding recovery funding information, guidance, and processes.
- Developed, published, and continually updated data dashboards (on ncpro.nc.gov) tracking
 COVID-19 funding and economic recovery indicators <u>COVID-19 Funding Dashboard | NCPRO</u>
- Developed new data tools to analyze flow of over \$11 billion in federal COVID-19 relief aid.
- Developed and launched North Carolina Community Pulse Survey to collect, analyze, and publish county- and regional- level data on the impacts of the pandemic and progress toward recovery.
- Produced 70 reports for the US Treasury and NC General Assembly as required by grant programs and legislation.
- Developed and published the Monthly Economic Update to track the economic recovery of North Carolina.
- Produced and published a PANGRAM External User Guide, North Carolina Community
 Engagement Survey Press Release, Spring 2022 Highlights E-Newsletter, Standard Operating
 Procedures, and the Monitoring Handbook for State Fiscal Recovery Funds on the NCPRO
 website.
- Maintained and expanded an interactive map on the NCPRO site representing geographic distribution of federal Covid relief and recovery funds allocated to NC.
- Continued publication of an external newsletter to provide updates related to NCPRO's work
 with pandemic relief funding, recipients across the state, updates on the economic recovery of
 NC, ERA and other housing program updates, pandemic relief fund success stories across the
 state, current opportunities, and more.
- Launched a multimedia storytelling series in November 2022 to share the positive impacts of pandemic recovery funds through videos, photos, and web articles.

Current Activities of NC Pandemic Recovery Office During the 2023 Calendar Year

| Function | | Activities |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Grants Management | Grants Administration | Continued to refine internal processes and tools for providing programmatic oversight and monitoring for state and non-state entities receiving SFRF dollars. Began review/refinement of internal process documents for all grant programs (CPF, EDA, ERA, GEER/EANS, HAF, and SFRF). Provided project-specific technical assistance for SFRF projects. Reviewed and approved monthly expense reports and disbursement/reimbursement requests submitted by SFRF, GEER, ERA and HFA recipients. Continued regular meetings with state agencies and local stakeholder groups to facilitate consistent communication during the implementation of the SFRF Program. Continued preparation and execution of award agreements with state and non-state entities for GEER and SFRF projects. Continued to provide technical assistance and monitor the progress of agencies implementing the GEER/EANS, Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF), and Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA-2) Programs. Continued work with internal work groups, NCORR, and counties on close-out of the Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA-1) Program and completion of the Final ERA-1 Closeout Report. |

| Function | Activities |
|--------------------|--|
| | Participated in a Measure Up workshop facilitated by Deloitte with the Department of Agriculture who is receiving SFRF funding as they define/refine their project performance measures. Continued to provide documents requested by the Office of State Auditor conducting a single audit of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program. Participated in Measure Up workshops facilitated by Deloitte state agencies receiving SFRF funding as they define/refine their project performance measures. Provided information to internal auditors reviewing standard operating procedures. Worked with Accounting and Database Teams to transition GEER/EANS Programs to PANGRAM. Continued review/refinement of internal process documents and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for all grant programs. Reviewed and approved monthly expense reports for SFRF projects and disbursement/reimbursement requests submitted by SFRF, GEER, ERA and HAF recipients. Provided SFRF recipients that participated in Deloitte performance measurement workshops with completed logic models and job aids to assist them with completing logic models for all projects in order to develop performance measures for their projects. Met with representatives of private colleges and universities (SFRF beneficiaries) regarding an initial reporting survey to collect information regarding the impact of relief funding on their respective campuses. Completed the transition of the GEER/EANS and ERA Programs to PANGRAM. Continued to refine internal processes and tools for providing programmatic oversight and monitoring for state and non-state entities receiving SFRF dollars. Completed review/refinement of internal process documents and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for all grant programs. Worked with internal work groups, NCORR, and counties to complete the Final Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA-1) Closeout Report. W |
| Data Management | PANGRAM System management, maintenance, support and process optimization Oracle Enterprise Database data processing, automating importing and exporting data process in Oracle database. Provide the statistics of projects, expenditure reports from Oracle database for data quality control and data analysis. Provided 2022 Quarter 4 report data, SFRF payments data to other NCPRO teams. Update the SFRF Master Reports data weekly. Track and manage DOT SAP system ticket in Smartsheet, build a Smartsheet dashboard. Collaborate with the Reporting team to prepare data for SFRF projects data dashboard. Smartsheet management and technical support Updated a mapping application to show NC populous counties and 30 minutes driving zone from those counties. Work with SAP Functional team to develop new features/functions in PANGRAM. |

