



PANDEMIC RECOVERY FUNDS  
DRAFT RECOVERY PLAN

# PANDEMIC RECOVERY FUNDS **DRAFT RECOVERY PLAN**

TOWN HALL JULY 20, 2022

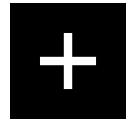
# AGENDA

1. Funding process overview and purpose of public feedback period
2. Overview of community priorities for Pandemic Recovery Fund
3. Review of Draft Recovery Plan and plan highlights
4. Question and Answer period (25 minutes)



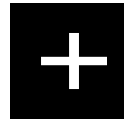
# PANDEMIC RECOVERY FUND PRIORITIES

10-month long community engagement process via town halls, surveys, and community conversations that established:



A **PROCESS** that is:

- Community- informed
- Transparent
- Equitable
- Accessible

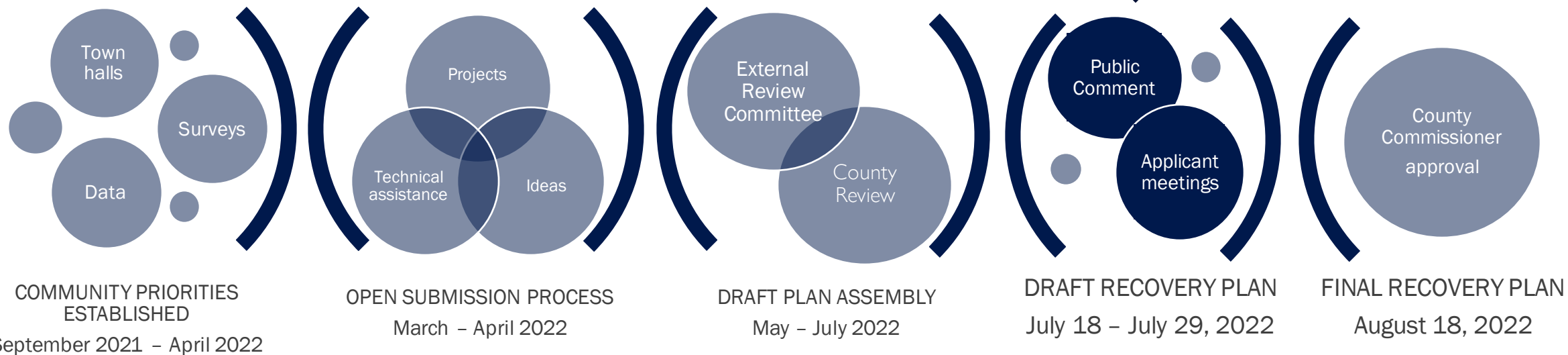


A **PRIORITY** for investments that:

- Directly support communities hit hardest by the pandemic and that have been historically underserved
- Are transformative or take advantage of the one-time, large-scale nature of funding
- Respond directly to impacts of the pandemic or issues that were made more severe by the pandemic
- Invest in areas of high need: affordable housing, behavioral health, child care, emergency response, or digital access

# PROCESS OVERVIEW

We are here



PANDEMIC RECOVERY FUNDS  
DRAFT RECOVERY PLAN

# PUBLIC FEEDBACK

## What is the purpose of the public feedback period?

- Transparency throughout the process
- Consistent and regular engagement with the community
- Accountability



