

**CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
RECOVERY PLAN**



State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

2025 REPORT



**Chatham County, Georgia
2025 Recovery Plan
July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025**

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USES OF FUNDS

Chatham County's State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program was designed to support a robust and equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting economic downturn. Through targeted investments in public health, economic recovery, and essential infrastructure, the County prioritized the needs of its most vulnerable populations. These efforts not only addressed immediate challenges but also laid the groundwork for long-term resilience—including mitigation strategies to better prepare for future pandemics and similar public health emergencies.

Public Health

Chatham County allocated approximately \$13.6 million across 13 projects to address urgent health needs intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic. Projects focused on reducing the spread of the virus, improving air and water quality, expanding mental and behavioral health services, and supporting vulnerable populations—including low-income households, seniors, and those with chronic illnesses.

- **Strategy & Goals:** The County's approach aimed to mitigate both immediate and long-term public health impacts by increasing vaccination rates, enhancing emergency communication infrastructure, and improving access to care.
- **Impact:** These investments strengthened community resilience and health outcomes, particularly for underserved populations, and improved the county's capacity to respond to future health emergencies.

Negative Economic Impacts

Approximately \$13.1 million was allocated to 16 projects that mitigate pandemic-related financial hardship. Funding supported small businesses, nonprofits, individuals, housing stability, mental health services, and community facilities.

- **Strategy & Goals:** The County focused on restoring employment, stabilizing housing, and supporting economic recovery for vulnerable populations, including unemployed or underemployed individuals and low-income households.
- **Impact:** These efforts improved long-term economic security, preserved critical services, and promoted a more equitable recovery across the community.

Public Health–Negative Economic Impact: Public Sector Capacity

To maintain critical services amid increased demand and workforce disruptions, Chatham County invested \$8.2 million across 25 initiatives to strengthen public sector operations, including emergency response, public health efforts, and judicial system support.

- **Strategy & Goals:** Investments focused on workforce capacity, judicial backlog reduction, and service delivery enhancements to ensure continuity in governance and emergency response.
- **Impact:** These projects improved operational efficiency, public trust, and equitable access to government services during and after the pandemic.

Premium Pay

Chatham County provided \$1.7 million across 2 projects to offer premium pay to essential workers—including first responders and public safety staff—who served the community under hazardous conditions.

- **Strategy & Goals:** The County recognized the sacrifices of frontline workers by providing financial support to aid retention and morale.
- **Impact:** This compensation supported the continuity of critical services and acknowledged the commitment of essential personnel during peak pandemic periods.

Infrastructure

Roughly \$12.8 million supported 13 infrastructure projects targeting water, sewer, stormwater, and broadband systems. These improvements addressed both pandemic-related and longstanding service gaps.

- Strategy & Goals: Projects aimed to modernize infrastructure, ensure clean water access, manage flooding, and expand broadband coverage in underserved areas.
- Impact: These upgrades improve public health, safety, and digital equity, particularly in communities vulnerable to environmental and connectivity challenges.

Revenue Replacement

Chatham County used \$5.5 million across 7 projects to support essential government services strained during the pandemic.

- Strategy & Goals: Funds supported cybersecurity, early childhood education, affordable housing, pandemic readiness, and community space development.
- Impact: These efforts helped prevent service disruptions, enhance infrastructure, and address critical needs, improving long-term community resilience and quality of life.

Administrative

A total of \$602,532 funded projects to manage and oversee SLFRF implementation.

- Strategy & Goals: Investments ensured compliance with federal requirements and maintained transparency, integrity, and efficiency in fund administration.
- Impact: These efforts underpin the successful execution and monitoring of all SLFRF-funded projects, maximizing public benefit.

Natural Disasters

Nearly \$891,000 was allocated to 3 projects focused on hurricane and flood mitigation.

- Strategy & Goals: The County prioritized disaster preparedness and recovery for climate-vulnerable areas to safeguard residents, homes, and infrastructure.
- Impact: These investments strengthen the County's resilience to future natural disasters, ensuring quicker and more effective emergency responses.

Leveraging Federal Recovery Funds

Chatham County strategically leveraged SLFRF funds to amplify the impact of federal and state investments across the community. These funds serve as critical matching dollars for major initiatives, including:

- Expansion of affordable housing with a Rural Workforce Housing grant award from the OneGeorgia Authority, managed by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.
- Evacuation route improvements in partnership with the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission.
- Construction of a Multi-Agency Public Safety Facility supported by the Department of Defense and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
- Acquisition of disaster recovery equipment while FEMA funds were temporarily frozen.
- Support by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development and healthcare partners for the "Bridges to Stability" Transitional Housing project.
- Funding from the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities to expand the Behavioral Health Unit project. In recognition of the project's innovation and impact, the County was honored with the 2025 Georgia County Excellence Award by Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) and Georgia Trend magazine—one of only six counties recognized for programs that improve quality of life in a cost-effective way. *[Pages 3-4, Images 1-2]*

- In addition, Chatham County administered over \$16.7 million in Emergency Rental Assistance funds during the COVID-19 pandemic to stabilize housing for 4,065 qualified households. This program, which concluded in February 2023, partnered with local agencies to provide wraparound services including mental health counseling and healthcare support—further advancing the County’s equity and public health goals. Together, these investments demonstrate how SLFRF funds strengthen regional capacity, attract complementary funding, and generate lasting, community-wide benefits.



Congratulations to the 2025 County Excellence Award Winners!

The Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) congratulates the 2025 County Excellence Award winners on being recognized for their innovative and cost-effective approaches to serving their constituents.

Visit accg.org to learn more about ACCG and its work to advance Georgia's counties, including providing resources and technical assistance that support these innovative county programs.



Image 1 - SLFRF Project # 2202123 - Police Behavioral Health Unit

CHATHAM COUNTY

A New Response to Crisis Calls

As recently as five years ago, if someone in Chatham County was struggling with addiction to prescription medication, a concerned neighbor's 911 call might have landed the person in jail. But the county's Behavioral Health Unit is changing the way the county responds to 911 calls that concern mental health issues. The program, launched in September 2020, includes Chatham police and fire personnel trained in crisis intervention and focuses on de-escalation, rapport-building and service referrals. The goal is to reduce unnecessary emergency room visits and jail time and has significantly reduced the number of behavioral health-related 911 calls that led to incarceration.

Chatham County Board of Commissioners Chair Chester Ellis says that during the pandemic, before the program's launch, the police department found it was disproportionately housing people who were having mental, not criminal, crises.

"I'm just hoping that in the future we can have the resources and the funding so that we could expand the [Behavioral Health] unit, because it is greatly needed in this community," he says.

Tara Jennings, director of policy and intergovernmental affairs for Chatham County, says even before COVID-19, the county had been working on a "stepping up together" initiative to prevent people experiencing mental health or substance abuse crises from cycling in and out of detention centers and emergency rooms. The emotional impact of the pandemic only made the situation worse, Jennings says.

When 911 receives a crisis call, trained Crisis Intervention Team officers respond to de-escalate and connect people to services. "These full-time co-responders are trained and dedicated to de-escalating people in crisis," says Jennings.

The results have been staggering. Prior to the launch of the special unit, nearly 92% of behavioral health-related 911 calls resulted in transport to a detention center or emergency department. Now, that figure has dropped to just 8%. The majority of cases are resolved on-site or redirected to alternative care facilities.

Recently, Chatham County received \$15.5 million in state funding to fund a new child and adolescent mental health campus, which will serve multiple counties. "We found that we had to expand our thinking about how we were not only going to deal with those who are in our detention center, but those who are in our juvenile system as well," says Ellis.



Rapport Building: Chatham County Board of Commissioners Chair Chester Ellis and Tara Jennings, director of policy and intergovernmental affairs for Chatham County. Photo credit: Frank Fortune.

PROMOTING EQUITABLE OUTCOMES

Chatham County's comprehensive, data-driven strategies across all expenditure categories ensured that the allocation and use of federal funds are equitable and effective. By leveraging demographic, economic, and operational data in the planning and implementation processes, the County was able to address specific needs of historically underserved communities and promote a more inclusive and resilient community.

Chatham County strategically prioritized racial and economic equity in the SLFRF investments by targeting communities disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The County focused on historically underserved groups, including small minority-owned businesses, low-income families, nonprofit organizations serving vulnerable populations, and residents facing employment barriers.

Specific equity-centered targets included:

- Increasing access to capital for small businesses, especially those excluded from traditional aid programs.
- Strengthening nonprofits that provide services to low-income communities.
- Expanding workforce development for unemployed/underemployed residents.
- Improving family services in child welfare cases through trauma-informed care.
- Enhancing equitable access to safe recreational spaces in underserved neighborhoods.

The County's overarching equity strategy translated into the following focused SLFRF investments within the Negative Economic Impacts category:

- **Assistance to Small Businesses:** Through the Small Business Grant Program, Chatham County awarded over \$1.97 million in direct relief to businesses that experienced revenue loss due to the pandemic. The program prioritized businesses in disadvantaged areas and those unable to access federal Paycheck Protection Program loans, promoting a more equitable economic recovery.
- **Support to Impacted Nonprofits:** SLFRF funds allocated to the United Way of the Coastal Empire (UWCE) helped offset a significant decline in fundraising for the UWCE Community Fund, which provides grants to local nonprofits and supports direct services. Funds were used to meet increased demand, strengthen nonprofit capacity, and ensure continued delivery of critical services to residents, particularly those in underserved communities.
- **Workforce Training and Employment Access:** Job Training Scholarships supported Emergency Medical Technician certification for residents facing employment barriers, with a focus on recruiting individuals from historically underserved areas. This investment created equitable pathways into stable, high-demand careers in healthcare and emergency services.
- **Early Childhood Education and Child Welfare:** Investments focused on improving access, affordability, and quality of early childhood education and child welfare services, particularly for minority and low-income families. Projects emphasized trauma-informed care and supervised visitation to address systemic disparities and support equitable outcomes for children and families. *[Page 7, Image 3]*
- **Community Infrastructure Improvements:** The Ambuc Community Park Improvement Project enhanced access to safe, inclusive public spaces in a low-income neighborhood. Designed to accommodate individuals with disabilities, the project promotes physical activity, community health, and social equity.

- **Comprehensive Support for Unhoused and Housing-Insecure Residents:** Chatham County funded initiatives that address homelessness through a dignity-centered, equity-focused approach. The Mobile Resource Trailer “Project Hope Water” provides ADA-compliant showers and connects unsheltered individuals to shelter, healthcare, behavioral health, and other essential services. The Transitional Housing “Bridges to Stability” program offers up to 12 months of bridge housing with wraparound case management and supports families and individuals with complex medical needs. Together, these initiatives reflect the County’s commitment to reducing housing insecurity and advancing equitable access to resources and long-term stability. *[Page 18, Image 8]*

Chatham County remains committed to using SLFRF resources not only to address the pandemic’s economic damage but also to advance structural equity in the recovery.



Chatham County, City of Savannah Break Ground on Early Childhood Learning Center

For Immediate Release

Chatham County, GA (Dec. 4, 2024) - Local leaders gathered on Tuesday, Dec. 3 to celebrate the groundbreaking of the Early Childhood Learning Center (ECLC), a major joint initiative between Chatham County and the City of Savannah, aimed at addressing educational and economic health disparities in East Savannah.

Designed to provide quality education-based childcare services, the ECLC will serve children from six weeks to four years old, and will accommodate up to 144 children, adhering to Quality Rated standards set by the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. The ECLC will be constructed on property provided through a long-term ground lease with the Housing Authority, underscoring the strong partnership between local government and community organizations.

State Senator Derek Mallow, who also serves as the Executive Director of East Savannah United, says the ECLC will give many children opportunities they wouldn't otherwise have.

