

# Chesterfield County Recovery Plan



## State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds 2022 Report

**Chesterfield County**  
**2022 Recovery Plan**

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## GENERAL OVERVIEW

### **Executive Summary**

The COVID-19 pandemic has driven long-lasting changes to every aspect of life for Chesterfield residents. The County took a nimble approach to responding to the many changes that came with a global pandemic, adjusting service delivery to preserve jobs in a time when the local economy was severely affected and rolling out public health resources as quickly and safely as possible. To continue to respond to the continually evolving pandemic, the County has elected to deploy American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds to make investments that will have a long-ranging positive impact on the County and its residents.

Adhering to the Treasury's guidance while prioritizing community impacts involved many discussions among many vested parties, including County and school officials, citizens and businesses, as well as other localities. Input from the community, coupled with the County's proven ability to manage expenses, places Chesterfield in a position to leverage the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds in unique ways that offer lasting impacts. Chesterfield's plan for these federal funds, presented in this report, focuses on investments for our future in areas including infrastructure, public health, community support, public safety and cybersecurity.

Chesterfield's parks and recreation system, long the lifeblood of the community, has become an epicenter of activity within the County throughout the pandemic. Recognizing the physical and mental health benefits of access to a robust parks system, the adopted capital improvement program includes significant investment in parks infrastructure. By prioritizing parks maintenance and infrastructure enhancements with ARP funds, Chesterfield can build on existing investments to fast-track its long-term vision of a parks system to serve the community today and for the future.

The public safety agencies that keep the Chesterfield community safe 24 hours a day, 365 days a year have also been at the forefront of the pandemic response. From spearheading COVID-19 testing sites to bringing vaccines directly to some of the most vulnerable members of our community, these agencies continued to provide the high level of service expected by citizens. These federal stimulus funds will bolster Chesterfield's innovations in public health, while also making strategic long-term investments that leverage data to make our community safer.

Building on the success of the mobile vaccination rollout, Fire and EMS will formalize a program to promote mobile public health access in the community. This program aims to narrow disparities in access to health care and provide targeted care outside of emergency settings. Fire and EMS also will stand up a peak-demand ambulance that will minimize response times by using data to strategically position the ambulance to respond to emergency calls.

Responding to the pandemic has highlighted the importance of collaboration among all public safety agencies and the ability to remain nimble to constantly shifting conditions. These stimulus funds will enable Chesterfield to accelerate investment in a Real-Time Crime Center. This not only will prioritize a data-driven approach to fighting crime, but also will connect data from every resource available as the County responds to natural disasters, fires, and other emergencies.

As with Chesterfield's investment in parks, these assets not only will serve the County's pandemic response, but also will complement the County's hallmark approach to data-driven decision making to maximize County resources without burdening taxpayers.

The information presented in the following report represents the County's present plan to approach the expenditure of \$68.5M in ARP resources. To date, none of the ARP resources have been deployed. As such, the data that follows represents preliminary research and the intent of the Board of Supervisors to deploy resources in the coming years.

One of the many lasting impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic is first-hand knowledge of how quickly circumstances can change, with lasting consequences. Keeping this in mind, the County is preserving a portion of unallocated ARP dollars, in anticipation of a potentially shifting landscape due to the ongoing spread of new COVID-19 variants impacting the community and the delivery of County services.

## **Uses of Funds**

### *a. Public Health (EC 1)*

- Office modifications and technology support to continue remote and hybrid remote work environment. This will have an immediate impact on the Chesterfield County workforce, providing as much flexibility during a continually changing landscape of virus spread within the community. In addition, as a major employer in the area, these modifications to allow continued remote work may encourage other area employers to provide long-term flexibility towards remote and hybrid-remote work employment.
- The Fire and EMS department will make permanent the Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) program, which aims to address the unmet needs of Chesterfield's citizens, typically after frequent 911 calls for non-emergent causes, by developing a comprehensive network of relationships with organizations such as hospitals home health, private and non-profits willing to meet the diverse needs to MIH clients.
- Fire and EMS will additionally begin to equip and staff peak-time ambulances to improve service delivery and the equity of healthcare delivery among the County's most vulnerable and underserved patients. Although the use of emergency services to fill the gap of routine healthcare is not entirely new to the County, the impact of COVID-19 has caused a significant impact in emergency medical service delivery and patient transport, putting a strain on the current service model. Additional ambulances in service at peak times will allow the County to maintain response time and quality of service to the community.
- The Police department will construct the Midlothian Police Station on a much more visible area of the County, in order to serve as a crime deterrent as well as integrate more seamlessly with the community.
- The Real Time Crime Center will use state-of-the-art technology resources to make crime prevention, crime solving, and disaster response more efficient and effective in the County.

### *b. Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2)*

- The department of Community Enhancement will implement an Affordable Housing Trust Fund to serve the most critical housing needs in the County. This project will serve members of the community who were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic's economic impacts and the rising cost of housing in the community by incentivizing and accelerating development projects to underserved members of the community.
- Additionally, the Parks and Recreation department will target parkland acquisition and development to key areas of the community where access to outdoor space is limited.

By creating outdoor recreation spaces for members of the community living in Qualified Census Tracts, the parks will primarily serve disadvantaged areas of the County, with access to outdoor recreation, which has been demonstrated to improve educational and social outcomes for youth.

- The School Board will rebuild Falling Creek Middle School to serve the Title I population, which is currently overcrowded at the existing site. The project has been accelerated through ARP funds.

*c. Premium Pay (EC 4)*

- During 2021, the General Assembly elected to provide one-time hazard pay bonuses to Sheriff deputies who worked on the frontlines of the pandemic, maintaining security and COVID-19 safety protocols at the County Courthouse and jail facilities. The County is using ARP funds to provide the bonus to Sheriff deputies whose positions are funded by the County rather than the Virginia Compensation Board, to recognize the dedication of these employees and promote deputy retention.

*d. Revenue Replacement (EC 6)*

- The County's Information Systems Technology department will pursue needed investments in cybersecurity across the County's system of technology assets.
- The County Parks and Recreation department will pursue additional parkland, facilities, and make necessary improvements to existing parks space in light of heavy usage throughout the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Access to safe, high-quality outdoors space promotes mental health, physical activity, and social opportunities for residents with lowered risk of virus transmission.
- Utility line and transportation improvements to prepare Upper Magnolia Green sites for future uses.
- Government facility improvements to HVAC and other necessary maintenance to extend useful life of County-owned facilities.

#### Other American Rescue Plan Resources

Lastly, in addition to the \$68.5 million in ARP resources provided directly to the County, the County received both Emergency Rental Assistance round one (ERAP-1) and two (ERAP-2) funding. As of August 10th, 2021 all round one funding was distributed to more than 1,600 different households. A portion of ERAP-1 funding has also helped families currently homeless or facing homeless access resources that enable them to find or remain housed. As of August 11, 2021 Chesterfield County and its non-profit partner Area Congregations Together in Service (ACTS) RVA launched a \$6 million ERAP-2 funded rent and utility assistance program. A portion of ERAP-2 funding will be used to provide legal assistance to families facing eviction and to reduce homelessness in Chesterfield County. The program disbursed all resources before the end of FY2022. The county has given an average of \$5,210 in rent payments and \$695.12 in utility payments to 2,201 households.

#### **Promoting equitable outcomes**

Equity was a primary criterion when considering which projects would best address economic and health disparities existing within the community. With the knowledge that the pandemic could further these divides in social and economic outcomes, special attention was given to putting resources into Qualified Census Tracts and Title I schools, such as Falling Creek Middle School.

Outside of investment of ARP funds, the County has pursued equity through all operational matters. This extends to both decisions on spending, but also revenue collection. Chesterfield County provided tax relief to citizens by increasing the personal property tax exemption level from \$1,000 to \$1,500, which impacted 14,000 vehicles, and increased the personal property tax relief amount from 46% on the first \$20,000 of a vehicle's assessment to 55%.

Recognizing the importance of internet connectivity, the County's Library system purchased 100 Wi-Fi hotspots to rent out to residents. With more children participating in remote learning, and adults in a remote workforce, allowing households who can't afford to have internet access at home, the ability to do so, limits the need for families to put themselves at risk by accessing the internet in a public area.

Data also plays an important role when it comes to long-term & equitable economic development for the county. When determining where to build new schools, libraries and fire departments, the county uses a data model to better ensure geographic equity, given current population trends. Measurements such as current service level and program capacity, inform the county when making decisions about the Capital Improvement Plan. The County's [Demand Indicators Report](#) allows County leadership to see where needs for County resources are in the County, and where they be expected to arise in coming years, based on housing data and birth rates in specific areas of the County. This tool allows the County to not only predict needs for future Schools and Fire & EMS in growing areas of the County, but also to pursue generational equity. The demographics of the County continue to shift, and this resource gives County leadership data on shifts in the senior population and the school-age children population, to ensure the appropriate balance of resources for these populations with different needs from their local government.

The County has a Diversity Plan and an interdepartmental Diversity Advisory Committee. The Diversity Advisory Committee meets with department leadership, including the County Administrator, on ways to provide services with a diverse citizenry in mind and ways to foster a more inclusive workplace.