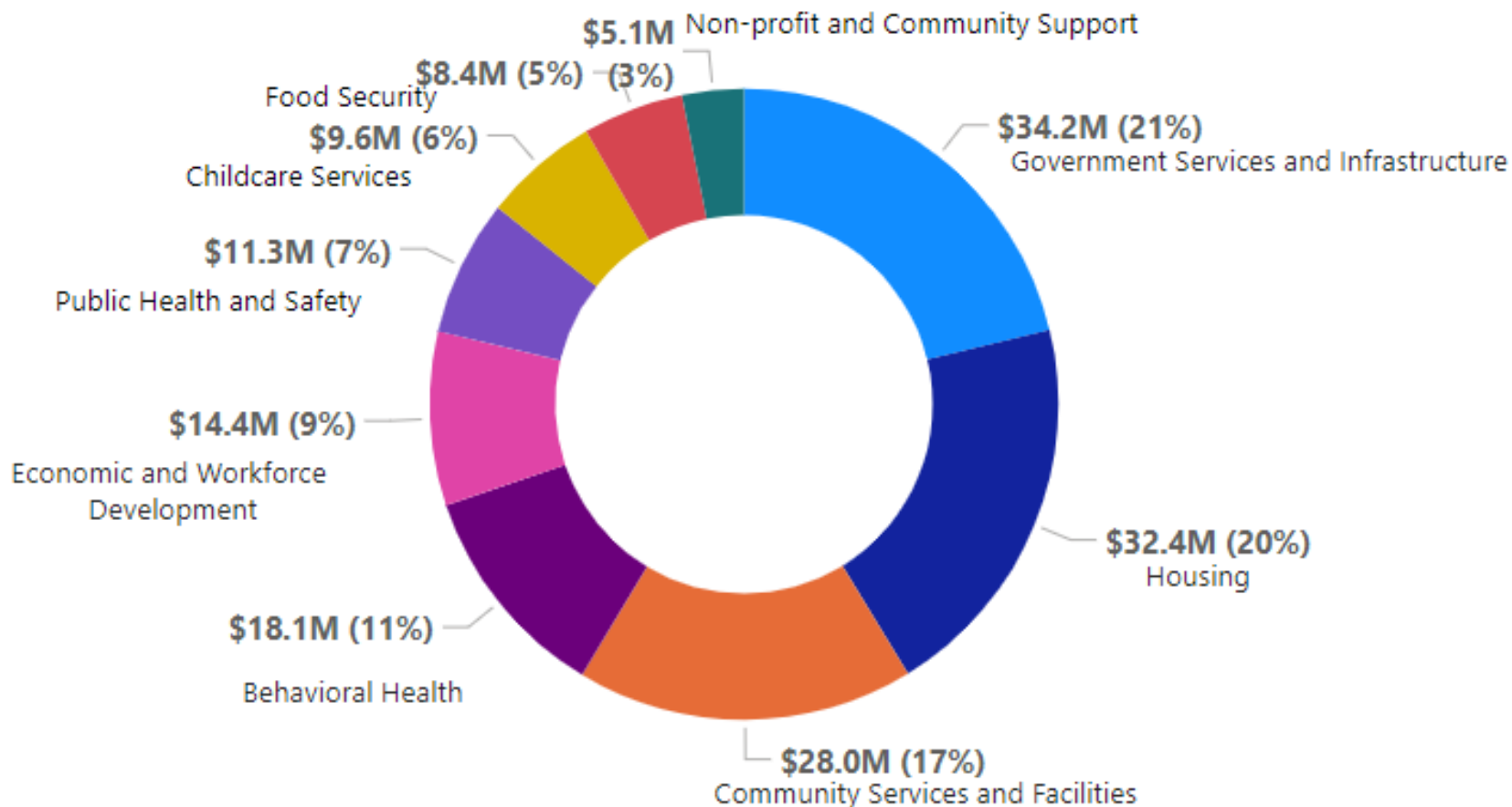
## What kind of feedback can I offer?

- Experiences with the funding process itself
- Thoughts on how well the Plan matches community priorities
- Other general comments/ suggestions/ questions

## What will you do with the feedback?

- Make adjustments to the Plan where it's appropriate
- Use feedback to identify future funding priorities
- Help inform future/ existing County funding processes

# DRAFT RECOVERY PLAN



**110**  
PROJECTS  
FUNDED OF 426  
SUBMITTED

ALL  
**\$161.4**  
MILLION  
ALLOCATED  
TO PROJECTS

PANDEMIC RECOVERY FUNDS  
DRAFT RECOVERY PLAN

# Housing: \$32.4 million

The Draft Recovery Plan responds to the community's prioritization for investment into more affordable housing options across the county, given the challenges to housing stability that the pandemic and related economic crises took on renters and homeowners. These investments include:

- Construction of 325 new affordable housing units for low and moderate income renters and homeowners
- \$5.5 million in seed funding for the Housing Opportunities Fund, an innovative public-private partnership to use unused land, blighted/condemned properties, and/or hotels for sale, for the use to build or rehab into affordable rental housing
- \$500,000 expansion of the down payment assistance program for first time homebuyers
- \$5.8 million to support renovation of existing public and privately owned affordable units
- \$6.8 million for short-term housing for single adults experiencing homelessness, including costs associated with the relocation of the Coordinated Homeless Outreach Center which closed in July 2022

# Behavioral Health: \$18.1 million

As a result of the pandemic's significant and persistent impact on resident mental health, the Draft Recovery Plan supports programming into mental healthcare access across the county. These include:

