

# **Collin County Recovery Plan**

## **State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds**

2024 Report

**Collin County  
2024 Recovery Plan**

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## GENERAL OVERVIEW

*January 25, 2022 Update – In accordance with the U.S. Treasury’s “Statement Regarding Compliance with the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds Interim Final Rule and Final Rule”, no addition written justification is required to complement this report. This statement declares “A recipient is not required to prepare or submit a written justification as required under the final rule if the recipient (i) has taken significant steps toward obligating SLFRF funds for that project prior to January 6, 2022, or (ii) has obligated funds for such project prior to April 1, 2022.*

*On August 16, 2021, after conducting a public hearing, public discussion and a vote, Collin County obligated all \$201m of its SLFRF funds towards the below 3 projects supporting public health.*

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (“SLFRF”) totaling \$200,984,172 were approved by the Commissioners Court to be used for county capital expenditure projects that support public health and mitigate the spread of COVID-19. These projects represent a holistic public health approach to supporting high risk individuals across the entire county by building community capacity, while also serving people with barriers to services, including people of color, people with low incomes, incarcerated mentally and medically ill populations, limited English proficiency populations and other traditionally underserved groups. These projects will strengthen our primary health care infrastructure and advance health equity and health outcomes in our medically underserved communities, as well as address the increase in mental and behavioral health needs of these communities. The goal of these projects is to increase the community public health capacity within the county’s three facilities involved in public health - Adult Detention Facility, Health Care Services building and Medical Examiner building.

These capital investment projects support the recovery and resiliency of Collin County and are delineated in the projects below.

#### **PROJECT 1: Adult Detention Center Medical/Mental Health Infirmiry**

The Collin County Commissioners Court has approved the use of ARPA funds for construction of a specialized medical and mental health infirmiry of 111 beds and pre-designed shell space for an additional 150 beds at the Collin County Adult Detention Facility. This project includes the capital investment in directly related ancillary infrastructure, such as the central plant facilities. In addition to the increased space needed to provide for the CDC’s public health strategies, the specialized housing areas will address the growth in substance abuse and behavioral health issues resulting from the public health crisis, as well as other COVID-19 long-term medical and mental health side effects. The increase in mental health stress and breakdowns resulting from both the pandemic and its restrictions is impacting our most high risk and under-served communities. Those incarcerated, even for a short time, in a detention setting are typically among the highest risk and most medically under-served.

**Goal:** Increase the community public health capacity of the Collin County Adult Detention Facility infirmiry.

**Project Status:** The design phase of the project is complete. Site work and installation of underground utilities for infirmiry building and central plant are in progress. Building permits are in review for city and state requirements. Funds totaling \$129.8M have been expended or encumbered to-date.

**Noteworthy Challenges or Opportunities Identified:** Increasing supply chain costs and long lead times made budgeting this construction project a challenge. Due to higher construction costs, one wing of the designed building had to be removed from the construction plans, and the renovation of the existing infirmary had to be deferred to the future. Also, unforeseen site conditions required relocation of utilities and structural components that has had an impact on cost and schedule.

**PROJECT 2: Health Care Services Building & Vaccination Hub/Parking Garage**

The Collin County Commissioners Court has approved the use of ARPA funds for construction of a new Health Care Services building and parking garage to establish the capacity for a vaccination hub and provide the ability to meet the incremental needs of our community resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Access to high-quality medical care is key to reducing health disparities and addressing the root causes that have resulted in disproportionate COVID-19 health impacts in certain communities, including the underinsured and medically indigent. While Collin County Health Care Services is dedicated to protecting the health of all people and communities within Collin County, the onset of COVID-19 has required more extensive involvement in a direct care role to support those with the greatest needs and impact from this public health crisis. In order to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency, this capital expenditure project will enable the County to:

- plan, prepare for, promote, distribute, administer and track COVID-19 vaccines, and to carry out all other vaccine-related activities
- detect, diagnose, trace and monitor COVID-19 infections and related activities necessary to mitigate the spread of COVID-19
- provide additional medical treatment areas and examination rooms, as well as laboratory test analysis space and storage for additional equipment and supplies purchased to combat the COVID-19 pandemic now and in the future
- sustain the health care workforce to prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID-19, and to carry out other health workforce-related activities
- execute the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”) mandated strategies of physical distancing and segregation of staff, patients and other clientele

**Goal:** Increase the community public health capacity of Collin County Health Care Services.

**Project Status:** This building project is in general contractor bid negotiations, with a contract expected to be awarded in summer 2024. Site work is anticipated to start in late August 2024. Funds totaling \$4.5M have been expended or encumbered to-date.

**Noteworthy Challenges or Opportunities Identified:** Increasing supply chain costs and long lead times made budgeting this construction project a challenge.

**PROJECT 3: Medical Examiner Building**

In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the Collin County Commissioners Court has approved the use of ARPA funds for construction of a new Medical Examiner building. The Medical Examiner is directly engaged in matters related to public health and provides a public health support service that is crucial to the pandemic response. Medical examiners have long been an integral component of public health and have repeatedly demonstrated the integral part they play in infectious disease surveillance. The Medical Examiner office is Collin County’s only county-owned lab and testing facility and is key to testing bodies for communicable diseases. In addition to the increased space needed to provide for CDC public health strategies, the additional square feet will address the

incremental needs of our community resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic by growing the capacity of medical examiner operational areas, such as autopsy rooms, meeting rooms and body storage. These operational areas have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 protocols for isolation and segregation. Currently, a portable morgue trailer is being used to hold COVID-19 bodies.

**Goal:** Increase the community public health capacity of the Medical Examiner’s Office.

**Project Status:** This building project is in general contractor bid negotiations, with a contract expected to be awarded in summer 2024. Site work is anticipated to start in late August 2024. Funds totaling \$2.4M have been expended or encumbered to-date.

**Noteworthy Challenges or Opportunities Identified:** Increasing supply chain costs and long lead times made budgeting this construction project a challenge. As a result, bond funds will also be used to complete this facility.

## **USES OF FUNDS AND PROMOTING EQUITABLE OUTCOMES**

The Commissioners Court approved ARPA funds to be used for specific county capital projects that support public health and mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The projects selected were chosen to support a strong and equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and economic downturn. By increasing public health capacity through investment in county infrastructure and providing jobs for many of our residents while serving those on its community margins, Collin County is investing in our future.

These projects represent a holistic public health approach to supporting high risk individuals across the entire county by building community capacity, while also serving people with barriers to services, including people of color, people with low incomes, incarcerated mentally and medically ill populations, limited English proficiency populations and other traditionally underserved groups. These projects will strengthen our primary health care infrastructure and advance health equity and health outcomes in medically underserved communities, as well as address the increase in mental and behavioral health needs by these communities.

In order to respond to COVID-19, the broader health impacts of COVID-19 and the COVID-19 public health emergency, as well as comply with CDC COVID-19 infectious disease prevention and containment directives, the goal of these projects is to increase the community public health capacity within the county’s three facilities involved in public health - Adult Detention Facility, Health Care Services building and Medical Examiner building.

Awareness of and access to the additional capacity will be self-evident with equal opportunity for those who qualify within each facility. The intended outcome of these projects are to better serve residents requiring services at these facilities. By filling in critical gaps in the pandemic response through increasing the health care capacity of these three facilities, Collin County is able to better care for its most at-risk and marginalized residents for many years to come.

To understand the impacted population, it is useful to know some Collin County population demographics and statistics. Per 2019 United States Census Bureau data at <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/collincountytexas>, these include:

PEOPLE	
<b>Population</b>	
Population estimates, July 1, 2019, (V2019)	1,034,730
Population estimates base, April 1, 2010, (V2019)	781,419
Population, percent change - April 1, 2010 (estimates base) to July 1, 2019, (V2019)	32.4%
Population, Census, April 1, 2020	1,064,465
Population, Census, April 1, 2010	782,341
<b>Age and Sex</b>	
Persons under 5 years, percent	6.1%
Persons under 18 years, percent	25.6%
Persons 65 years and over, percent	11.3%
Female persons, percent	50.8%
<b>Race and Hispanic Origin</b>	
White alone, percent	69.3%
Black or African American alone, percent (a)	10.9%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent (a)	0.7%
Asian alone, percent (a)	16.3%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone, percent (a)	0.1%
Two or More Races, percent	2.8%
Hispanic or Latino, percent (b)	15.5%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent	55.1%
<b>Health</b>	
With a disability, under age 65 years, percent, 2015-2019	4.4%
Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years, percent	12.5%
<b>Income &amp; Poverty</b>	
Median household income (in 2019 dollars), 2015-2019	\$96,913
Per capita income in past 12 months (in 2019 dollars), 2015-2019	\$44,548
Persons in poverty, percent	6.1%

As one of the fastest growing counties in the United States, any COVID-19 public health impacts currently being experienced will only increase in the coming years as the county’s population grows, resulting in even greater demand on our public health facilities. In this way, using these ARPA funds to increase capacity of public health infrastructure not only addresses today’s COVID-19 impacts, but also ensures the county can handle future pandemic operational needs.

As can be seen in the Census Bureau charts above, 11.3% of the county is in a high-risk age group for getting COVID-19 in 2019, while people under age 65 who don’t have health insurance account for 12.5% of the county’s population in 2019 and 11.3% in 2022. Black and Hispanic people, who are more susceptible to severe disease from COVID-19 due to higher incidences of chronic illnesses and comorbidities like diabetes and hypertension, make up more than 26% of the population in 2019 and nearly 28% in 2022. Finally, 6.1% of residents lived in poverty as of 2019 and 6.6% as of 2022.

According to a CDC COVID-19 Science Update released on August 6, 2021 [[https://www.cdc.gov/library/covid19/08062021\\_covidupdate.html](https://www.cdc.gov/library/covid19/08062021_covidupdate.html)] based on a study performed by Miller *et al.* as published on July 21, 2021 in Health Affairs, working-age adults in the United States without health insurance, with lower household income, with limited remote work options, living in

detention facilities, or living in health-related group facilities had a higher all-cause mortality rate during the COVID-19 pandemic. Also noted within this Science Update, the mortality rate was higher among non-Hispanic Black adults, regardless of health insurance status, household income or remote work options. The mortality rate was also higher among Hispanic adults, those with lower incomes and those in essential industries.

These statistics weighed heavily in the selection of the approved projects, which inherently support high-risk, medically under-served and disadvantaged residents across the entire county. Collin County's projects maximize the impact of the ARPA funds in an effective and efficient way to achieve an equitable outcome for our population.

Besides SLFRF, no other federal recovery funds provided under the American Rescue Plan Act were received by the county.

**PROJECT 1: Adult Detention Center Medical/Mental Health Infirmiry**

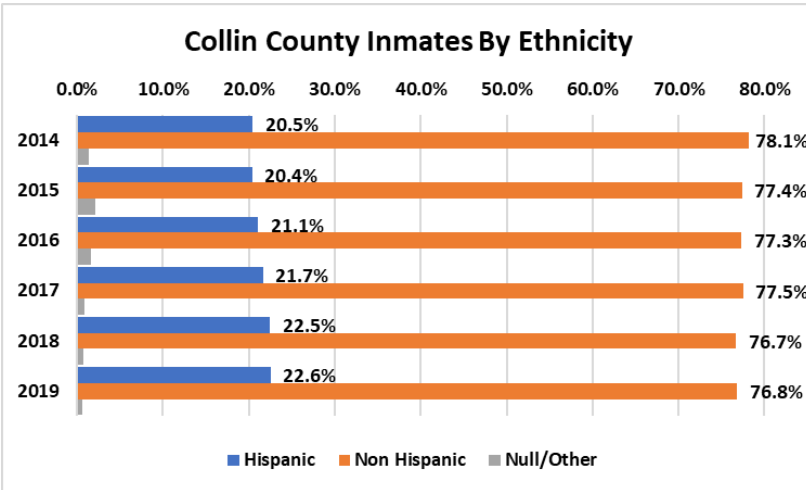
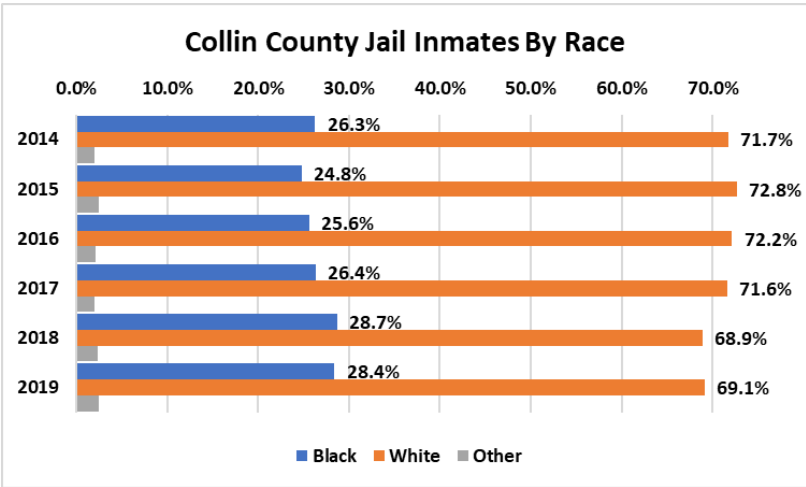
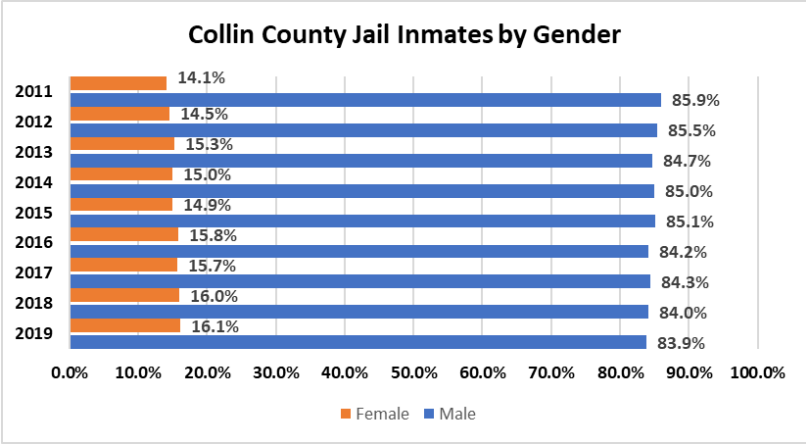
This project can be classified into Expenditure Category 1 "Public Health", subcategory 1.12, which is "Mental Health Services".

This project provides for construction of a specialized medical and mental health infirmiry of 111 beds and pre-designed shell space for an additional 150 beds at the Collin County Adult Detention Facility. This project includes capital investments in directly related ancillary infrastructure, such as the central plant facilities.

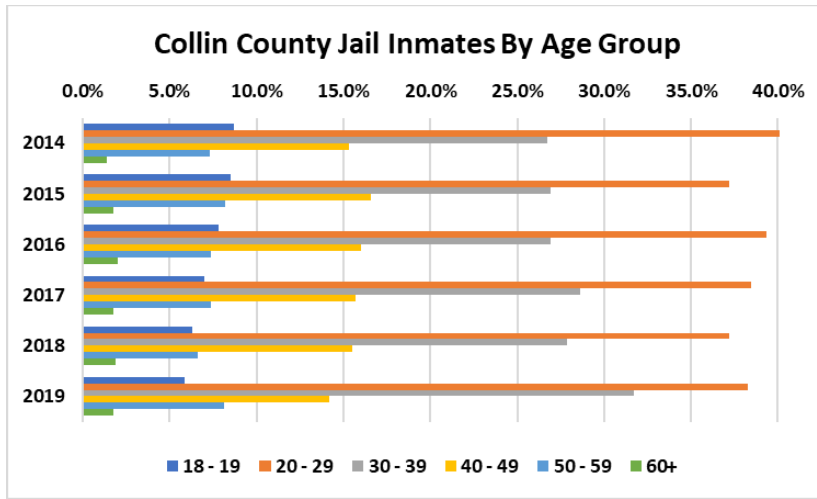
In addition to the increased space needed to provide for the CDC's public health strategies, the specialized housing areas will also address the growth in substance abuse and behavioral health issues resulting from the public health crisis, as well as other COVID-19 long-term medical and mental health side effects. The increase in mental health stress and breakdowns as a result of both the pandemic and its restrictions is impacting our most high risk and under-served communities. Those incarcerated, even for a short time, in a detention setting are typically among the highest risk and most under-served, both medically and otherwise.

The current Collin County Adult Detention Facility infirmiry area contains 24 medical cells and encompasses 12,430 square feet of space. Current overall jail operations staffing is 368 as of June 30, 2024. Medical staffing is through a contracted provider which has more than 100 full-time and part-time personnel for a total of 73.6 full-time equivalent positions as of January 1, 2023. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, these medical cells have been used almost exclusively for mental health and COVID-19 isolation purposes. Even with this dedication of existing medical space, specialized housing and standard housing areas have had to also be utilized to address the high demand for additional space needed for these two purposes.

As a comparison to the County's population statistics included above, below are 2019 inmate statistics compiled from Collin County Adult Detention Facility data. It is only through understanding Collin County's existing demographics and gaps in current capacity that the county can best fill the community's public health needs.







As is evidenced in the charts above when compared to the county’s population demographics, it is clear that our most at-risk and under-served are over-represented in the incarcerated population. By addressing the needs of inmates as a population subgroup, racial and economic equity is prioritized.

According to the Journal of the American Medical Association [Saloner B, Parish K, Ward JA, DiLaura G, Dolovich S. COVID-19 cases and deaths in federal and state prisons. JAMA. 2020;324(6):602-603], “COVID-19 outbreaks are also growing faster in carceral facilities: The average daily growth rate of cases between March 1, 2020, and June 6, 2020, was 8.3% in prisons compared to 3.4% in the general US population.” According to the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security and the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health [[https://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/our-work/pubs\\_archive/pubs-pdfs/2020/20201015-covid-19-criminal-justice-system.pdf](https://www.centerforhealthsecurity.org/our-work/pubs_archive/pubs-pdfs/2020/20201015-covid-19-criminal-justice-system.pdf)], “the US criminal justice system is highly susceptible to the spread of COVID-19 because of the structure of carceral facilities, which propagates the spread of respiratory infections, and the comorbidities of many incarcerated individuals.”

The additional specialized medical and mental health infirmary beds at the Adult Detention Facility will fill critical gaps in the County’s pandemic health response in the areas of a) treating inmates with behavioral health and substance abuse issues, including the exacerbation and growth of these issues as a result of COVID-19 and the efforts to contain this infectious disease, b) treating inmates who have been exposed to or are known to have COVID-19, and c) providing the ability to house inmates with preexisting and chronic medical conditions (such as heart disease, diabetes and lung disease) separately. Consideration must be given to these high risk inmates in terms of preventing exposure and providing timely diagnosis and treatment if signs of a COVID-19 infection appear. Infectious disease design concepts, including modern HVAC and filtration systems, will be a part of this project as well.

Approximately 30 of the new medical beds, plus shell space built for an additional 14, will address inmates requiring detoxification from alcohol and substance abuse or addiction. These are known as flex-medical orientation beds. Given the impact of social isolation brought on by safety measures implemented to mitigate the public health emergency, the unprecedented escalation of the opioid crisis in 2020 is almost certainly linked to the COVID-19 pandemic [<https://www.ama-assn.org/system/files/issue-brief-increases-in-opioid-related-overdose.pdf>]. This crisis not only burdens the families and individuals of those suffering from an addiction disorder, but it also overwhelms the treatment capacity of the Adult Detention Facility infirmary when these individuals are brought to jail.

An analysis of the Collin County Adult Detention Facility mental health population, which included those inmates on court-ordered medications, on any level of suicide watch or having a mental health alert, showed this population to be 250, or 25.2% of our average daily inmate population for 2015-2019. Given there are 24 existing medical cells, the lowest risk inmates within this high risk population must be housed today in either general population or segregated housing, which can exacerbate their mental health conditions. Eighty-one acute mental health beds are planned to be added in the new facility (217 acute and subacute beds, including shell space), which will go a long way to addressing this critical needs gap. With the mental health impacts of COVID-19 and its related isolation mandates, these numbers are expected to have grown from 2019 and will continue to increase along with Collin County's growing population.

With an infirmary capacity of only 24 medical cells, it is clear there is a gap in the medical and mental health capacity within the Adult Detention Facility. The planned addition of 111 medical and mental health infirmary beds (261 beds, including shell space) will enable Collin County to provide better care for more inmates requiring these services as a part of its response to COVID-19, the broader health impacts of COVID-19 and the COVID-19 public health emergency.

## **PROJECT 2: Health Care Services Building & Vaccination Hub/Parking Garage**

This project can be classified into Expenditure Category 1 "Public Health", subcategory 1.14, which is "Other Public Health Services".

This project allocates ARPA funding for construction of a new Health Care Services building and parking garage to establish capacity for a vaccination hub and provides sufficient operational, storage, meeting and office space to meet the community's incremental public health needs, which have occurred as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Access to high-quality medical care is key to reducing health disparities and addressing the root causes that have resulted in disproportionate COVID-19 health impacts in certain communities, including the underinsured and medically indigent. While Collin County Health Care Services is dedicated to protecting the health of all high-risk and underserved people and communities within Collin County, the onset of COVID-19 has required more extensive involvement in a direct care role to support those with the greatest needs and impact from this public health crisis. The new Health Care Services facility will address these disparities in public health outcomes.

In order to respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency, this capital expenditure project will enable the County to provide a low-barrier health system to:

- plan, prepare for, promote, distribute, administer and track COVID-19 vaccines, and to carry out all other vaccine-related activities
- detect, diagnose, trace and monitor COVID-19 infections and related activities necessary to mitigate the spread of COVID-19
- provide additional medical treatment areas and examination rooms, as well as laboratory test analysis space and storage for additional equipment and supplies purchased to combat the COVID-19 pandemic now and in the future
- sustain the health care workforce to prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID-19, and to carry out other health workforce-related activities
- execute the CDC-mandated strategies of physical distancing and segregation of staff, patients and other clientele

Collin County Health Care Services shares space with other departments in an existing 76 year old building and has 87 employees, including those hired with COVID-19 grant funds. Health Care Services utilizes 28,437 square feet of the building, including 21 medical rooms totaling 2,300 square feet, 18 offices and 3 meeting rooms. Expansion beyond this existing space is not possible and is further restricted by the already limited parking in the shared-use lot and on the adjacent street.

In determining the required capacity and requirements of the new facility, Collin County reviewed its current programs that support high-risk and underserved populations impacted by COVID-19. Through this review, gaps in current capacity were underscored.

Collin County Health Care Services works with vulnerable populations in all of its clinics and services. Each of these programs has either directly served clients needing COVID-19 services and vaccinations or instituted mitigation actions to reduce the spread of COVID-19 within the clinic.

- The Immunizations Clinic provides childhood and adult vaccines at no or reduced cost to individuals who are uninsured and under-insured. This clinic also provides no-cost COVID-19 vaccinations to any individual, regardless of insurance status, at its physical clinic location and via a mobile team. The mobile team serves those who are unable to travel to a vaccination site, such as individuals who are homebound
- The Employee Health Clinic provides COVID-19 testing and vaccines for county employees who are all essential workers, many of which are in high-risk occupations
- The WIC Clinic provides supplemental food and nutrition assistance to children under the age of five, as well as pregnant, breastfeeding and up-to-six month post-partum mothers who are at or below 185% of the federal poverty line (or are enrolled in Medicaid or SNAP). This service is utilized by families impacted by COVID-19-related work and financial disruptions
- The Epidemiology Department conducts case investigations into COVID-19 cases and outbreaks that are determined to be at elevated risk by DSHS. This service is offered to all Collin County residents. The Epidemiology Department also works with many vulnerable populations by conducting disease mitigation strategies and providing education to long-term care facilities, daycares, schools, private businesses, correctional facilities and group homes (such as homeless shelters) that are experiencing COVID-19 cases or outbreaks
- The Public Health Emergency Preparedness team works with stakeholders that serve vulnerable populations to ensure COVID-19 vaccine plans are in place and being executed smoothly. City governments, social service organizations, volunteer organizations and healthcare coalitions are among their partner organizations. This program is additionally responsible for the logistical planning and execution of non-medical operations during large scale COVID-19 vaccination clinics hosted by Collin County
- The Tuberculosis Clinic serves Collin County residents who have active tuberculosis and completes contact tracing for these individuals. Patients utilize this clinic for regular medical visits and are screened for COVID-19. Additionally, COVID-19 elevated infection control and social distancing procedures must be used for these patients
- The Sexually Transmitted Disease (“STD”) Clinic provides low-cost STD testing and treatment referrals for Collin County residents. Patients utilize the Health Care Services clinic for medical visits and must be screened for COVID-19 and socially distanced
- The Substance Abuse Clinic operates as an evaluation, referral and education program for both adult and adolescent Collin County residents
- The Indigent Health Clinic provides health care benefits to Collin County residents who are medically indigent. In addition to other qualifying criteria, this clinic serves individuals who are

at or below 100% of the federal poverty line. Clients utilize the Health Care Services clinic to apply for this program and must be screened for COVID-19 and socially distanced

In 2021, a COVID-19 mobile vaccine team was hired to vaccinate homebound individuals and other vulnerable populations. Additional staff were also hired to assist with COVID-19 case investigations, coordinate with partners in planning for non-traditional vaccine clinics and distribute COVID-19 vaccines to local healthcare providers that are too small to order their own vaccines. All of these services were added so populations that would not otherwise have access to COVID-19 services or vaccinations could be served. There is no office workspace for these and other added staff.

With increased demand on existing services and more services added to address COVID-19, the existing Health Care Services building and parking space is beyond its capacity. The planned new facility will provide augmented capacity in operational and back-office areas, but will also have infection control mechanisms incorporated into its design to keep staff and patients safe. The additional square footage planned for the new building will allow for physical distancing, segregation and decontamination, as well as space to add medical staff. Infectious disease design concepts, including modern HVAC and filtration systems, will be a part of this project as well.

As administrator of a local safety net system, Collin County Health Care Services takes on the care for the underinsured and medically indigent. Increased numbers of newly uninsured individuals seeking these services can be directly attributed to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, the lack of space and parking at, and adjacent to, the Collin County Health Care Services building prevents the county from operating a single vaccination hub. Instead, a distributed model using various local city and outsourced resources has been utilized. Coordination of multiple wait lists, weather exposure and limitations inherent at available hub sites created challenges impacting Collin County's ability to provide the number of vaccinations per day desired.

With less than 29,000 square feet of space, only 21 medical rooms and no capabilities for a centralized vaccination hub, there is a clear gap between the existing public health capacity and the requirements of Collin County's under-served population. The additional capacity the new Health Care Services building and parking garage/vaccination hub will provide can fill these gaps to allow Collin County to strengthen the primary health care infrastructure of our growing county as we continue to follow CDC protocols in order to fight the pandemic and seek to advance health equity and health outcomes in our medically underserved communities.

### **PROJECT 3: Medical Examiner Building**

This project can be classified into Expenditure Category 1 "Public Health", subcategory 1.14, which is "Other Public Health Services".

This project uses ARPA funding for construction of a new Medical Examiner building. The Medical Examiner is directly engaged in matters related to public health and provides a public health support service that is crucial to the pandemic response. Medical examiners have long been an integral component of public health and have repeatedly demonstrated the integral part they play in infectious disease surveillance. The Medical Examiner office is Collin County's only county-owned lab and testing facility and is key to testing bodies for communicable diseases. In addition to the increased space needed to provide for the CDC's public health strategies, the additional square feet will address the incremental needs of our community resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic by growing the capacity of

medical examiner operational areas, such as autopsy rooms, meeting rooms, office space and body storage. In addition to surge management, these operational areas have been severely impacted by the COVID-19 protocols for isolation and segregation.

The current Collin County Medical Examiner building offices 15 employees and has 9,509 square feet of space, including approximately 800 square feet of combined space for autopsy and transplant services. The existing freezer space is 300 square feet and can hold 15 bodies.

The Collin County Medical Examiner office reported an overall increase of 1,172 deaths in 2020, with 702 (60%) designated as COVID-19 deaths. Although many of these deaths were not cases brought in for examination, this increase is still significant in terms of the demand on capacity of this building.

In reviewing the areas where the existing facility has failed to meet the demand of COVID-19, several obvious areas for improvement and gaps in capacity have been identified:

- There are no segregated areas for intake, processing and storing infectious cases. A portable morgue trailer has been used during COVID-19 to isolate these cases
- Transplant Services has no separate space for tissue harvesting. They have been sharing space in the same room where infectious disease autopsies take place
- The infectious disease autopsy room needs to be upgraded to provide for 12 air circulation/ filtration cycles per hour. It currently provides 6 cycles per hour, which was the standard from when the building was first built in 1988
- The only cart wash area is in the autopsy room where infectious disease autopsies take place. A separate area is needed for washing autopsy tables
- No barrier exists between the law enforcement viewing area and the autopsy space
- Existing lobby, office and meeting space are limited and do not allow for physical distancing required by COVID-19 health and safety protocols
- No separate male/female changing areas for the changing of personal protective equipment exist
- Personal protective equipment storage space in operational areas is scarce

Overall, the existing 1988 building was not designed with infectious disease containment in mind. Biosafety guidance and needs have since changed.

As a county of more than one million residents and one of the fastest growing counties in the nation, the capacity constraints currently seen in response to the first year of COVID-19 will continue to increase. This public health capital expenditure project will allow Collin County to strengthen its primary health care infrastructure and continue to treat the deceased with dignity and respect while addressing the gaps in the current building's capacity and infectious disease containment functionality.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

In determining Collin County's use of ARPA funds for these projects, written and oral input from constituents and community-based organizations was incorporated through input at weekly public Commissioners Court meetings. These meetings provide an opportunity for the public to speak about topics of interest. Since the pandemic began, public health has been a topic of many speakers, both from community organizations and individuals.

Among the public health topics repeatedly mentioned at Commissioners Court meetings beyond the COVID-19 contact tracing, testing and vaccination discussions, concerns were greatest for the mental health of both the public and inmates at the Collin County Adult Detention Facility. The construction of a new public health care building and parking garage (to serve as a vaccination hub) and the expansion of an infirmary at the jail address these topics.

While the impact of the pandemic on the Medical Examiner's office is not often seen by the public, this office functions as a public health support service and is directly engaged in matters related to public health. This county office was severely impacted as the pandemic fatalities grew. As such, Collin County believes it is necessary to ensure the needs of this less visible public health department are addressed with these funds as well.

## **LABOR PRACTICES**

While Collin County is not performing any water, sewer or broadband projects in the Expenditure Category EC5 "Infrastructure", the county does have capital expenditure projects in its recovery plan. Collin County is using strong labor standards to promote effective and efficient delivery of these projects while also supporting economic recovery through strong employment opportunities for workers.

The County requires all contracts and subcontracts that result from a solicitation using Federal Funds to incorporate by reference the provisions of 29 CFR part 201, the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) with the same force and effect as if given in full text. The FLSA sets minimum wage, overtime pay, recordkeeping, and child labor standards for full and part time workers. The County requires the Supplier have full responsibility to monitor compliance to the referenced statute or regulation. The Supplier must address any claims or disputes that arise from this requirement directly with the U.S. Department of Labor – Wage and Hour Division.

While project labor agreement will not be utilized, Collin County will certify all laborers and mechanics employed by contractors and subcontractors in the performance of the project are paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing. Bid specifications will require the General Contractor to secure adequate subcontract labor with the necessary licensing and experiences to ensure quality construction through the life of the project. The goal of minimizing disputes and disruptions is the focus of every participant on the project. In Collin County's experience, providing open communication channels and dispute resolution meetings, when necessary, has been the best way forward on a project.

General Contractors on this project will be required to follow OSHA regulations, provide a safety orientation and hold regular safety meetings specific to these jobsites throughout the projects until completion.

Workers on the projects will receive wages and benefits that will secure an appropriately skilled workforce in the context of the local and regional labor market. Community Benefit Agreements will not be utilized; however, prioritization will be given to local hires.

During the solicitation process, the County also takes the affirmative steps to ensure minority businesses, women's business enterprises and labor surplus area firms are utilized when possible, as outlined in 2 C.F.R. §200.321. Further, the County contractually requires the awarded Contractor to adhere to the same procurement requirements when soliciting for subcontractors and suppliers.

## USE OF EVIDENCE

Collin County's ARPA public health projects were selected to comply with evidence-based interventions recommended by the CDC. In order to comply with the CDC's COVID-19 infectious disease directives and respond to COVID-19, the broader health impacts of COVID-19 and the COVID-19 public health emergency, Collin County will increase public health capacity at its three core public health facilities. The CDC's existing evidence-based strategies for COVID-19 prevention and containment were relied on in the selection of these capital expenditure projects which support public health by strengthening our primary health care infrastructure and advancing health equity and health outcomes while mitigating the spread of COVID-19. The evidence base includes:

- According to "Public Health's Infrastructure", a status report prepared for The Appropriations Committee of the United States Senate by the CDC, the CDC's recommendations to improve public health infrastructure include addressing crucial gaps in organizational capacities of local and State health departments and laboratories. Within the "What is the Public Health Infrastructure" section of this report, organizational capacity is described as a basic necessary foundation of public health system preparedness. This status report was published in 2001 and can be found at <https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/11337>.
- According to a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ("HHS") press release on April 27, 2021 [<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/04/27/hhs-announces-1-billion-dollar-from-american-rescue-plan-for-construction-and-renovation-projects-at-health-centers.html>], HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra is quoted as stating, "'As the pandemic has made clear, modernizing the physical infrastructure of many of our country's health centers is long overdue.'" In line with the \$1 billion that has been allocated from the American Rescue Plan Act for construction and renovation projects for Health Resources and Services Administration ("HRSA") funded health centers, Collin County's has approved use of ARPA funds for these same purposes for a new Health Care Services facility, which is not HRSA-funded. Within the April 27, 2021 press release, HRSA Acting Administrator Diana Espinosa states "HRSA-funded health centers have adapted to the evolving needs in their communities throughout the pandemic. This historic influx of funding for infrastructure improvements will allow them to continue the critical work of connecting underserved patients and communities with high-quality health care." Collin County agrees and is allocating all of its ARPA funds to public health projects.
- Each of Collin County's approved projects specifically incorporates the CDC recommended public health strategies [Honein MA, Christie A, Rose DA, et al. Summary of Guidance for Public Health Strategies to Address High Levels of Community Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and Related Deaths, December 2020. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2020; 69:1860-1867. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6949e2>]. The 10 strategies endorsed by the CDC in this

publication include: 1) universal face mask use, 2) maintaining physical distance from other persons and limiting in-person contacts, 3) avoiding nonessential indoor spaces and crowded outdoor spaces, 4) increasing testing to rapidly identify and isolate infected persons, 5) promptly identifying, quarantining, and testing close contacts of persons with known COVID-19, 6) safeguarding persons most at risk for severe illness or death from infection with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, 7) protecting essential workers with provision of adequate personal protective equipment and safe work practices, 8) postponing travel, 9) increasing room air ventilation and enhancing hand hygiene and environmental disinfection, and 10) achieving widespread availability and high community coverage with effective COVID-19 vaccines.

The impact of not following these recommended public strategies is clearly outlined by the CDC. As such, Collin County is investing these funds in public health capacity to support the community's public health by strengthening our primary health care infrastructure and advancing health equity and health outcomes while mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

All \$200,984,172 of Collin County's ARPA funds are being allocated to support these CDC evidence-based strategies.



## Project Inventory

Below is an inventory of the projects discussed in more detail above:

**PROJECT 1:** Adult Detention Center Medical/Mental Health Infirmiry

**Funding Amount:** \$134,108,428.86

**Project Identification Number:** GTARPA (DC, CPA, CPB)

**Project Expenditure Category:** 1.12, “Public Health – Mental Health Services”

**Capital Expenditure Type:** Behavioral Health Facilities and Equipment

### **Project Overview**

This project encompasses the construction of a specialized medical and mental health infirmiry of 111 beds and pre-designed shell space for an additional 150 beds at the Collin County Adult Detention Facility. This includes capital investments in directly related ancillary infrastructure, such as the central plant facilities.

Major construction activities required for the objectives of this project to be accomplished include central plant construction, and the design and construction of the new infirmiry building, including both fully built-out areas and shell space for future beds.

The design phase of the project is complete. Site work and installation of underground utilities for infirmiry building and central plant are in progress. Building permits are in review for city and state requirements. The facility is planned to be opened in June 2026.

The planned addition of 111 medical and mental health infirmiry beds (261 beds, including shell space) will enable Collin County to meet its intended outcome of providing better medical and behavioral/mental health care for more inmates requiring these services.

### **Use of Evidence**

In order to support public health and mitigate the spread of COVID-19, the goal of this project is to increase the community public health capacity at the Adult Detention Facility. Those incarcerated, even for a short time, in a detention setting are typically among the highest risk and most medically underserved.

This Collin County public health project was selected to respond to COVID-19, the broader health impacts of COVID-19 and the COVID-19 public health emergency, as well as comply with evidence-based interventions recommended by the CDC. This project to increase the public health capacity will strengthen the Collin County primary health care infrastructure and advance health equity and health outcomes to this medically underserved community, as well as address the increase in medical and behavioral health needs of this community. The CDC’s existing evidence-based strategies for COVID-19 prevention and containment were relied on in the selection of this capital expenditure project which supports public health and mitigates the spread of COVID-19. The evidence base includes:

- According to “Public Health’s Infrastructure”, a status report prepared for The Appropriations Committee of the United States Senate by the CDC, the CDC’s recommendations to improve public health infrastructure include addressing crucial gaps in organizational capacities of local and State health departments and laboratories. Within the “What is the Public Health Infrastructure” section of this report, organizational capacity is described as a basic necessary

foundation of public health system preparedness. This status report was published in 2001 and can be found at <https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/11337>.

- According to a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (“HHS”) press release on April 27, 2021 [<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/04/27/hhs-announces-1-billion-dollar-from-american-rescue-plan-for-construction-and-renovation-projects-at-health-centers.html>], HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra is quoted as stating, ““As the pandemic has made clear, modernizing the physical infrastructure of many of our country’s health centers is long overdue.” In line with the \$1 billion that has been allocated from the American Rescue Plan Act for construction and renovation projects for Health Resources and Services Administration (“HRSA”) funded health centers, Collin County’s has approved use of ARPA funds for these same purposes for a new Health Care Services facility, which is not HRSA-funded. Within the April 27, 2021 press release, HRSA Acting Administrator Diana Espinosa states “HRSA-funded health centers have adapted to the evolving needs in their communities throughout the pandemic. This historic influx of funding for infrastructure improvements will allow them to continue the critical work of connecting underserved patients and communities with high-quality health care.” Collin County agrees and is allocating all of its ARPA funds to public health projects.
- Each of Collin County’s approved projects specifically incorporates the CDC recommended public health strategies [Honein MA, Christie A, Rose DA, et al. Summary of Guidance for Public Health Strategies to Address High Levels of Community Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and Related Deaths, December 2020. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2020; 69:1860-1867. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6949e2>]. The 10 strategies endorsed by the CDC in this publication include: 1) universal face mask use, 2) maintaining physical distance from other persons and limiting in-person contacts, 3) avoiding nonessential indoor spaces and crowded outdoor spaces, 4) increasing testing to rapidly identify and isolate infected persons, 5) promptly identifying, quarantining, and testing close contacts of persons with known COVID-19, 6) safeguarding persons most at risk for severe illness or death from infection with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, 7) protecting essential workers with provision of adequate personal protective equipment and safe work practices, 8) postponing travel, 9) increasing room air ventilation and enhancing hand hygiene and environmental disinfection, and 10) achieving widespread availability and high community coverage with effective COVID-19 vaccines.

The impact of not following these recommended public strategies is clearly outlined by the CDC. As such, Collin County is investing these funds in public health capacity to support the community’s public health by strengthening our primary health care infrastructure and advancing health equity and health outcomes while mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

All ARPA funds are being allocated to support these CDC evidence-based strategies.

**PROJECT 2:** Health Care Services Building & Vaccination Hub/Parking Garage

**Funding Amount:** \$54,841,678.80

**Project Identification Number:** GTARPA (HCB, HCG)

**Project Expenditure Category:** 1.14, “Public Health – Other Public Health Services”

**Capital Expenditure Type:** Medical Equipment and Facilities

**Project Overview**

This project allocates ARPA funding for construction of a new Health Care Services building and parking garage to establish the capacity for a vaccination hub and provides sufficient operational, storage, meeting and office space to meet the community’s incremental public health needs, which have occurred as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The main activities of this project include the selection of an architect, as well as the design, permitting and construction of both the parking garage/vaccination hub and the Health Care Services building.

After an architect was selected, the design phase started in late summer 2022. This building project is now in general contractor bid negotiations, with a contract expected to be awarded in summer 2024. Site work is anticipated to start in late August 2024. The parking garage/vaccination hub and Healthcare facility are planned to be opened in 2026.

The intended outcome of this project is to increase the capacity of Collin County Health Care Services, including establishing space suitable for a vaccination hub. This outcome will enable Collin County to provide better care of at-risk and other marginalized residents.

**Use of Evidence**

The goal of this project is to increase the community public health capacity at Health Care Services. As administrator of a local safety net system, Collin County Health Care Services takes on the care for the county’s uninsured, underinsured and medically indigent.

This Collin County public health project was selected to comply with evidence-based interventions recommended by the CDC. In order to respond to COVID-19, the broader health impacts of COVID-19 and the COVID-19 public health emergency, as well as comply with the CDC’s COVID-19 infectious disease directives, Collin County will increase public health capacity by building a new, larger Health Care Services building and parking garage suitable as a vaccination hub. The CDC’s existing evidence-based strategies for COVID-19 prevention and containment were relied on in the selection of this capital expenditure project which supports public health and mitigates the spread of COVID-19. The evidence base includes:

- According to “Public Health’s Infrastructure”, a status report prepared for The Appropriations Committee of the United States Senate by the CDC, the CDC’s recommendations to improve public health infrastructure include addressing crucial gaps in organizational capacities of local and State health departments and laboratories. Within the “What is the Public Health Infrastructure” section of this report, organizational capacity is described as a basic necessary foundation of public health system preparedness. This status report was published in 2001 and can be found at <https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/11337>.
- According to a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (“HHS”) press release on April 27, 2021 [<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/04/27/hhs-announces-1-billion-dollar-from->

[american-rescue-plan-for-construction-and-renovation-projects-at-health-centers.html](#)], HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra is quoted as stating, "As the pandemic has made clear, modernizing the physical infrastructure of many of our country's health centers is long overdue." In line with the \$1 billion that has been allocated from the American Rescue Plan Act for construction and renovation projects for Health Resources and Services Administration ("HRSA") funded health centers, Collin County's has approved use of ARPA funds for these same purposes for a new Health Care Services facility, which is not HRSA-funded. Within the April 27, 2021 press release, HRSA Acting Administrator Diana Espinosa states "HRSA-funded health centers have adapted to the evolving needs in their communities throughout the pandemic. This historic influx of funding for infrastructure improvements will allow them to continue the critical work of connecting underserved patients and communities with high-quality health care." Collin County agrees and is allocating all of its ARPA funds to public health projects.

- Each of Collin County's approved projects specifically incorporates the CDC recommended public health strategies [Honein MA, Christie A, Rose DA, et al. Summary of Guidance for Public Health Strategies to Address High Levels of Community Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and Related Deaths, December 2020. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2020; 69:1860-1867. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6949e2>]. The 10 strategies endorsed by the CDC in this publication include: 1) universal face mask use, 2) maintaining physical distance from other persons and limiting in-person contacts, 3) avoiding nonessential indoor spaces and crowded outdoor spaces, 4) increasing testing to rapidly identify and isolate infected persons, 5) promptly identifying, quarantining, and testing close contacts of persons with known COVID-19, 6) safeguarding persons most at risk for severe illness or death from infection with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, 7) protecting essential workers with provision of adequate personal protective equipment and safe work practices, 8) postponing travel, 9) increasing room air ventilation and enhancing hand hygiene and environmental disinfection, and 10) achieving widespread availability and high community coverage with effective COVID-19 vaccines.

The impact of not following these recommended public strategies is clearly outlined by the CDC. As such, Collin County is investing these funds in public health capacity to support the community's public health by strengthening our primary health care infrastructure and advancing health equity and health outcomes while mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

All ARPA funds are being allocated to support these CDC evidence-based strategies.

### **PROJECT 3: Medical Examiner Building**

**Funding Amount:** \$12,034,064.34

**Project Identification Number:** GTARPAME

**Project Expenditure Category:** 1.14, “Public Health – Other Public Health Services”

**Capital Expenditure Type:** Medical Equipment and Facilities

#### **Project Overview**

This project uses ARPA funding for construction of a new Medical Examiner building. The Medical Examiner is directly engaged in matters related to public health and provides a public health support service that is essential for care of the deceased.

The main activities of this project include the selection of an architect, as well as the design, permitting and construction of the Medical Examiner building.

After an architect was selected, the design phase started in late summer 2022. This building project is now in general contractor bid negotiations, with a contract expected to be awarded in summer 2024. Site work is anticipated to start in late August 2024. The facility is planned to be opened in 2026.

The intended outcome of this project is to increase the capacity of the Medical Examiner’s office. This outcome will enable Collin County to strengthen its primary health care infrastructure and continue to treat the deceased with dignity and respect while addressing the gaps in the current building’s capacity and infectious disease containment functionality.

#### **Use of Evidence**

The goal of this project is to increase the community public health capacity of the Medical Examiner’s office.

This Collin County public health project was selected to comply with evidence-based interventions recommended by the CDC. In order to respond to COVID-19, the broader health impacts of COVID-19 and the COVID-19 public health emergency, as well as comply with the CDC’s COVID-19 infectious disease directives, Collin County will increase public health capacity by building a Medical Examiner office. The CDC’s existing evidence-based strategies for COVID-19 prevention and containment were relied on in the selection of this capital project which supports public health and mitigates the spread of COVID-19. The evidence base includes:

- According to “Public Health’s Infrastructure”, a status report prepared for The Appropriations Committee of the United States Senate by the CDC, the CDC’s recommendations to improve public health infrastructure include addressing crucial gaps in organizational capacities of local and State health departments and laboratories. Within the “What is the Public Health Infrastructure” section of this report, organizational capacity is described as a basic necessary foundation of public health system preparedness. This status report was published in 2001 and can be found at <https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/11337>.
- According to a U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (“HHS”) press release on April 27, 2021 [<https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/04/27/hhs-announces-1-billion-dollar-from-american-rescue-plan-for-construction-and-renovation-projects-at-health-centers.html>], HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra is quoted as stating, “As the pandemic has made clear, modernizing

the physical infrastructure of many of our country's health centers is long overdue." In line with the \$1 billion that has been allocated from the American Rescue Plan Act for construction and renovation projects for Health Resources and Services Administration ("HRSA") funded health centers, Collin County's has approved use of ARPA funds for these same purposes for a new Health Care Services facility, which is not HRSA-funded. Within the April 27, 2021 press release, HRSA Acting Administrator Diana Espinosa states "HRSA-funded health centers have adapted to the evolving needs in their communities throughout the pandemic. This historic influx of funding for infrastructure improvements will allow them to continue the critical work of connecting underserved patients and communities with high-quality health care." Collin County agrees and is allocating all of its ARPA funds to public health projects.

- Each of Collin County's approved projects specifically incorporates the CDC recommended public health strategies [Honein MA, Christie A, Rose DA, et al. Summary of Guidance for Public Health Strategies to Address High Levels of Community Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 and Related Deaths, December 2020. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2020; 69:1860-1867. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6949e2>]. The 10 strategies endorsed by the CDC in this publication include: 1) universal face mask use, 2) maintaining physical distance from other persons and limiting in-person contacts, 3) avoiding nonessential indoor spaces and crowded outdoor spaces, 4) increasing testing to rapidly identify and isolate infected persons, 5) promptly identifying, quarantining, and testing close contacts of persons with known COVID-19, 6) safeguarding persons most at risk for severe illness or death from infection with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, 7) protecting essential workers with provision of adequate personal protective equipment and safe work practices, 8) postponing travel, 9) increasing room air ventilation and enhancing hand hygiene and environmental disinfection, and 10) achieving widespread availability and high community coverage with effective COVID-19 vaccines.

The impact of not following these recommended public strategies is clearly outlined by the CDC. As such, Collin County is investing these funds in public health capacity to support the community's public health by strengthening our primary health care infrastructure and advancing health equity and health outcomes while mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

All ARPA funds are being allocated to support these CDC evidence-based strategies.

## Performance Report

Through rigorous, structured project management techniques, Collin County seeks to ensure its overarching jurisdictional goals for all of these projects will be achieved.

### **PROJECT 1: Adult Detention Center Medical/Mental Health Infirmary**

**Goal:** Increase the community public health capacity of the Collin County Adult Detention Facility infirmary.

- **Output Key Performance Indicator:** Greater number of infirmary beds
- **Output Key Performance Indicator:** Additional infirmary square feet
- **Outcome Key Performance Indicator:** Better serve residents requiring medical and mental health services within the Adult Detention Facility
- **Outcome Key Performance Indicator:** Increased compliance with CDC COVID-19 infectious disease prevention and containment directives

### **PROJECT 2: Health Care Services Building & Vaccination Hub/Parking Garage**

**Goal:** Increase the community public health capacity of Collin County Health Care Services.

- **Output Key Performance Indicator:** Greater number of examination rooms
- **Output Key Performance Indicator:** Additional Health Care Services square feet
- **Output Key Performance Indicator:** Health Care Services parking garage (vaccination hub) is complete
- **Outcome Key Performance Indicator:** Better serve residents requiring medical and mental health services at Health Care
- **Outcome Key Performance Indicator:** Increased compliance with CDC COVID-19 infectious disease prevention and containment directives

### **PROJECT 3: Medical Examiner Building**

**Goal:** Increase the community public health capacity of the Collin County Medical Examiner office.

- **Output Key Performance Indicator:** Additional Medical Examiner building square feet
- **Outcome Key Performance Indicator:** Better serve residents requiring services at the Medical Examiner building
- **Outcome Key Performance Indicator:** Increased compliance with CDC COVID-19 infectious disease prevention and containment directives