| Fun | ction | Activities |
|---------------------------------|--|--|
| | | Participated in Deloitte MeasureUp workshops (Logic Model for Key Performance Indicators development) Research and testing on SFRF Projects KPI data collection methods, Smartsheet "row-data-update" was chosen as the best solution. Testing of data transfer automation between Oracle and Smartsheet by using Python. Work with SAP Functional team to develop new features/functions Email automation in PANGRAM. Migration of non SFRF programs from Smartsheet to PANGRAM Developing and testing on SFRF Projects KPI data collection survey in Smartsheet Track and Manage DOT SAP system ticket in Smartsheet, build a Smartsheet dashboard. Providing SFRF Projects data to NCPRO reporting team for NC Legislature reporting, US Treasury reporting, external dashboards, and internal data dashboard Work with SAP Functional team to develop new features/functions such as email automation in PANGRAM. Completed migration of non SFRF programs from Smartsheet into PANGRAM |
| | Policy & Strategy | Published monthly economic update (recurring) Conducted another month of data collection and analysis for the NC Community Engagement Survey (recurring) Updated existing economic indicators dashboard. Kicked off student research projects with UNC Chapel Hill and Duke University Supported series of workshops with SFRF recipients to develop performance measures. Monitored legislative activities for potential impacts on NCPRO-managed funds. Continued facilitating student research projects at UNC and Duke Monitored legislative activities for potential impacts on NCPRO-managed funds. Completed student research projects at UNC and Duke |
| Policy, Strategy & Reporting | Performance Measures & Reporting | Supported performance management work led by Deloitte Consulting Prepared and submitted quarterly report due to NCGA for SFRF disbursements. Prepared and submitted quarterly Project and Expenditures SFRF to US Treasury Responded to auditing request for all FY22 SFRF reporting records. Continued development of robust SFRF data dashboard Developed and launched SFRF Projects Dashboard Updated economic recovery dashboard. Published monthly economic update. Developing performance data intake process for all SFRF projects Updated economic recovery dashboard. Maintain SFRF Projects Dashboard Drafted guidance for SFRF performance reporting. Prepared and submitted quarterly SFRF Project and Expenditures report to US Treasury Prepared and submitted semiannual report on ARPA Statewide Planning Grant to US Economic Development Administration Prepared and submitted quarterly SFRF disbursements report to NCGA |
| Genera | l Counsel | Interagency group meetingsLocal government stakeholder meetings |

| Function | Activities |
|----------|--|
| | Finished ERA Award Amendment |
| | Reviewed consultant deliverables. |
| | Discussed additional consultant training delivery to agencies and amendment. |
| | Reviewed and discussed audit issue resolution and draft findings. |
| | Discussed OMB 2022 Compliance Supplement |
| | Developed discussion question for NASBO reporting meeting. |
| | Reviewed applicability of CRF guidance in COOP context |
| | Consulted on Treasury response to CRF audit findings for FY20. |
| | Consulted on impact of Wesleyan College/University name change. |
| | Reviewed Golden LEAF status as separately audited component unit of state government. |
| | Consulted on PII and NDA/personnel policies to protect. |
| | Consultations on administration of motorsports grants |
| | Reviewed Eleventh Circuit tax reduction offset decision. |
| | Reviewed draft DIT broadband award docs. |
| | Reviewed of COGs statutory authority re: grant seeking and administration |
| | Consulted on variability of annual digital literacy spending vs "money report" of |
| | equal annual requirements. |
| | Consulted on applicability of "Stevens Amendment" to various appropriations. |
| | Final review of consulting services amendment |
| | Consulted on reporting of suspected malfeasance to SBI, standard forms. |
| | Attended training on compliance issues. |
| | Reviewed of local government project budget ordinance, cost estimates and |
| | drawdown schedule |
| | Attended performance measurement workshop. |
| | Reviewed Balance of State Continuum of Care issues |
| | Reviewed of "obligations" definitions and timeline under Treasury rules and guidance |
| | Reviewed time and effort reporting for time split between grants. |
| | Consulted on amendments needed due to separation of DAC from DPS |
| | Consulted on Carolina Cyber Network funding oversight. |
| | Consulted on DEQ SFRF funds management options, relation to other federal funds. |
| | Drafted DEQ amendments and MOU for administrative expense. |
| | Consulted on FFATA reporting on revenue replacement projects and subawards. |
| | Consulted on payment of award after altered check and repayment demand. |
| | Drafted amendments due to DPS/DAC separation. |
| | Drafted closeout checklist template. |
| | Prepared and delivered training on Stevens Amendment requirements. |
| | Review of "obligations" definitions and timeline under Treasury rules and guidance |
| | Consulted on Carolina Cyber Network funding oversight. |
| | Consulted on Human Trafficking grants and monitoring. |
| | Consulted on DOA internal audit inquiry on applicable regulations. |
| | Met with DAC leadership on amendments and funding transfer. |
| | Monitored legislative matters. Policy and Conital Projects Fund award decumentation. |
| | Reviewed Capital Projects Fund award documentation. The Control of the |
| | Drafted DEQ amendments and MOU for administrative expense, execution. |
| | Consulted on DIT projects. Projected OSA alternative MACH according to applicable for least to applicable for least to a position to OSA. |
| | Reviewed OSA alternative MOU, consult on applicable federal regulations to OSA. Reviewed DNCP feelilities are a great few and the federal regulations to OSA. |
| | Reviewed DNCR facilities use agreements for communications projects. |