- \$5 million for school-based behavioral health services, which will enable school districts throughout Montgomery County to access funding to hire staff through a program coordinated by County Recovery and Mental Health Offices
- Community-based programs and services for child and adolescent art therapy, support services for rural older adults, and counseling services specific to LGBTQIA+ residents, among others
- \$5 million for the creation of a behavioral health crisis response service center, allowing for a long-needed investment into the county's ability to serve residents experiencing mental health crises

# Child Care: \$9.6 million

The Pandemic Recovery Fund program prioritizes child care centers and the early childhood workforce, given the impact on the industry throughout the pandemic. The Draft Recovery Plan funds:

- \$4 million in direct operational support for child care centers across the county made available through a program that will be coordinated by the County's Recovery and Early Learning Resource Center offices
- \$3.3 million is allocated for the implementation of a novel in-home child care program supporting off-hours workers
- \$500,000 for convening stakeholders in further research, strategic planning, and pilot programming to address the child care worker crisis, in response to a significant number of "idea" submissions that spoke to challenges in the industry related to worker retention and pay, ongoing education and training, and ability to attract qualified workers to the field

# Community Services and Facilities: \$27.9 million

As part of its commitment to supporting an equitable recovery from the pandemic, the Recovery Office is recommending projects that will invest in historically underserved communities, providing facilities hosting critical services and gathering spaces. The Draft Recovery Plan includes investments such as:

- Support for a new site for ACLAMO Family Centers in Norristown, which primarily serves the Latino/Hispanic population
- \$7 million to support costs associated with a community space serving the Norristown community
- \$5.25 million is recommended for the creation of a community and wellness center specific to Asian, Asian American, and Pacific Islander communities
- \$5.5 million is recommended to support the YWCA Tri-County's new site expansion in Pottstown

# Economic and Workforce Development: \$14.4 million

In response to its outreach specifically to small, minority and women-owned businesses, the Recovery Office received a number of submissions requesting support for business operations and other needs. The Draft Recovery Plan allocates:

- \$2.7 million to fund small grants directly to improve women and minority-owned businesses, made immediately available to qualifying businesses that had already applied to the Pandemic Recovery Fund. Other qualifying businesses, with priority placed on the County's qualified census tracts in Norristown and Pottstown would also be eligible to apply for this grant program.
- \$2.5 million across multiple projects to coordinate impactful investment in Norristown and Pottstown businesses
- \$8.2 million for workforce development across multiple sectors, tuition assistance initiatives, and job marketing and preparedness mentoring projects

# Food Security: \$8.4 million

Project and idea submissions received through the Pandemic Recovery Fund process showed a prevalent community need for investment in all aspects of the County's emergency food infrastructure, including food distribution, food production, policy and strategy, and coordination across all partners. This includes:

- \$4 million allocated to construction and renovation of a food distribution warehouse
- \$700,000 to increase coordination and improve logistics among food pantries in the county
- \$1.1 million to establish a new food policy council in order to coordinate a comprehensive, county-wide plan addressing the root causes of food insecurity

# Public Health and Safety: \$11.3 million

Reflecting the intent of the ARPA legislation, the Draft Recovery Plan includes multiple initiatives focused on improving Montgomery County's public health and public safety infrastructure. These investments include:

- Supporting emergency medical services workers training and pay
- Improving child and maternity health outcomes
- Assisting firehouses experiencing pandemic-related financial losses
- Resources to analyze, study, and improve the overall emergency services system in the County
- Gun and domestic violence mitigation programs
- COVID-19 monitoring and mitigation strategies
- Access to digital health enhancement efforts

# Nonprofit and Community Support: \$5.1 million

\$5.1 million for non-profit and community support, including projects providing:

- Violence prevention,
- Clothing distribution,
- Immigrant case management services,
- Community data resources and
- Support for nonprofits impacted by the pandemic