Chesterfield County approached the design of the ARP project inventory with equity in mind. While there are no outcomes available to share in this initial report, this section will speak to the intent to serve the diverse needs of the community in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The County remains the in early stages of project implementation. However, there are several identified resources to monitor the progress towards equity goals as more projects approach completion. One such resource is the [Key Financial Indicators](#), which brings local, state and national data to bear on the status of Chesterfield citizens. This resource allows County leaders to monitor indicators such as median household income, foreclosure counts, social services recipients (such as Medicaid, SNAP and TANF programs), and crime incident rates in the County in real time. New data is added as soon as it becomes available. The impact of the ARP funds as well as other targeted investments in the community will be demonstrated in this resource.

Among the public health initiatives, the Mobile Integrated Health (MIH) project stands out as an initiative which aims to promote access to healthcare for every community in Chesterfield. For many years, the nation's aging demographics have created significant strain on the 911 system

and the healthcare system globally. According to the Chesterfield County Planning department, “Since 2000, the age groups 55 and older saw the most significant growth. Those 55 to 64 grew by 108 percent while those 65 and up grew 136 percent. Chesterfield County’s population has been reaching retirement age at a fast pace and will continue to do so as Baby Boomers reach age 65. Since 2000, Chesterfield County has experienced a shift from a young population base to an increasingly aging community.” The Planning report also states that, “Poverty is another important economic indicator to consider. Chesterfield County has a poverty rate of 6.8 percent, which accounts for 23,060 individuals. While the County has a lower poverty rate compared to the region, state and nation, the number of individuals in poverty is growing with an increase of 110 percent since 2000.” The Chesterfield MIH program routinely deals with individuals, particularly the elderly, living in abject poverty. Healthcare disparities are overcome, relationships are developed with compassion and empathy, and solutions are achieved that are far beyond the capacity of what could be managed in a less innovative 911 system.

The Peak Demand Ambulance project will also promote equity in access to emergency services. A combination of historical call data and the CDC social vulnerability index was utilized to determine the areas of deployment. Analyzing these two factors, high correlations of call volume in areas with dense concentrations of elderly patients or in areas with lower socioeconomic status were noted. These units will be used to enhance our service delivery model by improving unit reliability and unit hour utilization in these areas. In addition to improving the above data metrics, the providers staffing these units may also assist in public education and outreach. These topics may include mental health, substance abuse, alternative healthcare sources, and other preventative health management.

The shift times and deployment locations of these additional ambulances will remain flexible and subject to the latest analysis of immediate and forecasted impacts on our service delivery model.

Chesterfield County has a projected call volume growth rate of 4% per year. Through the addition of these three ambulances, we expect to improve unit reliability which in turn will improve unit response times to critical calls. The addition of the three ambulances will also have an expected impact on lower socio-economic communities. Per the CDC, the reduction of social vulnerability, such as the lack of access to public transportation and preventative health services can reduce both human suffering and economic loss. Thus, the additional three ambulances will not only provide patient-centered care, but also improve healthcare access and outreach to the underserved and underinsured population.

The Chesterfield Affordable Housing Trust Fund (CAHTF) will target historically underserved groups in the County by accelerating and incentivizing on new construction and preservation with an emphasis on Qualified Census Tracts as a threshold criterion. Additional emphasis will be placed on area that align with the Qualified Allocation Plan adopted by the state housing agency Virginia Housing. Further, funded projects will agree to robust affirmative marketing requirements for new residents that focus on families earning up to 60% of area median income. The launch of this program will be publicized by staff and notification will be directly provided to non-profit and private housing developers. Once available units are completed, they will be provided to regional affordable housing partners, such as the Partnership for Housing Affordability and the County’s Department of Social Services to refer income qualifying individuals.

New parkland and facility development is also being targeted to serve members of the community who were more adversely impacted by the pandemic. The County will purchase and develop parks to increase availability of recreational activities in underserved areas of the County. This parkland development aims to increase available field time for local use by youth and adult leagues and individual play; provide additional open space park facilities for safe use during pandemic restrictions; and encourage physical and mental health benefits from exercise, team sport participation, and being outdoors. The County works closely with the sports leagues to promote open participation by all citizens and most organizations have scholarships and other programs to work with persons and families to overcome barriers. The site is free to use by individual users and rental fees for reserved field use can be waived for team and other user groups, to remove barriers to participation. Additional fields will increase capacity for community organization to utilize the facilities. Added capacity of recreational facilities will be communicated via County social media platforms, service advertising, and existing co-sponsored arrangements with athletic leagues to promote use.

The enhancements to public safety in the community through the acquisition of land for a new Midlothian police station to promote visibility in the area is intended to reduce violent crime rates in areas of the community more severely impacted by the negative economic consequences of the pandemic. The area that the new station serves has a higher incidence of poverty and crime than the other police districts in our jurisdiction. Historically, marginalized communities are statistically more likely to be the victims of crime. Additionally, the Police department believes that the ability of marginalized communities to access the new station will be better because it will be substantially more visible to the public than the current station. The creation of a Real Time Crime Center will contribute further to reduce incidence of violence crime in the community, by identifying trends in real time to deploy public safety resources most effectively. The department will monitor crime rates as these additional resources are implemented in the community to determine the impact of these interventions on the pandemic-related increases in crime in disadvantaged communities within the County.

## **Community Engagement**

As the County developed its plan to implement the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds, a variety of public engagement efforts took place to gather feedback from the community. These engagement efforts were aligned with outreach that has been successful during the annual budget development process. In addition to being on the agenda for several public Board of Supervisors meetings, including the Audit and Finance Committee, and a public hearing on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2021. The County's Citizen Budgetary Advisory Committee has also been briefed on the planned uses of funds and provided opportunities to give feedback on the progress of the Recovery Plan. In all public media releases discussing upcoming community engagement events regarding the ARP funds, the County's [blueprint@chesterfield.gov](mailto:blueprint@chesterfield.gov) address for public comment has been shared with the community.

Two Facebook Live events were held on June 15<sup>th</sup> and July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021, sharing the County's intended uses of funds. The community was encouraged to submit questions ahead of time, and questions were also accepted during the meetings through the Facebook comment feature. These videos were recorded and remain available after the initial viewing, so members of the community could submit questions or feedback and view regardless of schedule conflicts.



The County's Budget and Management department continually accepts and responds to feedback on the uses of these funds through the Blueprint Chesterfield email address and by phone. Additionally, the Department of Constituent Services coordinates the public communications efforts as the County progresses through its established ARP Recovery Plan.

The County continues to include the educate the community on the ARP Recovery Plan. A public hearing was held on May 26, 2022 to discuss proposed amendments to the plan, in response to shifting needs in the community and in response to the final rule issued by the U.S. Department of the Treasury. The FY2022 and FY2023 Adopted Budget and Capital Improvement Program documents both included summaries of the County's ARP funds. Lastly, the County discusses the impact of these federal dollars on all public engagement on financial matters, including the latest information campaign on the 2022 bond referendum.

The County has pursued engagement strategies that preserve discussion for those who cannot attend or view the session live to provide equal access to those who have been traditionally underserved by public meetings, for whom attending public meetings at certain times of day or in certain areas of the County is difficult. Additionally, the County continually monitors feedback received on the [blueprint@chesterfield.gov](mailto:blueprint@chesterfield.gov) email account for feedback outside of regularly scheduled engagement on the topic.

## **Labor Practices**

The Chesterfield County Procurement Department includes several provisions in all contracts, including its commitment to diversity, which states that diversity provides for a dynamic and robust community that promotes growth. Chesterfield County believes that all of its citizens should benefit from this economic growth without regard to race, color, religion or economic status. The County is committed to increasing the opportunities for participation of minority-owned businesses, service-disabled veteran-owned businesses, small businesses, women-owned businesses, and businesses located in Chesterfield County to ensure diversity in its procurement and contract activities. These businesses are encouraged to respond to all solicitations. In addition, the County strongly encourages each Contractor and/or supplier with which the County contracts to actively solicit minority-owned businesses, service-disabled veteran-owned businesses, small businesses, women-owned businesses, and businesses located in the County as subcontractors/suppliers for their projects. Upon award/completion of work, the County will require the Contractor to furnish data regarding subcontractor/supplier activity with minority-owned businesses, service-disabled veteran-owned businesses, small businesses, women-owned businesses, and businesses located in Chesterfield County on a Certification of Subcontractor/Supplier Activity form. The form will be provided to the Contractor by the Procurement Department. This information will enable the County to document the dollar level of activity and measure the success of its purchasing and contracting efforts in this endeavor.

In addition, the County includes a drug-free workplace provision, stating that during the performance of this contract, the Contractor agrees to provide a drug-free workplace for the Contractor's employees. For the purposes of this provision, "drug-free workplace" means a site for the performance of work done in connection with a specific contract awarded to a Contractor in accordance with this chapter, the employees of whom are prohibited from engaging in the

unlawful manufacture, sale, distribution, dispensation, possession or use of any controlled substance or marijuana during the performance of the contract.

Contractors are also held to employment discrimination standards. This states that the contractor will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, religion, color, sex, national origin, age, disability, or any other basis prohibited by state law relating to discrimination in employment, except where there is a bona fide occupational qualification reasonably necessary to the normal operation of the Contractor. The Contractor agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices setting forth the provisions of this nondiscrimination clause.