| Function | Activities |
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| | Consulted on performance period for ESSER and GEER funds. Consulted on federal civil rights protections applicable in programs with service limitations and with first amendment questions. Consulted on procurement regulations applicable to Commerce grant to nonprofit with revenue replacement funds. Consulted on completing SBI report of fraud against non-state subrecipient. Completed and met annual risk assessment questionnaire. Consulted on CRF recoupment potential issue with NCORR subrecipient. Followed up consult on DPS/DAC transition. Reviewed Q1 EDA planning grant forms. Consulted on a \$600 accounting question in an NEU distribution (no effect on payment). |
| Business Operations | EANS I - Processed 5 payments for 1 recipient for \$182,922. GEER I - Processed 2 REFUNDS TO NCPRO from 1 recipient (30-04) for \$9,369. GEER I - Reviewed and processed payments for 4 awards in the amount of \$1,007,874.13 GEER II - Reviewed and processed payments for 8 awards in the amount of \$1,917,814.42 HAF - Processed 2 payments for 1 recipient for \$36,822,944.91. SFRF - Processed 38 payments in the amount of \$38,519,674.23. Reviewed and approved agreements and payment requests through PANGRAM. Monitored ShareFile for manual downloads for supporting documents for GEER funds. Created monthly ARP, CRF, ERA, SFRF bank reconciliations (recurring) Met with grant managers multiple times for PANGRAM account setups, agreement entries and approval processes. Joined the weekly meetings we held with new and existing GEER & EANS recipients for accounting and reporting guidance. Ran NCAS reports for Grants Management and Data Management teams. Gathering support for audits and communicating with OSA. Work with agencies to resolve questions. Finalizing expenditure balances to close out GEER I CRF returned funds wired to the US Treasury. Update Governor's report for August to December 2022. Develop risk assessment templates for state agency recipients. Created SFRF Availability report for budget development and Budget Director. Transfer SFRF interest earned to GF Reserve. Continued conducting Measure Up workshops for agencies with Deloitte. EANS I - Processed 4 payments for 1 recipient for \$1,475,692. GEER II - Processed 4 Payments for 1 recipient for \$1,475,692. GEER II - Reviewed and processed payments for 10 awards in the amount of \$1,761,375.29. HAF - Processed 1 payments in the amount of \$11,034,468.29. ERA III - Processed two Payments for 2 recipients for \$7,362,777.48. Reconcilin |