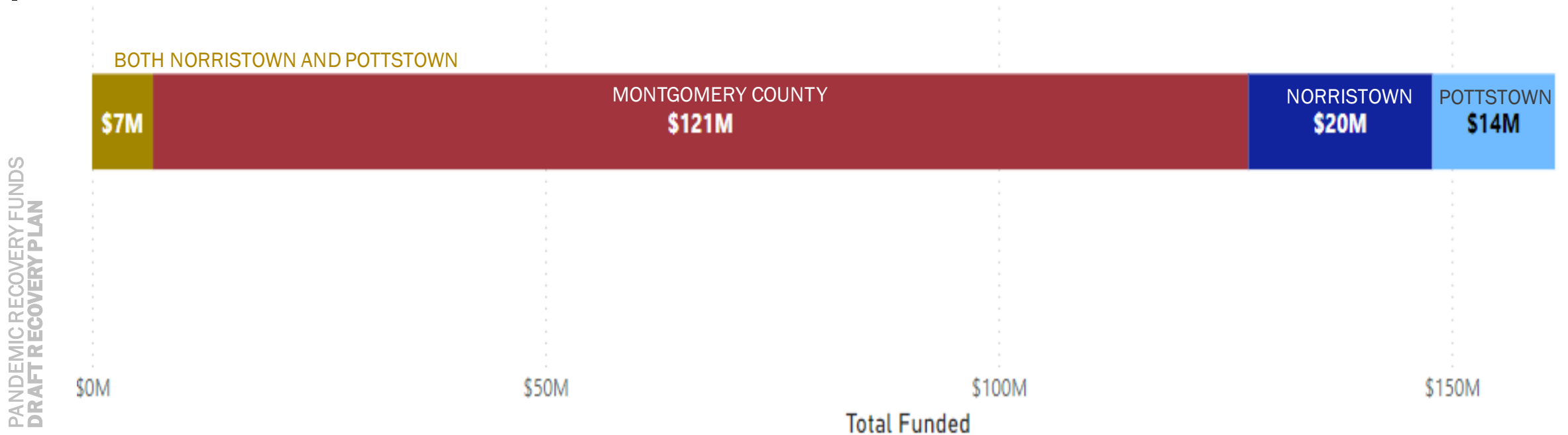
# Essential Worker Premium Pay & Government Services: \$34.2 million

- \$10 million for County revenue replacement
- \$8.1 million for premium pay for County essential workers and \$6.9 million for essential worker retention and support
- \$3 million for lead water piping replacement in Pottstown
- Other service improvement projects

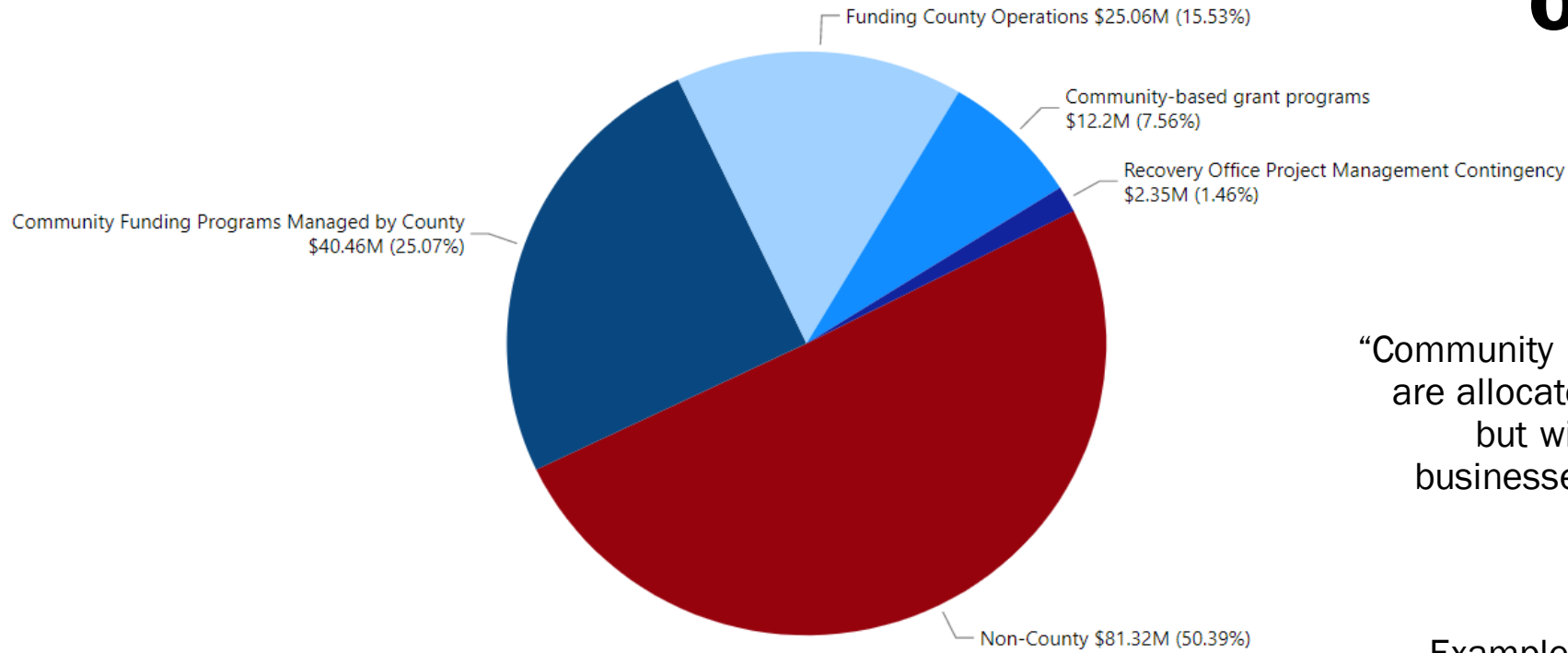
# How are funds being invested in Qualified Census Tracts (QCTs)?

