



Washoe County Recovery Plan

State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds – 2021 Report





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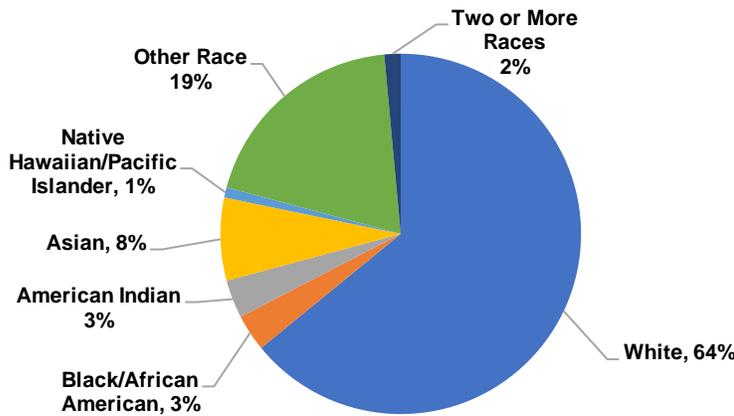


General Overview

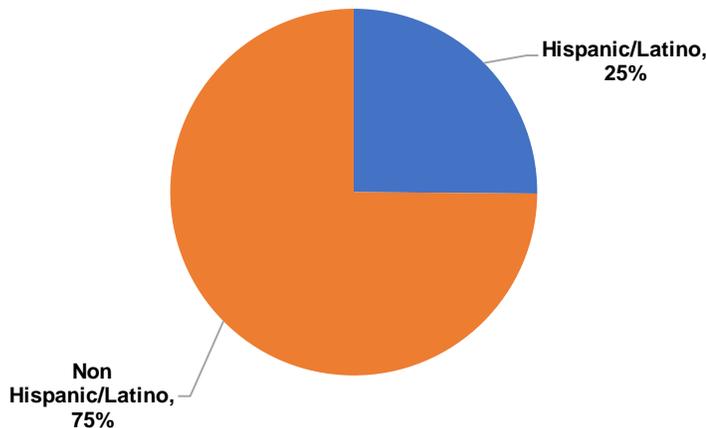
Washoe County is located in northwestern Nevada. The southern boundary is Carson City and Lake Tahoe. The county runs north along the California border to the Oregon border. The county includes two incorporated cities, Reno, and Sparks. Both cities are in south Washoe County within the Truckee Meadows Basin -- a large valley within the Range and Basin area of the Western United States. The Sierra Nevada Mountain range is located on the west side of the valley, and the smaller Virginia Range is located on the east. The Truckee River flows out of Lake Tahoe on the west and runs through the center of the valley before eventually entering Pyramid Lake to the northeast of Reno and Sparks, which is a terminal body of water (does not drain into the Pacific Ocean).

The population of Washoe County is 486,492. The racial makeup of the county is 64% white, 7% Asian, 3% black or African American, 3% American Indian, 1% Pacific islander, 19% from other races, and 1% from two or more races.

Population by Race: Washoe County



Those of Hispanic or Latino origin made up 25% of the population





What is affordable in Truckee Meadows?

Washoe County Owner-Occupied Housing Units Average Value: \$506,020

State of Nevada: \$403,127

The Regional Strategy for Housing Affordability – published in November 2018 identified the average home price in the Truckee Meadows as \$360,330. Today the average value of an Owner-Occupied Housing Unit is \$506,020.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the County's economy had rebounded from the recession that began in fiscal year 2008, due to economic growth and diversification. In February 2020, Nevada's economy was at a peak, with unemployment at 3.8% and Nevada led the nation in new job creation.

On March 12, 2020, a state of emergency was declared by Governor Steve Sisolak. One month later, the mandatory shutdowns resulted in launching Nevada's unemployment to more than 28%, which was the highest ever recorded rate in the United States since the country began tracking the data in the seventies. Due to prior diversification efforts, Washoe County's unemployment rate in April 2020 was slightly less at 19.6%, or 44,285 people unemployed.

The economic impact to one of the state's largest industries, tourism/hospitality was immediate. For example, cancellations of major special events removed approximately \$350 million from the Washoe County economy. This is demonstrated by the loss of Hot August Nights with an impact of \$290 million, followed by Burning Man with an impact of \$60 million and the Barracuda Professional Golf Association tournament at \$20 million.

With vaccinations becoming accessible to the general population throughout spring and summer of 2021, the state restrictions were lifted, and businesses began re-opening, though the approach varied county-by-county. The impact of re-opening can be seen in the decline of Washoe County's unemployment rate which was 4.9% in July 2021, or 12,983 people unemployed.

As of August 2021, approximately 67% of Washoe County residents aged 12 and older have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and approximately 60% are fully vaccinated. Yet, the 14-day positivity rate for COVID-19 is 19.8%. COVID-19 positivity rates at 12 of Nevada's 17 counties are flagged for elevated disease transmission, including Washoe County.

A major driver of these elevated positivity rates is the return of in-person learning at Washoe County School District (WCSD), which is also the county's largest employer with over 8,500 employees. WCSD is providing in-class instruction to over 67,113 students in over 113 schools. COVID-19 test positivity rate at WCSD is currently at 19.4% and is reporting 938 new or active cases as of August 28, 2021.

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Since the beginning of the pandemic, at least 1 in 9 residents have been infected or a total of 53,042 reported cases out of a population of 486,492 as of the 2020 Census. Of those cases reported, 46,997 have recovered and 725 residents have died. Over 501,653 vaccines have been administered resulting in a 60.29% vaccination rate of those over 12. With the emergence of the delta variant, 681 breakthrough cases have been reported or .28% positivity after full vaccination. COVID-19 vaccines are available for everyone 12 years and older.

The pandemic response is being managed in a regional collaboration of Washoe County, City of Reno and City of Sparks through the Regional Information Center (RIC). The RIC with a group of advisors made up of doctors, medical professionals, data scientists, communications specialists and elected officials from across the Truckee Meadows region developed the COVID Risk Meter in summer 2020. The Risk Meter was created to help synthesize data and information about COVID in the community and empower residents to make personal behavioral decisions with easy to use information. The Risk Meter uses data about COVID testing, new COVID cases, hospitalizations, and hospital capacity to assess the current state of COVID Risk in the region. As each of these data indicators increase, the risk score increases in an additive way.

The ability of our health care system to treat COVID-19 cases throughout this crisis was substantially improved by the rapid expansion of Renown Medical Center, transitioning two floors of a parking garage into 1,400 beds as a precautionary move to handle a surge in hospitalizations. Washoe County, the City of Reno and the City of Sparks through regional collaboration provided CARES funding to support the cost of the Alternative Care Facility (ACF). The ACF boosted Renown Medical Center's in-patient capacity from 808 beds to 1,508 beds, a 173 percent increase. Currently about 68% of ICU beds in Washoe County are in use.

While unemployment rates in the Washoe County area have improved, the unpredictability of variant strains of COVID-19, the reduced efficacy of vaccinations over time, and the disproportional impact to the County's underserved communities will continue to challenge recovery efforts. The use of these funds will mitigate these uncertainties for our most vulnerable populations and create more economic resiliency by focusing on key areas for addressing our needs in Washoe County.



Uses of Funds

A. Public Health (EC 1)

To maximize programmatic impact and ensure effective, efficient, and equitable public health outcomes, Washoe County will conduct a process to identify the most urgent, wide-ranging, and impactful public health needs related to the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The first step in the assessment was an analysis of existing regional needs, as identified from the strategic plans of nine governmental, economic and educational organizations. Goals and objectives from those plans that could potentially be applied to Recovery Fund Expenditure Categories were identified as Consolidated Regional Priorities.

The following chart demonstrates common focus areas under the topic of Public Health, which could also be mapped back to eligible Expenditure Fund categories. Key crossover subjects included COVID-19 recovery, access to health services, mental wellbeing and preventative services.