| Function | Activities |
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| | Completed SFRF State Compliance Supplement. |
| | Reconciling balances between SmartSheet and NCAS for ERA1 close out. |
| | Working with Grants team on cash balances for ERA2. |
| | Completed creation of goals and tasks and interim reviews for Finance team. |
| | Conducted Risk assessment for Emit Bio, Inc. |
| | Answered questions of internal and external auditors. Answered questions of internal and external auditors. |
| | • EANS I - Processed 5 payments for 2 recipients for \$372,025.15. |
| | • EANS II- Processed 1 payment for 1 recipient for \$11,162,808.58. |
| | GEER I - Processed 4 REFUNDS TO NCPRO from 1 recipient (30-04) for \$5,162. GEER II - Reviewed and processed payments for 7 awards in the amount of |
| | \$909,369.90. |
| | HAF - Processed 1 payment for 1 recipient for \$23,455,947.55. |
| | SFRF - Processed 32 payments in the amount of \$74,490,107.93. |
| | EDA Tourism 1 payment for 1 recipient for \$73,306.03. |
| | Communicated with State agencies, local governments (NEU) to fulfill its accountability and compliance responsibilities. |
| | Completed and submitted NCPRO SFRF State Compliance Supplement to State |
| | Treasurer's office. |
| | Assisted Grants Director with EAGLE ERA Reporting narrative and identifying |
| | controls. Completed walkthrough of controls for ERA Reporting. Assisted with the development of the SFRF Close out process for agencies, |
| | subrecipients, and beneficiaries. Created the Financial Close out certification form |
| | for recipients. |
| | EANS I - Processed 7 payments for 4 recipients for \$2,842,138.10. |
| | EANS II- Processed 1 payment for 1 recipients for \$8,429,246.08. |
| | ERA II- Processed 1 payment for 1 recipient for \$2,014,657.09. |
| | GEER I - Processed 2 REFUNDS TO NCPRO from 1 recipient (30-04) for \$2,377. |
| | GEER II - Reviewed and processed payments for 7 awards in the amount of |
| | \$786,039.71. |
| | HAF - Processed 1 payment for 1 recipient for \$13,873,145.83. |
| | SFRF - Processed 35 payments in the amount of \$161,102,941.19. |
| | • Reconciling balances between Smartsheet, NCAS and Pangram for SFRF and GEER. |
| | Met with grant managers multiple times for PANGRAM account setups, agreement entries and approval processes. |
| | Continuing moving Smartsheet payments to PANGRAM for EANS I, EANS II, GEER I, |
| | GEER II, EDA, HAF, ERA I, and ERA II. |
| | Joined the weekly meetings we held with new and existing GEER & EANS recipients |
| | for accounting and reporting guidance. |
| | Assisting Internal and external Auditors by providing information and documents |
| | about Grants & programs. |
| | Generated March expense report at PANGRAM for NCPRO- Extension of Operations report |
| | report. • Communicated with State agencies, local governments (NEU) to fulfill its |
| | accountability and compliance responsibilities. |
| | Revised and submitted final SFRF State Compliance Supplement. |
| | Working with state agencies and universities to resolve state compliance |
| | supplement and audit questions. |
| | Documenting the different payment processes for each grant. |
| | Performed NC Association of Regional Council of Governments risk assessment. |

| Function | Activities |
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| | Transferred SFRF interest received in January – March 2023 to OSC ARPA Reserve in |
| | the General Fund. |
| | DEQ Administrative Costs – assisting with new and revised MOU's for DEQ SFRF projects. |
| | Revised and resubmitted CRF report in GrantSolutions portal to reflect returns |
| | received. |
| | Returned CRF unused funds to U.S. Treasury. |
| | Continued compliance audits for GEER. |
| | Continued audit follow-up for CRF. |
| | Began conducting audit review of SOPs. |
| Auditing | Completed 4 audit follow-ups for CRF and issued audit reports. |
| | Continue compliance audits for GEER. |
| | Continue to conduct audit review of SOPs. |
| | Issued two audit reports. Pages the energtional region of Smartsheet. |
| | Began the operational review of Smartsheet. Assisted Reporting with the process and gathering of information for NCRPO's. |
| | Assisted Reporting with the process and gathering of information for NCPRO's portion of the Governor's Accomplishment Report for July-December 2022 |
| | Finalized the External Communications Plan for 2023 |
| | Assist with agendas and materials for ARPA SFRF Interagency Meetings and Local |
| | Pandemic Recovery Stakeholder Meetings (recurring) |
| | Launched planning, assignments and tasks for a March 2023 COVID- |
| | 19/Funding/NCPRO anniversary media blast. |
| | Scheduled and held meetings with Grants Management and Policy, Strategy and |
| | Reporting staff to document individual fund processes. |
| | Worked with Policy, Strategy and Reporting to draft a proposal for an NCPRO interest in the proposal for an NCPRO |
| | internship program. Launched an NCPRO Diversity Committee to recognize and celebrate the diversity of |
| | staff, North Carolinians and all people. |
| | Worked with Deloitte Consulting to establish additional MeasureUp Workshop |
| | dates, times and groups for state agencies to learn about and work on performance |
| | measures for SFRF projects. |
| Communications | Conducted interviews with multiple agencies, groups and individuals for Stories of |
| | Recovery and Resilience series (recurring) |
| | Published Longleaf Commitment Grant Builds Futures under the Stories of Recovery and Resilience portion. |
| | and Resilience series. Assisted Deloitte Consulting with the NCDACS virtual MeasureUp Workshop |
| | Facilitated meetings with Grants Managers to document internal grant/fund |
| | processes. |
| | Attended a webinar on Managing Public Records for State Agency Employees |
| | Managed Deloitte MeasureUp Workshop registration, informational emails, |
| | workshop logistics and attended the 6 workshops over 3 days. |
| | Finalized the March 2023 COVID-19/Funding information. |
| | Published the SFRF Tracker Dashboard on the NCPRO website. |
| | Historically Black Colleges and Universities Support Students story. |
| | Published and sent March 2023 external newsletter. |
| | Updated the NEU LFRF reporting infographic to reflect the April 2023 reporting deadline. |
| | Discussed best ways to collect SFRF success stories alongside the closeout process. |
| | - Discussed best ways to contect of its success stories alongside the closeout process. |