Investment in QCT's was a priority at federal and local level

Montco has two: Norristown and Pottstown

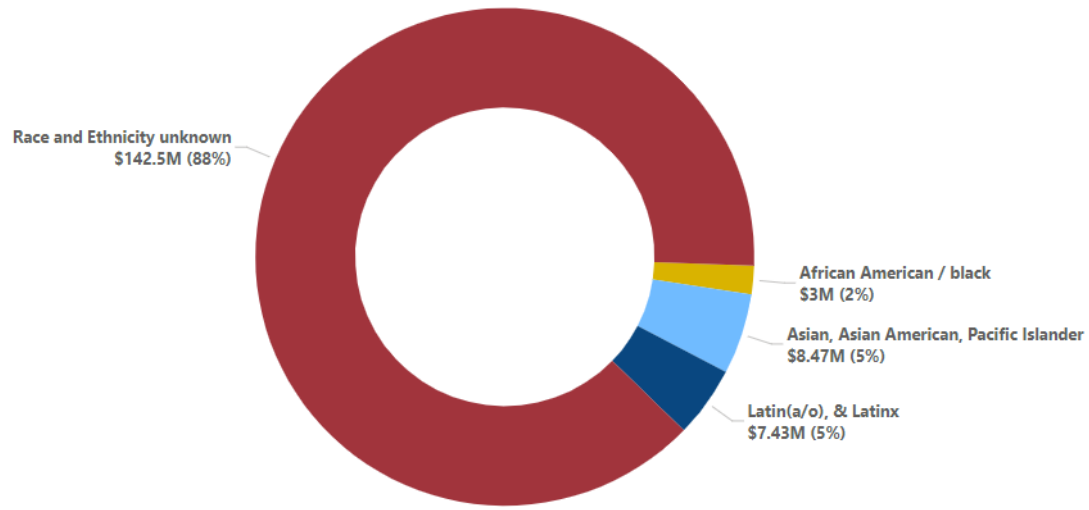


# What kinds of organizations are receiving funds?



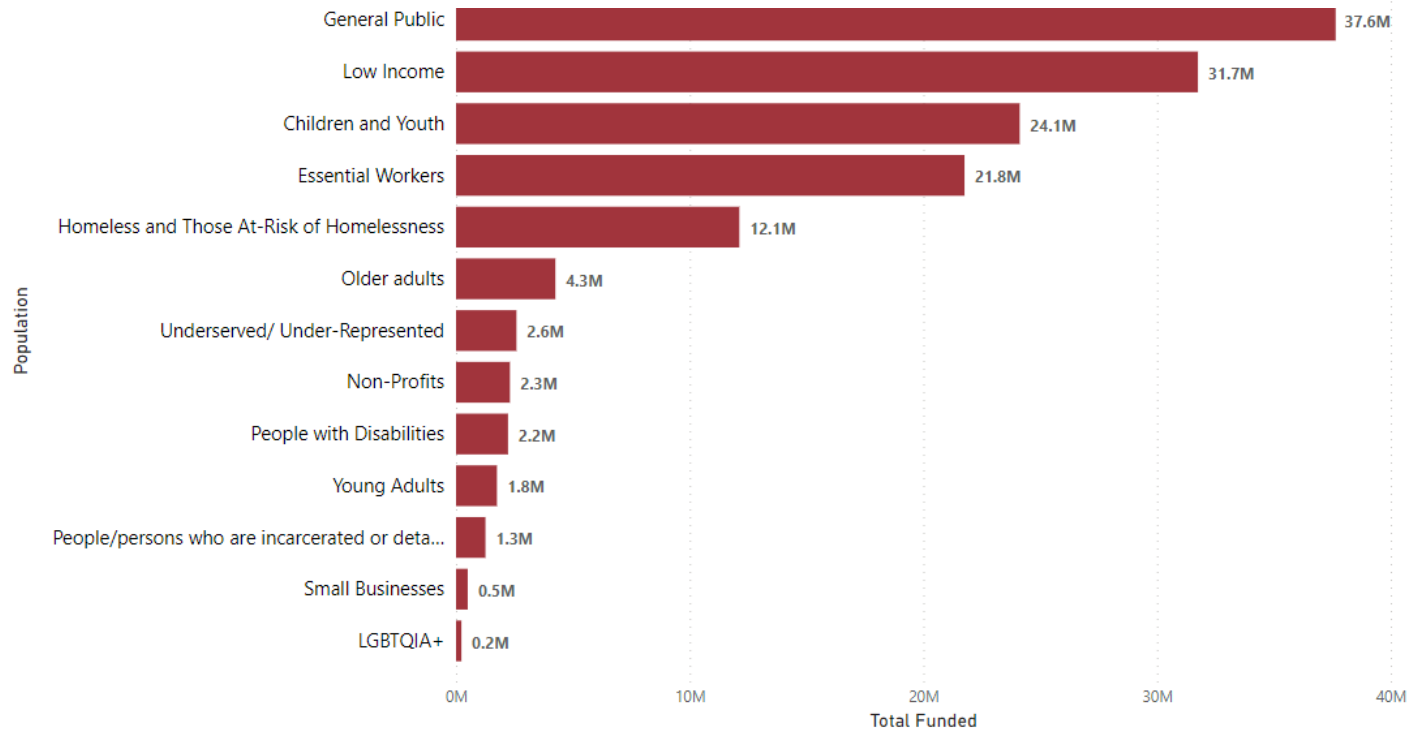
“Community based grant programs” are funds that are allocated in the Plan to a County department but will be distributed directly to community businesses or non-profits through a standalone program

Example: Direct support to MWBE businesses, operating support for child care providers



# How does the Draft Plan support priority populations?

Recovery Office staff review included recommending projects serving historically underserved communities, which may have resulted in recommending a project for funding that scored lower on the scoring rubric



# Does the Plan distribute funds to smaller organizations?

Community feedback established a priority for funding smaller, community-based, grassroots organizations

Technical assistance was provided to over 400 organizations and individuals

Special grant program designed for Small Women and Minority-Owned Businesses

**33**  
PROJECTS,  
**30%**  
OF TOTAL, RUN BY  
ORGANIZATIONS WITH  
ANNUAL BUDGETS UNDER  
\$1 M

# How are funds being used in a transformative manner?

Funded projects represent priority placed on projects long imagined and not implemented that correct persistent systemic inequities.

- Large investments into community spaces specific to Asian American/ Pacific Islanders, Latinos, Nepalese, Black/ African American communities