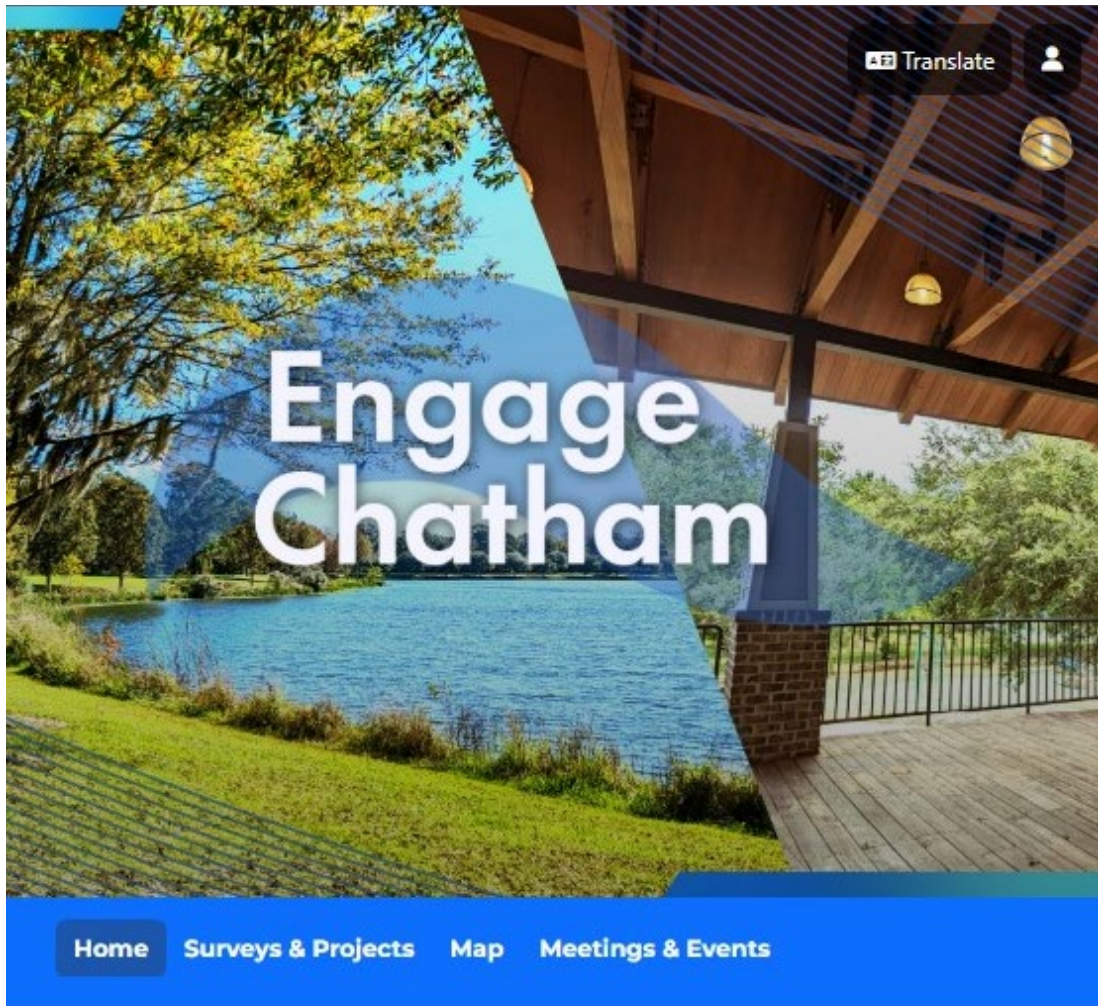
"We want to make sure that every child has an opportunity and an opportunity to succeed, and so 50% of the children enrolled in this early learning center must be from this community and must be low income," Mallow said. "We want to ensure that everybody has a fighting chance on the east side, so that we can truly reduce poverty."

The ECLC will be supported primarily by SPLOST 7 tax dollars, with support from other funding sources from both the City of Savannah and Chatham County.

Chatham Commission Chairman Chester A. Ellis said he believes the investment will pay dividends for the future of the county.

"To invest in this facility is to invest in our future," Ellis said. "For the children are our future, and we need to teach them well so that they will know the way."

Image 3 - SLFRF Project #2206001 - Early Childhood Learning Center



Sign up for EngageChatham

The Chatham County, GA engagement portal is the online home for outreach and listening efforts to shape the future of our community. Here you can find upcoming events, initiatives, and opportunities to share your input on key topics.

Create your profile to participate and customize your notification preferences on your profile page.

Sign up Already have an account? [Sign in here.](#)



Image 4 - SLFRF Project #2207014 - Community Engagement Platform

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Chatham County is committed to inclusive, transparent, and participatory governance. Community engagement is central to how the County designs and implements projects funded by the SLFRF, ensuring that all residents—especially those historically underserved—have meaningful opportunities to inform public decision-making. These include people of color, low-income households, limited English proficient populations, and individuals with disabilities.

The County employed a multi-pronged engagement strategy that combined in-person outreach, digital tools, and strategic partnerships. Public feedback was gathered through surveys, community meetings, listening sessions, stakeholder interviews, and focus groups. These methods were supported by digital outreach efforts, including interactive features on the County's website, a mobile app, social media, and a unified communications platform that integrates multiple channels to improve responsiveness and transparency.

In collaboration with the Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition (CGIC), the County hosted eight district-based community engagement sessions and conducted an online survey where residents allocated hypothetical SLFRF dollars across eligible spending categories. CGIC also led a targeted digital campaign to raise awareness and increase participation. These efforts reached over 12,000 individuals via social media, with hundreds of engagements and dozens of shares. Although participation was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, feedback collected through these channels directly informed the Board of Commissioners' funding priorities—specifically in areas such as public health, economic recovery, and services for disproportionately impacted communities.

SLFRF-funded projects further reinforce the County's commitment to equitable engagement:

- **Online Community Engagement Platform:** Designed to reach diverse and often overlooked groups—including non-English speakers and people with disabilities—this platform ensures inclusive participation in the County's planning and decision making. The platform makes community input more accessible, inclusive, and transparent—especially for residents who may have previously faced barriers to participation. *[Page 8, Image 4]* By leveraging this tool, the County is strengthening communication with the public and ensuring that decisions—such as naming the new Housing Development, an affordable housing community in Port Wentworth, “The Villages at Carter Manor” — reflect the voices of County residents. *[Pages 10-11, Images 5-6]*
- **Website Redesign:** The County's upgraded website features surveys, discussion forums, and feedback forms to encourage civic involvement and real-time input from residents.
- **Unified Communications Platform:** Integrates internal and external communication systems, improving interdepartmental collaboration and responsiveness to public needs.

Across these efforts, Chatham County prioritizes engagement that is equitable, meaningful, and accessible. SLFRF investments have enabled the County to build infrastructure that not only modernizes communication but also ensures that all residents—especially those historically excluded from the public decision-making process—have the opportunity to participate in shaping a more resilient, inclusive future.



As Coastal Empire Habitat for Humanity celebrates its 40th year, we're also forging a daring new path toward affordable housing in our community. Nowhere is that future more vividly unfolding than in Port Wentworth.

On June 17, 2024, we broke ground on an 83-unit housing development — our most ambitious undertaking to date. This will be the first time Habitat has built in Port Wentworth, and the scale, scope, and partnership behind this project make it truly historic. It will be a neighborhood that provides homes while serving as a vibrant, resilient community that fosters generational stability.

This Port Wentworth project was born from a shared vision and purposeful collaboration. Councilwoman and Port Wentworth Mayor Pro Tem, Gabrielle Nelson, was a driving force from the beginning, encouraging Habitat to consider building in a city where CEHFH had never worked before.

"When I first brought up the idea of a Habitat for Humanity build in Port Wentworth, I was thinking about the families I see every day — working hard, doing their best, but still struggling to find a place they can afford to live and grow. I wanted this project to be a promise to those families that their city sees them, values them, and is willing to fight for their future. The fact that this project is coming to life is proof of what can happen when compassionate leadership and community partners come together. It's a proud moment for me and, more importantly, for Port Wentworth."
 --Gabrielle Nelson

Meanwhile, City Manager Steve Davis helped select the land that became the cornerstone of this transformative project. The city's commitment to addressing housing challenges through innovation and partnership set this effort in motion.

Habitat's leadership, motivated to establish a meaningful presence in a new community, worked with Chatham County's Strategic Planning Administrator, Tara Jennings, to secure the resources needed to turn the vision into reality. A \$1 million Chatham County allocation enabled the land purchase and to start essential pre-construction work, including land testing, environmental reviews, and site planning.

This project results from this unique and successful collaboration between the City of Port Wentworth, Chatham County, and CEHFH, all of whom are essential to its success. It is a model of how collaborative governance and nonprofit leadership can come together to address a community's most pressing need: housing.

When asked, Tara Jennings, Chatham County's Strategic Planning Administrator said, "It all goes back to the strategic plan and the board (commissioners' goals), which included affordable housing. So, it just seemed like a good idea or a good project that aligned with what our board was interested in. Affordable housing is a huge deficit in our community. Prior even to the Hyundai announcement (of its Metaplant there), we knew then that they were about 10,000 units short of housing for Chatham County."

Image 5 - SLFRF Project #2202132 - Housing Development - Port Wentworth



She Continued, "The Hyundai development, and other subsidiary developments as a result of that, have just increased that deficit number. So that's where these single-family affordable housing options seem like a good strategy for us to consider and explore."

The community will also feature fully underground utilities, a first for Habitat in this region. We will install roads, sewers, and water lines with long-term sustainability in mind, setting a new standard for how we think about infrastructure in affordable developments.

Although the project broke ground in 2024, it will unfold in phases. By year's end, 2026, land clearing, infrastructure development, and utility installation will be completed. Housing construction is scheduled to begin in first quarter of 2027, and families should gradually move in as each phase completed at the begin of the third quarter of 2027.

The new 83-home neighborhood carries the promise of lasting change. More than physical structures, homeownership fosters stability, pride, and economic opportunity. It's more than construction. It's about community creation.

This project marks a new era of progress and substantial change.



Image 6 - SLFRF Project #2202132 - Housing Development - Port Wentworth

LABOR PRACTICES

Chatham County is fully committed to delivering top-tier infrastructure projects by implementing strong labor standards that promote effective and efficient delivery of high-quality infrastructure while supporting economic recovery through robust employment opportunities.

County departments work collaboratively to solicit and identify vendors who meet rigorous criteria, including adherence to project labor agreements, community benefits agreements, prevailing wage requirements, and local hiring initiatives. Once vendors are selected, diligent monitoring of their compliance with these standards becomes a central focus for project managers throughout the duration of their services and the entire project period of performance.

Significant progress has been made on several infrastructure projects, with a concerted push to complete construction within the Treasury's timeframe. This proactive approach ensures that all projects adhere to federal labor standards and promote strong employment opportunities, contributing to the economic recovery. By maintaining the highest level of integrity and quality in our infrastructure endeavors, Chatham County demonstrates its commitment to supporting workers and the community through strategic and compliant workforce practices.

USE OF EVIDENCE

Chatham County integrates evidence-based practices and ongoing program evaluation across its SLFRF-funded initiatives to ensure efficient use of funds and to maximize equitable outcomes for its residents. The County's approach to evidence use varies by project type and expenditure category, incorporating both established interventions and data-informed strategies to guide decision-making and track progress.

Chatham County applied evidence-based interventions extensively in the Public Health response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Projects such as the COVID-19 vaccination incentive program and targeted vaccine marketing campaigns were rooted in national research on the effectiveness of financial incentives and culturally tailored communication strategies. Air quality improvement projects, including the installation of Bi-Polar Ionization Systems and dehumidification systems, were implemented following comprehensive indoor air assessments to ensure health benefits for staff and the public. Other initiatives—such as mental health services, the Behavioral Health Unit, and the expansion of senior nutrition and wellness services—address well-documented social determinants of health. These projects were designed to fill gaps identified through local needs assessments and guided by public health research.

In the Negative Economic Impacts expenditure category, while most projects did not utilize formal evidence-based interventions, many were shaped by needs assessments and local data analysis. For example:

- **Job Training Scholarships:** This program responded to labor shortages in emergency services by covering the cost of EMT certification. Though the training program itself is not an "evidence-based intervention" under Treasury definitions, it is certified by the State of Georgia and based on local employment data.

- **Community Park Improvements:** Projects were guided by evidence showing the link between access to safe public spaces and improved mental and physical health—particularly for underserved communities during the pandemic.
- **Affordable Housing:** Land acquisitions for the purposes of developing affordable housing units was grounded in evidence-based approaches that demonstrate the effectiveness of land acquisition and public-private partnerships in expanding homeownership opportunities. By targeting unincorporated areas where similar developments already exist, the County leveraged existing infrastructure and land use patterns to increase the feasibility and affordability of housing projects. Additionally, partnering with a nonprofit developer such as Habitat for Humanity aligns with proven models that combine affordability, long-term stewardship, and community engagement. These strategies reflect a data-informed commitment to addressing the region’s housing needs in a sustainable and equitable manner.
- **Addressing Homelessness:** Investments were guided by evidence-based practices that demonstrate the effectiveness of comprehensive, dignity-centered service delivery models. Research shows that access to hygiene services, stable transitional housing, and coordinated case management significantly improves health outcomes and reduces barriers to long-term housing stability. The Mobile Resource Trailer “Project Hope Water” aligns with national best practices by offering ADA-compliant showers and direct connections to essential services. Similarly, the “Bridges to Stability” Transitional Housing program provides up to 12 months of supportive housing for individuals and families with complex medical needs, reflecting proven strategies that prioritize stabilization before permanent placement. These programs leverage existing evidence to reduce housing insecurity, promote equitable access to services, and improve overall outcomes for vulnerable populations.

