



American Rescue Plan Act

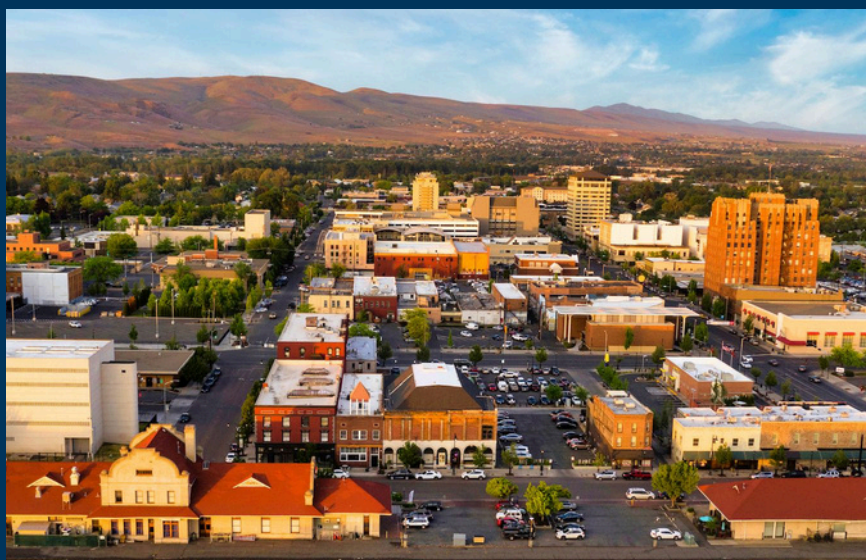




What is the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)?

On March 11th, 2021, President Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 into law. The \$1.9 trillion package was designed to strengthen communities nationwide through investments in critical infrastructure, social services, and long term economic recovery.

\$65.1 billion was allocated as direct aid to all counties in the United States. ***Yakima County was allocated approximately \$48.8 million to support community development.***