- Housing Opportunities Fund to address long-term capacity for affordable housing development
- Food security warehouse and coordination / logistics grants
- Norristown and Pottstown Small Business development
- Behavioral Health Crisis Hub
- Workforce Development in priority areas

# How were ideas incorporated into the Plan?

Funding process allowed applicants to submit ideas, which were less fully developed submissions than a project submission

Many smaller organizations or individuals submitted ideas

- Child care workforce transformation initiative
- Norristown community space / facility project
- AAPI community needs study
- Emergency medical and fire services support, analysis, and improvement

# How is the Recovery Office connecting unfunded projects to other funding?

- Establishing an inventory of projects to connect to:
  - Future funding through American Rescue Plan Act
  - Other County, state, or federal sources
  - Philanthropy





## Q & A

- Questions from chat will be consolidated and addressed first
- Attendees can “raise hand” to ask a question when prompted

# NEXT STEPS

[www.montcopa.org/recoveryoffice](http://www.montcopa.org/recoveryoffice)

- Additional town hall presentations are scheduled through early August
- All stakeholders can submit comments until August 5, 2022 via our online submission form, available via [www.MontcoPa.org/RecoveryOffice](http://www.MontcoPa.org/RecoveryOffice)
- Recovery Office and County Management will review all feedback received and make adjustments as appropriate
- Final Recovery Plan to be approved on August 18, 2022 by County Commissioners