Lastly, a provision of the Virginia Public Procurement Act states that whenever the lowest responsive and responsible bidder is a resident of any other state and such state under its laws allows a resident contractor of that state a percentage preference, a like preference shall be allowed to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder who is a resident of Virginia and is the next lowest bidder. If the lowest responsive and responsible bidder is a resident of any other state and such state under its laws allows a resident contractor of that state a price-matching preference, a like preference shall be allowed to responsive and responsible bidders who are residents of Virginia.

## **Use of Evidence**

In selecting projects, Chesterfield County prioritized evidence-based interventions to meet the unique set of needs facing the community more than a year into the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition to consulting the available data in determining the most effective interventions, the County will also monitor performance as these projects are implemented to determine effectiveness in the community. More details on evidence are available in the project inventory.

By applicable Expenditure Category, amount of funds allocated to evidence-based interventions are as follows:

### 2.15-Long-Term Housing Security: Affordable Housing

Affordable Housing Program

Funding amount: \$4,000,000

Amount Supported by Evidence: \$4,000,000

A robust body of scholarship shows how affordable housing funds create stable housing which does not financial burden the resident household and leads to positive gains for the household and surrounding community in numerous ways. The benefits are apparent in both the short run and the long run through better health status, higher educational obtainment leading to hire earnings, and decreased need for other types of social assistance. Affordable housing alleviates crowding and makes more household resources available to pay for health care and healthy food, which leads to better health outcomes. High-quality housing limits exposure to environmental toxins that impact health. Living in quality housing is associated with higher kindergarten readiness scores.

Recent studies highlighting the current and projected need for affordable housing in Chesterfield County area available from PlanRVA and the Richmond Partnership for Housing Affordability.

PlanRVA completed a regional Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing for the Richmond region municipalities in 2020. This report details current housing needs and barriers affecting families and households' access to quality housing in Chesterfield County. The report is available at [https://planrva.org/wp-content/uploads/Greater-Richmond-Tri-Cities-Analysis-of-Impediments-to-Fair-Housing-Choice-2020\\_Region.pdf](https://planrva.org/wp-content/uploads/Greater-Richmond-Tri-Cities-Analysis-of-Impediments-to-Fair-Housing-Choice-2020_Region.pdf)

The Richmond Partnership for Housing Affordability conducted a thorough analysis of regional housing needs over the next 20 years, including the increased need for affordable housing due to reduced real wage growth relative to the increased cost of housing construction. The results of their research can be found here: <https://pharva.com/research/>

## 2.22-Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

### New Parkland and Facility Development

Funding amount: \$7,495,000

Amount Supported by Evidence: \$7,495,000

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Natural Learning Initiative at North Carolina State University found positive impacts on early education from time spent playing outdoors. In addition, evidence supports a disproportionate impact on urban, low-income neighborhoods where access to outdoor learning environments is not available.

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, a North Carolina State University report also states that the early childhood health is impacted during COVID-19 and beyond by access to outdoor recreation. Improvements to outdoor facilities reduce risk of disease and improve other health and educational outcomes.

## 1.11-Community Violence Interventions

### Midlothian Police Station Land Acquisition

Funding amount: \$1,500,000

Amount Supported by Evidence: \$1,500,000

Studies have shown that police presence is a deterrent to crime. Recent regional studies have discussed the impact of maintaining steady blue lights on patrol vehicles to increase awareness of police presence, which had a strong impact on criminal activity. This is a concept of crime deterrence called police omnipresence. Since this study was conducted, the Commonwealth of Virginia changed its traffic code to allow police officers in Virginia to use such steady burning lights while on patrol because it was judged to be an effective deterrent to crime. Chesterfield County itself found in the late 2000s and early 2010s that the presence of obviously marked cars in areas with high amounts of gratuitous gunfire substantially reduced the incidence of such criminal activity. The institution of a highly visible police precinct is intended to have a similar impact on the Chesterfield community, where incidence of crime has grown in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The new police station will proactively provide stronger visibility and deterrence to crime in the area and allow the County to protect citizens from crime before it occurs.

### Real Time Crime Center

Funding amount: \$2,357,600

Amount Supported by Evidence: \$2,357,600

A Real Time Crime Center (RTCC) has the ability to reduce crime in a given area through the use of technology. It provides a tool that can help identify criminal behavior through less intrusive means than flooding an area with police officers. By focusing on those activities that are criminal in nature, police can deploy staff more efficiently, to surgically address those activities without using widespread enforcement activities that can damage police and community relations.

Studies have found that RTCCs can have an impact on criminal activity within a jurisdictional area. The use of technology to provide actionable information in the real-time has resulted in reductions of violent and other crimes.

## Performance Report

Performance measures are described below for each project included in the Chesterfield American Rescue Plan Act program. In addition, two dashboards have data available for the community, posted in real time. They are available at:

[Demand Indicators Report](#)

[Key Financial Indicators Report](#)

Lastly, the County incorporates performance management in all budgeting decisions. Each year, the budget document includes updates on key indicators for each service area, defined by departmental programs, matched to identified output and outcome measures.

## Telework Support Indicators

*Office Modifications, Technology*

Expenditure categories: 1.4 Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, Childcare facilities, etc.)

- Number of employees rendered safer through completion of the various sub-projects.
- Status of COVID cases among County employees
- Percentage of remote-enabled conference rooms
- Percentage of County employees fully equipped to telework

*Projects have not yet been completed. Indicators will be included in future reports.*

## Parks and Recreation Project Indicators

*New Parkland and Facility Development, Major Maintenance and Park Site Enhancements*

Expenditure categories: 2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety, 6.1 Provision of Government Services

Park Site	Total Annual Visitors
Appomattox	93,525
Bensley Park	274,724
Bird Complex	178,429
Chester Linear Trail	13,047
Clover Hill Complex	92,008
Daniel Park	745,272
Davis Complex	68,135
Dodd Park	854,000

Dutch Gap/Henricus	158,819
Ettrick Park	611,524
Ettrick VSU Trail	5,810
FC Linear Trail	23,941
GC Lucy Corr Trail	10,464
GC Main Trail	14,266
Goyne Park	201,536
Greenfield Complex	66,972
Harrowgate Park (not operational)	0
Henricus Park	157,373
Huguenot Park	329,951
Lake Chesdin Park	29,902
Manchester HS Car	241,081
Manchester MS Car	46,559
Matoaca Park	265,186
Midlothian Mines Lake Trail	158,100
Midlothian Mines Main Trail	72,787
River City SportsPlex	153,053
Robious Complex	210,862
Robious Landing	346,872
Rockwood Park	656,936
Stratton Park	244,471
Woodlake Complex	87,005
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,412,610</b>

<b>Trail Site</b>	<b>Total Annual Visitors</b>
Chester Linear Trail	13,047
Daniel Main Trail	21,738
Dodd White Trail	57,032
Dutch Gap Cons Area Trail	42,164
Ettrick Park Trail	21,454
Ettrick VSU Trail	5,810
FC Linear Trail	23,941
GC Lucy Corr Trail	10,464
GC Main Trail	14,266
Huguenot White Trail	62,608
Matoaca Parking Trail (closed due to construction)	-
Midlothian Mines Lake Trail	158,100
Midlothian Mines Main Trail	72,787
Radcliffe Main Trail	11,534
Robious Landing Trail	60,246
Rockwood Inner Loop (added July 2019)	31,148
Rockwood Orange Trail	10,386
Rockwood White Trail	40,150
<b>Total</b>	<b>656,875</b>

#### FY2022 Co-sponsored Groups Served:

- Served 26,740 youth co-sponsored participants
- Served 3,358 adult co-sponsored participants
- Outdoor facilities (fields, courts) booked for co-sponsored groups: 38,216
- Indoor facilities (gyms, cafeterias, classrooms) booked for co-sponsored groups: 4,109

#### FY2022 Public Rental Participants Served:

- Served 183,652 participants through public rentals of fields and courts
- Outdoor facilities (fields, courts) rented for public use: 4,541

FY2022 Hotel room stays in County: 26,000+

### **Schools Project Indicators**

#### *Falling Creek Middle School Construction*

Expenditure categories: 2.24 Addressing Educational Disparities: Aid to High-Poverty Districts

- Construction of Falling Creek Middle School
- Ratio of student enrollment to facility program capacity
- SOL scores for students enrolled at Falling Creek Middle School

*Project has not yet been completed. Indicators will be included in future reports.*

#### Additional Required Indicators

Addressing Educational Disparities (EC 2.24-2.26) and Addressing Impacts of Lost Instructional Time (EC 2.27):

- Number of students participating in evidence-based tutoring programs: 4,271 students served through ESSER program.

### **Fire & EMS Indicators**

#### *Mobile Integrated Health, Peak Demand Ambulance*

Expenditure categories: 1.14 Other Public Health Services

The Chesterfield Fire and EMS Mobile Integrated Healthcare Program utilizes the ImageTrend platform to capture data. It has been configured specifically to assimilate the data most critical to our MIH clients, which is often much broader than the data gathered by Emergency Operations and incorporates many more agencies. This allows MIH to track data points in addition to demographics, such as referral source, reason for referral and outside agencies involved in patient collaboration. It provides a platform for patient history and assessment findings, discharge planning and coordination, and obtaining patient information release signatures necessary for HIPAA compliance. One of the most beneficial features of this data collection program is the ability to utilize power tools and worksheets to standardize the intake process. Some of the tools currently in the system are the PHQ-9 for depression screening, the Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Scale (COWS), Activities of Daily Living (ADL), Home Risk and Fall Assessment and Diabetes, CHF and Asthma assessment tools. The program is also currently evaluating the ImageTrend Community Health module, which would provide further capabilities in data tracking and analysis and allow for more comprehensive integration with Emergency Operations' ImageTrend software.