Projects in the Public Sector Capacity and Infrastructure areas demonstrate a strong alignment with best practices and operational research:

- **Retention Incentives** used workforce data and national models that support improved public service outcomes through equitable and inclusive workplaces. A strategic, evidence-based initiative designed to improve workforce stability among critical public safety personnel in Chatham County offered a one-time retention bonus of 3% of annual salary to eligible First Responders who remained employed for at least one year, the County directly addressed turnover risks within essential roles—including sworn law enforcement officers, 911 dispatchers and call takers, and emergency management personnel. This program supported employee retention by recognizing the demanding nature of front-line work and offering a tangible financial incentive to remain in service. Targeting employees earning \$60,000 or less helps ensure that the bonus supports those most likely to experience financial stress—a factor commonly linked to turnover in public sector positions. Additionally, requiring satisfactory performance and clean disciplinary records reinforces high standards of service while promoting continuity in public safety operations. *[Page 15, Image 7]*
- **Judicial Caseload Backlog Projects and Unified Communications Platforms** were guided by operational audits and staffing assessments to ensure efficiency.
- **Drainage and Sewer System Upgrades, Hydrant Installations, and Broadband Infrastructure Expansion** were prioritized based on engineering evaluations, geographic service gaps, and environmental studies. These investments ensure resilience and sustainable service delivery.

While Chatham County does not currently have a formal jurisdiction-wide Learning Agenda specific to SLFRF, the County has embedded ongoing evaluation mechanisms across projects. Performance tracking, expenditure data, and project outcomes are regularly reviewed internally and reported publicly through the quarterly SLFRF Project and Expenditure Reports.

Additionally, the County collaborates with partners such as the Coastal Georgia Indicators Coalition to gather community input and monitor emerging needs. These efforts contribute to a more adaptive and responsive recovery strategy.



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Effective 9/1/2023

3% RETENTION BONUS

FIRST RESPONDER RETENTION PROGRAM

Chatham County is proud to offer a 3% retention bonus to eligible First Responders after one (1) year of continuous, full-time employment.

ELIGIBLE FULL-TIME POSITIONS:

- Sworn Law Enforcement
- Dispatchers and Call Takers in E-911
- Emergency Management staff in CEMA

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Hired on or before 11/25/2023
- 2023 annual gross earnings less than \$60,000
- Remain employed for one year after 9/1/2023
- Satisfactory job performance with no disciplinary actions involving loss of pay.

HOW IT WORKS:

- Must be hired in an eligible position on or before 11/25/2023
- Eligible employees hired before 9/1/2023 will receive their bonus on the next paycheck following 9/1/2024.
- All other employees will receive their bonus on the next paycheck after their one (1) year anniversary in an eligible full-time position.
- 3% bonus will be calculated based on annual salary at the time of payout.

If you have any questions please contact Chatham County Human Resources at 912-652-7926.

Image 7 - SLFRF Project #2202092 - First Responder Retention Plan

PERFORMANCE REPORT

Chatham County employs a robust performance management framework to ensure that projects supported by SLFRF are aligned with strategic goals and deliver measurable results. Guided by the Chatham Community Blueprint—the County’s long-term strategic plan identifying priorities in Economy, Education, Health, and Quality of Life—all SLFRF investments are evaluated for effectiveness, accountability, and community impact.

Public Health

Chatham County embeds performance measurement throughout its public health initiatives to track impact, ensure accountability, and guide future service improvements:

- Vaccination Incentive Program and Targeted Marketing Campaign were evaluated using vaccine uptake data, segmented by demographic groups, and resident feedback to measure their effectiveness in increasing vaccination rates.
- Bi-Polar Ionization Systems and Dehumidification Upgrades in public facilities were implemented based on air quality assessments, with post-installation monitoring to confirm improvements in indoor environmental safety and reduced airborne pathogens.
- Blueprint Nonprofits – Gateway delivered mental health services to low-income individuals with developmental disabilities, using service utilization data and client outcome tracking to assess program effectiveness.
- Behavioral Health Unit measures performance by tracking case outcomes, diversion rates from the criminal justice system, and connection to appropriate mental health services.
- Senior Nutrition and Wellness Programs collected participation rates, nutritional metrics, and feedback from older adults to evaluate program reach, socialization impact, and health improvements.

Negative Economic Impacts Projects

Chatham County applies performance metrics to ensure that economic recovery efforts are responsive and impactful:

- Job Training Scholarships tracked certification rates and job placement outcomes to assess success in addressing workforce shortages in emergency services.
- Blueprint/Nonprofits – CASA measured impact through engagement frequency, family visitation success rates, and court compliance, offering transparency into service delivery for foster families.
- Youth Behavioral Health Facility, Housing Development - Port Wentworth, and Mobile Resource Trailer collect service data and client feedback to evaluate access to services and housing stability.
- United Way used pre/post financial data and funding utilization reports to track program impact and address gaps in funding due to the pandemic: served 1,989 households.
- Small Businesses Grant program – 92 small businesses were awarded financial assistance of up to \$25,000 based on documented revenue losses or increased costs, with assistance scaled proportionally to the demonstrated need. Eligibility criteria prioritized smaller, locally owned businesses—especially those located in Qualified Census Tracts, minority- and women-owned enterprises, and businesses in the hardest-hit sectors. Program performance was measured through ongoing tracking of application volume, demographic data, and geographic distribution to assess reach and equity in fund allocation.

Public Sector Capacity Projects

Performance management tools guide internal capacity-building investments:

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives measure impact through staff training completion, departmental engagement levels, and integration of equity frameworks in service delivery.
- Recorder's Court Technology Upgrades and Judicial Backlog Projects used court throughput and caseload reduction metrics to evaluate effectiveness in reducing delays.
- Unified Communications Platform and Community Engagement Portal track user interaction rates, system responsiveness, and resident satisfaction to inform improvements.
- First Responder Retention Plan tied retention bonuses to performance benchmarks and turnover data to stabilize essential services; 193 first responders met the salary threshold of annual pay less than \$73,500 first and were eligible for a 1 time payment of 3% of salary if they remain employed with the County after 1 year.

Infrastructure Projects

Infrastructure projects are grounded in data and designed for long-term performance outcomes:

- Stormwater and Sewer Projects like Willow Lakes and Marshall Branch Canal incorporate hydrological and flood performance modeling to assess risk mitigation effectiveness.
- Hydrant Installation and Broadband Expansion projects are prioritized and evaluated based on access improvement metrics and service coverage analysis.
- Green Island Conservation performance is tracked through preservation benchmarks and environmental impact indicators aligned with conservation goals.

Chatham County integrated performance management at every stage of the SLFRF implementation—from planning and project selection to monitoring and reporting. Through this results-oriented approach, the County ensures that investments are not only strategic and aligned with community needs but also measured for effectiveness. By embedding accountability into project delivery and aligning with the Chatham Community Blueprint, the County continues to build a more responsive, equitable, and performance-driven government.

PROJECT INVENTORY

Project Hope Water: Chatham Savannah Authority for the Homeless, Chatham County Government showcase mobile shower unit

Home / Our County / News / Project Hope Water: Chatham Savannah Authority for the Homeless, Chatham County Government showcase mobile shower unit

Chatham Savannah Authority for the Homeless (CSAH), in partnership with Chatham County, showcased their new mobile shower unit, Project Hope Water to the public this week.

The goal of the mobile shower unit is to provide access to regular, safe, clean shower facilities for people experiencing housing instability in the Chatham-Savannah community, while also connecting them with vital resources and pathways to housing opportunities. Project Hope Water seeks to be a conduit for CSAH's theory of "radical hospitality."



"This is our display of radical hospitality for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Showers also lead to increased health care, increased health outcomes and increased sense of personal well being, dignity and agency," Jennifer Dulong, CEO of CSAH, said. "But the most critical thing is to get connected with people, build those trust relationships and rapport and get them connected to services that eventually lead to housing. Everything is about someone being under a roof, and so we hope to accomplish that goal with the shower program."

Project Hope Water is one of an array of strategies in which the County has invested to help prevent homelessness. The Chatham County Board of Commissioners committed funding from the American Rescue Plan in partnering with CSAH on this project.

"We haven't had this type of service in Chatham County, and so there's a lot of people that are still wondering how it will work. So it is putting our toe in the water just to see if it's going to work. I am very hopeful and positive that it will be what we hope it will be," Tara Jennings, Chatham County's director of policy and intergovernmental affairs, said.

Once the program is fully operational, the mobile shower unit will rotate between key locations each week providing services to clients throughout Chatham County.

CSAH, in collaboration with several community partners, has worked to identify areas in our community where people experiencing homelessness have difficulty accessing clean water and shower facilities.

The trailer was debuted Monday, Nov. 18 at Kingdom Life Christian Fellowship, a vital partner in this new CSAH outreach program. Kingdom Life's Savannah campus will be a weekly location for Project Hope Water.

The mobile shower unit will be at different locations around Chatham County on a daily basis, and CSAH case management team members, medical and behavioral health partners, legal services, pet services, and more will be offered on-site during regular hours of operation. Monday through Thursday from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

Project Hope Water is CSAH's latest street outreach initiative. This CSAH team connects unsheltered community members to critical services. Through nonjudgmental conversations, motivational interviewing, and consistent engagements, their outreach teams build strong relationships and rapport with the goal of helping people experiencing homelessness transition from the streets to housing stability.

Read more about Project Hope Water on CSAH's website: www.homelessauthority.org

Image 8 - SLFRF Project #2202131 - Mobile Resource Trailer

PUBLIC HEALTH

Chatham County has strategically invested over \$14 million in public health projects through to address critical health challenges intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic. The County's approach prioritized improving access to healthcare, enhancing community wellness, and strengthening systems to prevent future public health crises—particularly for historically underserved populations.

COVID-19 Response and Prevention: The County implemented vaccination incentive programs for employees and targeted outreach campaigns for the general public, especially Black and Hispanic communities, to increase vaccine uptake. Infrastructure upgrades, such as ventilation system improvements and dehumidification at the Chatham County Aquatic Center, were completed to mitigate airborne virus transmission in congregate and recreational settings.

Mental and Behavioral Health Services: Recognizing the deepened mental health crisis, Chatham County expanded services across multiple settings. Investments supported the creation of a Behavioral Health Unit within the Police Department, enhanced behavioral health staffing at the County Detention Center, and provided targeted mental health services for low-income individuals with developmental disabilities. These efforts promoted a compassionate, community-based response to behavioral health needs while reducing reliance on emergency rooms and jail systems.

Public Safety and System Capacity: To alleviate the court backlog caused by the pandemic, the County funded electronic monitoring for pretrial defendants, reducing jail overcrowding and associated health risks. Additionally, communication infrastructure improvements—including the construction of new towers—enhanced emergency preparedness and public safety communication.

Support for Vulnerable Populations: The County provided funding for mobile hygiene and care services for individuals experiencing homelessness, hospice care for indigent residents, and senior wellness programs to combat isolation and food insecurity. Furthermore, the Septic Education and Awareness Program supports environmental health by reducing septic system failures that affect water quality in low-income and coastal communities.

Chatham County's SLFRF public health investments reflect a comprehensive, equity-informed strategy to safeguard the physical and mental wellbeing of its residents, build resilience in public systems, and support the most vulnerable members of the community. These efforts not only address immediate health impacts of the pandemic but lay the groundwork for a healthier, more inclusive future.

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	1-Public Health
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	1.01-COVID-19 Vaccination
PROJECT NAME	Employee Vaccination Incentive
PROJECT NUMBER	2206025
PROJECT BUDGET	\$777,963
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$777,963
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
In order to reduce the incidence of COVID-19 in the community and among Chatham County Government employees, Chatham County implemented a voluntary program to provide a cash incentive to current employees who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
Cash incentive to current employees who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
Increase COVID-19 vaccination rate among Chatham County employees to help reduce the incidence of COVID-19 in the community.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	1-Public Health
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	1.01-COVID-19 Vaccination
PROJECT NAME	Public Vaccination
PROJECT NUMBER	2206029
PROJECT BUDGET	\$200,404
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$200,404
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION Developed a vaccination marketing strategy, including promotion and evaluation of Chatham County's COVID-19 Vaccination Program, to encourage vaccine acceptance among Black and Hispanic communities—particularly younger residents who were less likely to express interest in receiving the vaccine.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	1-Public Health
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	1.04-Prevention in Congregate Settings Nursing Homes PrisonsJails Dense Work Sites Schools Child care facilities etc
PROJECT NAME	Aquatic Center Dehumidification
PROJECT NUMBER	2204016
PROJECT BUDGET	\$3,323,538
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$3,323,538
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Improve air quality at the Chatham County Aquatic Center	
PROJECT APPROACH	
The Center serves over 125,000 visitors of all ages a year participating in team sports, recreational swimming, water aerobics, learn to swim programs, and lap swimming and water therapy for improved health and wellbeing. A multi-year maintenance contract was established to maintain the equipment throughout its lifespan, funded annually through the Aquatic Center's Maintenance and Operations budget.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
The indoor dehumidification systems are critical to maintaining comfortable temperatures and safe air quality year-round within the Chatham County Aquatic Center Natatorium. The previous units, installed in 2006, had reached the end of their operational and serviceable life. The Aquatic Center remains an essential component of Chatham County residents' quality of life.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	1-Public Health
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	1.04-Prevention in Congregate Settings Nursing Homes PrisonsJails Dense Work Sites Schools Child care facilities etc
PROJECT NAME	Electronic Monitoring Fund
PROJECT NUMBER	2202125
PROJECT BUDGET	\$200,000
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$200,000
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Monthly fees for an electronic monitoring system to supervise inmates out of the County jail with an ankle monitor, in order to ease the backlog created by the COVID-19 pandemic.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
A judge could place a defendant on an ankle monitor in lieu of incarceration; funds were used to cover the monthly fees for indigent defendants. Providing judges with an additional option to monitor and supervise defendants pretrial helped ease the burden created by the pandemic-induced backlog.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
Due to the judicial backlog caused by the pandemic, individuals spent years in jail awaiting their day in court. This not only devastated their lives but also cost the County approximately \$75 per day, compared to about \$10 per day for electronic monitoring.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	1-Public Health
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	1.04-Prevention in Congregate Settings Nursing Homes PrisonsJails Dense Work Sites Schools Child care facilities etc
PROJECT NAME	Ventilation Systems Improvement
PROJECT NUMBER	2206027
PROJECT BUDGET	\$156,442
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$112,000
PROJECT STATUS	Completed 50% or more
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Improve HVAC systems to improve air quality at County facilities to prevent spread of COVID-19 as well as other potentially harmful pollutants that affect both the public and County staff.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
Installation of Bi-Polar Ionization Systems to control pathogens in the air, such as the Coronavirus. This technology will improve the indoor air quality when implemented into the HVAC systems air handler units.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
The goal is to facilitate to removal of harmful virus that causes COVID-19 as well as other potentially harmful pollutants that can affect both public and County staff.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	1-Public Health
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	1.06-Medical Expenses including Alternative Care Facilities
PROJECT NAME	Blueprint/Nonprofits - Hospice
PROJECT NUMBER	2202104
PROJECT BUDGET	\$20,000
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$20,000
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
End of life care for indigent populations.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the aging nature of the population and the prevalence of chronic illnesses. According to 2019 statistics from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, 22% of Chatham County's aging population was uninsured. The recipient nonprofit was the only hospice in the area providing indigent care in an inpatient hospice setting.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the many inequities that exist in end- of-life care. Funds covered the cost for end-of-life care for patients who were indigent.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	1-Public Health
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	1.07-Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses including Communications Enforcement IsolationQuarantine
PROJECT NAME	Communication Towers
PROJECT NUMBER	2204013
PROJECT BUDGET	\$7,042,387
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$735,232
PROJECT STATUS	Completed less than 50%
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Design and construction of two communications towers and implementation of a Radio Management System.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
A communication tower to expand radio coverage all over the islands and another one to connect the future Emergency Operations Center and 911 Centers back to the master tower site.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
The County is installing an effective and efficient operational radio management system to maximize connectivity and optimize the deployment of radio management features. The construction of two towers is expanding and improving public safety communications on the east side of the County and enhancing coordination with the new Emergency Operations Center.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	1-Public Health
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	1.12-Mental Health Services
PROJECT NAME	Blueprint/Nonprofits - Gateway
PROJECT NUMBER	2202103
PROJECT BUDGET	\$248,400
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$248,400
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Mental health services for low income individuals with developmental disabilities.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	1-Public Health
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	1.12-Mental Health Services
PROJECT NAME	Mental Health at Detention Center
PROJECT NUMBER	2206024
PROJECT BUDGET	\$300,000
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$300,000
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Expand mental and behavioral health at Detention Center by additional staffing provided by CorrectHealth Chatham LLC.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
During the pandemic, individuals detained at the Chatham County Detention Center demonstrated increased separation causing stress, anxiety, fear, sadness and loneliness. It was noted by the County's inmate medical contractor that mental health disorders, including anxiety and depression, had worsened. Chatham County amended the contract with CorrectHealth to increase mental/behavioral health staffing along with treatment and resources.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
Three additional staff, specific to mental health, were added to the staffing matrix. The team implemented a mental health screening at intake to better assess needs of the detainees and make more immediate referral to services and treatments while housed at the Detention Center. These resources and programmatic changes resulted in individuals with mental illness being connected to resources more effectively, both internally and externally, resulting in reduced length of stay.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	1-Public Health
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	1.12-Mental Health Services
PROJECT NAME	Police Behavioral Health Unit
PROJECT NUMBER	2202123
PROJECT BUDGET	\$542,143
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$521,988
PROJECT STATUS	Completed 50% or more
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Establishing Behavioral Health Unit at Chatham County Police Department to reduce the use of jail and emergency rooms for individuals who may need alternative services or may have behavioral health and substance abuse needs.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
The program aims to divert non-violent calls, expand access to mental health services, and ensure individuals experiencing mental health crises receive appropriate treatment. It uses a collaborative co-responder approach that brings together law enforcement officers trained in crisis intervention, paramedics equipped for triage and medical care, and a licensed behavioral health clinician who provides counseling, assessments, and referrals.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
Since the start of the pandemic, Chatham County has been experiencing an increased volume of non-violent calls for persons experiencing mental and behavioral illness. The impact is felt among many first responders and service providers in the community including dispatch, law enforcement, paramedics, and emergency rooms. The creation of Chatham County's Behavioral Health Unit holds paramount importance in addressing the growing need for a compassionate and effective response to these crises.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	1-Public Health
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	1.14-Other Public Health Services
PROJECT NAME	Blueprint/Nonprofits - Senior Citizens
PROJECT NUMBER	2202105
PROJECT BUDGET	\$47,942
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$47,942
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Senior services at the Thunderbolt Neighborhood Senior Center	
PROJECT APPROACH	
Project aimed to enhance quality of life for seniors at the Thunderbolt Neighborhood Senior Center and promote independent living through provision of various services, including nutritional support, socialization, and monitoring of health and wellbeing, which enables early intervention to mitigate potential health issues.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
The COVID-19 pandemic worsened existing issues for seniors in Chatham County, such as isolation and food insecurity, due to social distancing measures and supply chain disruptions. In-person healthcare was also unavailable for many, increasing their vulnerability. Rising healthcare costs and the economic downturn further impacted seniors' ability to afford essential needs. The pandemic emphasized the need for continued support and resources to address the elderly population's unique challenges. Providing services for seniors, especially in a neighborhood senior center, targeted the physical, emotional and mental health.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	1-Public Health
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	1.14-Other Public Health Services
PROJECT NAME	Mobile Resource Trailer
PROJECT NUMBER	2202131
PROJECT BUDGET	\$689,964
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$392,218
PROJECT STATUS	Completed 50% or more
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Mobile shower, laundry facilities, hygiene resources, and personal care serves for individuals experiencing homelessness and those in need.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
Deploy mobile resource trailers to improve hygiene and personal care access for unhoused individuals, contributing to better health and dignity.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
Provide mobile shower, laundry facilities, hygiene resources, and personal care services for individuals experiencing homelessness.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	1-Public Health
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	1.14-Other Public Health Services
PROJECT NAME	Septic Education Awareness Program
PROJECT NUMBER	2205065
PROJECT BUDGET	\$16,329
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$16,329
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
<p>The project allowed Chatham County to evaluate the feasibility of connecting properties to the sewer system and financial assistance to homeowners with septic systems to inspect, repair, or replace leaking systems when sewer connection was not feasible. It also offered educational resources to residents using septic systems, highlighting ways to identify properly functioning systems and signs of system failure.</p>	
PROJECT APPROACH	
<p>Produce a Septic Systems in Unincorporated Chatham County map, incorporating layers such as sewer mains and QCTs to help identify parcels with septic systems for targeting education on septic health and ownership for residents currently on septic highlighting ways.</p>	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
<p>Reducing the number of leaking and failing septic systems will reduce or eliminate fecal coliform levels in municipality waters and along the coast. Program will assist with Chatham County's MS4 permit requirements and reduce non point source pollution. Many residents of Chatham County will benefit with improved water quality and ecological improvements from reduced impacts from failing septic systems.</p>	

NEGATIVE ECONOMIC IMPACTS

Chatham County has allocated over \$13 million to combat the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. These strategic investments aim to support households, small businesses, nonprofits, and disproportionately impacted communities by expanding economic opportunities, housing security, and community resilience.

Workforce Development and Employment Supports: To address workforce shortages and improve economic mobility, the County funded full and partial scholarships for Emergency Medical Technician training, with a focus on recruiting minority participants. This initiative helped fill critical public safety positions while providing high-demand career opportunities to unemployed or underemployed residents.

Support for Families and Foster Youth: Chatham County invested in family reunification through the creation of a CDC-compliant supervised visitation center. The Bright House, operated by CASA, ensures safe and supportive environments for children and families in the child welfare system, minimizing disruptions caused by the pandemic and supporting healthy childhood development.

Affordable and Transitional Housing: Recognizing housing instability as a major consequence of the pandemic, Chatham County dedicated over \$2 million to create, preserve, and support long-term affordable housing. Investments include subsidies for 83 new affordable housing units, a transitional housing program for medically vulnerable individuals and families, and an Affordable Housing Fund designed to fill financing gaps in future developments aligned with LIHTC and long-term affordability commitments.

Behavioral Health and Medical Access: The County funded the planning and design of a Youth Mental Health Facility to expand crisis stabilization services for children and adolescents. This investment responds to the alarming rise in mental health needs among youth following extended isolation and disrupted schooling during the pandemic.

Community Infrastructure and Safe Spaces: Chatham County revitalized numerous public parks, recognizing their value as essential outlets for recreation, well-being, and community connection during times of social isolation. Improvements included new playgrounds, ADA-accessible ramps, safety enhancements, and the construction of an open-air gym. Additionally, the County invested in a Resilience Hub—a multipurpose facility serving as an emergency shelter, community center, and access point for daily resources such as mobile clinics and social services.

Support for Small Businesses and Nonprofits: The County launched a \$1.97 million Small Business Grant Program, offering direct financial relief to businesses experiencing pandemic-related revenue loss or increased operational costs. Separately, \$625,000 was awarded to the United Way Community Fund to mitigate fundraising shortfalls and maintain critical service grants to over 50 nonprofit partners across Chatham County, ensuring continuity of essential services like 2-1-1 assistance, volunteer coordination, and food and housing programs.

Chatham County's negative economic impact initiatives reflect a comprehensive recovery strategy grounded in equity, resilience, and sustainability. These investments not only provide immediate relief but also lay a foundation for long-term community stability and inclusive economic growth.

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	2-Negative Economic Impacts
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	2.10-Assistance to Unemployed or Underemployed Workers eg job training subsidized employment employment supports or incentives
PROJECT NAME	Job Training Scholarships
PROJECT NUMBER	2202121
PROJECT BUDGET	\$72,320
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$72,320
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Provide full and partial scholarships to Emergency Management Technician (EMT) training program, with recruitment focus on minority populations.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
Upon completion, newly certified EMT would be immediately placed into a full-time ambulance shift with benefits. Scholarship awardees would work for Chatham Emergency Services (CES) for at least 1 year to gain experience and support the Chatham County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system. Barriers to recruitment include inability to pay tuition, loss of income during training. Recovery Funds provided full and partial scholarships.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
Program helped support the fragile EMS system in Chatham County while concurrently providing an avenue for applicants to improve themselves professionally and financially while also assuring benefits and a secure career path.	
EVIDENCE-BASED INTERVENTION	
Not applicable; program is certified by the State of Georgia	
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	
Number enrolled in sectoral job training programs: 22; Number completing: 16; Number participating in summer youth employment programs: Not applicable.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	2-Negative Economic Impacts
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	2.13-Healthy Childhood Environments Services to Foster Youth or Families Involved in Child Welfare System
PROJECT NAME	Blueprint/Nonprofits - CASA
PROJECT NUMBER	2202102
PROJECT BUDGET	\$50,000
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$50,000
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Chatham County funded CASA to provide family friendly meeting space that is CDC compliant.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
Recovery Funds were used to establish The Bright House, a court-mandated supervised visitation and family support center. The center played a critical role in addressing barriers created by COVID-19, including limited visitation, lack of parental coaching, and reduced case management. The dedicated space helped prevent further disruptions in the event of future shutdowns and supported positive outcomes for children in foster care—improving their well-being, reducing time spent in out-of-home care, and facilitating faster reunification.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
The implementation of a supervised visitation center helped address the negative impact of COVID-19 by providing a safe space for separated families to bond, grow, and heal. The center ensured that the pandemic no longer prevented families from spending important bonding time together, while all CDC protocols were followed to keep family members safe and healthy.	
EVIDENCE-BASED INTERVENTION	
Not applicable. Funds were not used for direct service delivery.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	2-Negative Economic Impacts
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	2.15-Long-Term Housing Security Affordable Housing
PROJECT NAME	Affordable Housing Fund
PROJECT NUMBER	2202134
PROJECT BUDGET	\$1,200,000
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$0
PROJECT STATUS	Not started
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Affordable Housing Fund for the exclusive purpose of implementing affordable and workforce housing projects and initiatives directly related to the retention, improvement, pre-development, construction, development, and acquisition of housing.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
Funds are to fill financing gaps for affordable housing projects receiving 9 or 4 LIHTC allocations or to support the principal of qualifying long-term loans. To ensure lasting affordability, financed projects must maintain a minimum 20-year affordability period, meet all program compliance requirements, and agree to waive the right to a qualified contract under Section 42(h)(6)(F) of the Internal Revenue Code, with repayment required if noncompliance occurs.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
In response to the economic impacts of COVID-19, the County has prioritized the urgent need for affordable housing by allocating funds to the Chatham Affordable Housing Fund. These funds are dedicated exclusively to supporting affordable and workforce housing projects that address housing instability intensified by the pandemic. Investments will focus on the retention, improvement, pre-development, construction, development, and acquisition of housing to help stabilize and strengthen community.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	2-Negative Economic Impacts
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	2.15-Long-Term Housing Security Affordable Housing
PROJECT NAME	Housing Development - Port Wentworth
PROJECT NUMBER	2202132
PROJECT BUDGET	\$671,086
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$430,526
PROJECT STATUS	Completed 50% or more
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Purchase of land to develop 83 affordable housing units in Chatham County.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
Chatham County is leading the development of The Villages at Carter Manor” an affordable housing initiative located in the City of Port Wentworth. Using SLFRF funds, the County has acquired land at fair market value and completed associated due diligence activities including title verification, environmental assessments, geotechnical testing, and preliminary engineering design. These efforts ensure compliance with state and federal development standards and position the project for successful infrastructure implementation and phased residential construction.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
The County continues to partner closely with the State, City of Port Wentworth, and the nonprofit Coastal Habitat for Humanity. Sixteen families—half of whom represent essential workers—have been selected to participate in the homeownership program, which includes a two-year preparation period.	
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	
Number of households receiving eviction prevention services (including legal representation): Not applicable. Number of affordable housing units preserved or developed: 83.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	2-Negative Economic Impacts
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	2.18-Housing Support Other Housing Assistance
PROJECT NAME	Transitional Housing
PROJECT NUMBER	2202136
PROJECT BUDGET	\$589,100
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$354,963
PROJECT STATUS	Completed 50% or more
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Provide bridge housing for individuals and families with complex health needs.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
The transitional housing project offers bridge housing for up to 12 months, ensuring stability and comprehensive support services for displaced families and individuals with complex health conditions.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
Affordable, attainable housing in Chatham County is incredibly scarce, leaving many individuals and families facing homelessness. This pilot program is based on a nationwide best-practice model, a partnership of local government, community-based organizations and a private property management company and is poised to serve as a vital lifeline to those most affected by pandemic type events.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	2-Negative Economic Impacts
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	2.21-Medical Facilities for Disproportionately Impacted Communities
PROJECT NAME	Youth Mental Health Facility
PROJECT NUMBER	2206002
PROJECT BUDGET	\$1,000,000
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$1,000,000
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Provide conceptual design plan with architectural renderings and cost estimate that includes site work, utilities, lighting, fencing, permitting and contingency cost of a new Child and Adolescent Crisis Stabilization Unit to include inpatient and outpatient services.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
Evidence based mental and behavioral health inpatient and outpatient services.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
Due to isolation caused by COVID-19, the need for behavioral health services has increased.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	2-Negative Economic Impacts
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	2.22-Strong Healthy Communities Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety
PROJECT NAME	Community Park Improvement - Ambuc
PROJECT NUMBER	2202126
PROJECT BUDGET	\$555,492
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$534,361
PROJECT STATUS	Completed 50% or more
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Park upgrades will improve access to physical activity and increase safety for children and adults.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
Park upgrades will improve access to physical activity and increase safety for children and adults.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
During the pandemic, public spaces like parks became even more critical for recreational activities and mental well-being. Park improvements will increase the safety of the neighborhood and the quality of life for its residents.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	2-Negative Economic Impacts
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	2.22-Strong Healthy Communities Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety
PROJECT NAME	Community Park Improvement - Charles C Brooks
PROJECT NUMBER	2202139
PROJECT BUDGET	\$9,838
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$9,838
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Concrete for Charles C Brooks Park.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
Asphalt patch repair to address localized damage, preventing further deterioration, and enhancing safety.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
During the pandemic, public spaces like parks became even more critical for recreational activities and mental well-being. Repaired road damage enhances safety for residents.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	2-Negative Economic Impacts
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	2.22-Strong Healthy Communities Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety
PROJECT NAME	Community Park Improvement - L Scott Stell
PROJECT NUMBER	2202430
PROJECT BUDGET	\$5,151,724
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$3,087,960
PROJECT STATUS	Completed 50% or more
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Building of an open air gymnasium will improve access to physical activity and increase safety for children and adults.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
Increased access to physical activity.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
During the pandemic, public spaces like parks became even more critical for recreational activities and mental well-being. The new gymnasium will increase the quality of life of the residents.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	2-Negative Economic Impacts
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	2.22-Strong Healthy Communities Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety
PROJECT NAME	Community Park Improvement - Lamarville
PROJECT NUMBER	2202129
PROJECT BUDGET	\$280,424
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$279,640
PROJECT STATUS	Completed 50% or more
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Park upgrades will improve access to physical activity and increase safety for children and adults.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
Park upgrades will improve access to physical activity and increase safety for children and adults.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
During the pandemic, public spaces like parks became even more critical for recreational activities and mental well-being. Park improvements will increase the safety of the neighborhood and the quality of life for its residents.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	2-Negative Economic Impacts
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	2.22-Strong Healthy Communities Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety
PROJECT NAME	Community Park Improvement - Mother Mathilda Beasley
PROJECT NUMBER	2202138
PROJECT BUDGET	\$49,300
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$0
PROJECT STATUS	Not started
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
ADA compliance ramp repair at Mother Mathilda Beasley Park.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
The current ramp will be removed and replaced with an ADA compliant steel frame boardwalk.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
The wooden ramp at Mother Mathilda Beasley Park to access the Pavilion is in need of full replacement due to fully rotted decking and supports.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	2-Negative Economic Impacts
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	2.22-Strong Healthy Communities Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety
PROJECT NAME	Community Park Improvement - Salt Creek
PROJECT NUMBER	2202127
PROJECT BUDGET	\$288,963
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$288,963
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Replacement of an old and dated playground with a new and improved playground.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
During the pandemic, public spaces such as parks became vital for recreation, physical activity, and mental well-being—especially for children. Replacing the old, outdated playground with new equipment was essential to ensure a safe environment for play, reduce injury risks, and promote healthy physical activity.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
Park upgrades improve access to physical activity and increase safety for children and adults.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	2-Negative Economic Impacts
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	2.22-Strong Healthy Communities Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety
PROJECT NAME	Community Park Improvement - Westlake
PROJECT NUMBER	2202128
PROJECT BUDGET	\$209,773
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$209,694
PROJECT STATUS	Completed 50% or more
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Park upgrades will improve access to physical activity and increase safety for children and adults.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
Park upgrades will improve access to physical activity and increase safety for children and adults.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
During the pandemic, public spaces like parks became even more critical for recreational activities and mental well-being. Park improvements will increase the safety of the neighborhood and the quality of life for its residents.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	2-Negative Economic Impacts
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	2.22-Strong Healthy Communities Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety
PROJECT NAME	Resilience Hub
PROJECT NUMBER	2202133
PROJECT BUDGET	\$385,816
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$385,816
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Purchase of a 2.55-acre property to develop a Resilience Hub, a community center and safe space. The facility will serve as an emergency refuge, a cooling and heating center during extreme temperatures, and a hub for daily activities, including classes, mobile medical clinics, and daycare services.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
Purchase of a 2.55-acre property.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
The Resilience Hub is to provide crucial support by offering a safe space where residents, especially those disproportionately affected by a pandemic type event, can access resources like food, healthcare, and mental health services. It will greatly help mitigate the negative economic effects by creating a centralized location for emergency relief, community connection, and coordination of local aid efforts.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	2-Negative Economic Impacts
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	2.29-Loans or Grants to Mitigate Financial Hardship
PROJECT NAME	Small Business Grant Program
PROJECT NUMBER	2202091
PROJECT BUDGET	\$1,970,059
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$1,970,059
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Assistance to Chatham County small businesses whose operations had been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
Award grants up to \$25,000 to eligible small businesses. Applicants had to demonstrate a reduction in gross business revenue and provide financial documents to substantiate the loss and/or demonstrate increased business costs due to COVID-19. All assistance provided was proportional to the loss demonstrated.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
Chatham County Small Business Grant program assisted small businesses that had been negatively impacted by COVID-19 with reimbursement of COVID-19 related mitigation activities and general operating costs for businesses experiencing financial hardship.	
EVIDENCE-BASED INTERVENTION	
Not applicable. Grant award decision making process does not employ an evidence-based intervention.	
PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	
Number of small businesses served: 92.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	2-Negative Economic Impacts
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	2.34-Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted
PROJECT NAME	Blueprint/Nonprofits - United Way
PROJECT NUMBER	2202101
PROJECT BUDGET	\$625,000
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$625,000
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Funding for the United Way Community Fund.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
The Community Fund provides program grants to nonprofits and supports the organization's direct services. Awarding funding to the Fund helped prevent a catastrophic decrease of funding for nonprofits that deliver vital services to Chatham County residents.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
United Way is a community backbone organization that funds more than 80 critical social service programs at more than 50 nonprofits. \$1.25M loss due to the pandemic challenged the organization's ability to make the grants that nonprofits depend upon to deliver services to Chatham County residents and meet the increased demand for services stemming from the negative effects of the pandemic, as well as the organization's own ability to provide direct services to respond to needs where gaps exist in the community.	
EVIDENCE-BASED INTERVENTION	
Not applicable. No evidence-based interventions were used to determine funds redistribution.	
PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	
Number of households served: 1,989. Number of Non-Profits served: 1.	

PUBLIC SECTOR CAPACITY

To ensure continuity of essential services and enhance government effectiveness in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Chatham County invested more than \$8 million in strengthening public sector capacity. These investments addressed workforce stabilization, service delivery innovation, and judicial system recovery—ensuring local government remains responsive, efficient, and resilient in times of crisis.

Workforce Stability and Development: The County prioritized frontline worker retention through a targeted First Responder Retention Plan, recognizing the dedication of sworn law enforcement, 911 dispatchers, and emergency management staff during the pandemic. Investments in digital infrastructure, including the Learning and Performance Management System and Environment Health and Safety Software, further supported workforce development by enhancing training, risk management, and productivity across departments.

Enhanced Service Delivery through Technology: A suite of digital modernization projects advanced the County's ability to serve residents effectively during emergencies and beyond. These included: a Unified Communications Platform for seamless virtual collaboration; a Community Engagement Platform to foster inclusive, multilingual communication with residents; Website Redesign and Queue Scheduling Systems to improve user access and reduce service wait times; and, Audit and Grants Management Systems to streamline internal operations and external funding administration. Collectively, these investments strengthened Chatham County's digital infrastructure and service accessibility, supporting both transparency and operational continuity.

Judicial System Recovery and Caseload Backlog Reduction: The COVID-19 pandemic severely disrupted court operations, resulting in a backlog of over 24,000 cases. In response, Chatham County launched a coordinated, multi-agency initiative to reduce this judicial caseload by 20%. SLFRF funds supported: expanded dockets and staff hiring across the District Attorney, Public Defender, Indigent Defense, and Magistrate, Probate, Juvenile, Superior, and State Courts; Jail and Emergency Communications Management Systems to improve coordination between justice and emergency service agencies; and investments in courtroom technology and facilities, including remote streaming capabilities at the Sheriff's Office. These improvements enhanced public safety, ensured due process, and restored timely access to justice.

Equity and Community Engagement: To support inclusive government services, Chatham County established a dedicated Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) role aimed at improving public outreach and program accessibility for underserved populations. Additional funding for Evaluation and Data Analysis—in partnership with Healthy Savannah—ensured that initiatives such as vaccine marketing were data-informed and culturally responsive.

Chatham County's public sector investments reflect a forward-thinking strategy to modernize local government operations, support public servants, and deliver more equitable, effective services. By enhancing both internal capacity and community-facing infrastructure, these projects lay the groundwork for a more resilient and accessible public sector—capable of meeting today's challenges and tomorrow's needs.

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact Public Sector Capacity
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	3.03-Public Sector Workforce Other
PROJECT NAME	Environment Health Safety Software
PROJECT NUMBER	2206034
PROJECT BUDGET	\$56,945
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$20,383
PROJECT STATUS	Completed 50% or more
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Software for Occupational Safety, Risk Management, and Disability Services department.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
Software will increase productivity and improve visibility of the claims process, afford staff the opportunity assist, track and complete required safety training across all departments, facilitate inspections and audits of county owners equipment and facilities.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
Increased productivity.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact Public Sector Capacity
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	3.03-Public Sector Workforce Other
PROJECT NAME	First Responder Retention Plan
PROJECT NUMBER	2202092
PROJECT BUDGET	\$323,032
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$323,032
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
In an effort to retain valuable employee Chatham County provided a retention bonus program for employees who are First Responders, Sworn Law Enforcement Personnel, Dispatchers and Call Takers in E-911, and Emergency Management Personnel.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
First Responders who met a salary threshold of annual pay that does not exceed \$73,500 were eligible for a 1 time payment of 3% of salary if they remained employed with the County after 1 yr (Jul 1, 2023 - Jun 30, 2024 for current employees; date of hire to 1 year after hire date for those hired between Jul 1 and Nov 25, 2023). Eligible First Responders had to have a have satisfactory job performance and no disciplinary actions involving a loss in pay.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
First responders were essential during the COVID-19 pandemic, risking their health to provide immediate care and support to those affected by the virus, and their tireless efforts helped stabilize overwhelmed healthcare systems. To acknowledge their critical role and retain these invaluable employees, Chatham County offered a retention bonus program for First Responders, Sworn Law Enforcement Personnel, Dispatchers and Call Takers in E-911, and Emergency Management Personnel.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact Public Sector Capacity
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	3.03-Public Sector Workforce Other
PROJECT NAME	Learning and Performance Management System
PROJECT NUMBER	2207022
PROJECT BUDGET	\$126,925
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$77,461
PROJECT STATUS	Completed 50% or more
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Software for learning and performance management of Chatham County employees.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
Deploy a system to improve employee training and performance evaluation.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
Implement software for learning and performance management of Chatham County employees.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact Public Sector Capacity
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	3.04-Public Sector Capacity Effective Service Delivery
PROJECT NAME	Audit Management System
PROJECT NUMBER	2207023
PROJECT BUDGET	\$79,427
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$37,727
PROJECT STATUS	Completed 50% or more
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Audit Management System for Chatham County's Internal Audit functions.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
The solution will provide Internal Audit with innovative tools to become a next-generation audit shop focused on industry standards. The solutions provides enhanced business continuity planning through cloud-based storage and access to risk management files.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
Internal Audit must replace its legacy in-house developed Audit Management System with a robust cloud-based solution.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact Public Sector Capacity
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	3.04-Public Sector Capacity Effective Service Delivery
PROJECT NAME	Community Engagement Platform
PROJECT NUMBER	2207014
PROJECT BUDGET	\$92,418
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$92,418
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Implementing a government focused engagement platform that is user-friendly portal for both staff and residents to engage and provide two way feedback across multiple languages.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
Transparent and inclusive communication stands as a cornerstone in effectively addressing public health concerns and bolstering community resilience during times of crisis.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
Introducing an online engagement platform for County staff and residents to engage in two-way feedback, facilitating the County's ability to effectively identify and address community needs and enhance service delivery, both in routine operations and during times of crisis.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact Public Sector Capacity
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	3.04-Public Sector Capacity Effective Service Delivery
PROJECT NAME	Emergency Communications Dispatch
PROJECT NUMBER	2205163
PROJECT BUDGET	\$773,025
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$0
PROJECT STATUS	Not started
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Chatham 911 Communications Services is upgrading its Intrado VIPER 5 9-1-1 Call Processing Equipment to VIPER version 7, incorporating new technologies to ensure system stability and improve service delivery connect, locate and deliver life-saving call handling solutions and communications to 911 Center.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
Incorporating new technologies to ensure system stability and improve service delivery connect, locate and deliver life-saving call handling solutions and communications to the Emergency 911 Center.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
During the COVID-19 pandemic, Chatham County E911 Center phone line had been crucial for ensuring timely access to medical assistance, emergency response, and vital resources, especially for those facing urgent health crises and overwhelmed healthcare facilities.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact Public Sector Capacity
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	3.04-Public Sector Capacity Effective Service Delivery
PROJECT NAME	Grants Management Software
PROJECT NUMBER	2207013
PROJECT BUDGET	\$35,000
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$35,000
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Grants management software to streamline administration of grant funds.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
The unified application supports non-profit, community based organization by limiting the time and effort necessary to complete grant request and allow the county and other funders to view programmatic reports in a more comprehensive manner.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
Chatham County, in collaboration with other local funders, has adopted a unified grants management software to streamline and enhance the entire grants process. This centralized platform improves efficiency for both funders and applicants by simplifying application submission, tracking, and reporting. For the County and its partners, the software provides better oversight, coordination, and data-driven decision-making. For nonprofit and community-based organizations, it reduces administrative burden, increases transparency, and ensures easier access to funding opportunities—all within a single, user-friendly system.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact Public Sector Capacity
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	3.04-Public Sector Capacity Effective Service Delivery
PROJECT NAME	Jail Management System
PROJECT NUMBER	2206004
PROJECT BUDGET	\$877,726
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$623,708
PROJECT STATUS	Completed 50% or more
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Jail Management System for better communication with local arresting agencies, 911 Center, Clerk of Courts, District Attorneys and Public Defenders in managing the judicial caseload backlog due to the COVID-19 pandemic.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
Implementation of a jail management system for better communication with local arresting agencies, 911 Center, Clerk of Courts, District Attorneys, and Public Defenders in managing the judicial caseload backlog created by the COVID-19 pandemic.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
The operations of the County courts have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic due to the closure of many courtrooms and the adoption of the required protocols to mitigate and prevent the spread of the virus. Hearings and other judicial and legal duties were delayed, cancelled, or stayed, which resulted in the creation of a substantial judicial caseload backlog.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact Public Sector Capacity
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	3.04-Public Sector Capacity Effective Service Delivery
PROJECT NAME	Judicial Caseload Backlog - District Attorney
PROJECT NUMBER	2206009
PROJECT BUDGET	\$908,426
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$908,426
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Staffing to dismiss, divert and resolve backlog cases resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, in order to eliminate the burden on the court dockets, save judicial resources, and devote resources to the most serious and violent offenses.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
The overarching goal of the judicial caseload backlog group of projects was collectively set and agreed upon by all participating judicial units to reduce the judicial caseload backlog by 20% from 24,513.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
The operations of the County courts have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic due to the closure of many courtrooms and the adoption of the required protocols to mitigate and prevent the spread of the virus. Hearings and other judicial and legal duties were delayed, cancelled, or stayed, which resulted in the creation of a judicial caseload backlog of 24,513 cases.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact Public Sector Capacity
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	3.04-Public Sector Capacity Effective Service Delivery
PROJECT NAME	Judicial Caseload Backlog - Indigent Defense
PROJECT NUMBER	2206016
PROJECT BUDGET	\$241,516
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$241,516
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Staffing to help search relevant cases and urge attorneys to prioritize them for court dates in order to reduce judicial caseload backlog created due to COVID-19 pandemic.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
The overarching goal of the judicial caseload backlog group of projects was collectively set and agreed upon by all participating judicial units to reduce the judicial caseload backlog by 20% from 24,513.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
The operations of the County courts have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic due to the closure of many courtrooms and the adoption of the required protocols to mitigate and prevent the spread of the virus. Hearings and other judicial and legal duties were delayed, cancelled, or stayed, which resulted in the creation of a judicial caseload backlog of 24,513 cases.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact Public Sector Capacity
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	3.04-Public Sector Capacity Effective Service Delivery
PROJECT NAME	Judicial Caseload Backlog - Juvenile Court
PROJECT NUMBER	2206011
PROJECT BUDGET	\$382,964
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$382,964
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Due to social and emotional impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, Juvenile Court experienced increase in referrals as schools and other public facilities reopen. Funding was used for staffing clerks to improve Court response times; a Mental Health Specialist to address increased referrals to mental health court or mental health services; and, provision of youthfamily access to technology for tele mental health meetings.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
The overarching goal of the judicial caseload backlog group of projects was collectively set and agreed upon by all participating judicial units to reduce the judicial caseload backlog by 20% from 24,513.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
The operations of the County courts have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic due to the closure of many courtrooms and the adoption of the required protocols to mitigate and prevent the spread of the virus. Hearings and other judicial and legal duties were delayed, cancelled, or stayed, which resulted in the creation of a judicial caseload backlog of 24,513 cases.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact Public Sector Capacity
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	3.04-Public Sector Capacity Effective Service Delivery
PROJECT NAME	Judicial Caseload Backlog - Magistrate Court
PROJECT NUMBER	2206012
PROJECT BUDGET	\$231,204
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$231,204
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Because of judicial orders mandating courts to implement social distancing and other safety measures to prevent the transmission of COVID-19, additional staffing and equipment was needed to pro-actively meet the increased number of cases filed since the lifting of the national moratorium which stayed most eviction cases in 2020 and through August 26, 2021.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
The overarching goal of the judicial caseload backlog group of projects was collectively set and agreed upon by all participating judicial units to reduce the judicial caseload backlog by 20% from 24,513.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
The operations of the County courts have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic due to the closure of many courtrooms and the adoption of the required protocols to mitigate and prevent the spread of the virus. Hearings and other judicial and legal duties were delayed, cancelled, or stayed, which resulted in the creation of a judicial caseload backlog of 24,513 cases.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact Public Sector Capacity
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	3.04-Public Sector Capacity Effective Service Delivery
PROJECT NAME	Judicial Caseload Backlog - Probate Court
PROJECT NUMBER	2206013
PROJECT BUDGET	\$860,709
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$860,709
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Backlog had developed and persisted in both guardianship/conservatorship cases and decedents' estate cases due to COVID-19 pandemic related staff shortage and case overload. Funds were used for staffing and to engage CPA firm to supervise review of conservatorship reports.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
The overarching goal of the judicial caseload backlog group of projects was collectively set and agreed upon by all participating judicial units to reduce the judicial caseload backlog by 20% from 24,513.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
The operations of the County courts have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic due to the closure of many courtrooms and the adoption of the required protocols to mitigate and prevent the spread of the virus. Hearings and other judicial and legal duties were delayed, cancelled, or stayed, which resulted in the creation of a judicial caseload backlog of 24,513 cases.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact Public Sector Capacity
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	3.04-Public Sector Capacity Effective Service Delivery
PROJECT NAME	Judicial Caseload Backlog - Public Defender
PROJECT NUMBER	2206014
PROJECT BUDGET	\$638,906
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$638,906
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Reduce number of criminal court cases backlogged due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Funds were used for staffing and equipment.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
The overarching goal of the judicial caseload backlog group of projects was collectively set and agreed upon by all participating judicial units to reduce the judicial caseload backlog by 20% from 24,513.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
The operations of the County courts have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic due to the closure of many courtrooms and the adoption of the required protocols to mitigate and prevent the spread of the virus. Hearings and other judicial and legal duties were delayed, cancelled, or stayed, which resulted in the creation of a judicial caseload backlog of 24,513 cases.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact Public Sector Capacity
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	3.04-Public Sector Capacity Effective Service Delivery
PROJECT NAME	Judicial Caseload Backlog - Sheriff's Office
PROJECT NUMBER	2206015
PROJECT BUDGET	\$174,999
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$174,999
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
In an effort to help reduce the judicial caseload backlog due to the COVID-19 pandemic, funds were needed for equipment to allow for court proceedings at Sheriff's Office to be streamed in both the physical and virtual courtrooms.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
The overarching goal of the judicial caseload backlog group of projects was collectively set and agreed upon by all participating judicial units to reduce the judicial caseload backlog by 20% from 24,513.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
The operations of the County courts have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic due to the closure of many courtrooms and the adoption of the required protocols to mitigate and prevent the spread of the virus. Hearings and other judicial and legal duties were delayed, cancelled, or stayed, which resulted in the creation of a judicial caseload backlog of 24,513 cases.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact Public Sector Capacity
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	3.04-Public Sector Capacity Effective Service Delivery
PROJECT NAME	Judicial Caseload Backlog - State Court
PROJECT NUMBER	2206017
PROJECT BUDGET	\$37,629
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$37,629
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Increase and expedite arraignments for backlog of criminal cases on the holding docket due to COVID-19 pandemic.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
The overarching goal of the judicial caseload backlog group of projects was collectively set and agreed upon by all participating judicial units to reduce the judicial caseload backlog by 20% from 24,513.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
The operations of the County courts have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic due to the closure of many courtrooms and the adoption of the required protocols to mitigate and prevent the spread of the virus. Hearings and other judicial and legal duties were delayed, cancelled, or stayed, which resulted in the creation of a judicial caseload backlog of 24,513 cases.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact Public Sector Capacity
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	3.04-Public Sector Capacity Effective Service Delivery
PROJECT NAME	Judicial Caseload Backlog - Superior Court
PROJECT NUMBER	2206021
PROJECT BUDGET	\$783,707
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$783,707
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
<p>To address the judicial caseload backlog resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Court had to employ a combination of evidence-based case management practices such as creation of additional dockets including late afternoon dockets; implementation of processes for the early identification and processing of serious violent offenders; adoption of firm deadlines for rapid resolution including weekly trial settings; and, increased use of virtual video court proceedings and other available technologies. Additional staff were necessary to meet all of the challenges.</p>	
PROJECT APPROACH	
<p>The overarching goal of the judicial caseload backlog group of projects was collectively set and agreed upon by all participating judicial units to reduce the judicial caseload backlog by 20% from 24,513.</p>	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
<p>The operations of the County courts have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic due to the closure of many courtrooms and the adoption of the required protocols to mitigate and prevent the spread of the virus. Hearings and other judicial and legal duties were delayed, cancelled, or stayed, which resulted in the creation of a judicial caseload backlog of 24,513 cases.</p>	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact Public Sector Capacity
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	3.04-Public Sector Capacity Effective Service Delivery
PROJECT NAME	Judicial Caseload Backlog - Superior Court Clerk
PROJECT NUMBER	2206008
PROJECT BUDGET	\$116,860
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$116,860
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Staffing and support for additional court dockets, expanded court hours, and use of the Chatham County Jail's two courtrooms for hearings and trials in response to the judicial caseload backlog resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
The overarching goal of the judicial caseload backlog group of projects was collectively set and agreed upon by all participating judicial units to reduce the judicial caseload backlog by 20% from 24,513	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
The operations of the County courts have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic due to the closure of many courtrooms and the adoption of the required protocols to mitigate and prevent the spread of the virus. Hearings and other judicial and legal duties were delayed, cancelled, or stayed, which resulted in the creation of a judicial caseload backlog of 24,513 cases.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact Public Sector Capacity
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	3.04-Public Sector Capacity Effective Service Delivery
PROJECT NAME	Queue Scheduling System - Probate Court
PROJECT NUMBER	2206006
PROJECT BUDGET	\$21,004
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$21,004
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Scheduling and queuing software to overcome and prevent backlogs to safely bring more people into Probate Court and serve them more efficiently.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
The overarching goal of the judicial caseload backlog group of projects was collectively set and agreed upon by all participating judicial units to reduce the judicial caseload backlog by 20% from 24,513.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact Public Sector Capacity
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	3.04-Public Sector Capacity Effective Service Delivery
PROJECT NAME	Queue Scheduling System - Tax Commissioner
PROJECT NUMBER	2206032
PROJECT BUDGET	\$42,273
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$42,273
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION Scheduling and queuing software to overcome and prevent backlogs to safely and more efficiently serve residents.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact Public Sector Capacity
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	3.04-Public Sector Capacity Effective Service Delivery
PROJECT NAME	Unified Communications Platform
PROJECT NUMBER	2205017
PROJECT BUDGET	\$978,086
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$931,686
PROJECT STATUS	Completed 50% or more
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Migrating Chatham County's phone system to a communication and collaboration tool that can significantly increase County efficiency, improve access to government services and assist in serving a wider demographic of residents.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
The improved, unified communication system will allow essential team members access to voice mail, email, meeting and other types of communication for engagement internally and externally; ensuring the continuity of government operations.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
Chatham County is transitioning from an outdated Mitel phone system to a new platform that will integrate online meetings and collaboration, video conferencing, calling, and more into a seamless Unified Communications Platform using Cisco's Web Ex. This will allow essential team members to work remotely in a more efficient manner.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact Public Sector Capacity
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	3.04-Public Sector Capacity Effective Service Delivery
PROJECT NAME	Website Redesign
PROJECT NUMBER	2204014
PROJECT BUDGET	\$84,874
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$84,874
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Comprehensive redesign of the Chatham County website to create a visually appealing, user-friendly, and intuitive website that better serves citizens by providing easy access to information and services.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
Enhance the County website to serve as the primary and reliable source of information and resources for all Chatham County residents, enabling timely access to crucial information, updates, and public health and safety guidance. Additionally, a user-friendly website makes it easier for citizens to access government services, pay bills, and submit forms digitally, not only during emergencies but also in their day-to-day interactions with the county.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
As evident from the COVID-19 pandemic, the shift towards conducting business online instead of in person is imperative for safeguarding public health, ensuring continuity of government operations, and sustaining essential services. An accessible, user-friendly, interactive website plays a pivotal role in promoting efficient communication, empowering residents to make well-informed decisions, and mitigating the impact of crises on public health and safety.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact Public Sector Capacity
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	3.05-Public Sector Capacity Administrative Needs
PROJECT NAME	Diversity Equity Inclusion Initiatives
PROJECT NUMBER	2202130
PROJECT BUDGET	\$215,864
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$215,864
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
New position that supports Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Initiatives.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
Through adaptation and innovation in providing culturally competent programsservices, DEI Initiatives will assist in mitigating disruptions and/or accessing public and essential services, especially during emergencies or times of crises.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
New position that supports DEI Initiatives to improve public outreach of County departments that deliver programming or emergency services to underserved and vulnerable populations.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	3-Public Health-Negative Economic Impact Public Sector Capacity
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	3.05-Public Sector Capacity Administrative Needs
PROJECT NAME	Evaluation and Data Analysis
PROJECT NUMBER	2207021
PROJECT BUDGET	\$36,823
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$36,823
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Community engagement and data analysis services.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
Program implemented by the Healthy Savannah collaborative, a public-private partnership of more than 200 businesses, nonprofits, faith- and community-based organizations, schools, and healthcare and government agencies.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
COVID-19 Vaccination Marketing Strategy awareness program to encourage vaccine acceptance among Chatham County's Black and Hispanic communities, especially younger residents, who are less likely to have interest in receiving a vaccine Evaluation of marketing campaign's effectiveness.	

PREMIUM PAY

Chatham County's allocation of over \$1.6 million for Premium Pay was one of the first and earliest disbursements made using federal recovery funds. This investment recognized and rewarded public sector employees who performed in-person essential duties under hazardous conditions during the height of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Premium compensation was provided to frontline government personnel—particularly those in emergency services—who faced elevated exposure risks while ensuring the continuity of operations and the safety of the community.

Countywide Employee Compensation: Chatham County issued premium pay to eligible public sector workers whose in-person duties placed them at higher risk of COVID-19 exposure. These employees were instrumental in keeping essential government services running—ranging from public health and safety to sanitation and infrastructure maintenance—during periods of peak disruption and uncertainty.

E911 Salary Adjustments: The County also adjusted compensation for Emergency 911 dispatchers and call takers, recognizing their essential role in emergency response and crisis coordination. As frontline communicators, E911 personnel ensured residents had access to critical care and emergency services throughout the pandemic.

These premium pay investments reflect the County's commitment to valuing the contributions and sacrifices of its workforce during an unprecedented public health emergency. By providing financial recognition to essential employees, Chatham County upheld worker morale, retention, and operational stability during one of the most challenging periods in recent history.

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	4-Premium Pay
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	4.01-Public Sector Employees
PROJECT NAME	Compensation
PROJECT NUMBER	2204011
PROJECT BUDGET	\$1,442,318
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$1,442,318
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION Premium pay was provided to Chatham County Government employees who faced elevated health and safety risks while performing essential duties during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. This compensation was issued immediately during the pandemic response period to recognize and support frontline workers for their continued service under challenging and hazardous conditions.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	4-Premium Pay
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	4.01-Public Sector Employees
PROJECT NAME	Compensation 911
PROJECT NUMBER	2204012
PROJECT BUDGET	\$221,976
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$221,976
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION Chatham County adjusted the salary of E911 staff recognizing the department's overall role in the critical workforce necessary for continued operations and provisions of emergency services during the pandemic.	

INFRASTRUCTURE

Chatham County allocated more than \$14 million to strengthen critical infrastructure systems that promote public health, safety, environmental resilience, and equitable access to services. These projects span four key expenditure categories: centralized wastewater treatment, stormwater management, water/sewer system upgrades, and broadband expansion. Collectively, these infrastructure improvements address both long-standing needs and vulnerabilities exposed by the COVID-19 pandemic and climate-related challenges.

Clean Water – Centralized Wastewater Treatment: Investments in lift station and sewer line replacements across locations such as Sallie Mood, Ferguson Avenue, Gale Break, and Nancy Place help modernize aging infrastructure, reduce environmental risks, and improve sanitary service reliability for unincorporated residents. These projects directly mitigate the potential for sewage spills, support community growth, and reduce dependence on failing septic systems.

Clean Water – Stormwater Management: With over \$6 million directed toward stormwater infrastructure, Chatham County has prioritized flood mitigation and environmental protection through both targeted drainage projects and a countywide modeling initiative. Improvements in areas such as Burnside Island, Betz Creek, Marshall Branch, Isle of Hope, and Willow Lakes enhance water quality, reduce standing water and flood risk, and support long-term septic system performance. The One Chatham Stormwater Program provides a unified, data-driven framework for identifying regional drainage issues and climate adaptation strategies—including sea level rise response.

Water and Sewer: To improve fire protection and emergency preparedness, the County invested in hydrant system upgrades in underserved areas such as Burnside Island and Ogeechee Farms. These enhancements expand access to lifesaving water infrastructure and improve public safety outcomes for residents in these growing communities.

Broadband: Chatham County's broadband infrastructure project supports digital equity and emergency resilience through the installation of redundant fiber connections to public safety facilities, radio tower sites, and community parks. In addition to enhancing the County's communications backbone, this investment provides free public Wi-Fi access in key recreational areas—helping bridge the digital divide and offering more residents access to online services, education, and remote work.

Through strategic investments across infrastructure categories, Chatham County is advancing public health, environmental sustainability, and digital inclusion. These projects not only meet immediate service delivery needs but also position the County for a more resilient, connected, and equitable future.

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	5-Infrastructure
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	5.01-Clean Water Centralized wastewater treatment
PROJECT NAME	Sewer - Force Main - Sallie Mood
PROJECT NUMBER	2205022
PROJECT BUDGET	\$1,007,247
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$959,280
PROJECT STATUS	Completed 50% or more
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Second phase of the replacement of an existing deteriorated sewer force main.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	5-Infrastructure
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	5.01-Clean Water Centralized wastewater treatment
PROJECT NAME	Sewer - Lift Station - Ferguson Avenue
PROJECT NUMBER	2205060
PROJECT BUDGET	\$474,255
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$196,668
PROJECT STATUS	Completed less than 50%
PROJECT DESCRIPTION Construction of a regional lift station near the Diamond Causeway and Ferguson Avenue intersection to serve undeveloped areas with gravity sanitary sewer and transition properties away from existing septic systems in the area.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	5-Infrastructure
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	5.01-Clean Water Centralized wastewater treatment
PROJECT NAME	Sewer - Lift Station - Gale Break
PROJECT NUMBER	2205021
PROJECT BUDGET	\$729,295
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$729,295
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION This project was implemented to update an antiquated lift station that was built in 1976 and transports waste for approximately 63 unincorporated Chatham County residents. Up until the point of the rehabilitation project the lift station received very little upgrades. This project installed a much-needed bypass pump and reduces the chances of sewage spills, which creates harm to humans and property, as well as have a potentially significant impact on the environment.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	5-Infrastructure
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	5.01-Clean Water Centralized wastewater treatment
PROJECT NAME	Sewer - Lift Station - Nancy Place
PROJECT NUMBER	2205025
PROJECT BUDGET	\$836,987
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$836,987
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Rehabilitation of an outdated and failing lift station.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	5-Infrastructure
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	5.06-Clean Water Stormwater
PROJECT NAME	Drainage - Betz Creek Culvert
PROJECT NUMBER	2205072
PROJECT BUDGET	\$1,302,144
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$277,566
PROJECT STATUS	Completed less than 50%
PROJECT DESCRIPTION Replacement of existing crossing with a new box culvert and tide gate; when complete, the project will provide more protection from increasing tide levels and provide more effective removal of runoff from rainfall events.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	5-Infrastructure
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	5.06-Clean Water Stormwater
PROJECT NAME	Drainage - Burnside Island
PROJECT NUMBER	2205074
PROJECT BUDGET	\$859,453
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$859,453
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION Installation of new storm drain pipes to carry the runoff from one of the worst areas to the outfall, diverting it away from an undersized channel system with limited access which will alleviate some of the ponding issues and improve long term septic performance, and improve quality in the receiving waters.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	5-Infrastructure
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	5.06-Clean Water Stormwater
PROJECT NAME	Drainage - Isle of Hope
PROJECT NUMBER	2205064
PROJECT BUDGET	\$318,753
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$7,969
PROJECT STATUS	Completed less than 50%
PROJECT DESCRIPTION The project will improve the quality of storm water run off while reducing flooding in Isle of Hope community.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	5-Infrastructure
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	5.06-Clean Water Stormwater
PROJECT NAME	Drainage - Marshall Branch Canal
PROJECT NUMBER	2205071
PROJECT BUDGET	\$1,181,784
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$905,849
PROJECT STATUS	Completed 50% or more
PROJECT DESCRIPTION The channel, and associated conduits, are undersized for the expected storm water; project will expand size of the channel and conduits and provide an access path along one side to allow mechanized access for maintenance of the improvements.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	5-Infrastructure
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	5.06-Clean Water Stormwater
PROJECT NAME	Drainage - One Chatham Stormwater Program
PROJECT NUMBER	2205062
PROJECT BUDGET	\$2,116,575
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$584,698
PROJECT STATUS	Completed less than 50%
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
One Chatham initiative will gather storm water modeling data from all municipalities to identify gaps, fill gaps and update studies as to land use, storm intensity and cross sections due to available topographic data while incorporating sea level rise.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
To better understand current conditions and assist in planning for future development, a regional watershed model is needed .This study will prove very useful in developing a better understanding of storm water related conditions, including problem areas, and determining potential actions needed to address these issues.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
Project will gather together separate stormwater models which currently exist, to be combined with new models to be created, in order to assess potential for flooding and to serve as the basis for remedial actions. Residents of flood prone areas as well as residents impacted by sea level rise will benefit.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	5-Infrastructure
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	5.06-Clean Water Stormwater
PROJECT NAME	Stormwater - Willow Lakes
PROJECT NUMBER	2205061
PROJECT BUDGET	\$694,030
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$694,030
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION Willow Lakes drainage improvements included the installation of storm drain pipes from Quacco Road along Willow Lakes Drive to the existing water management pond and made improvements to the pond in order to improve stormwater drainage and water quality.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	5-Infrastructure
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	5.18-Water and Sewer Other
PROJECT NAME	Hydrants - Burnside Island
PROJECT NUMBER	2205067
PROJECT BUDGET	\$650,509
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$291,520
PROJECT STATUS	Completed less than 50%
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Upgrade existing fire system with installation of hydrants on Burnside Island.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	5-Infrastructure
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	5.18-Water and Sewer Other
PROJECT NAME	Hydrants - Ogeechee Farms
PROJECT NUMBER	2205066
PROJECT BUDGET	\$631,758
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$269,628
PROJECT STATUS	Completed less than 50%
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Upgrade existing fire system with installation of hydrants at Ogeechee Farms area.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	5-Infrastructure
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	5.21-Broadband Other projects
PROJECT NAME	Broadband Infrastructure
PROJECT NUMBER	2205161
PROJECT BUDGET	\$1,970,180
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$1,070,368
PROJECT STATUS	Completed 50% or more
PROJECT DESCRIPTION Project is three-fold: 1) Engineering and installation of redundant underground fiber conduit and fiber optic cabling for the Public Safety Center to connect the facility to the Core Network and Public Safety Network; 2) Engineering and installation of underground fiber conduit and fiber optic cabling that will provide 2 public safety radio tower sites with redundant communications pathways: and, 3) Connect fiber to Ambuc, Lamarville and Westlake to facilitate free wireless internet service for citizens during park hours.	

REVENUE REPLACEMENT

Chatham County has strategically utilized over \$5.4 million to restore and enhance essential public services and infrastructure that were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. These investments have strengthened community resources, improved public safety infrastructure, and expanded access to education, conservation, and critical government functions.

Revenue replacement funds provided the County with the flexibility to reinvest in high-impact capital projects and service delivery in areas affected by revenue shortfalls. Key investments include:

Community Resources and Services: Acquisition of land for a new Housing Development - Bradley Point and site preparation for an Early Childhood Learning Center in underserved neighborhoods expand access to affordable housing and childcare—services that are crucial to pandemic recovery and long-term community development.

Public Infrastructure and Government Operations: The County purchased and preserved 400 acres on Green Island for permanent conservation and public recreation, ensuring environmental protection and equitable access to coastal habitats. Additional land acquisitions supported public right-of-way needs and facility development, including the acquisition of a Law Enforcement Operations Facility and the Oglethorpe Library branch, enhancing law enforcement logistics and community learning spaces.

Technology and Security: A major investment in cybersecurity and access control systems strengthen physical and digital protections for critical County infrastructure, including public safety networks, safeguarding operations from evolving cyber threats.

Through the use of revenue replacement funds, Chatham County has addressed both immediate needs and long-term priorities—bolstering operational capacity, preserving natural assets, and delivering equitable community services. These investments underscore the County's commitment to using recovery funds not only to stabilize operations, but to build a more resilient, inclusive, and future-ready local government.

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	6-Revenue Replacement
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	6.01-Provision of Government Services
PROJECT NAME	Housing Development – Bradley Point
PROJECT NUMBER	2202135
PROJECT BUDGET	\$504,082
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$504,082
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION <p>In response to the growing demand for affordable and attainable housing in Chatham County, the County is pursuing strategic approaches to expand housing opportunities for residents. One such approach involves the acquisition of land in unincorporated areas of the County where similar housing developments already exist.</p> <p>The County purchased the Bradley Point property to support the future development of a residential community aimed at first-time homebuyers. Preliminary assessments suggest the site has the potential to accommodate approximately 12 to 15 homesites. While funding for engineering, infrastructure, and construction is not yet secured, acquiring the property now represents a proactive and strategic use of federal recovery funds. The investment would position the County to partner with developers in the future to create a neighborhood that promotes equitable access to homeownership and long-term community stability.</p>	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	6-Revenue Replacement
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	6.01-Provision of Government Services
PROJECT NAME	Cybersecurity Project - Access Control
PROJECT NUMBER	2205162
PROJECT BUDGET	\$942,704
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$896,372
PROJECT STATUS	Completed 50% or more
PROJECT DESCRIPTION Access control to critical telecommunication and network device infrastructure supporting Chatham County operations including public safety departments, both physical and logical access controls.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	6-Revenue Replacement
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	6.01-Provision of Government Services
PROJECT NAME	Early Childhood Learning Center
PROJECT NUMBER	2206001
PROJECT BUDGET	\$849,500
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$629,424
PROJECT STATUS	Completed 50% or more
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Chatham County will provide funds to support prep site work of the property for the Early Childhood Learning Center	
PROJECT APPROACH	
Recovery Funds are used to support prep site of the property. The Early Childhood Learning Center is designed to offer quality childcare services to an estimated 144 children six weeks through three years of age.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
The Center is designed to provide childcare services to close to 150 children, six weeks to three years of age, living in East Savannah neighborhood, in an area of high poverty. The facility will be licensed by the State and designed to meet all state and national accreditation standards to include the Quality Rated model promoted by the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	6-Revenue Replacement
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	6.01-Provision of Government Services
PROJECT NAME	Green Island Conservation and Preservation
PROJECT NUMBER	2205076
PROJECT BUDGET	\$360,000
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$360,000
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION Chatham County purchased 400 acres of Green Island to develop a Nature Reserve and Recreational Area. These acres will be kept in permanent conservation for the protection of the property. The purchase by the County will ensure the natural, historical, and cultural resources of the island and surrounding marsh are preserved. The preservation will assure this area which is adjacent to a significant groundwater recharge area is protected from development. The preservation will also provide access to the public making beautiful coastal habitats accessible for residents and visitors to explore and enjoy the vast resources of the island.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	6-Revenue Replacement
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	6.01-Provision of Government Services
PROJECT NAME	Land Acquisitions
PROJECT NUMBER	2206035
PROJECT BUDGET	\$242,601
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$242,601
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Right of way acquisitions as required for hydrant projects.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	6-Revenue Replacement
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	6.01-Provision of Government Services
PROJECT NAME	Law Enforcement Operations Facility
PROJECT NUMBER	2205075
PROJECT BUDGET	\$747,173
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$747,173
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION Chatham County acquired an existing property located at 3518 Ross Road to support critical operational needs of the Chatham County Police Department. The facility's existing layout and fencing provide an ideal environment for housing high-value law enforcement materials with minimal renovations required. Additionally, the property offers potential for shared use with the Chatham-Savannah Counter Narcotics Team to support operational functions, further maximizing the utility of the space and enhancing interagency coordination.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	6-Revenue Replacement
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	6.01-Provision of Government Services
PROJECT NAME	Public Library
PROJECT NUMBER	2206036
PROJECT BUDGET	\$1,809,108
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$1,809,108
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Funds towards the purchase of the Oglethorpe Library branch of Live Oak Public Libraries.	

ADMINISTRATIVE

Chatham County's allocated over \$600,000 in administrative support for the effective oversight, coordination, and compliance of State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds over five years. These funds support a dedicated grant administration staff responsible for managing reporting requirements, ensuring eligible use of funds, maintaining documentation, and aligning project implementation with U.S. Treasury guidance.

Administrative investments include two key phases:

2021–2024: Full allocation of \$279,982 supported program launch, project oversight, compliance tracking, and mandatory performance and expenditure reporting.

2025–2026: Continuation of these efforts beyond the obligation deadline, ensuring long-term accountability and regulatory adherence during the project completion and closeout period.

Compliance is critical to the integrity and sustainability of the SLFRF program. It safeguards public funds, prevents audit findings or repayment risks, and upholds public trust. By investing in administrative capacity, Chatham County ensures that all projects meet federal requirements, timelines, and documentation standards—protecting the County's eligibility for current and future funding while delivering transparent, impactful outcomes to the community.

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	7-Administrative
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	7.01-Administrative Expenses
PROJECT NAME	SLFRF Administrative Expenses 2021-2024
PROJECT NUMBER	2207011
PROJECT BUDGET	\$279,982
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$279,982
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Grant administration staff for SLFRF projects oversight and reporting compliance 2021-2024.	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	7-Administrative
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	7.03-Costs Associated with Satisfying the Administrative and Other Legal Requirements of the SLFRF Program After the Obligation Deadline has Passed
PROJECT NAME	SLFRF Administrative Expenses 2025-2026
PROJECT NUMBER	2207033
PROJECT BUDGET	\$322,550
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$59,160
PROJECT STATUS	Completed less than 50%
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Grant administration staff for SLFRF projects oversight and reporting compliance 2025-2026.	

NATURAL DISASTERS

Chatham County has strategically invested over \$890,000 in natural disaster preparedness aimed at enhancing the County's ability to respond to and recover from future hurricanes, flooding, and other severe weather events. These investments reflect a proactive, systems-based approach to emergency management that prioritizes resident safety, infrastructure protection, and operational continuity.

Through the acquisition of disaster recovery and response equipment, the County addressed critical capability gaps—such as the lack of swift water rescue resources experienced during Tropical Storm Debby—by ensuring vital assets are now on standby and readily deployable. Simultaneously, Chatham County acquisition of LiDAR technology to support high-resolution mapping and real-time assessment of at-risk areas, now enables emergency responders to more accurately prioritize resources and rescue efforts. Upgrades to the County's Mobile Emergency Operations Center further support these efforts by improving field communications, coordination, and efficiency during emergency deployments, including public health operations such as vaccination and testing.

Together, these initiatives strengthen Chatham County's resilience and ensure that emergency response teams are better prepared to protect lives, property, and essential services when disaster strikes. These forward-looking investments demonstrate the County's commitment to building a safer, more responsive, and more adaptive emergency management infrastructure for all residents.



PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	8-Natural Disasters
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	8.13-Other Emergency Relief Natural Disaster that is Threatened to Occur in the Future
PROJECT NAME	Disaster Recovery and Response Equipment
PROJECT NUMBER	2205019
PROJECT BUDGET	\$244,987
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$199,332
PROJECT STATUS	Completed 50% or more
PROJECT DESCRIPTION <p>Acquisition of specialized Disaster Recovery and Response Equipment to enhance the County's emergency preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities in the face of hurricanes, flooding, and other natural disasters. The equipment will support rapid deployment of resources to affected areas, improve safety for emergency personnel, and reduce downtime in critical infrastructure operations.</p> <p>During Tropical Storm Debby, Chatham County lacked sufficient resources for swift water rescue; this acquisition will eliminate that gap by ensuring the County has essential resources on standby and readily deployable during future emergencies.</p> <p>As a coastal community prone to severe weather events, this investment represents a vital step in the County's long-term disaster resilience strategy. It will enhance response times, increase safety for emergency personnel and residents, and ensure continuity of essential services during and after disaster events.</p>	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	8-Natural Disasters
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	8.13-Other Emergency Relief Natural Disaster that is Threatened to Occur in the Future
PROJECT NAME	LiDAR Search and Rescue
PROJECT NUMBER	2205018
PROJECT BUDGET	\$593,944
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$593,944
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION <p>During hurricane season, Chatham County experiences increased threats of severe storms, heavy rainfall, and strong winds, which can lead to coastal flooding and storm surges. The County remains on high alert each season, preparing for potential hurricanes that pose risks to infrastructure, homes, and the safety of residents in vulnerable low-lying areas.</p> <p>LiDAR technology is essential in disaster response as it enables the creation of detailed topographic maps and digital elevation models, providing critical insights into affected areas. This allows emergency responders to quickly assess impact zones, prioritize resources, and make informed decisions to enhance recovery efforts.</p>	

PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY GROUP	8-Natural Disasters
PROJECT EXPENDITURE CATEGORY	8.13-Other Emergency Relief Natural Disaster that is Threatened to Occur in the Future
PROJECT NAME	Mobile Emergency Operations
PROJECT NUMBER	2206030
PROJECT BUDGET	\$52,491
PROJECT EXPENDITURES	\$52,491
PROJECT STATUS	Completed
PROJECT DESCRIPTION	
Upgrade of Chatham Emergency Management Agency's Mobile Emergency Operations Center by installation of new Wi-Fi repeater to extend Wi-Fi coverage by nearly an acre, ergonomic seating for staff, and upgrade to radio patching system in order to enhance response capabilities and support field operations for mobile vaccination sites, testing sites, and other emergency field based operations.	
PROJECT APPROACH	
The upgrades will enable more efficient and effective emergency management, facilitating better communication and coordination during critical operations.	
PROJECT STRUCTURE & OBJECTIVES	
Goal is to enhance the response capabilities and support field operations for mobile vaccination sites, testing sites and other emergency field based operations.	



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