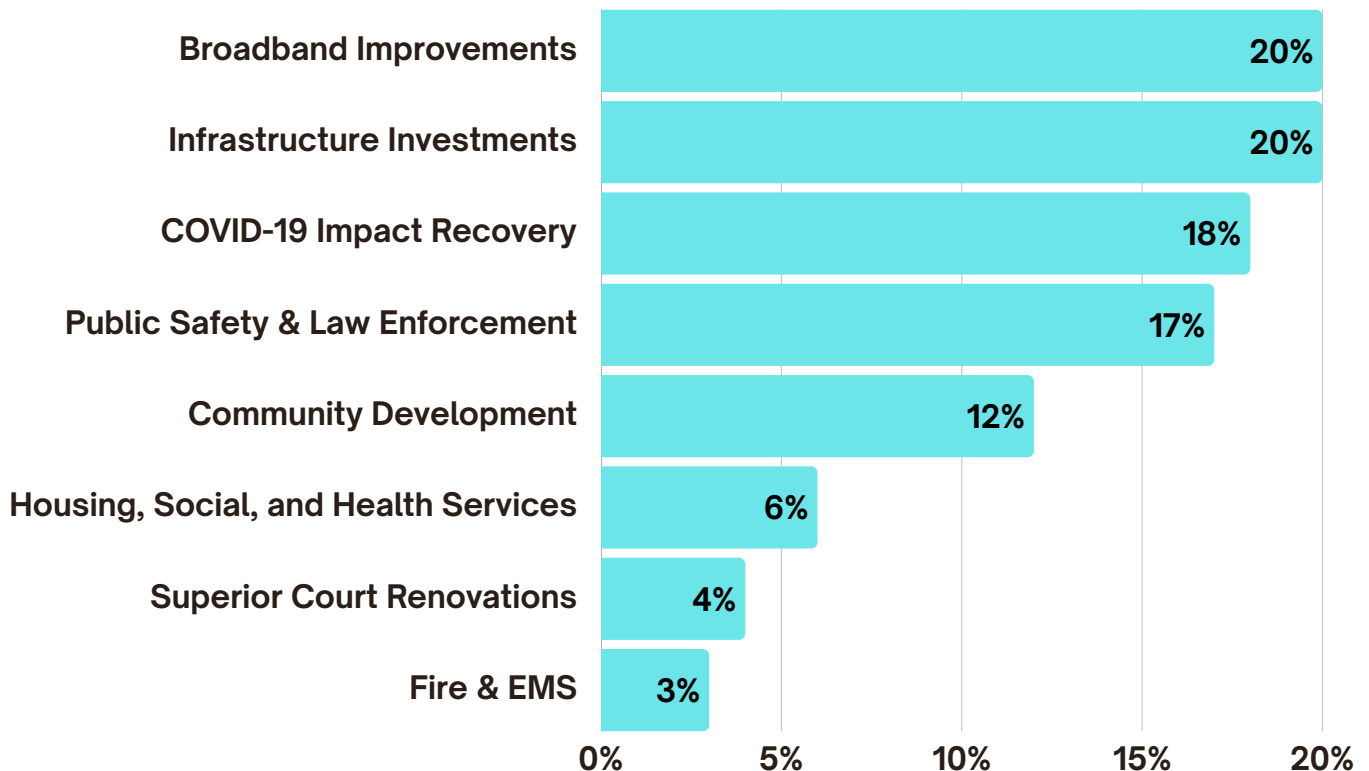


ARPA's Impact on Yakima County

The Yakima County Board of County Commissioners carefully reviewed over 120 applications to ensure that the \$48.8 million ARPA grant would be used to directly benefit our community. For the Commissioners to better understand and address local needs, they distributed a survey which received nearly **200 responses**. These responses helped guide discussions during multiple work sessions regarding where funding should be allocated. After thorough consideration, the Board selected 64 diverse projects to support across the county.

Each group plays a vital role in enhancing the quality of life across Yakima County. The chart below offers a visual snapshot of how funding was distributed among these categories.

These investments can be grouped into eight key areas that reflect the community's priorities listed below.





ARPA Investment Highlights

01. BearCat Armored Vehicle

02. Domestic Violence Shelter

03. Youth Empowerment Program

04. MLK Jr. Park Aquatic Center

05. Selah-Moxee Canal Pipe

06. Regional Crime Lab

07. Rehabilitation Facility Remodel

08. Broadband Improvements

Yakima Sheriff's Office Lenco BearCat Vehicle



Lenco G3 BearCat Armored Vehicle

Yakima County Sheriffs Office – \$350,000

In 2022, the Yakima County Sheriffs Office purchased a Lenco G3 BearCat armored vehicle to replace a nonoperational unit. This specialized vehicle is designed to handle rough terrain and harsh weather, allowing SWAT and rescue teams to respond quickly and effectively, even in hard-to-reach areas. The BearCats presence helps de-escalate dangerous situations and protects both law enforcement and civilians. ***The ARPA funding made it possible for Yakima County to fill a critical need and strengthens the county's ability to respond safely, efficiently, and with confidence.***

YWCA

Domestic Violence Shelter



Domestic Violence Shelter (Bringing It Home II)

Young Women's Christian Association – \$1,000,000

The YWCA is expanding its emergency housing and support services for survivors of domestic violence. ***With funding from an ARPA grant, the YWCA will triple its available shelter capacity, growing from 15 to 45 beds.*** For the first time, the expansion will also include housing for male survivors, which addresses a critical gap in local resources for men experiencing domestic violence. The current facility is consistently at full capacity, and this expansion directly responds to increasing community need. YWCA Director Cheri Kilty emphasized the role of the community in making this possible, stating that the project wouldn't be happening without the support of those who donate, volunteer, or seek help through the organization. The YWCA's mission is to break the cycle of abuse. By expanding its housing services, the organization will be able to offer safety and support to more individuals, ultimately saving lives that might otherwise be lost to domestic violence.

OIC of Washington Youth Empowerment Program



Youth Empowerment Program

OIC of Washington – \$115,000

With support from ARPA funding, the Opportunities Industrialization Center of Washington (OIC) is making a meaningful impact in the Yakima Valley by helping young people overcome barriers and build brighter futures. The OIC youth program provides essentials like interview clothing, assistance with obtaining IDs and birth certificates, and real-world job experience. ARPA funding also made it possible for some participants to travel outside Yakima for the first time, on a trip to Olympia, where they met with lawmakers and learned how they can help shape their communities. These experiences are empowering young people to return to school, find employment, and believe in their potential. The program is building a stronger, more connected community by reaching youth who have been overlooked or underserved, and showing them that their voices and futures truly matter.

City of Yakima

MLK Jr. Park Aquatic Center



City of Yakima

Martin Luther King Jr. Park Aquatic Center – \$3,000,000

The MLK Jr. Park Aquatic Center, built with support from ARPA funding, has become a valuable asset for Yakima’s east side, ***bringing new life to the area***. For years, families there had no access to a nearby pool and had to travel across town for recreation and swim lessons. It took a true community effort to bring a pool back to the east side, and it wouldn’t have been possible without the ARPA grant. Today, the center features pools, water swings, and a community room, welcoming people from across Yakima and open for all to enjoy. ***More than just a pool, the MLK Jr. Park Aquatic Center stands as a symbol of what’s possible when a community is included, heard, and supported.***

Selah-Moxee Irrigation District Canal Piping



Canal Piping

Selah-Moxee Irrigation District – \$500,000

The Selah-Moxee Canal Siphon 2-3 project is helping secure a reliable water supply for agriculture, residents, and businesses in the Yakima Valley. The aging canal infrastructure was prone to leaks and inefficiencies, putting strain on local farmers and increasing the risk of water loss during peak irrigation seasons. ***With ARPA support, critical upgrades were made to improve water flow, reduce waste, and strengthen the canal's resilience.*** These improvements are especially important in a region where agriculture is a key part of the economy and water conservation is vital. By modernizing this infrastructure, the project supports local growers, protects crops, and ensures that clean water remains accessible for future generations. It's a smart investment in both the environment and the long-term health of Yakima's farming communities.

Yakima Valley Conference of Government Regional Crime Lab



Regional Crime Lab

Yakima Valley Conference of Government – \$2,800,000

The Yakima Valley Regional Crime Lab has significantly improved public safety by speeding up evidence processing. Before the lab opened, agencies had to send evidence to the Washington State Patrol Crime Lab, where it could take over 18 months to get results. Now, evidence is processed locally, cutting that time down drastically and allowing cases to move forward more quickly and effectively. The lab serves as a regional hub equipped with high-tech tools like the NIBIN system and rapid DNA testing. These tools have already helped generate hundreds of investigative leads. The lab's impact goes beyond solving cases faster, it ensures law enforcement has timely, critical information to keep the community safe.

Without ARPA funding, the lab likely wouldn't exist, making this investment a transformative step forward for Yakima County.

Triumph Treatment Rehabilitation Facility Renovation



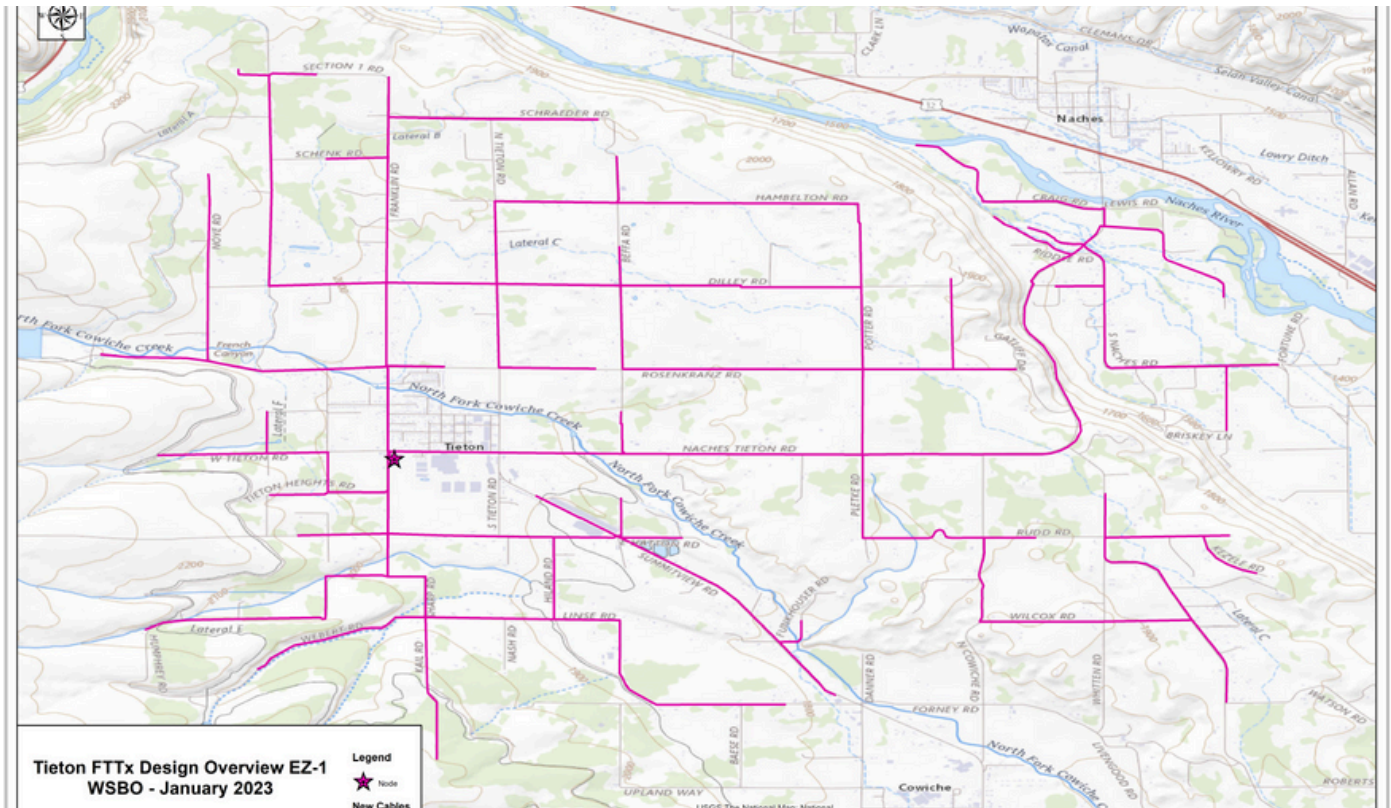
James Oldham Treatment Center

Triumph Treatment – \$500,000

The James Oldham Treatment Center (JOTC) operated by Triumph Treatment Services, provides residential care for 60 men recovering from substance use disorders in Buena. ***Thanks to critical early support from ARPA which jumpstarted the project, JOTC is undergoing major renovations. Upgrades include a new roof, interior improvements, and the construction of a modern bathroom and shower facility.*** Originally a 1950s schoolhouse, the building was never designed for its current purpose. These enhancements not only improve safety and dignity for residents but also symbolize the community's investment in recovery and second chances. JOTC's programs follow evidence-based American Society of Addiction Medicine criteria and focus on individualized, intensive care to support long-term recovery. By renovating this vital facility, Yakima County is expanding access to life-saving treatment and building a stronger, healthier community.

Yakima County

Broadband Improvements



Broadband Improvements

Yakima County – \$10,000,000

Broadband expansion, the largest investment funded by ARPA, is helping bridge the digital divide in Yakima County’s underserved rural and low-income areas. Many families previously lacked access to reliable high-speed internet, limiting their ability to attend virtual school during COVID, or access telehealth services.

Thanks to ARPA funding, new broadband infrastructure is being built to connect more homes, ensuring more residents can participate fully in the digital world. For students, it means fewer missed assignments and better access to online learning tools. For adults, it opens up job opportunities, remote work, and online training. And for the broader community, it strengthens access to essential services and economic growth. This investment is creating a more connected and equitable future for Yakima, where everyone has the tools they need to succeed in today’s digital age.

Thank you!

Full list of ARPA Projects

The Board of Yakima County Commissioners invested over \$48 million of ARPA funding into the community. For more information about Yakima County ARPA projects, please visit the following link.

[Yakima County Approved ARPA Applications](#)

www.yakimacounty.us/3031



Projected Supported in Part By: 2025 Internship Program

The Yakima Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) launched a new 8-week summer internship program to provide students with insight into careers in public service and demonstrate that there are meaningful career opportunities here in Yakima. The 2025 cohort includes four interns placed in District Court Probation, the Assessor's Office, Human Resources, and the Commissioner's Office. The BOCC hopes that more departments will host interns in the future to showcase the wide range of careers available in local government.



About Lizbeth, 2025 Summer Intern

Lizbeth Velazquez is the 2025 Communications Intern for the Commissioner's Office. Originally from Granger, WA, she is a Public Affairs and Spanish double major at Seattle University. This summer, she focused on learning about the ARPA grant and how it is benefiting Yakima County. As part of her work, Lizbeth interviewed several organization leaders to help develop this report and an updated ARPA page on the county website. Inspired by the work being done locally, she hopes to one day return to Yakima County to serve her community through a career in public service.