Data tracking is also performed with the concurrent utilization of an Excel spreadsheet. Program success is measured in part by a reduction in call volume, tracked prior to MIH referral, while enrolled in the program, and one year after discharge. The effects are cumulative, as a

reduction in one year call volume will continue into future years and continue to create a reduction in call volume even though it is not tracked indefinitely. Over 400 frequent utilizers of the 911 system have been engaged annually by MIH using the referrals provided from operations and other sources. This number climbed to 571 in 2021 and in 2022 is on pace for almost 700. Since MIH's inception, more than 2700 citizens have been assisted by its providers. These individuals have accounted for approximately 11,000 calls prior to intervention, 5,000 calls during and only 3,000 one year after being discharged from the program. This equates to a savings of approximately 1750 calls each year, or 3.6% of current CFEMS call volume of 48,000 calls per year. In addition to improving patient quality of life, this relieves a significant burden on the 911 and healthcare systems and creates a considerable cost savings.

Measures:

- Number of 911 calls before, during and one year after intervention
- Deaths caused or contributed to by drug use in Chesterfield County
- Unit reliability, unit hour utilization
- Response time and time to definitive care
- Patient satisfaction ratings
- Clinical outcomes
- Provision of enhanced healthcare options to patients
- Identification of candidates for the County's MIH services, including substance abuse and facilitating access to other social services

*Mobile Integrated Health and the Peak Demand Ambulance programs have not operated for a full year. Indicators will be included in future reports.*

## **Community Enhancement Indicators**

*Affordable Housing Trust Fund*

Expenditure categories: 2.15 Long-Term Housing Security: Affordable Housing

### Required Indicators

#### a. Housing Support (EC 3.10-3.12):

- Number of people or households receiving eviction prevention services (including legal representation). Note: This required measure will not be relevant to County's intervention. In partnership with Area Congregations Together in Service (ACTS), Chesterfield has distributed federal aid designated for its Emergency Rent and Utility Assistance Program. The county has given an average of \$5,210 in rent payments and \$695.12 in utility payments to 2,201 households.
- Number of affordable housing units developed: 0

## **Police Indicators**

*Midlothian Police Station Land Acquisition, Real Time Crime Center*

Expenditure categories: 1.11 Community Violence Interventions

- Construction of Police station: Not yet complete
- Number of dispatched, police officer initiated, desk officer reports, and officer assist calls for service (total inquires via phone, on-line, and walkup per year): Calls for Service & Assists 254,780; Police Activities 322,485; 577,265 combined
- IBR Group A Incidents: 3,853 per 100,000 residents
- IBR Group A Clearance Rate: 42%

- Time Measures between crime reporting and resolution/arrest: Average response time for Priority 1 calls (call to arrive) is 4.42 min

*Real Time Crime Center and construction of Midlothian Police Station are still in progress. Additional program measures to be added with new data collection capabilities associated with Real Time Crime Center.*

#### Additional Required Indicators

Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2):

- Number of workers enrolled in sectoral job training programs: Estimated ~2,000 for 2020-2021 academic year
- Number of workers completing sectoral job training programs: 1,948 completed certificate programs and 2-year degrees for the 2019-2020 academic year
- Number of people participating in summer youth employment programs: 22 summer interns employed by Chesterfield County

#### **Sheriff Indicators**

*Sheriff Deputy Premium/Hazard Pay Bonuses*

Expenditure categories: 4.1 Public Sector Employees

- Sheriff deputy retention rate: 4.5% average over FY2022
- Percent of mandatory inspections completed in compliance with department policies and procedures and the Code of Virginia: 100%
- Percent of days with no incidences of inmate violence towards other inmates or deputies: 95%
- Percent of successful VLEPSC accreditation through annual report and 4-year reaccreditation audit: 100%

### PROJECT INVENTORY

#### **Midlothian Police Station Land Acquisition**

Funding amount: \$1,500,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.11 Community Violence Interventions

#### Project Overview

Chesterfield County will leverage American Rescue Plan Act funds to purchase land to accelerate the construction of a new police station. The land will be in an identified economic revitalization area, and the station will be designed and used to provide improved public safety services to the community as part of a departmental reorganization and to support County revitalization efforts in the immediate area.

The purchase of the land will be immediate. The building will be designed and sent out for bid in accordance with Virginia's government acquisition requirements. Construction is targeted to complete the building within approximately two years.



## Use of Evidence

The project's full \$1,500,000 expenditure is supported by evidence.

The new police station is a replacement building of an old station that is hidden behind a small double storefront on a spur road that does not have a high traffic count. It is poorly located for the transportation network and does not provide any visible presence. The existing station is 22 years old and was an adaptive reuse of an abandoned fast-food restaurant. It is not a modern facility by any stretch and lacks appropriate infrastructure for police use.

The new station will be prominently placed on one of the County's most-travelled roadways and will be visible from one of the region's busiest limited access freeways. The nature of the transportation network and the patrol beats will substantially increase the physical presence of the police in this area, both through the presence of the building and the marked police vehicle traffic.

Police presence is a deterrent to crime (Di Tella & Schargrodsky, 2004). This includes the presence and travel of marked vehicles in an area (Sherman & Weisburd, 1995; Mann & Goldman, 2004). Several years ago, the DC Metro Police Department had patrol officers turn on steady burning blue lights on top of their patrol vehicles specifically to increase their presence in the area by being more obvious that a police officer was driving through. Then-chief Cathy Lanier indicated the department found a strong effect on criminal activity. This is a concept of crime deterrence called police omnipresence. Some time after, the Commonwealth of Virginia changed its traffic code to allow police officers in Virginia to use such steady burning lights while on patrol because it was judged to be an effective deterrent to crime. Chesterfield County itself found in the late 2000s and early 2010s that the presence of obviously marked cars in areas with high amounts of gratuitous gunfire substantially reduced the incidence of such criminal activity.

The new station would increase the visible presence of police vehicles in the revitalization area as they travel to and from the station for administrative and criminal duties. While the police typically proactively patrol in beats rather than reactively waiting at the station, they have frequent needs to visit their assigned station during a shift. Currently, such visits are to a location that provides virtually no public visibility.

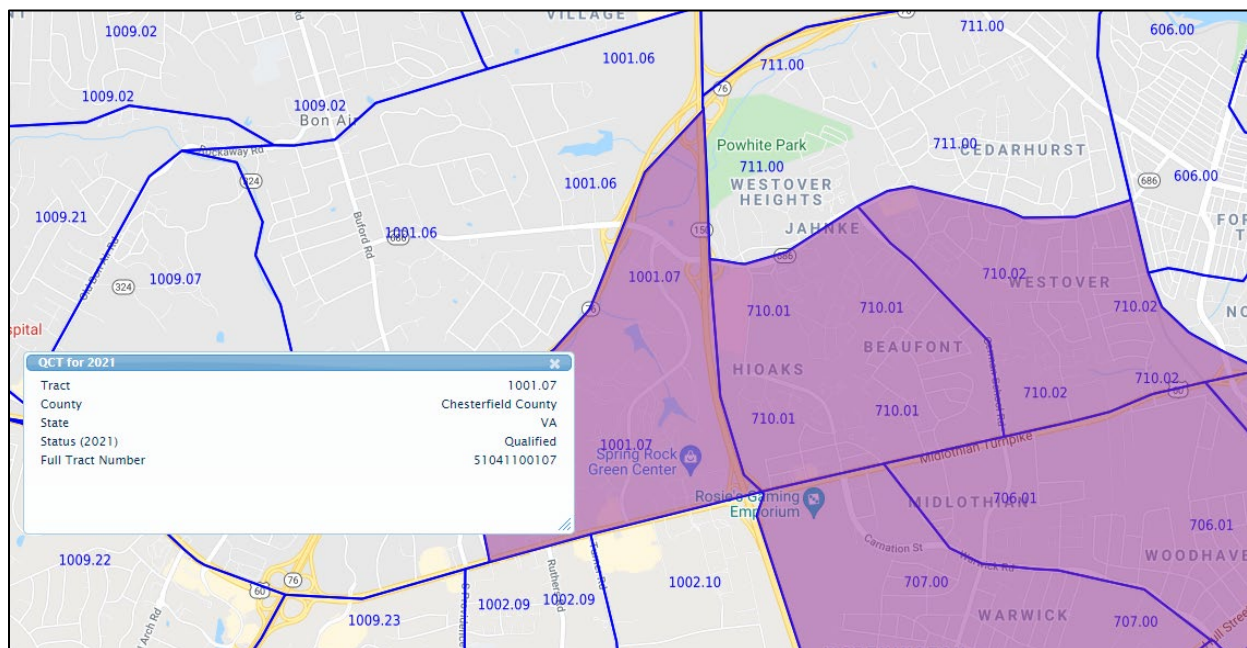
While there are no direct studies on the effect of police stations on crime in the immediate vicinity, it is well-known that environmental factors, such as building placement and design, impact criminal activity (Pritchard, 2014). An obverse study in Germany (Blesse & Diegmann, 2019) showed that centralizing local police patrol functions and closing precinct facilities resulted in an increase in certain property crime (violent crime was not studied). While not in the United States, Germany is a good proxy in that it utilizes a federalist system of government such as we do and its modern police system was instituted in conjunction with the Allies after WWII based on the British democratic policing model also used in the United States.

This concept of presence is an important one. Routine Activity Theory, a prominent criminological theory first discussed by Cohen & Felson (1980), indicates one of important factors in the incidence of crime is the lack of a capable guardian or the lack of presence of one. Later work on the theory indicated that place keepers can be used by guardians to mark out that a location or area is cared for and protected, dissuading the criminally minded from victimizing people or property there. Such place keepers can include prominent environmental factors (such as a highly visible police precinct) or evidence of a caretaker's presence or potential presence (such as marked police cars driving in an area).

The purpose of the police is often misunderstood to be to react to crime once it occurs. But the original creation of the modern police concept indicated that the first duty of police officers was to prevent crime and disorder (Peel, 1829). The use of police uniforms and marked cars provides a visible presence in our communities. The new police station will provide stronger visibility and deterrence to crime in the area and allow Chesterfield to protect citizens more effectively from crime before it occurs.

### Services to Disadvantaged Community

The location of the new police station is within the Spring Rock Green Center, which is located within the qualified census tract (QCT) 1001.7. QCTs are shaded purple in the attached map.



The County's Economic Development Authority recently worked with private development to revitalize a large area across a major road from the site. The site itself is located immediately adjacent to a large swath of land being acquired by the same EDA. The area surrounding the site has higher than average indicators of economic distress, social outcomes, and crime. Of note, the County worked to revitalize the area without impacting or gentrifying existing housing, instead working with developers to use infill development on greenfield land and redevelopment of underused/abandoned commercial structures and large underutilized/unused parking lots.

As part of a recent bond referendum, the County government rehabilitated or reconstructed two middle schools that serve the same area the police station will service, increased commercial activity to include a large grocery store, added a substantial number of multifamily housing, and built a large recreational facility in the area. The new section will include increased multifamily housing, commercial and office facilities, and an improvement in the transportation network.

The Police Department recently adopted a new district and beat plan that will be phased in over several years. While there are several goals of the plan, a substantial consideration was supporting the County's Revitalization Plan and Comprehensive Plan, which include roadmaps

for improved services to disadvantaged areas. The Police Department had not redesigned its district (precinct) structure for over 30 years, during which time the County's population has nearly doubled. Relatedly, the beat structure has not been redesigned in 14 years. The station, to be named the Falling Creek Station after the patrol district it will serve, will change the paradigm under which police services are delivered to the area. Specifically, it is increasing the number of beat officers available to respond to crime or provide other services in the district and providing citizens with more focused community, supervisory, and command personnel able to concentrate on the area and accessible to the people who live and work there.

While the prevention of crime is hard to measure, the perception and trust of citizens in community safety impacts the delivery of other services, such as education, health, and social needs. One of the goals of locating a police station at the specific site is to better support the revitalization of this area by providing a safe environment to live in, access community services or use community facilities, or attend school or work in. As explained above, physical presence is a key issue to crime prevention and perceptions of safety and the location of the station will allow the Police Department to provide that.

### References

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### **Real Time Crime Center**

Funding amount: \$2,357,600

Project Expenditure Category: 1.11 Community Violence Interventions

### Project Overview

The Real Time Crime Center (RTCC) will provide the law enforcement entities within Chesterfield County the capability to leverage advanced technologies to deter, detect and react to crime as it happens along with improving responses to natural and manmade disasters. These new technologies enable law enforcement officers and other emergency services to immediately respond to events efficiently and effectively. Advancements in technology will enable the Chesterfield RTCC to integrate sensors, alarms, intelligence, and a myriad of data sources into actionable information to enhance responses in a deliberate and focused manner to improve community safety (U.S. Department of Justice, 2017). A new capability for

Chesterfield County, once operational, it will quickly become the center of gravity for County emergency services, critical to efficient and effective operations.

### Use of Evidence

An RTCC has the ability to reduce crime in a given area through the use of technology. It provides a tool that can help identify criminal behavior through less intrusive means than flooding an area with police officers. By focusing on those activities that are criminal in nature, police can surgically address those activities, without using widespread enforcement activities that can damage police/community relations.

Studies have found that RTCCs can have an impact on criminal activity within a jurisdictional area. The use of technology to provide actionable information in the real-time has resulted in reductions of violent and other crimes.

The entire amount allocated for funding is going towards the design and building of the center.

### Service to Disadvantaged Communities

Disadvantaged communities often suffer with greater levels of crime. An area where increased crime exists can result in additional environmental stressors for the families that live in those communities (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2016). Poverty, reduction of educational opportunities, and over-policing can all result from endemic crime and affect the overall outcomes of the residents.

The Law of Crime Concentration identifies that criminals in a community with higher crime rates are often located in a small area localized to a few streets (Weisburd, 2015). The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development states, "Exposure to violent crime damages the health and development of victims, family members, and entire communities. Low-income people and racial and ethnic minorities are disproportionately affected."

The provided funds are designated to develop a system that would allow for a focused approach towards crime reduction and reimagining the traditional methods of flooding an area with police to reduce crime. While effective in some respects, these traditional methods can create distrust among disadvantaged communities and their police departments. A RTCC seeks to use a "speargun" approach rather than throwing a widespread net to apprehend criminals who victimize communities.

The RTCC seeks to utilize technology to identify those who commit crimes while, at the same time, reducing the intrusion on the larger community who live in the area. Reducing crime in underserved communities can improve the outcomes for those residents.

The efforts of the RTCC will be focused on improving the living conditions of those communities where violent and property crimes are the highest with the goal of improving overall outcomes. These same communities are also economically disadvantaged with many residents falling below the poverty line.

### References

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### **Telework Support - Office Modifications**

Funding amount: \$1,700,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.4 Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, Childcare facilities, etc.)

#### Project Overview

This project will complete a systematic evaluation, design and renovation of workspaces to ensure they are secure, employ efficient and effective space planning/management strategies (recognizing the post-COVID evolution of the workplace) and utilize techniques to aid in reducing the possibility of disease transmission/spread.

This project will include three phases: groups identification, hybrid group needs analysis, and implementation.

#### *Step 1 – Groups Identification*

Department Directors will classify their employees into one of three categories:

- (1) On-Site Only – Positions whose job duties require an on-site or active in-the-field presence to perform work successfully (e.g., public safety operations personnel, courts functions, utility plant personnel, vehicle technicians, facilities maintenance and custodial staff, cashiers, select human services functions, etc.).
- (2) Non-Place Dependent – Positions whose duties require zero to minimal on-site or in-the-field presence to perform work successfully and can be effective through telework arrangements all/almost all the time (e.g., certain administrative staff, risk management, etc.).
- (3) Hybrid – Positions whose duties require less on-site or in-field presence than an On-Site Only employee but who still require a recurring level of on-site or in-the-field presence to perform the work successfully but can also telework some of the time (e.g., select administrative staff, procurement, etc.).

For the On-Site Only and Non-Place Dependent groups, General Services would take no further action. With IT resources previously provided, these groups are already positioned to work successfully either in the office or at home.

#### *Step 2 – Hybrid Group Needs Analysis*

The County’s past approach has been to build and allocate space on a single-person to single-desk standard, thus significant immediate changes are not required in terms of ensuring adequate space. General Services would first implement an evaluation period of approximately 12 months where departments would be required to work with current resources and office layouts to allow adequate time for analysis of challenges and potential solutions. Exigent needs and opportunities for space consolidation would be addressed on a case-by-case basis during this evaluation period. Small-scale security/disease transmission prevention projects that do not

impact future larger scale space planning/management would still be completed during this time.

### *Step 3 – Implementation*

Once the evaluation period is complete, we would conduct a space reconfiguration “open enrollment” period whereby Directors could request reconfiguration projects via a standardized process which would require development of a complete justification and business case. In addition to holistically identifying requests, this method will allow us to see the bigger picture and make organization-wide decisions. Beyond this, we will be able to leverage our holistic space study, security assessment and facility condition data in the decision-making process.

Once requests from Directors are evaluated, we would utilize consultant resources (likely the same group that performed the space planning/space management analysis) to assist with evaluation and development of specific projects. Contractors would then be employed to complete all necessary work.

### **Telework Support - Technology**

Funding amount: \$340,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.4 Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, Childcare facilities, etc.)

#### Project Overview

As the requirements and preferences for employees to perform duties while socially distancing from home continue through the pandemic, the need to provide technology to further enhance the ability to work at home and to facilitate collaboration between workers in and outside the office has become more important than ever.

This project will enable more remote County employees to telework with a workstation like the standard office setup which will increase their efficiency. This project will also enhance selected conference rooms across the County complex with hardware to allow for collaboration between workers in the office and workers elsewhere. These efforts will allow these employees to continue to serve the citizens of Chesterfield while minimizing their possibility of exposure and maximizing their productivity.

This project will begin in the Summer of 2022 and continue for 12 months. Chesterfield County IST will work with its partners to order and receive the necessary hardware and, in the case of the specialized equipment for the conference rooms, to install, configure, and test the installations.