Public Health - Examples of Common Strategic Goals	
Washoe County	Continue to reopen and manage COVID-19 economic impacts to ensure our citizens have confidence in the overall recovery of our community.
University of Nevada	Provide preventative outreach programs that encourage good health and nutrition.
Washoe Co. Health District	Reduce the negative health and economic impacts of obesity and chronic disease.
	Support and promote behavioral health .
Washoe County Regional Recovery Action Plan	Promote the physical and mental well-being of all Washoe County residents and staff.
	Evaluate the organizational response to the COVID-19 pandemic to plan for similar events in the future.
Washoe County Community Health Improvement Plan	Reduce depression and suicidal behaviors in adolescents and seniors (age 65+).
	Strengthen behavioral health component of emergency preparedness and response.

As a result of our initial assessment efforts and collection of feedback from Washoe County internal stakeholders, the following key areas of funding need have been identified:

- **Address health disparities** known to directly influence social inequities in health through programs that target populations with higher incidents of disease.
- **Address the root causes of homelessness**, to include collaborative solutions for mental health, substance abuse and identifying pathways to independent living.

The needs and priorities identified above, along with information to be gathered from our community engagement process will be used to develop Washoe County’s strategy for funding public health projects and programs and provide equitable outcomes throughout our region.

As we move forward, we will determine the most appropriate funding sources, and collaborations to ensure regional public health needs are addressed to provide a strong recovery in the most effective, efficient, and equitable manner.



B. Negative Economic Impacts (EC 2)

From the Consolidated Regional Priorities exercise, the following charts demonstrate common focus areas under topic related to the **Economy and Workforce** development, which could also be mapped back to eligible Expenditure Fund categories. Key crossover subjects included economic revitalization, resiliency and business community engagement.

Economic Development & Tourism - Examples of Common Strategic Goals	
Economic Development Authority of W.Nevada	Attract quality, skilled, higher paying jobs.
	Prepare and help companies with change.
City of Reno	Implement the Downtown Action Plan in collaboration with the Downtown Reno Partnership.
City of Sparks	Foster an environment for the development and redevelopment of commercial and industrial areas.
University of Nevada	Promote revitalization of downtown Reno through joint planning and collaboration with the City, the Regional Transportation Commission, and other partners.
RSCVA	Recover total room night generation to 70% of prepandemic levels.
	Develop new strategy for special event funding, focus on supporting new events.
Truckee Meadows Tomorrow	Create and support fun, high-value, community events to engage the entire community and to increase unrestricted revenue.
Washoe Co. Regional Recovery Action Plan	Support the financial recovery of employers and residents.
	Foster business continuity within Washoe County and build back better.
Western Nevada Development District	Promote broadband and 5G technology investment to maximize business recruitment and job creation.
	Advocate for job creation that results in sustainable, quality jobs in a more resilient, more diverse economy .

Workforce Development & Education - Examples of Common Strategic Goals	
Economic Development Authority of W. Nevada	Strengthen education and employer relationships.
	Accelerate and expand Workforce Development efforts to meet growing employer needs .
Truckee Meadows Community College	Provide transition assistance for TMCC Adult Basic Education and Workforce Development and Continuing Education students that are interested in continuing their education at our institution.
	Career Services to provide networking and career-building opportunities with employers.
University of Nevada	Invest in disciplinary and interdisciplinary research areas that build upon existing strength and that are responsive to emerging needs and opportunities .
	Work with school districts to improve college readiness of high-school graduates.
Western Nevada Development District	Raise educational and skill levels in the region to close the skill gap and improve quality of life.
	Advance training programs to help trade affected, unemployed, underemployed, low-wage, or unskilled workers maximize self-sufficiency.

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As a result of our initial assessment efforts and collection of feedback from Washoe County internal stakeholders, the following key areas of funding need have been identified for addressing the negative economic impacts of the COVID-19 on our communities:

- **Bolster economic recovery** for small businesses to mitigate financial hardships, implement structural changes, or address other COVID-related issues.

The needs and priorities identified above, along with information to be gathered from our community engagement process will be used to develop Washoe County’s strategy for funding eligible projects and programs to address the Negative Economic Impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency and provide equitable outcomes throughout our region.

As we move forward, we will determine the most appropriate funding sources, and collaborations to ensure the Negative Economic Impacts on households, small business, and nonprofits are addressed in the most efficient, effective, and equitable manner.



C. Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities (EC 3)

It is anticipated that the majority of Washoe County’s SLFRF will be invested in projects and programs that address the services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities. Throughout the COVID-19 public health emergency Washoe County and the Cities of Reno and Sparks have been working together to address the increasing and complex issues of homelessness in our region.

Over the past several years, Washoe County has faced serious housing affordability challenges and seen a significant increase in residents experiencing homelessness. These challenges were only exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic.

Therefore Washoe County has decided to invest a significant amount of its SLFRF to improve homeless services and increase access to affordable housing for low-income residents. Projects identified to date include land and structural improvements to the region’s emergency homeless shelters. Additional projects, not yet obligated but under review, would provide increased staff and case management resources, and investments in the Washoe County Affordable Housing Trust Fund, to strengthen low-income affordable housing development efforts.

From the Consolidated Regional Priorities exercise, the following charts demonstrate common focus areas under topics of related to **Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities**, which could also be mapped back to eligible Expenditure Fund categories. Key crossover subjects included affordable housing, homeless services, food security, welcoming open space areas and ways to improve outreach to diverse populations.

Vulnerable Populations - Examples of Common Strategic Goals	
Washoe County	Expand the capacity for homeless services housing programs in Washoe County.
	Focus on expanding efforts to keep people in their homes , after COVID eviction moratorium ends.
City of Reno	Explore ways to partner with the private sector to fund and provide services to the homeless population .
Washoe Co. Health District	Improve nutrition by supporting efforts to increase food security .
TM Enterprise Plan	Preserve the affordability and improve the quality of existing affordable homeownership and rental options .

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Arts, Culture & Recreation - Examples of Common Strategic Goals	
Economic Development Authority of W.Nevada	Support community initiatives addressing homelessness, arts and culture , sustainability, trails and open space , and others.
City of Reno	Identify dedicated and creative funding sources for parks and recreation to address aging facilities, maintain parks and trails, and expand recreational opportunities.
City of Sparks	Protect our quality of life by smart development of major Parks and Recreation facilities.
University of Nevada	Revise rules, policies, and procedures to more effectively promote research, artistry, and entrepreneurial activities.
Washoe County Library	Washoe County Library Provides Opportunities to Express Creativity.
Washoe County Parks	Preserve and enhance existing regional parks.
W.NV Development District	Promote transportation that moves people to places of employment and recreation.

Community Engagement & Outreach - Examples of Common Strategic Goals	
Washoe County	Continue to engage citizens across the community through diverse channels .
Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency	Explore new models for communication and cooperation with public agencies and private and non-profit partners.
City of Sparks	Expand citizen education, communication and interaction opportunities.
University of Nevada	Encourage community focused university-county-city-state partnerships across all engagement entities and cross-entity collaboration to enhance the value of university resources for Nevadans.
Washoe Co. Health District	Raise awareness of the benefits of a healthy community to build a local culture of health.
Washoe County Library	Washoe County Library System is a trusted source for local information.

As a result of our initial assessment efforts and collection of feedback from Washoe County internal stakeholders, the following key areas of funding need have been identified:

- **Address the root causes of homelessness**, to include collaborative solutions for mental health, substance abuse and identifying pathways to independent living.
- **Address health disparities** known to directly influence social inequities in health through programs that target populations with higher incidents of disease.



- **Childhood environments** with key partners in the community who deliver early learning and family support services.
- **Build stronger neighborhoods** with initiatives that preserve and expand upon affordable housing options for low- to mid-income level earners in our community.

Project applicants may also provide these services to other populations, households, or geographic areas disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. In identifying these disproportionately impacted communities, recipients should be able to support their determination for how the pandemic disproportionately impacted the populations, households, or geographic areas to be served.

Eligible services include:

- **Addressing health disparities and the social determinants of health**, including: community health workers, public benefits navigators, remediation of lead paint or other lead hazards, and community violence intervention programs;
- **Building stronger neighborhoods and communities**, including: supportive housing and other services for individuals experiencing homelessness, development of affordable housing, and housing vouchers and assistance relocating to neighborhoods with higher levels of economic opportunity;
- **Addressing educational disparities exacerbated by COVID-19**, including: early learning services, increasing resources for high-poverty school districts, educational services like tutoring or after-school programs, and supports for students' social, emotional, and mental health needs; and
- **Promoting healthy childhood environments**, including: child care, home visiting programs for families with young children, and enhanced services for child welfare-involved families and foster youth.

The needs and priorities identified above, along with information gathered from our community engagement process will be used to develop Washoe County's strategy for funding eligible services to disproportionately impacted communities and provide equitable outcomes throughout our region.

As we move forward, we will determine the most appropriate funding sources, and collaborations to ensure regional needs of underserved communities are met and that underserved populations share in an equitable, and strong recovery.

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Qualified Census Tracts

In accordance with the Interim Final Rule, Washoe County will presume certain types of services are eligible uses when provided in a Qualified Census Tract (QCT), or to families living in QCTs.

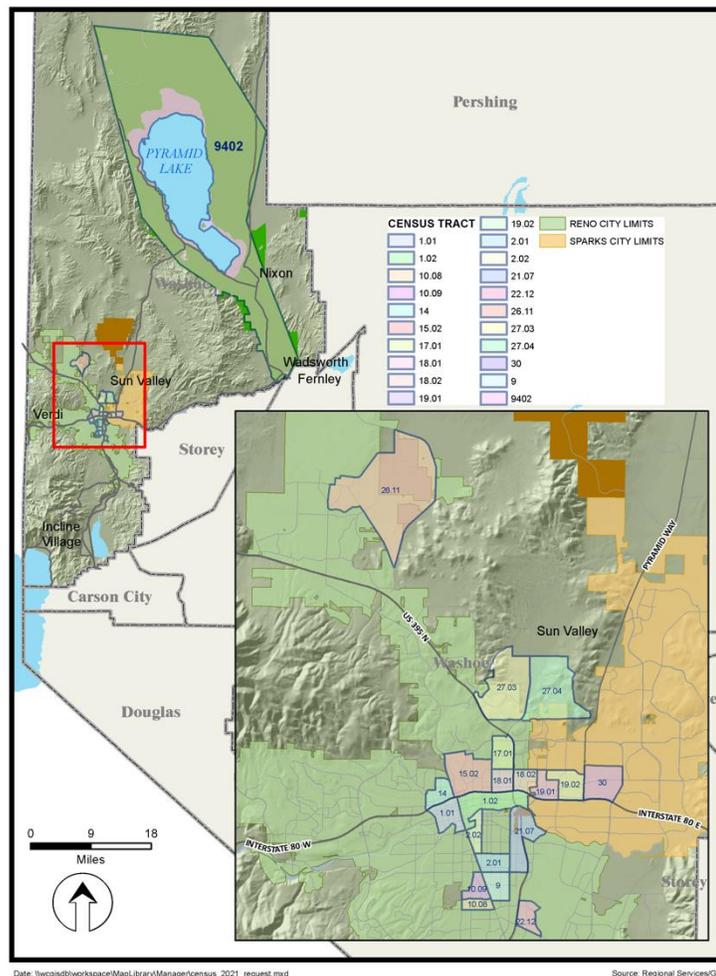
2021 IRS SECTION 42(d)(5)(B) QUALIFIED CENSUS TRACTS

(2010 Decennial Census and 2012-2016, 2013-2017 and 2014-2018 American Community Survey (ACS) Data; OMB Metropolitan Area Definitions, July 15, 2015)

**Effective Date January 1, 2021*

Metropolitan Area: Reno, NV MSA

COUNTY OR COUNTY EQUIVALENT	TRACT	TRACT	TRACT									
Washoe County, NV	1.01	1.02	2.01	2.02	9.00	10.08	10.09	14.00	15.02	17.01	18.01	18.02
	19.01	19.02	21.07	22.11	22.12	26.11	27.03	27.04	30.00	9402.00		





D. Premium Pay (EC 4)

There is no expected use of SLFRF to provide premium pay to public sector employees, or grants to other employers. Washoe County will gather input from our community engagement process to develop the County's strategy for funding eligible projects and programs. As we move forward, we will determine the most appropriate funding sources, and collaborations to ensure a strong, efficient, effective, and equitable recovery.

E. Water, Sewer, and Broadband Infrastructure (EC 5)

Water and Sewer:

Washoe County is in the process gathering input on projects and priorities for our SLFRF funded projects. It is anticipated that Washoe County will dedicate funding to necessary investments to improve the county's wastewater and storm water infrastructure. Projects being considered focus on addressing issues related to persistent flooding, cybersecurity maintaining full control and use of Washoe County's wastewater and reclaimed water facilities, and expansion of regional wastewater treatment and regional effluent reuse.

Before projects are chosen or prioritized for funding, the county will engage in discussions with regional and state partners and gather input from community members and key stakeholders. As we move forward, we will determine the most appropriate funding sources, and collaborations.

Broadband Infrastructure:

Washoe County has identified the need for broadband infrastructure in multiple areas of the county, specifically in underserved communities. At this time no specific broadband infrastructure projects have been identified or prioritized for SLFRF funding. Before projects are chosen or prioritized for funding, the county will engage in discussions with regional and state partners and gather input from community members and key stakeholders. As we move forward, we will determine the most appropriate funding sources, and collaborations, to ensure the installation of necessary broadband infrastructure in the most efficient, effective, and equitable manner.

Over the past eighteen months millions of Americans began working from home, distance learning, and receiving medical and mental health services via the internet. Our reliance on internet connectivity during the COVID-19 public health emergency has underscored the importance of broadband in underserved communities. The following is an analysis of the primary underserved communities in Washoe County by Census Tract.



F. Broadband Underserved Communities (EC 6)

The Census Tract information is provided to describe the underserved communities of Washoe County. Our strategic approach is that by use of the NDOT fiber we will strength our backbone or backhaul to county services and be able to provide internet to citizens who do not have the means to access the internet.

Washoe County has a long-term goal to change NRS 408, Telecom non-compete clauses to eventually allow for Washoe County in partnership with internet service providers to provide low-cost internet services to communities that need internet access. Each census tract listed below will provide the current population of the tract, percentage of household with no access to the internet, percentage of households without computer, smartphone, or tablet to reach these services, and the average internet speeds of the area. The minimum download speed of 25 megabits per second and 3 megabits per second upload speeds, are too slow or latent to support real time interactive applications.

Northern Washoe County

Underserved Population without internet access: 1,407

Population without computer, tablet, or phone: 858

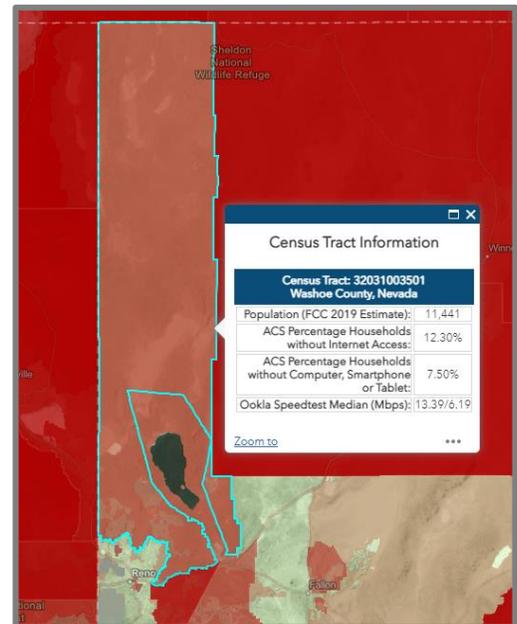
Average Data Rate: FAILS to meet minimum real-time support needs.

This census block is in a rural area of northern Washoe County that include vast ranch land. Communities are spread far apart and have no central locations available to serve for a greater good. The communities of Empire and Gerlach fall within this larger area of northern Washoe County that remains in the underserved internet category in Census Tract 32031003501. This census tract shows that 12.30% of household are without access to the internet, and 7.50% are without access to a computer, smartphone, or tablet. While those number are relatively low, the average speed of internet for this community is 13.39 Mbps download speeds and 6.19 Mbps upload speeds. The minimum download speed of 25 megabits per second and 3 megabits per second are too slow or latent to support real time interactive applications.

Washoe County seeks to install fiber up SR447 from Nixon to connect Gerlach to fiber. We intend to rope in all the county-owned buildings, along with public safety (Police, Fire and Emergency Medical), with the local School District building (serving K-12 students).

Gerlach will need to be connected via SR 447 from Nixon. Due to the distance that must be traversed, some 50+ miles, Washoe County Regional Communication System (WCRCS) needs to connect to our communication sites via fiber. Three locations have the potential to serve the community:

- Sheriff's Department
- Fire Station
- School District





Downtown Reno Census Tract 32031000102

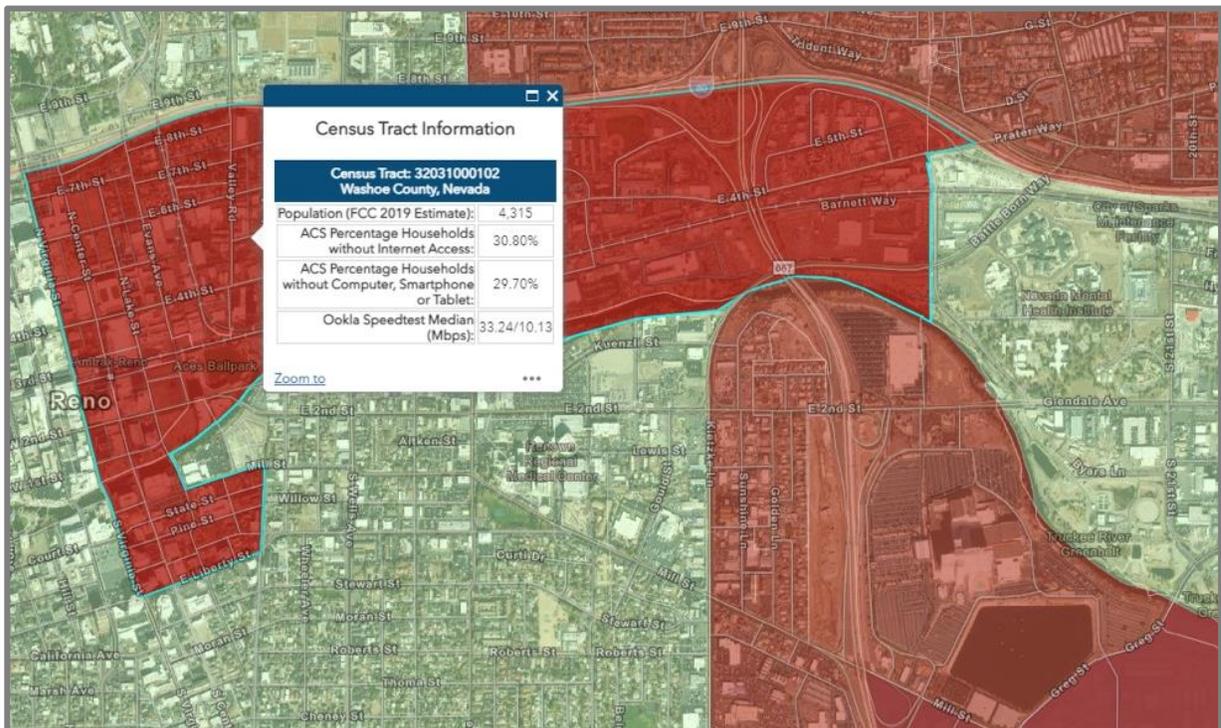
Underserved Population without internet access: 1,329

Population without computer, tablet, or phone: 1,282

Average Data Rate: FAILS to meet minimum real-time support needs.

This census tract may offer the best means of working on a public private partnership. The census tract 32031000102 has an estimated population of 4,315 individuals, 30.80% of which have no access to the internet. 29.70% of this census tract are without access to computers, smartphones, or tablets. This area has a median internet download speed of 33.24 Mbps and upload of 10.13 Mbps. These internet speeds do not meet the real time application speeds, one-third of the population within this tract are without access to the internet, with 29.70% without a device to use to connect. Three locations have the potential to serve the community:

- Discovery Museum
- Downtown (Possible Partnerships)
- Court Complex



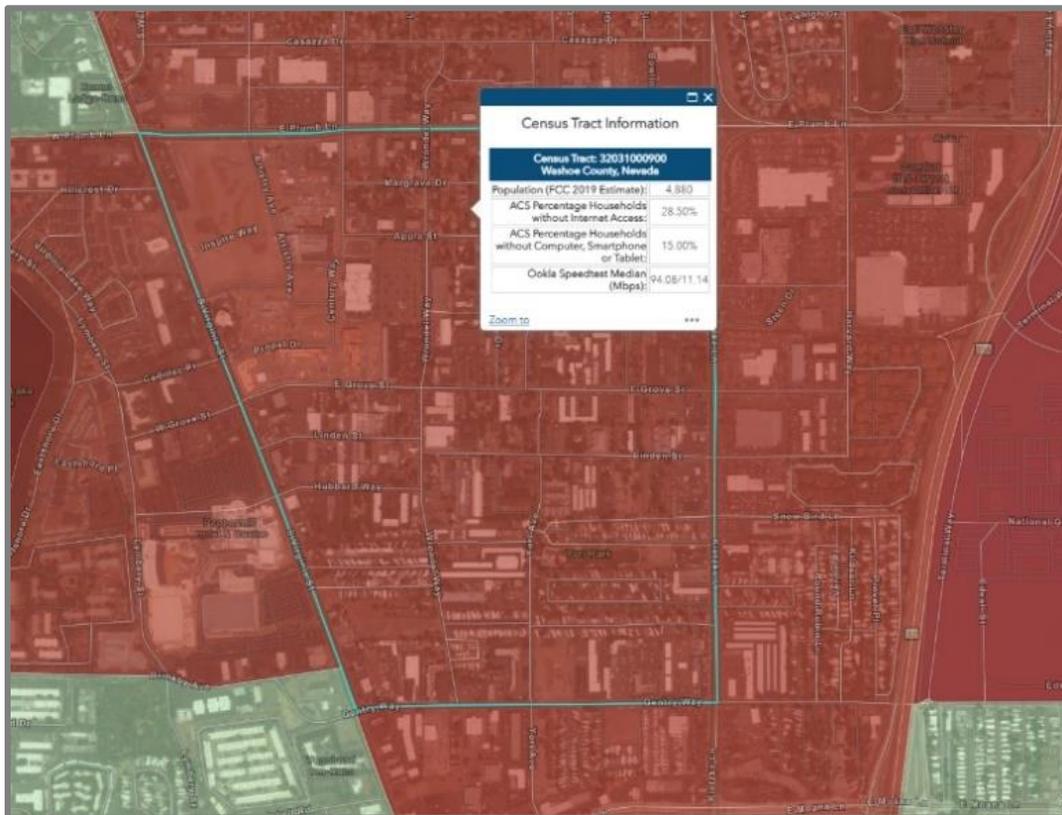
Census Tract 32031000900 & 32031002211

Underserved Population without internet access: 1,391

Population without computer, tablet, or phone: 732

Average Data Rate: Real-time support speeds available.

Census tract 32031000900 & 32031002211 has an estimated population of 4,880 and 3863 individuals, respectively. Census tract 3203100900 has 26.50% of which have no access to the internet, and 15.00% of this census tract are without access to computers, smartphones, or tablets. This area has a median internet download speed of 94.08 Mbps and upload of 11.14 Mbps.



Communities with Echo Loder Elementary & Yori Park

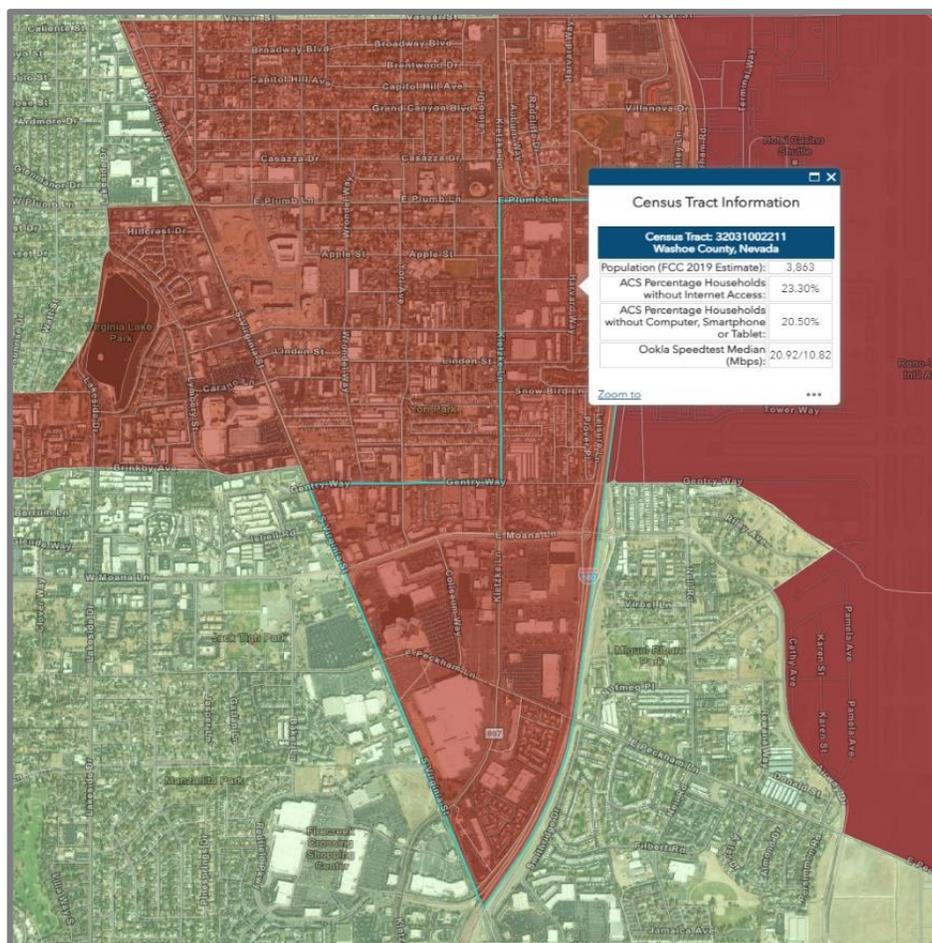
Underserved Population without internet access: 900

Population without computer, tablet, or phone: 792

Average Data Rate: FAILS to meet minimum real-time support needs.

Census tract 32031002211 has 23.30% of which have no access to the internet, and 20.50% of this census tract are without access to computers, smartphones, or tablets. This area has a median internet download speed of 20.92 Mbps and upload of 10.82 Mbps. These internet speeds do not meet the real time application speeds, one-fifth of the population within this tract is without access to the internet. Three locations have the potential to serve both communities:

- Echo Loder Elementary School
- Yori Park
- Phoenix Reno apartments



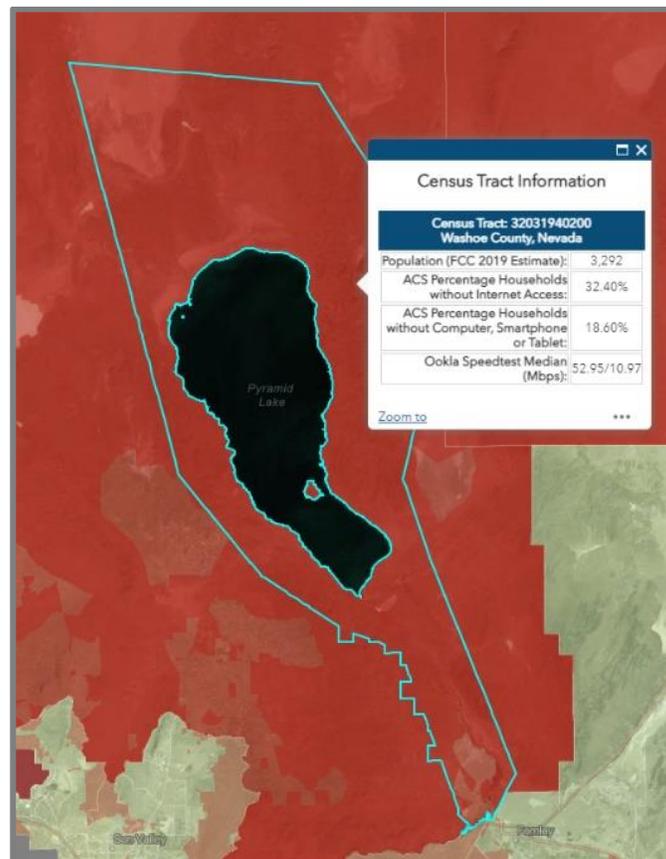
Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Census Tract 32031940200

Underserved Population without internet access: 1,067

Population without computer, tablet, or phone: 612

Average Data Rate: Meets minimum real-time support speeds.

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe falls within a larger area of Washoe County that remains in the underserved internet category in Census Tract 32031940200. Although the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe is self-governed, they are still an integral part of our community. The PLPT endowed the Marble Bluff Communication site to Washoe County in 1999, and this site is in the middle of our infrastructure that support public safety. The PLPT are members of the Joint Operating Committee that support the Public Safety Radio system of Washoe County Regional Communication System (WCRCS). WCRCS is a member of the Nevada Shared Radio System (NSRS). This census tract shows that 32.40% of household are without access to the internet, and 18.60% are without Computer, smartphone, or tablet. The average speed of internet for this community is 52.95 Mbps download speeds and 10.97 Mbps upload speeds. Although their internet speeds exceed the minimum download speed of 25 megabits per second and 3 megabits per second, the staggering number of underserved within this community needs to be addressed.



Deer Park Census Tract 32031001901

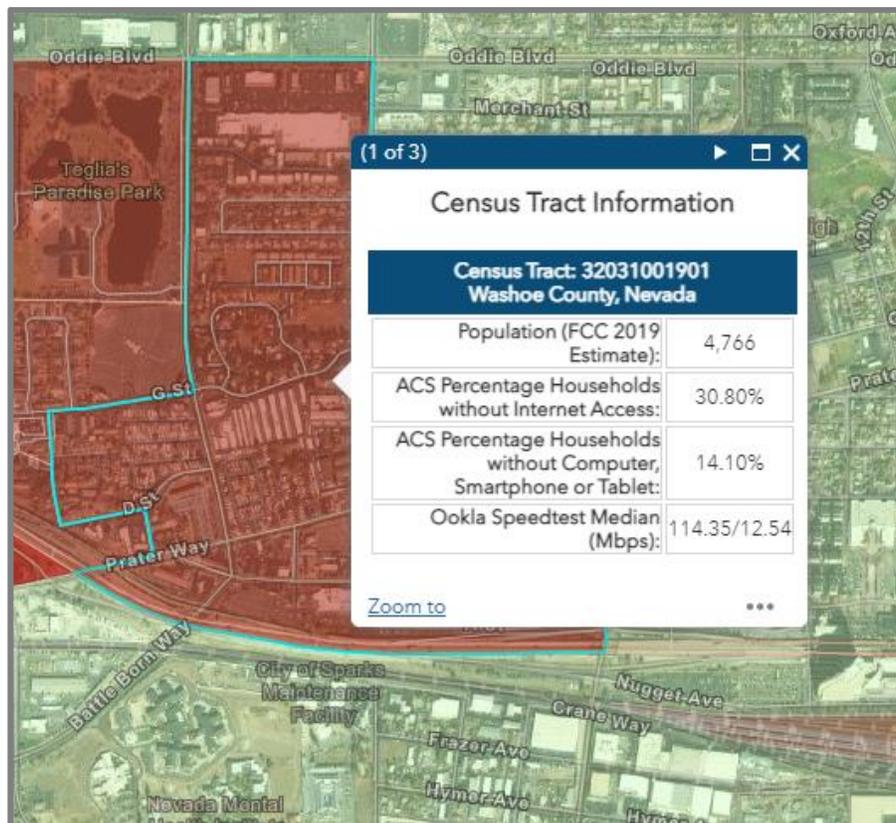
Underserved Population without internet access: 1,468

Population without computer, tablet, or phone: 672

Average Data Rate: Real-time support speeds available.

Census Tract 32031001901 has an estimated population of 4,766 individuals, 30.80% of which have no access to the internet. 14.10% of this census tract are without access to computers, smartphones, or tablets. This area has a median internet download speed of 114.35 Mbps and upload of 12.54 Mbps. While the internet speeds exceed the real time application speeds, one-third of the population within this tract is without access to the internet. Four locations have the potential to serve the community:

- Kate Smith Elementary School
- Deer Park
- Stonegate Apartments
- Sparks Mobile Home and RV Park



Governor's Bowl Park Census Tract 32031001801

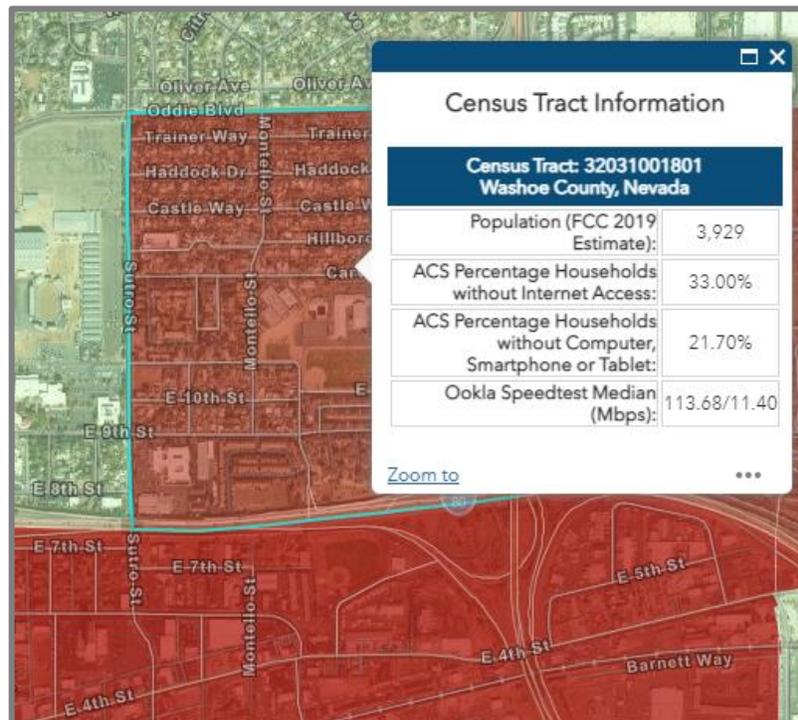
Underserved Population without internet access: 1,297

Population without computer, tablet, or phone: 852

Average Data Rate: Real-time support speeds available.

Census Tract 32031001801 has an estimated population of 3,929 individuals, 33% of which have no access to the internet. 21.70% of this census tract are without access to computers, smartphones, or tablets. This area has a median internet download speed of 113.68 Mbps and upload of 11.40Mbps. While the internet speeds exceed the real time application speeds, one-third of the population within this tract is without access to the internet. Three locations have the potential to serve the community:

- Fred Traner Middle School
- Duncan/Traner Community Library
- Governor's Bowl Park (new site of the Cares Homeless Services Campus)



Virginia Lake Census Tract 32031001009

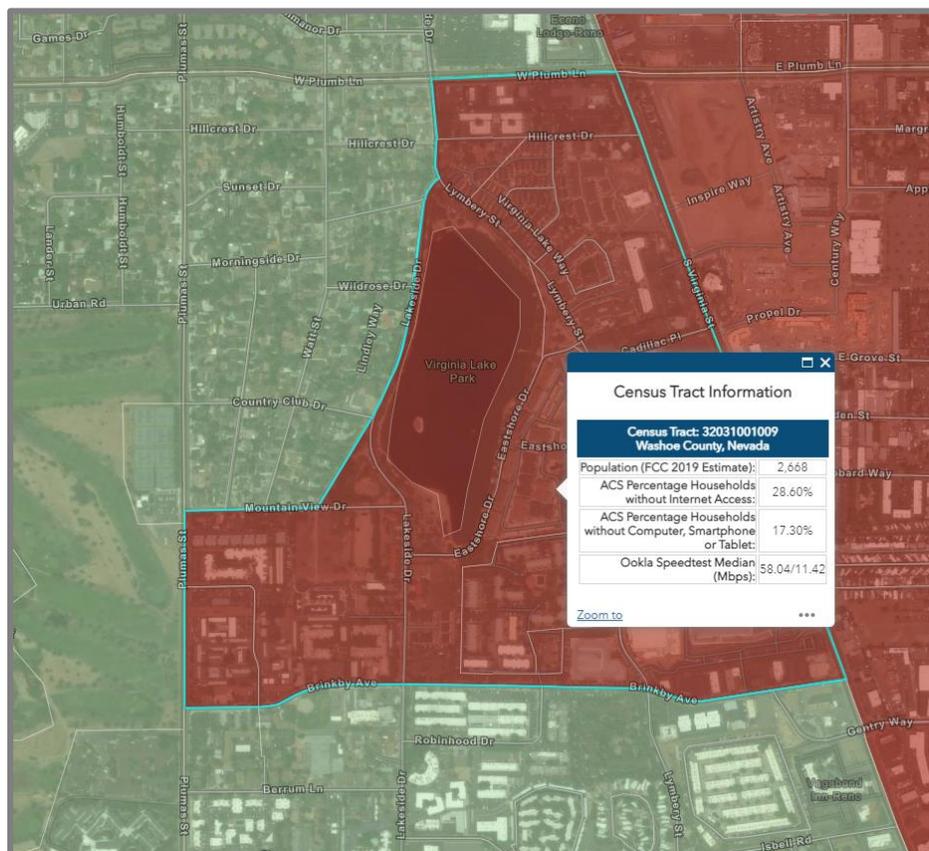
Underserved Population without internet access: 763

Population without computer, tablet, or phone: 462

Average Data Rate: Meet minimum real-time support speeds.

Census Tract 32031001009 has an estimated population of 2,668 individuals, 28.60% of which have no access to the internet. 17.30% of this census tract are without access to computers, smartphones, or tablets. This area has a median internet download speed of 58.04 Mbps and upload of 11.42 Mbps. These internet speeds barely meet the real time application speeds, and one-third of the population within this tract is without access to the internet, with 17.30% without a device to use to connect. One place and two locations have the potential to serve the community:

- Virginia Lake North and South
- Virginia Lake, and both parks (Playground Park, and East shore Drive)



Reno Housing Authority Census Tract 32031001802

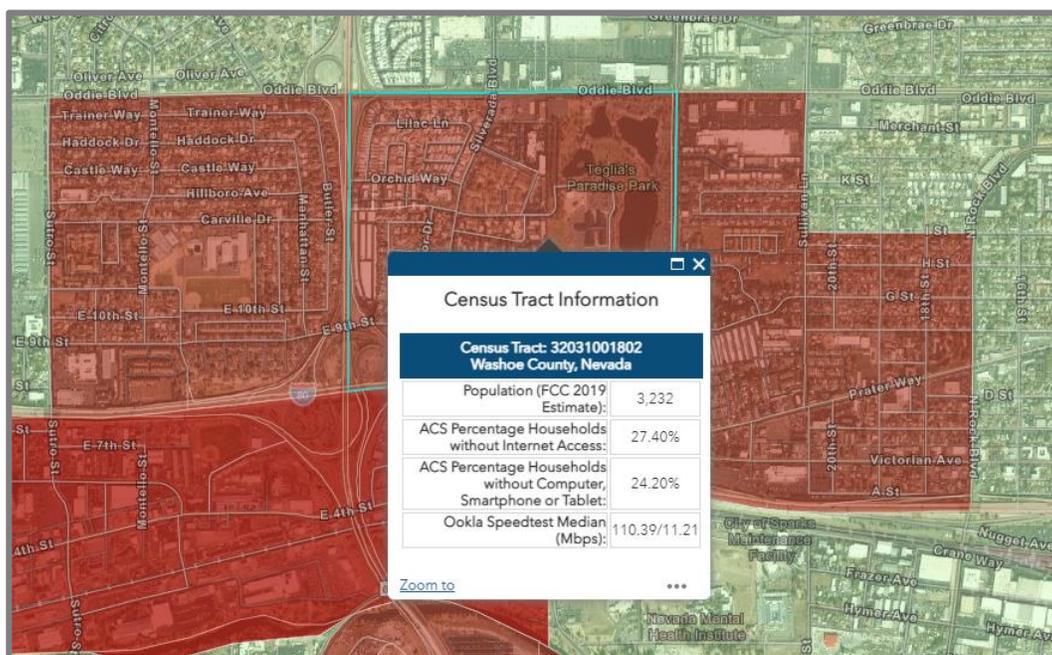
Underserved Population without internet access: 885

Population without computer, tablet, or phone: 782

Average Data Rate: Real-time support speeds available.

Census Tract 32031001802 has an estimated population of 3,232 individuals, 27.4% of which have no access to the internet. 24.20% of this census tract are without access to computers, smartphones, or tablets. This area has a median internet download speed of 110.39 Mbps and upload of 11.21 Mbps. While the internet speeds exceed the real time application speeds, one third of the population within this tract is without access to the internet. Three locations have the potential to serve the community:

- Bernice Matthews Elementary
- Reno housing Authority
- Mountain Vista Mobile Home Park



Wooster High School Census Tract 32031002107

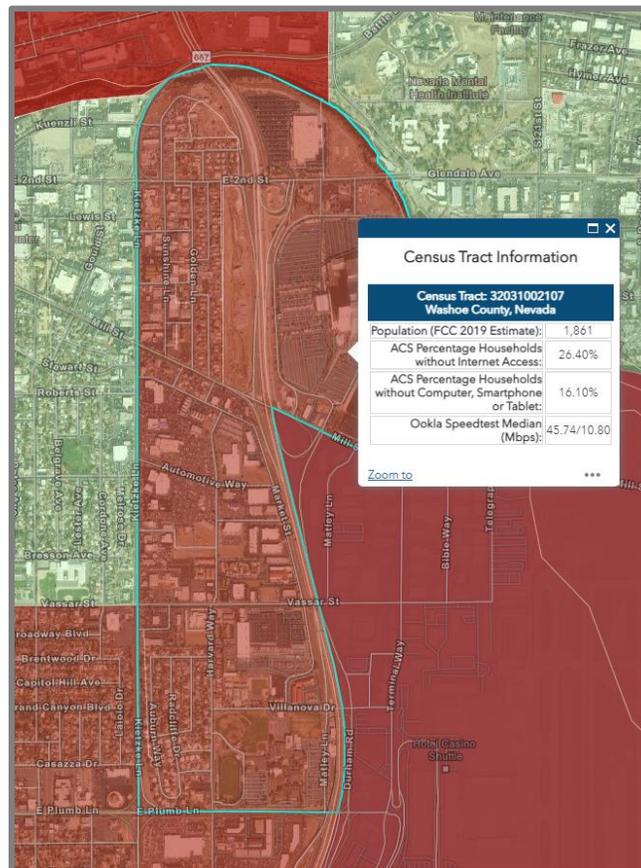
Underserved Population without internet access: 491

Population without computer, tablet, or phone: 300

Average Data Rate: Meet minimum real-time support speeds.

Census Tract 32031002107 has an estimated population of 1,861 individuals, 26.40% of which have no access to the internet. 16.10% of this census tract are without access to computers, smartphones, or tablets. This area has a median internet download speed of 45.74 Mbps and upload of 10.80 Mbps. These internet speeds do not meet the real time application speeds, and one-quarter of the population within this tract is without access to the internet, with 16% without a device to use to connect. Four locations have the potential to serve the community:

- Earl Wooster High School
- Corbett Elementary School
- US Social Security Administration
- Reno-Sparks Indian Colony





G. Revenue Replacement

Washoe County has identified up to \$11.2M of Revenue Loss for the period January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020 per the US Treasury guidance and formula (i.e., Rules and Regulations, FAQs, etc.) and the GFOA Revenue Loss Calculator. Revenue Loss funds will only be used for eligible purposes.

To date, no Revenue Loss funds have been expended. However, Washoe County has identified multiple potential uses including, but not limited to:

- Replacement and Modernization of Legacy Finance and Administration Systems
- Technology Capital and Infrastructure Investment
- Capital Facility Improvements
 - Washoe County canceled or deferred \$8.4M of capital improvement projects between March 2020 and June 2021 due to anticipated COVID-19 impacts. These projects span various functions, including Public Safety, Welfare, General Government, and Public Works.
- Roads Projects
- Provision of Public Safety Services

Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERPA)

Washoe County received Emergency Rental Assistance funds, in the amount of \$6,564,663.20. The County subgranted over 97% of the funds to the Reno Housing Authority to provide financial assistance for rent, rent arrears, utilities and home energy costs, and home energy costs arrears, and other expenses related to housing incurred due, directly or indirectly, to the novel coronavirus disease. These funds are used to assist residents in the City of Sparks and unincorporated Washoe County.

Prioritization of Assistance:

1. The income of the household does not exceed 50 percent of the area median income for the household.
2. One (1) or more individuals within the household are unemployed as of the date of the application for assistance and have not been employed for the 90-day period preceding such date.

As of August 23, 2021, over \$2.7 million in financial assistance has been provided to 317 households.

Washoe County received \$5,194,310 in Emergency Rental Assistance. These funds will be used to provide support to the community through emergency rental assistance and housing stability programs.

For ERA2, Washoe County will be implementing its own housing assistance program. The ERA2 program is designed to be a targeted intervention for those facing imminent eviction and/or currently experiencing homelessness and housing instability. Washoe County is actively developing a centralized application process and in turn will partner selected social and legal service providers to direct resources to county residents who are most in need.



Promoting Equitable Outcomes

Low-income communities and workers and people of color have faced more severe health and economic outcomes during the pandemic, with pre-existing social vulnerabilities like low-wage or insecure employment, concentrated neighborhoods with less economic opportunity, and pre-existing health disparities likely contributing to the magnified impact of the pandemic.

For example, there have been 17,730 COVID-19 cases for Washoe County's Latino populations as of August 2021. This represents 14.2% of the Latino population in the county, in comparison to 16% of COVID-19 cases for the general population. Of the industries most impacted by COVID, unemployment rates due to state-mandated shutdowns were the highest in the hospitality and food services sector, which is disproportionately served by Latino workers. Extended families living in multi-generational households is also reported to be higher in Latino populations, with 27% in multigenerational housing compared to the national average of 20%. These are representative of the health, economic and social indicators that will be taken into consideration as Washoe County assesses its equity outcomes.

To ensure that SLFRF funded projects deliver equitable outcomes and address the needs of disproportionately impacted communities, Washoe County will embed equity-related objectives throughout community outreach, program selection, implementation, and monitoring, and the program reporting processes.

Community Outreach: To track success toward achieving equity outcomes, gathering a baseline understanding of needs by the County's underserved communities is being incorporated into community outreach. This will be done by surveying the community, leveraging community partnerships with organizations who work with underserved populations, and optimizing communication strategies with program-owners to best reach these communities.

Program/Project Selection: With needs understood and defined, an analysis of the most relevant economic, social, or civic community indicators will be identified to monitor and track program progress. Reporting upon these key metrics will determine which programs will qualify for SLFRF funding. As part of the application process, potential recipients will be required to identify how their program/project will promote equitable outcomes. Specifically, applicants will be evaluated regarding of their response to the following questions:

Describe how your program will promote equitable outcomes. How was it designed with equity in mind? Please include in your description how you will consider and measure equity at the various stages of the program, including:

- A. Goals:** Are there particular historically underserved, marginalized, or adversely affected groups that you intend to serve within your jurisdiction?
- B. Awareness:** How equal and practical is the ability for residents or businesses to become aware of the services funded by the SLFRF?
- C. Access and Distribution:** Are there differences in levels of access to benefits and services across groups? Are there administrative requirements that result in disparities in ability to complete applications or meet eligibility criteria?
- D. Outcomes:** Are intended outcomes focused on closing gaps, reaching universal levels of service, or disaggregating progress by race, ethnicity, and other equity dimensions where relevant for the policy objective?

Washoe County Recovery Plan

State & Local Fiscal Recovery Funds – 2021 Report



Equitable Outcomes Technical Assistance: As a component of program oversight and monitoring, technical assistance will be provided to all program/project owners to encourage, facilitate, and ensure equitable outcomes for underserved communities.

Reporting Requirements: Programs receiving SLFRF funds will be required to report key metrics according to the populations, households, or geographic areas served. The County can then aggregate programmatic-level data into broader health, economic, or social indicators by identified demographics. These aggregations will serve to track broader equity outcomes for populations that are being disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. This focus in reporting will also inform needed program shifts as COVID impacts may evolve.

Both static and interactive reporting will be made available to all stakeholders, program owners and the community-at-large throughout the SLFRF public dashboard and community engagement process. Static reporting delivered to the U.S. Treasury will be posted on www.washoecounty.us/recovery and the interactive reporting dashboard will be made available after program selection begins and key data points have been identified.



Community Engagement

Washoe County’s approach to community outreach is multi-pronged: 1) Collection of input, and gather data to understand and prioritize needs in the community; 2) Engage with targeted stakeholder groups that serve disproportionately impacted communities and identify key areas to expand/prioritize services; and 3) Launch outreach and awareness campaigns for funded projects; and 4) Maintain accountability and transparency through continued reporting upon key program metrics to reflect services delivered and fulfillment of equity outcomes.

Collection of data to understand and prioritize needs

Through community surveys, events and meetings, the County will gather perspectives on critical needs of the community to bolster efforts for pandemic recovery. This phase will include the isolation of data to provide clear insight into the feedback of communities with significant barriers to services, to help establish pathways to best serve those populations.

Defining these segment populations will be done by offering the survey through multiple language options and will ask important socio-economic indicators such as location (e.g. Census Tract Areas, multi-lingual), average income levels, pre-pandemic employment status and pandemic employment status.

To help collect feedback from populations with limited access to technology, the County has identified neighborhoods with a high percentage of households with no access to the internet, and/or high percentage of households without computers, smartphones, or tablets (see Broadband Infrastructure section below). In these neighborhoods, survey awareness and outreach can occur at County buildings, libraries, schools, or other congregate locations. When in-person opportunities for community information dissemination exists, outreach will also be deployed in a safe manner that follows COVID-gathering protocols.

Engage with targeted stakeholder groups that serve disproportionately impacted communities

To build the capacity of community organizations to serve impacted populations, the County will engage with key stakeholder groups in the region who are already tied into and serve populations that have barriers to service.

This engagement effort will be ongoing throughout the allocation timeframe and beyond, as these key groups will be important communication channels for providing information to disproportionately impacted communities about funded programs.

The methods used for this outreach will include listening sessions, focus groups and regional roundtables to ensure funding is coordinated and collaborative with efforts from the cities, states and tribal organizations that are also focusing on addressing similar community needs.

Findings from these sessions will guide the prioritization of program/project selection by providing clarity on how to leverage funds to increase their capacity to serve impacted populations, as well as what services and interventions are most needed to address the impacts of COVID-19 public health emergency.

Launch outreach and awareness campaigns for funded projects

Once program allocation begins, outreach must focus on raising awareness of services to impacted populations. The county’s communication plan will initiate outreach to local news outlets, leverage owned channels (i.e. webpages and physical locations), optimize social media and directly release information to local non-profit organizations and stakeholder groups.



Some programs may have extremely targeted communication tactics that are to-be-determined to effectively reach the identified populations. Additionally, to encourage equitable access to funded programs, the county will work closely with program owners to identify their most salient communication tactics and align efforts whenever opportunities exist.

Maintain accountability and transparency through continued reporting

The funding provided by the SLFRF represent a time-bound opportunity for the county to build trust and confidence in how these funds are leveraged, which will be accomplished through building tools for accountability and transparency.

To ensure these outcomes are integrated into program development, direct outreach to program owners will include a clear understanding of reporting requirements, processes, and deadlines. Adherence from program owners will be important for public-facing reporting and updates, which will also provide key data points for inclusion in mandatory quarterly and annual U.S. Treasury filings.

Public-facing reporting dashboards will be positioned to relay program-specific descriptions, funding received, and performance metrics. Whenever possible broader community indicators will be included in context to the community as well. Reporting dashboards will also include copies of all reports submitted to the U.S. Treasury.

With each program added or report update, media outreach through press releases, webinars or presentations will also occur. County residents are encouraged to subscribe to an email list that will be used to notify interested residents of new postings, key accomplishments, project milestones and report submissions.

Get Updates on Washoe County's American Rescue Funds Program

Provide your email address to subscribe. For e.g abc@xyz.com

Washoe County will use the most direct way to reach communities that have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic to promote equitable delivery of SLFRF funded programs. This will be done by recognizing social and technological barriers to information, leveraging community partnerships with organizations who already serve these communities and optimizing communication strategies with program owners to best reach underserved populations. Baseline metrics collected through population segment analysis from community surveys will be used to measure progress at to-be-determined phases of program delivery.



Outreach Approach and Planning Activity

Objectives

1. Gather input on priority needs, with broad-range outreach across county's various districts and communities.
2. Vet effective programs and services with stakeholder groups representing disproportionately impacted communities.
3. Increase constituent awareness regarding APRA-funded projects and programs through diverse and far-reaching communication channels.
4. Ensure transparency and accountability through community reports and dashboard visualizations.

Approach

Public Outreach:

- Gather input through multi-lingual surveys distributed broadly across all communication channels.
- