



Physical Address: 501 South Main Street

Mailing Address: PO Box 228

Rhome, Texas 76078

Telephone: 817-636-2462

www.cityofrhome.com | citysecretary@cityofrhome.com

Mayor
Jo Ann Wilson

City Council

Mayor Pro-Tem,
Place 1
Josh McCabe

Place 2
Michelle Tye

Place 3
Elaine Priest

Place 4
Sam Eason

Place 5
Ashley Majors

City
Administrator
Cynthia Northrop

City Attorney
Carvan Adkins

City Secretary
Shannon
Montgomery

Fire Chief
Darrell Fitch

Police Chief
Eric Debus

Public Works
Director
Sean Densmore

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE RHOME CITY COUNCIL

Meeting Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021

Location: **VIA TELEPHONE CONFERENCE**

MEETING START TIME: **6:30 PM**

Call to Order and Establish a Quorum

Mayor Wilson called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. City Secretary Montgomery called roll and announced a quorum of Council Members present.

Council Members Present:

Mayor Jo Ann Wilson

Council Member Elaine Priest

Mayor Pro Tem Josh McCabe

Council Member Sam Eason

Council Member Michelle Tye

Council Member Ashley Majors

City Staff Present:

City Administrator Cynthia Northrop

Municipal Court Clerk Kristi Adams

City Secretary Shannon Montgomery

Police Chief Eric Debus

Fire Chief Darrell Fitch

Public Works Director Sean Densmore

Public Presentations and Input

The Council is not permitted to take action on or discuss any presentations made to the Council at this time concerning an item not listed on the agenda. The Council will hear comments during this designated time. Request form, or email, must be submitted to the City Secretary, via email to citysecretary@cityofrhome.com, prior to 4:00pm to be recognized.

The following made Public Presentations to the Council:

- Candance Fitch – School Road, Rhome, Texas
- Lisa Ann Wilson – West First Street, Rhome, Texas (ready by City Secretary Montgomery)

Announcements from Mayor and Council Members

Mayor Pro Tem McCabe clarified that the renaming of the Community Center to the Marie Moore Community Center will take place whether or not the proposed bond election passes or not.

Mayor Wilson announced the August 2021 City of Rhome Events:

- Monday, August 2, 2021 – Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting at 6pm
- Tuesday, August 3, 2021 – Monthly Bulk Trash Pick Up
- Saturday, August 7, 2021 – Coffee with a Cop at Rhome Donut Shop from 8am until 10am
- Tuesday, August 10, 2021 – Monthly Household Hazardous Waste Pick Up
- Thursday, August 12, 2021 – City Council meeting at 6:30pm

Consent Agenda

All items under this section are recommended for approval for the Consent Agenda. These items are of a routine nature and require only brief deliberation by Council. Council reserves the right to remove any item on the Consent Agenda for further deliberation.

- A. Minutes of City Council Regular Session dated July 8, 2021 (City Secretary)**
- B. Interlocal Agreement for Animal Control Services with Wise County for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 (City Administrator)**
- C. Resolution approving Rate Tariffs between the Atmos Steering Committee and the Atmos Entergy Corporation (City Secretary)**

Motion made by Council Member Tye, seconded by Council Member Priest to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented.

City Secretary Montgomery asked for a roll-call vote:

Mayor Pro Tem McCabe: Aye
Council Member Tye: Aye
Council Member Priest: Aye
Council Member Eason: Aye
Council Member Majors: Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

Regular Agenda – New Business

- D. Discussion regarding Certified Taxable Values, Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 and Proposed 2022 Tax Rate (City Administrator)**

City Administrator Northrop provided an update on the budget, including the certified taxable values. Northrop stated the preliminary budget was presented to Council on July 8, 2021 based on preliminary taxable values. Wise County Appraisal District released the Certified values and Wise County Tax Office has communicated the information with the cities.

Staff was asked to budget for what is necessary to maintain current service levels and to address departmental needs for the purpose of providing services for the health and safety of our residents and to continue to prepare for growth and development. These requests were prioritized and presented to the City Council in the March workshop and discussed in subsequent Council meetings throughout the Spring and early Summer.

As a reminder, Senate Bill 2 was effective in last year's budget, the calculations are more complex and the bill was essentially designed to lower the rollback rate from 8% to 3.5% and requires an election if the rate is set above what is now referred to as the Voter Approved Rate.

Northrop provided a comparison of the 2021 and 2020 Certified Numbers:

Certified Values	2021	2020
Total Market Value	\$217,248,134	\$201,216,046
Certified Taxable Value	\$183,857,461	\$167,913,921
Certified Total Taxable Value (after adjustments)	\$164,776,526	\$151,636,191
New Improvements	\$4,668,600	\$2,964,455
Frozen Value of 0/65 Homestead	\$19,051,753	\$16,648,800
Frozen Levy of 0/65 Homestead	\$71,301	\$68,306
No New Revenue Rate	\$0.446273/100	\$0.498422/100

Certified Values	2021	2020
Voter Approval Rate	\$0.450858/100	\$0.494146/100
De minimus Rate	\$0.928819/100	\$1.002146/100
Proposed VAR M&O Rate	\$0.257667	\$0.267316
Debt Rate	\$0.193190/100	\$0.226830/100
Total amount of Municipal Debt obligations	\$344,406	\$343,957

Next steps in the budget process include:

- August 26, 2021:
 - Budget Public Hearing
 - Required vote on the proposed FY2021-2022 budget
 - Record Vote on Proposed Tax Rate
- September 9, 2021
 - Proposed Tax Rate Public Hearing
 - Adopt FY2021-2022 budget
 - Ratify tax rate

Discussion only; no action taken.

(City Secretary Note: Presentation will be included with the Final Minutes)

E. Discussion and any necessary action regarding a Proclamation of Appreciation to Texas Christian University for their furniture donation (City Administrator)

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem McCabe, seconded by Council Member Tye, to approve the Proclamation.

City Secretary Montgomery asked for a roll-call vote:

Mayor Pro Tem McCabe: Aye
 Council Member Tye: Aye
 Council Member Priest: Aye
 Council Member Eason: Aye
 Council Member Majors: Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

F. Discussion and any necessary action regarding American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and proposed uses (City Administrator)

City Administrator Northrop provided a brief background on the background American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), stating that ARPA is a federal program that offers \$350 billion to help states, counties, and tribal governments to cover increased expenditures, replenish lost revenue, and mitigate economic harm from COVID – 19. As a city under 50,000 population (Non-Entitlement Units of Local Government/NEU) we will receive the money allocated through Texas Department of Emergency Management (TDEM).

Staff has been gathering information and has attended webinars on the program, requirements and process. The City of Rhome’s allocation will be approximately \$457,165. The money will be released in two ‘tranches’; 50% in Fall of 2021 and 50% in Fall of 2022. The eligible uses for the funding are fairly broad to meet pandemic response and to rebuild a stronger, more equitable economy, including expenditures that support water, sewer infrastructure, technology and public health support.

The State of Texas is expected to apply for the funds August 2, 2021 and once they receive the funding, they have 30-days to disperse the pre-determined allocations (based on population) to NEUs. While TDEM is the pass-through agency, reporting requirements will be submitted to the Treasury Department. Staff has completed the required application and submission to TDEM and TDEM has confirmed our application/submission is completed.

Staff is proposing the following use(s) for the funding that meets the program’s criteria of eligible uses:

Tranche #1 - \$228,000 (Fall of 2021)

Department	Eligible Uses	Amount
Admin	Data Analysis & Technology Infrastructure – STW/Open Gov	\$ 140,000
Admin	Technology Infrastructure – AV Community Center	\$ 10,000
Police	Data Analysis & Tech Infrastructure – Watchguard components and cameras	\$ 10,000
Police	Premium pay for essential workers – overtime	\$ 29,000
Fire	Data Analysis & Tech Infrastructure – radios and pagers	\$ 39,000

Eligible Uses include:

“Rebuilding public sector capacity, by rehiring public sector staff and replenishing unemployment insurance (UI) trust funds, in each case up to pre-pandemic levels. Recipients may also use this funding to build their internal capacity to successfully implement economic relief programs, with investments in data analysis, targeted outreach, technology infrastructure, and impact evaluations.”

“Providing premium pay for essential workers” – essential workers have put their physical well-being at risk to meet the daily needs of their communities.

Upgrading our software to cloud-based system that provides for robustly expanding data analysis capacity for multiple city services and communicating internally/externally, providing for social distancing.

STW is our financial software program that was onboarded 2018-2019. OpenGov acquired them in 2020. OpenGov is a cloud-based software offering a comprehensive suite of services. They are recommending STW clients upgrade to the cloud-based program as beginning in the next several months, there will be no updates available for STW applications. We attended a demo of the platform and we are excited at the capability and robustness; **providing streamlined services, reporting, forecasting, etc. via easy and interactive features that will save staff time, increase transparency and promote social distancing.** One of our goals is to begin compiling the budget according to the best practices laid out by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA), which is presented in the form of a budget book and meeting specific criteria. This software would be a key step in attaining that goal.

- a. Deployment of the software takes roughly 9 months.
- b. Pricing includes one-time deployment and training cost of \$92,500 and annual lease would be \$45,000
- c. It meets the ARPA program eligibility requirements

Additionally, while initially we proposed the AV upgrades, that provide for livestreaming, in the Community Center use the Court Technology funds, it also meets the program requirements, so staff would propose to use the ARPA Funds instead of Court Technology Funds.

Tranche #2 - \$228,000 (Fall of 2022)

“Investments in Water/Wastewater infrastructure improvements” – In alignment with the City’s Master Water and Wastewater Plans.

OpenGov Representatives Andrew Stout and Mary Beth Gunderson provided a quick overview of the OpenGov platform.

Council Member Eason questioned whether or not the Council needed to go out for an RFP before approving the expenditure for upgrading the City’s current financial system.

Northrop stated that this is an upgrade with a current vendor, the City would only be upgrading a current project and would not need to go out for a Request for Proposals. OpenGov representatives also stated that they are on the buyboard and are a sole source provider.

Consensus of Council was to delay action until the August 12, 2021 Council Meeting to confer with the City Attorney regarding the RFP process.

Discussion only; no action taken.

(City Secretary Note: Presentation will be included with the Final Minutes)

Executive Session

Pursuant to the following designated section of the Texas Government Code, Annotated, Chapter 551 (Texas Open Meetings Act), the Council may convene into executive session to discuss the following:

- G. Section 551.071 Consultation with Attorney - pending or contemplated litigation, settlement offer or to seek advice from attorney**
 - **Prairie Point Development**
- H. Section 551.072 Deliberation regarding Real Property - purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property if deliberation in an open meeting would have detrimental effect on position of the governmental body in negotiations with a third person**
- I. Section 551.074 Personnel – discuss appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer or employee, or hear complaint or charge against officer or employee in executive session unless officer or employee requests public**
- J. Section 551.087 – Deliberations regarding Economic Development Negotiations – to discuss or deliberate regarding commercial or financial information that the City has received from a business prospect that the City seeks to locate, stay or expand in or near the City and with which the City is conducting economic development negotiations**
 - **Prairie Point Development**

City Administrator Northrop stated that Council would only be going into Executive Session to discuss Section 551.087 – Deliberations regarding Economic Development Negotiations relative to the Prairie Point Development.

Mayor Wilson convened into Executive Session at 7:43pm.

Mayor Wilson reconvened into Regular Session at 8:07pm.

Reconvene into Regular Session

K. Discussion and any necessary action as a result of Executive Session

Motion made by Mayor Pro Tem McCabe, seconded by Council Member Tye, to authorize the City Administrator to execute a professional services agreement and PID agreement as discussed in Executive Session.

City Secretary Montgomery asked for a roll-call vote:

Mayor Pro Tem McCabe: Aye
Council Member Tye: Aye
Council Member Priest: Aye
Council Member Eason: Aye
Council Member Majors: Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

Future Agenda Items

No future agenda items were requested.

Adjourn

Motion made by Council Member Majors, seconded by Council Member Priest to adjourn.


City Secretary Montgomery asked for a roll-call vote:

Mayor Pro Tem McCabe: Aye
Council Member Tye: Aye
Council Member Priest: Aye
Council Member Eason: Aye
Council Member Majors: Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 8:09pm.

Minutes approved the 12th day of August 2021.


Jo Ann Wilson,
Mayor




Shannon Montgomery, TRMC
City Secretary

Mission-Driven Government Expertise

300+ Years of Combined Government Experience

CEO

Application Support Lead,
Financials

VP Government Finance Solutions

Implementation Analyst

Product Lead, Financials

Director, Solutions
Engineering - Budgeting

Integrations Engineer

ZAC BOOKMAN

Former Special Advisor for Rule of Law and Governance with the International Security Assistance Forces

Charity Holman

Former Deputy City Secretary at City of Westworth Village, Texas

MIKE MCCANN

Former Assistant Finance Director at City of Monterey, California

ROBERTO RUIZ

Former Senior Budget Analyst at Teacher Retirement System of Texas

KENT HUDSON

Former Assistant City Manager at City of Vernon, Texas

SCOTT COBLE

Former Technology and Process Manager, OMB, at Montgomery County, Maryland

JAMIE CASTELLANOS

Former Application Analyst at City of Berkeley, California

Technical Account Manager

Director, Professional Services

Senior Implementation Analyst

Solutions Engineer

Manager, Solution Architecture

Lead Implementation Analyst

Senior Manager, Solutions
Engineering - Financials

JENNIFER NORDIN

Former Budget and Performance Analyst at Montgomery County, Maryland

ALMIS UDRYS

Former Assistant Chief Operating Officer at San Diego, California

ARIANA TUCKEY

Former Supervisory Budget Analyst at the FBI

MICAH INTERMILL

Former Budget Director at Minneapolis, Minnesota

MARK WELCH

Former Administrative Services Director at City of Ashland, Oregon

SETH CUMMINS

Former Financial Analyst at City of Milpitas

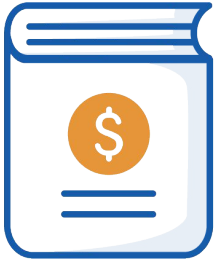
MONICA COOK

Former HHS Researcher at the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC)



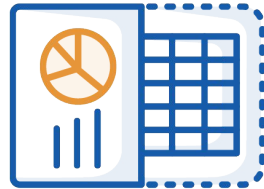
Built to Drive Value

Quantifiable Results from your Investment



50% less time

spent on budget
development



80% less time

spent on
reporting



20% fewer

information
requests (FOIA)



1%-2% of budget

freed for strategic
initiatives

Customer Presence in Texas

Municipality

City of Aledo, TX
City of Austin, TX
City of Balch Springs, TX
City of Bonham, TX
City of Burleson, TX
City of Carrollton, TX
City of Carthage, TX
City of Chandler, TX
City of Cibolo, TX
City of Colleyville, TX
City of Corsicana, TX
City of Crandall, TX
City of Decatur, TX
City of Denton, TX
City of DeSoto, TX
City of Dickinson, TX
City of Eagle Pass, TX
City of El Campo, TX
City of Elgin, TX
City of Everman, TX
City of Farmersville, TX
City of Fate, TX
City of Ferris, TX
City of Forest Hill, TX
City of Gainesville, TX
City of Gladewater, TX
City of Granbury, TX
City of Grand Prairie, TX
City of Grapevine, TX
City of Haltom City, TX
City of Haslet, TX
City of Hewitt, TX
City of Hillsboro, TX
City of Humble, TX
City of Hutchins, TX
City of Jacksonville, TX
City of Jefferson, TX
City of Kaufman, TX
City of Keller, TX
City of Kennedale, TX
City of Killeen, TX
City of Kingsville, TX
City of Kyle, TX
City of La Marque, TX
City of Lake Worth, TX
City of Lancaster, TX
City of Laredo, TX
City of Lewisville, TX
City of Lubbock, TX
City of Mansfield, TX
City of Marshall, TX
City of McKinney, TX
City of Mineola, TX
City of Missouri City, TX
City of Mount Pleasant, TX
City of Murphy, TX
City of Nassau Bay, TX
City of Paris, TX
City of Pilot Point, TX
City of Portland, TX
City of Red Oak, TX
City of Rhome, TX
City of Richland Hills, TX
City of Rowlett, TX
City of Roysse City, TX
City of Rusk, TX
City of Sachse, TX
City of Saginaw, TX
City of San Antonio, TX
City of San Juan, TX
City of San Marcos, TX
City of Seagoville, TX
City of Smithville, TX
City of South Padre Island, TX
City of Southlake, TX
City of Sugar Land, TX
City of Sulphur Springs, TX
City of Sunset Valley, TX
City of Temple, TX
City of Universal City, TX
City of Victoria, TX
City of Waco, TX
City of Whitney, TX
City of Wills Point, TX
City of Wilmer, TX
City of Wolfforth, TX
City of Yoakum, TX
Town of Edgecliff Village, TX
Town of Fairview, TX
Town of Hickory Creek, TX
Town of Highland Park, TX
Town of Little Elm, TX
Town of Northlake, TX
Town of Prosper, TX

Town of Sunnyvale, TX
Town of Trophy Club, TX
Town of Westlake, TX

County

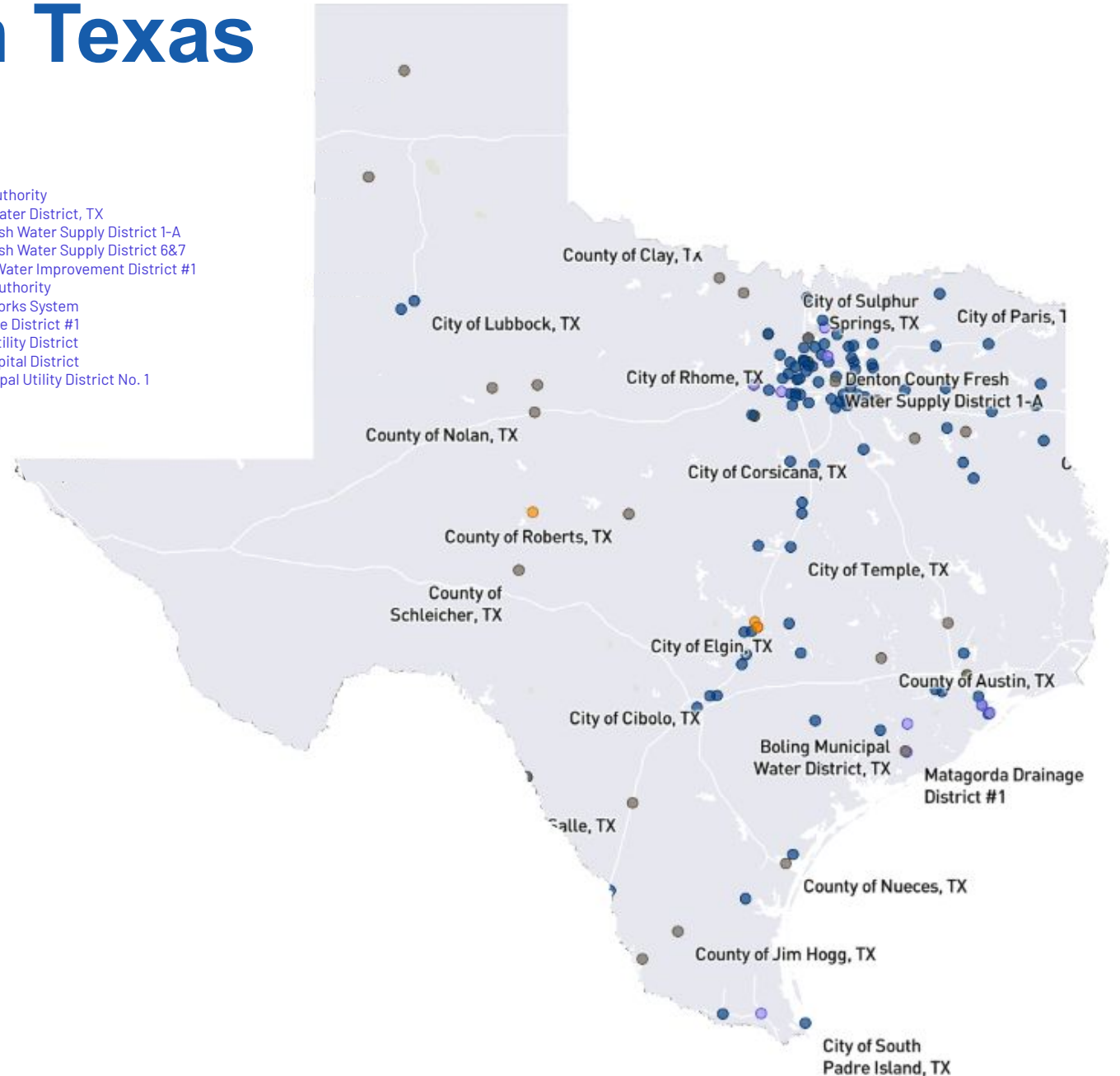
County of Austin, TX
County of Clay, TX
County of Dallas, TX
County of Deaf Smith, TX
County of Denton, TX
County of Fisher, TX
County of Henderson, TX
County of Jack, TX
County of Jim Hogg, TX
County of Kaufman, TX
County of La Salle, TX
County of Matagorda, TX
County of Maverick, TX
County of Montgomery, TX
County of Moore, TX
County of Nolan, TX
County of Nueces, TX
County of Parker, TX
County of Roberts, TX
County of Schleicher, TX
County of Scurry, TX
County of Wise, TX
County of Zapata, TX
County of Smith, TX - Emergency Services District

State Agency

Teacher Retirement System of Texas
Texas Department of Insurance
Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation
Texas Office of the Attorney General

Special District

Benbrook Water Authority
Boling Municipal Water District, TX
Denton County Fresh Water Supply District 1-A
Denton County Fresh Water Supply District 6&7
Galveston County Water Improvement District #1
Gulf Coast Water Authority
Harlingen Water Works System
Matagorda Drainage District #1
Mustang Special Utility District
Parker County Hospital District
Trophy Club Municipal Utility District No. 1



Simplify internal processes



Ben White
City Manager
Farmersville, TX

“50% time savings have freed my staff up from drudgery, enabling them to focus on things to help move this city forward!”

- 50% time savings for budget development
- Reports and data automatically update daily
- Reports now online reducing information requests (FOIA)

ARPA Reporting Requirements - What We Know Today

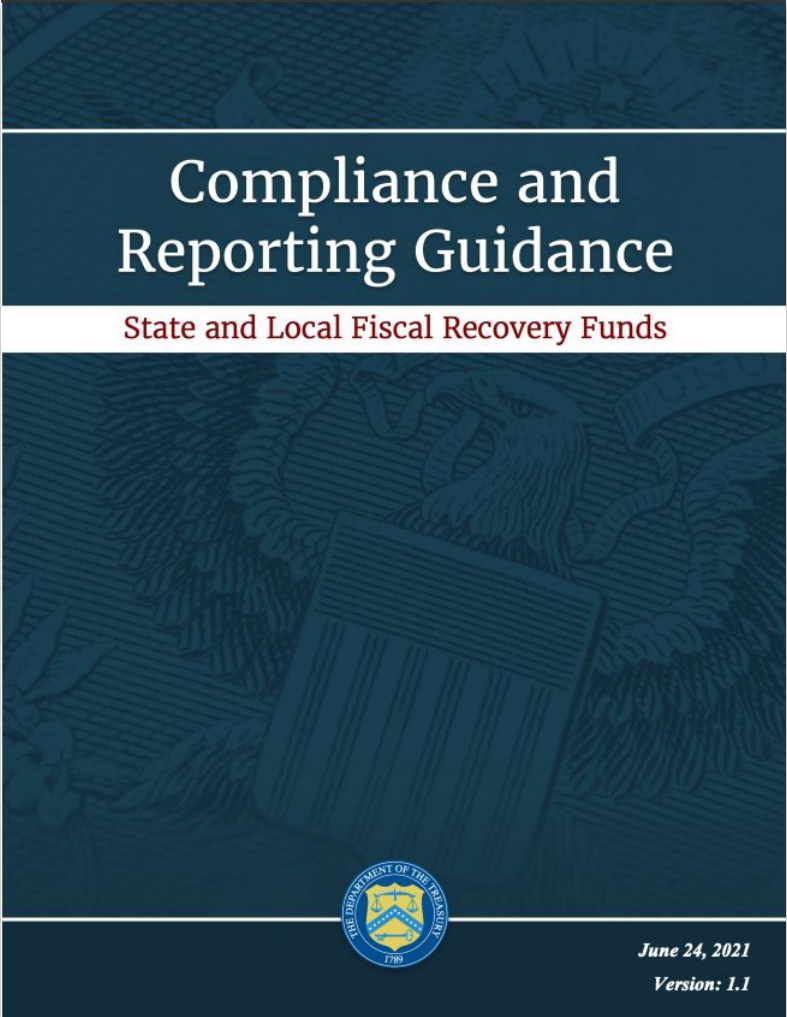


Table 2: Reporting requirements by recipient type

Recipient	Interim Report	Project and Expenditure Report	Recovery Plan Performance Report
States, U.S. territories, metropolitan cities and counties with a population that exceeds 250,000 residents	By August 31, 2021, with expenditures by category	By October 31, 2021, and then 30 days after the end of each quarter thereafter ⁹	By August 31, 2021, and annually thereafter by July 31 ¹⁰
Metropolitan cities and counties with a population below 250,000 residents which received more than \$5 million in SLFRF funding			Not required
Tribal Governments		By October 31, 2021, and then annually thereafter ¹¹	Not required
Metropolitan cities and counties with a population below 250,000 residents which received less than \$5 million in SLFRF funding			
NEUs	Not required		

ARPA Funds for Technology Infrastructure Spend Validation

- **“Rebuilding public sector capacity**, by rehiring public sector staff and replenishing unemployment insurance (UI) trust funds, in each case up to pre-pandemic levels. Recipients may also use this funding to build their internal capacity to successfully implement economic relief programs, **with investments in data analysis, targeted outreach, technology infrastructure, and impact evaluations.**”

Fact Sheet shared by the U.S Treasury, [link here](#)

U.S. Treasury website, [link here](#)