### **Mobile Integrated Health**

Funding amount: \$1,229,000

Project Expenditure Category: 1.14 Other public health services

#### Project Overview

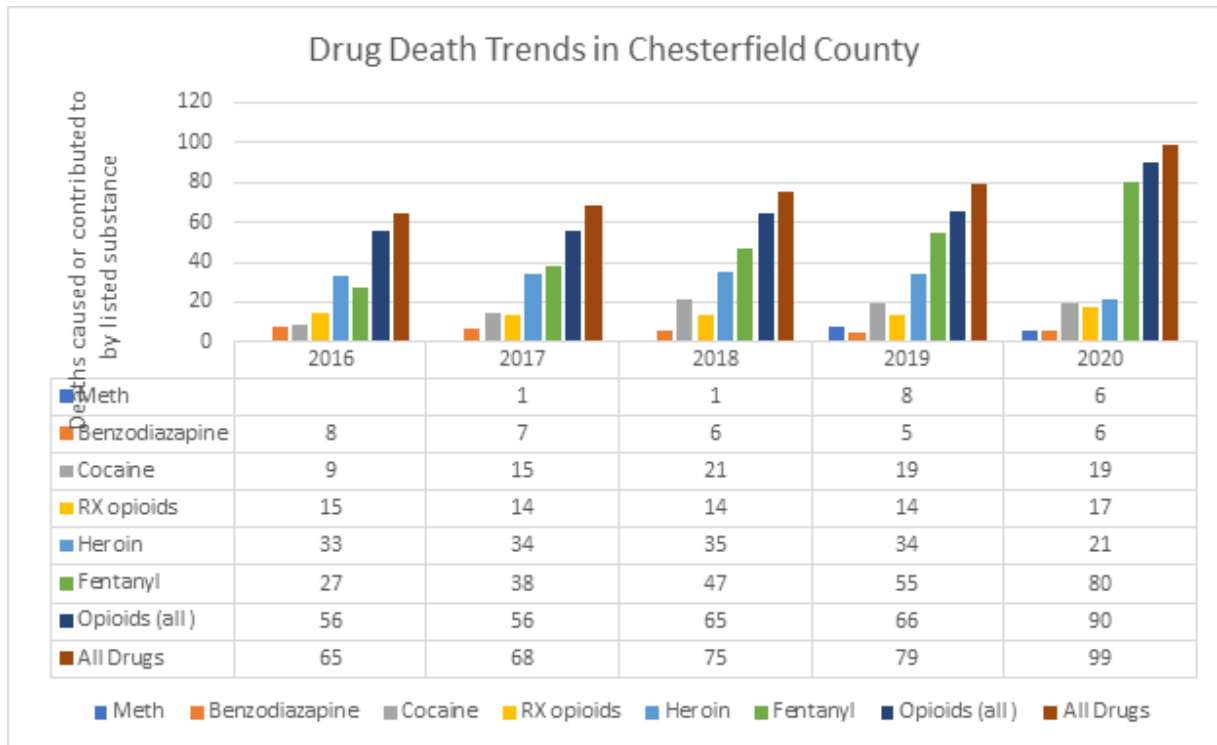
The Chesterfield Fire and EMS Mobile Integrated Healthcare Program (MIH) has been providing exceptional service to the citizens of Chesterfield County as a pilot program since 2014. The County is leveraging American Rescue Plan funds to make this program a permanent fixture in the County’s public safety system. The goal of the program is to address the unmet needs of

Chesterfield's citizens, typically after making frequent 911 calls for non-emergent causes, by developing a comprehensive network of relationships with various organizations. These may be governmental, non-governmental, hospitals, home health, charitable, private, non-profit or any other willing to partner with MIH to meet the diverse needs of its clientele. The strength of the program is the ability and willingness to develop relationships with citizens in need, determine what their goals are and what resources they have available or are eligible for, and collaborate internally and externally to locate and mobilize those resources. By doing so MIH not only improves the lives of citizens but decreases the call load in an already overtaxed 911 system and plays a role in helping to alleviate emergency room overcrowding. This allows those resources to be utilized for people experiencing an emergency where their timely availability may be the difference between life and death.

As a pilot program, the personnel assigned to MIH have been reassigned from Emergency Operations and the funding has been reallocated from the operations budget. The program has proven to be highly effective and American Rescue Plan Act funding will be utilized to expand its reach and capability while establishing a sustainable financial foundation going forward. The expansion and conversion from a pilot to an established program will be done with the addition of two Firefighter/Paramedics to handle the ever-increasing call volume and number of citizens that MIH providers are able to assist.

The ongoing national emergency created by COVID-19 has tested the nation and the healthcare system in unprecedented ways and the CFEMS MIH program has been uniquely positioned to step in with solutions. MIH helped develop and implement a program to provide vaccinations to homebound citizens and over 350 individuals were provided a COVID-19 vaccine in their own homes. These people were still susceptible to COVID due to contact with family and caregivers and MIH's service to this at-risk community prevented further illness, loss of life and healthcare costs. MIH is uniquely positioned to implement programs such as this that less innovative 911 systems are not.

Another epidemic in Chesterfield County and the nation that has been worsened significantly by the pandemic has been the opioid and addiction crisis. People have dealt with isolation and loss of support networks by turning increasingly to drugs and alcohol. According to the 2020 medical examiner's summary report, 400 individuals lost their lives last year to overdoses across the Central Virginia region which represents a 41% increase over the previous year. MIH has a Peer Recovery Specialist embedded within the team from the Community Services Board who reaches out to victims of overdose to attempt to help them into recovery. Since the beginning of this partnership in 2017, outreach has been done to almost 500 people suffering from addiction and approximately 25% of them accept some level of assistance up to and including Medication Assisted Treatment. The table below shows the unfortunate upward trend in drug-related deaths in Chesterfield County, which worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic.



### Peak Demand Ambulance

Funding amount: \$1,334,700

Project Expenditure Category: 1.14 Other public health services

#### Project Overview

The rise and continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic over the last eighteen months has emphasized and further increased the imbalance to healthcare access and care in our communities. Not only have our patient population and our EMS providers been met with a new medical condition to manage, but many of our citizens have lost income, health insurance, and their regular healthcare routine. Subsequently, many patients have turned to emergency medical services to fill that gap. While this type of EMS use is not new to the County, the impact of COVID-19 has caused a significant impact in emergency medical service delivery and patient transport, putting a strain on our current service model.

This project is designed to add the staffing for three additional peak time ambulances to the current ambulance staffing deployment. The additional staff members would be hired with a planned start date of January 2022 and a unit deployment date of summer 2022. The addition of these ambulances will help to improve service delivery and the equity of healthcare delivery among the County's most vulnerable and underserved patients.



## **Affordable Housing Program**

Funding amount: \$4,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.15 Long-term Housing Security: Affordable Housing

### Project Overview

The primary purpose of the Chesterfield Affordable Housing Program (CAHP) is to provide financial resources to address the deficit of quality affordable housing for individuals and families who live in the County through gap financing to increase the production of affordable housing units. The CAHP is intended to provide flexible, local funding that complements other funding for housing related activities and provides gap financing to move challenging projects to completion. In this regard, the fund will be used to leverage other public, private, and philanthropic funding.

The value and usefulness of a housing trust fund is attributable, in large part, to its inherent flexibility. They can be designed to serve the most critical housing needs in the County, whatever those may be – from establishing long term affordable rental housing for families with the lowest incomes to supporting homeownership, funding new construction as well as rehabilitation that can revitalize neighborhoods, and addressing the needs of special populations.

CAHP resources will be strategically deployed to preserve and produce quality long term affordable housing and provide support for non-profit and for-profit organizations that actively address the Affordable Housing needs of low- and moderate-income households in Chesterfield County.

The first round of funding will be deployed as early as Q2 of 2022, and all funding awarded to projects by Q4 of 2024. Projects receiving funding will be substantially complete by December 31, 2026.

### Use of Evidence

The goal of this project is to increase the number of affordable housing units available to Chesterfield low-moderate income residents. The Chesterfield Affordable Housing Program (CAHP) will provide resources to a limited number of developments. The entirety of the planned \$4,000,000 in CAHP funds will be used for an evidence-based intervention; the intervention is the creation of flexible source of capital that will produce safe, secure, and economically affordable housing. Entities requesting funding will be rigorously vetted and ranked against other requests for funding.

A robust, deep and encompassing amount of scholarship shows how affordable housing trust funds create stable housing which does not financial burden the resident household and leads to positive gains for the household and surrounding community in numerous ways. The benefits both the short run and the long run through things such as better health status, higher educational obtain leading to hire earnings and less need for other types of social assistance. Affordable housing alleviates crowding and makes more household resources available to pay for health care and healthy food, which leads to better health outcomes. High- quality housing limits exposure to environmental toxins that impact health. Living in quality housing is associated with higher kindergarten readiness scores.

A list of published research papers, locality specific housing trust fund case studies, and reports that detail the benefits that could be realized from the creation of an affordable housing trust fund is available from the Housing Trust Fund Project at

<https://housingtrustfundproject.org/publications-and-resources/publications>.

Recent studies highlighting the current and projected need for affordable housing in Chesterfield County area available from PlanRVA and the Richmond Partnership for Housing Affordability.