| Function | Activities |
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| | Attended Digital Commons webinar to learn about current and upcoming updates to Drupal and website management. Published YMCAs Nurture Mind & Body with ARPA Grants story. Published Researchers Seek COVID-19 Learning Loss Solutions story. Interviewed and videoed for Community Engagement Survey promo; published the promo video across channels. Attended the Rural Summit with an exhibitor booth to share the impact of the Community Engagement Survey and to provide more information to get involved. Published new SFRF tracking dashboards on the NCPRO website. Interviewed Manna Food Bank in Western NC for a comprehensive story on food banks across the state and their impacts. Participated in Grant Closeout Process meetings. Attended County Wide Convening on ARPA (Upper Coastal Plain COG) Created and published an infographic for the April 2023 reporting deadline for Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Edited and formatted the updated SOPs for State Fiscal Recovery Funds Attended the 2023 Rural Summit in Charlotte and participated in a focus group. Participated in internal meetings to develop the KPI Intake Survey for SFRF recipients. Attended the North Carolina Community Foundation Affiliate Forum Published Food Banks Invest in Food and Beyond story. Conducted an interview with NCHFA for a story on 10,000 homeowners assisted through the Homeowner Assistance Fund (HAF) Conducted interviews with Battleship NC, Stokes Housing, and the Transportation Museum |
| CRF Closeout | Coordinated late CRF refund payments (with Joy) from State Board of Elections/Halifax County, DOI, Commerce/NC Biotech Center, UNC System Office/Livingstone College Coordinated response (with Joy) to auditors related to 2021 single audit regarding CRF sample transactions from DNCR, DOA, DPS, DOI, OSBM, OSA Provided input related to CRF Performance Audit related to the notification to State agencies that they (e.g., DPI, etc.) were responsible for subrecipient monitoring. Provided technical assistance to Dept of Agriculture regarding audit questions from food banks. Provided technical assistance (with Jon) to NC Community Health Center Association regarding equipment purchased with CRF funds. State audit CRF performance - researched NCPRO communications to DPI over responsibilities of its subrecipients NCPRO IA audit - researched Edgecombe County's response to audit and provided to management. EAGLE - Researched final payment to NCHCFA and provided initial response to OSBM auditor. Assisted answering NCCHCA external auditor's confirmation request. Followed up with DPS (\$37K in COOP funds) and Campbell U. (\$6K) regarding their notification of possible grant funds return. Referred DHHS to Grants Administration Director and Legal regarding a NCDOJ investigation of a hospital that was provided CRF funds by NCHF. |

| Function | Activities |
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| | Reviewed Campbell University's notice of possible return of CRF funds and determined they did not have to return CRF funds after a review of prior C-2 reports indicated sufficient expense had been reported. Reported to Grants Administration Director that DPS's subrecipient, Mission Ministries Alliance in Marion, had not submitted expense reports to justify \$37K in CRF COOP funds. DPS had given the Alliance final notice |