PlanRVA completed a regional Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing for the Richmond region municipalities in 2020. This report details current housing needs and barriers affecting families and households access to quality housing in Chesterfield County. The report is available at [https://planrva.org/wp-content/uploads/Greater-Richmond-Tri-Cities-Analysis-of-Impediments-to-Fair-Housing-Choice-2020\\_Region.pdf](https://planrva.org/wp-content/uploads/Greater-Richmond-Tri-Cities-Analysis-of-Impediments-to-Fair-Housing-Choice-2020_Region.pdf)

The Richmond Partnership for Housing Affordability conducted a thorough analysis of regional housing needs over the next 20 years, including the increased need for affordable housing due to reduced real wage growth relative to the increased cost of housing construction. The results of their research can be found here: <https://pharva.com/research/>

### Services to Disadvantaged Community

The CAHP will focus on new construction and preservation with an emphasis on Qualified Census Tracts as a threshold criterion. Additional emphasis will be placed on area that align with the Qualified Allocation Plan adopted by the state housing agency-Virginia Housing. Further, funded projects will agree to robust affirmative marketing requirements for new residents that focus on families earning up to 60% of area median income.

The launch of this program will be publicized by staff and notification will be directly provided to non-profit and private housing developers. Once available units are completed, they will be provided to regional affordable housing partners, such as the Partnership for Housing Affordability and the County's Department of Social Services to refer income qualifying individuals.

### Additional Notes

In addition to the \$68.5 million in ARP resources provided directly to the County, the County received both Emergency Rental Assistance round one (ERAP-1) and two (ERAP-2) funding. As of August 10th, all round one funding was distributed to more than 1,600 different households. A portion of ERAP-1 funding has also helped families currently homeless or facing homeless access resources that enable them to find or remain housed. As of August 11, 2021, Chesterfield County and its non-profit partner Area Congregations Together in Service (ACTS) RVA has launched a \$6 million ERAP-2 funded rent and utility assistance program. A portion of ERAP-2 funding will be used to provide legal assistance to families facing eviction and to reduce homelessness in Chesterfield County. From September to December of 2020, Chesterfield County allocated \$550,000 of CARES Act funding for an emergency rent and mortgage relief program. All funds were disbursed to at-risk, income qualifying households.

## **New Parkland and Facility Development**

Funding amount: \$7,495,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.22 Strong Healthy Communities: Neighborhood Features that Promote Health and Safety

### Project Overview

The goals of this project will be to purchase and develop parks to increase availability of recreational activities in underserved areas of the County. Development of additional parks space will increase available field time for local use by youth and adult leagues and individual

play; provide additional open space park facilities for safe use during pandemic restrictions; and encourage physical and mental health benefits from exercise, team sport participation and being outdoors.

This project includes four sites:

*Conifer Road Site Acquisition:* Acquire and partially develop 10 acres of new neighborhood parkland. The County has a target of 9 acres per 1000 for parkland to achieve sufficient parks for community use, based on population. The Conifer Road Site service area currently has 3.2 acres per 1000. This purchase will increase the parkland by 47% to 4.7 acres per 1000. This will produce 10 acres of wooded and open land with remnant farm structures. Site is surrounded by existing neighborhoods.

*Cogbill Road Community Park:* Development of phase one of the park to include picnicking area with shelter, open play area, court games, playground, walking trails and restrooms. The park is located on a 212-acre wooded tract, surrounded on three sides by existing established neighborhoods. Future Countywide trails and the East Coast Greenway trail route will pass through the site.

*Beulah Neighborhood Park:* Development of the park to include picnicking area with shelter, athletic fields for soccer, baseball/softball, football and cricket, court games, playground, walking path and restrooms. This park will be located on an 11-acre open former school play yard, surrounded on three sides by existing established neighborhoods. School building is currently being renovated for conversion into Recreation Center and Parks and Recreation office, which will promote and engage community on a regular basis for programming, community events and sports league play. Future Countywide trail route will pass along the site.

*James River Conservation Area Community Park:* Development of phase two of the boat launch to include picnicking area with shelters, fishing platforms, canoe/kayak launch and pathways. Park is located on a 109-acre wooded tract, fronting the James River for one mile, will serve existing established neighborhoods. Future Countywide trail route will pass through the site. Route 1, the area major roadway serving these communities has bus service and will have future regional shared use trail constructed.

These additional parks spaces will relieve pressure on existing parks in the area, and mitigate parkland equity distribution with communities within the County. Additionally, location of these parks is intended to reduce reliance on automobile travel to get to park facilities and provide walkable and bikeable recreational opportunities. The increased capacity will allow more participation Countywide, reinforcing the “recreation creates exercise and health for life” concept.

Projects are preliminarily designed, and engineering consultants have been selected. Design will take an estimated eight months; bidding estimated four months; construction 12 months; with estimated completion October 2023.

## Use of Evidence

This project's \$7,495,000 allocation is fully supported by evidence.

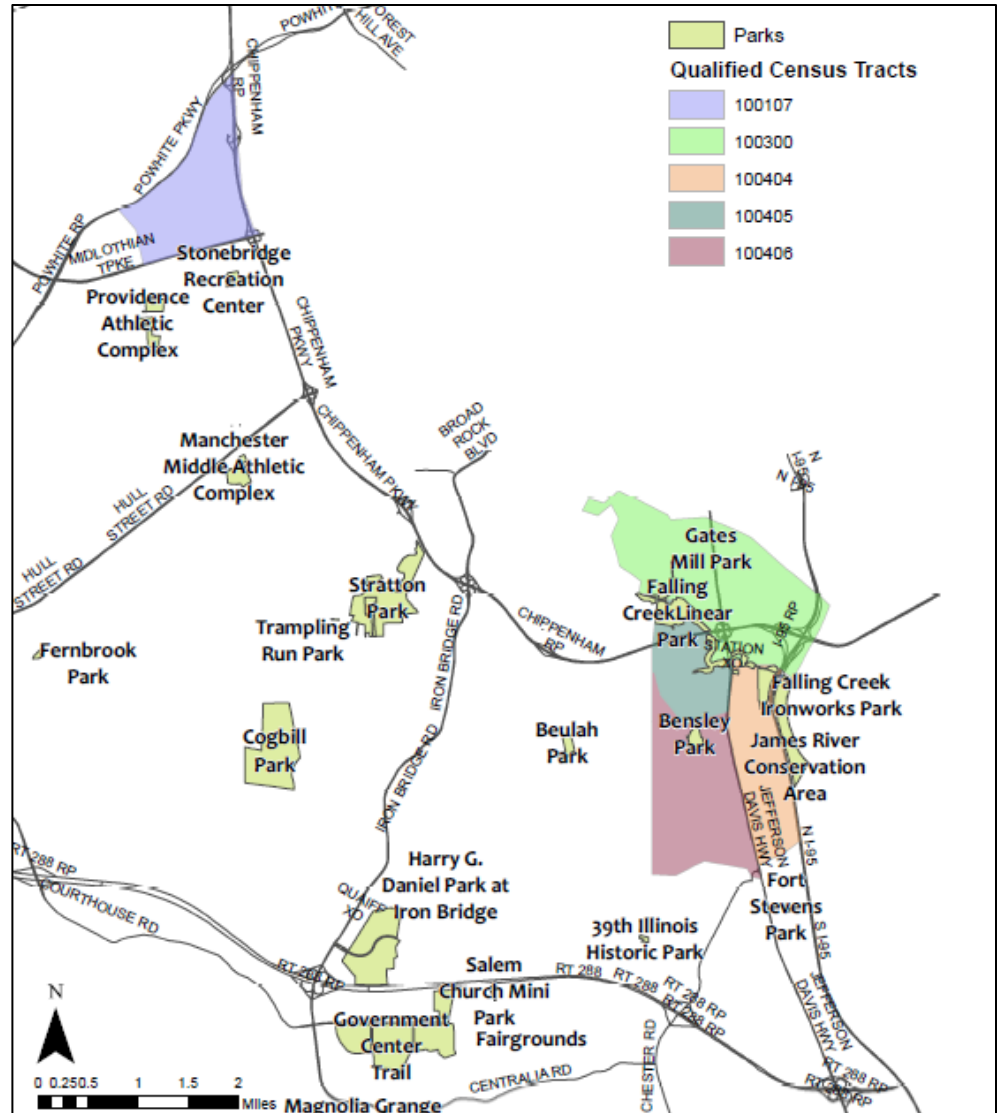
In the absence of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Natural Learning Initiative at North Carolina State University found that children benefit from increased time in the outdoors, playing in natural settings. The paper discussed a disproportionate impact on urban, low-income neighborhoods where land is de-naturalized to build and not restored. Access to outdoor learning environments increases physical activity, improves nutrition, eyesight and reduces risk of asthma and other allergies. In addition, children see social and emotional benefits such as ability to get along with others, increased self-discipline, and cooperation. Cognitive abilities, creativity and problem solving all increase with access to natural outdoor settings.

The amount of time that pre-school age children who attend daycare play outdoors has a positive association with attention skills. Outdoor access also showed a decline in inattention-hyperactivity symptoms, suggesting that outdoor time can support development of attention skills for children, which could impact future educational performance as well as social skills and professional success (Ulset et al., 2017).

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, a North Carolina State University report also states that the early childhood health is impacted during COVID-19 and beyond by access to outdoor recreation. Improvements to outdoor facilities reduce risk of disease and improve other health outcomes.

## Services to Disadvantaged Community

A significant portion of these projects will primarily serve disadvantaged communities within the County. The service area of the Conifer Road site is within the CDBG County priority and



general CDBG areas. It is located to serve approximately 65,000 persons by bicycle travel and 9,000 persons walking from their homes. Bicycle travel defined as within 3 miles and walking within 1 mile.

As shown on the attached map, Beulah Neighborhood Park and the James River Conservation Area Community Park are located within or adjacent to qualified census tracts (QCTs) 100406, 100405, 100404, and 100300. James River Conservation Area is also located to serve approximately 43,000 persons by bicycle travel and 5,000 persons walking from their homes. Additionally, the Cogbill Road Community Park's service area is located to serve 77,000 persons by bicycle travel and 12,000 persons walking from their homes, including those who reside within the nearby QCTs.

### References

North Carolina State University, Natural Learning Initiative.  
<https://naturalearning.org/download/20618/>

North Carolina State University, Natural Learning Initiative; National Wildlife Federation, Early Childhood Health Outdoors. <https://naturalearning.org/download/23179/>

Ulset, V., Vitaro, F., Brendgen, M., Bekkhus, M., & Borge, A. I. H. (2017). Time spent outdoors during preschool: Links with children's cognitive and behavioral development. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 52, 69-80. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvp.2017.05.007>

## **Falling Creek Middle School**

Funding amount: \$25,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 2.24 Addressing Educational Disparities: Aid to High-Poverty Districts

### Project Overview

The County paused its planned 2020 bond referendum designed to address key capital facility capacity and coverage gaps in Chesterfield due to the pandemic. This decision allowed the County to avoid unnecessary financial risk during a period of unprecedented financial uncertainty. However, when students returned to in-person learning, the urgency to rebuild Falling Creek Middle School remained. The County is leveraging ARP funds to accelerate this construction project so that it can be completed prior to the bonds scheduled for a referendum vote in November 2022.

The program capacity of Falling Creek Middle School is 1,111 students. As of September 2020, enrollment was 1,431, and grew to 1,469 in September 2021. Two project tools, the Demand Indicators Report and the Cohort Survival Method, project enrollment growth to more than 1,600 by 2026. Due to the present overcrowding at the school, an entire grade level has been placed in trailer classrooms for several years. The sixth-grade cohort current occupies 24 classrooms in two mega-trailers, and a third mega-trailer is used for the cafeteria. Furthermore, a Facility Condition Assessment (FCA) completed in 2018 identified \$14.8M in deficiencies associated with the undersized building, including repairs to the roof, windows, flooring, interiors, ceilings, HVAC units and controls, fire alarm and sprinkler system, electrical systems, lighting, parking lots, and others.

### Services to Disadvantaged Community

Chesterfield County is prioritizing efforts to address the program capacity and facility conditions at Falling Creek Middle School. The students currently served by this facility have been recognized as disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, as Falling Creek Middle School is a Title I school.

### **Sheriff Deputy Premium/Hazard Pay Bonuses**

Funding amount: \$330,000

Project Expenditure Category: 4.1 Public Sector Employees

#### Project Overview

The Virginia General Assembly voted to include a one-time \$3,000 bonus for sheriff deputies. While the state will fund these bonuses for the 121 sworn officer positions funded by the state compensation board, the County would be responsible for funding bonuses for the additional 110 deputies not funded by the compensation board. This bonus is intended to aid in difficulties with retention of deputies throughout the pandemic.

### **Provision of Government Services – New Parkland and Facility Development**

Funding amount: \$5,615,000

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

#### Project Overview

The goals of this project will be to purchase and develop parks to increase availability of recreational activities in underserved areas of the County. Development of additional parks space will increase available field time for local use by youth and adult leagues and individual play; provide additional open space park facilities for safe use during pandemic restrictions; and encourage physical and mental health benefits from exercise, team sport participation and being outdoors.

This project includes four sites:

*Appomattox River Park:* Acquire 28 acres of new special purpose and neighborhood parkland along falls of the Appomattox River within the Village of Ettrick. The County has a target of 9 acres per 1000 for parkland to achieve sufficient parks for community use, based on population. The Appomattox River Site service area currently has 4.5 acres per 1000. This purchase will increase the parkland by 69% to 7.5 acres per 1000. The current estimated acquisition date is August 2022.

*Winterpock Regional Park:* Develop community level park facility to include 2 miles of walking and interpretive trail. Conceptual design of the project is complete. Design, bidding and construction remain for estimated completion in November 2022.

*Horner Regional Park:* Install public water service to the park to remove reliance on well water in an underperforming aquifer. Public water source will assure quantity and quality of water and allow for addition of restrooms and irrigation of sports fields. Both actions will increase utilization of the site, limited by ability to consistently provide quality turf and reliance on porta johns. Project is ready for construction, with an estimated completion date of May 2022.

*Loch Braemar at Rockwood Park:* Facility improvements, including trails connected to Gregory's Pond and a nearby community pool, a pedestrian bridge crossing, lighting improvements, and signage. These improvements are intended to increase park utilization and safety of park visitors and is estimated to be completed in late 2022.

### **Provision of Government Services – Major Maintenance and Park Site Enhancements**

Funding amount: \$4,598,500

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

#### Project Overview

Project will provide replacement of facilities that are beyond their useful lifecycle, additional recreational facilities that focus on fitness and exercise and enhancements to existing facilities that increase available use time by removing reoccurring maintenance operations that take facility out of service, increase comfort of park users to extend their time in the park and facilitate more efficient maintenance operations by park staff.

Due to increased reliance on parks facilities during the pandemic, there is needed maintenance for facilities approaching the end of their service lifespan or which are due major preventive maintenance activity. Additionally, the maintenance will aim to provide additional trail and other park facilities to increase opportunities for outdoor recreation, and encourage physical and mental health benefits from exercise, team sport participation and being outdoors.

Countywide, 14 sites have been selected to receive major maintenance through the County's American Rescue Plan program. These sites include Davis Athletic Complex, Bensley Park, Stratton Park, Robious Landing Park, Robious Athletic Complex, Rockwood Park, Daniels Park, Dodd Park, Radcliffe Park, CTC Hull, Goynes Park, Horner Park, Central District Park, and Huguenot Park. Work to be completed across these sites includes expanded trail systems, replacement playgrounds and adult fitness centers, shade structures and lighting upgrades.

### **Provision of Government Services – Cybersecurity Enhancements**

Funding amount: \$930,000

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

#### Project Overview

The County's information technology system comprises millions of dollars' worth of infrastructure in use to support connectivity of all County departments, including the public citizen Wi-Fi access infrastructure. This cybersecurity project funding will allow for critical modernization of aging equipment that is approaching end-of-life and end-of-security patching of infrastructure hardware within the environment to ensure that the County can continue to offer secure network connectivity for users of the County and public citizen Wi-Fi Internet. This project will provide security tools to centrally manage the infrastructure remotely and improve performance and capacity.

Penetration test is an on-going proactive solution for identifying the biggest areas of weakness in IT systems and is used to identify weakness or vulnerabilities in deployed systems before a bad actor can compromise them. It is critical to protect County systems from serious financial and reputational losses.

Hackers are concentrating their efforts on attacking network infrastructure, websites, and web applications. It is critical to utilize penetration testing to identify potential issue and formulate solutions to secure systems before an attacker identifies flaws that can be compromised.

Per HB (Virginia, House Bill) 2178 (2019), localities are required to report their compliance to the Locality Voter Registration System Security (VRSS) Minimum Security Standards (MSS) 2021 Compliance Requirements, annually and failure to meet reporting requirements on compliance to VRSS MSS may result in revocation of access to Virginia's state elections systems. This was an unfunded State mandate that places the responsibility on local localities registrar office to coordinate information security requirements to their local County government. These new requirements are extensive, and resources are not currently allocated within normal departmental budgets to address the increase in resources needed to complete the documentation, configurations and reporting as required by the new House Bill. The cybersecurity funding will allow for contracted resources to assist with this required security analysis and reporting to the State.

### **Provision of Government Services – County Facility Improvements**

Funding amount: \$2,865,000

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

#### Project Overview

*HVAC Work: \$2,000,000*

Two County facilities, the Community Development Building and Meadowdale Library building are served by HVAC systems reaching end-of-life system replacements. The County is proceeding with its planned replacement of these systems and bringing them to up modern ventilation standards. Each system replacement will bring the HVAC to the most current building code and American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) standards.

*County Building Improvements: \$865,000*

The County is applying ARP funds to a full renovation of a County-owned facility. Work being completed includes a new roof. Additionally, the HVAC system will be replaced, bringing the facility up to the most current ASHRAE and building code standards. Lastly, the renovation of this space will allow the County to move staff to the upgraded building from another county facility that has reached the end of its useful life and would otherwise require increasingly costly maintenance to remain usable.

### **Provision of Government Services – Economic Development Site Work**

Funding amount: \$8,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 6.1 Provision of Government Services

#### Project Overview

The County will make transportation and water utility improvements to the eastern side of the Upper Magnolia Green area of the County. This is part of a broader effort to allow for more effective and efficient planning and development of roads, utilities, and public facilities, including multiple school sites. Improvements done by the County allow for more effective environmental stewardship of the Swift Creek watershed and control the routing of Powhite extension.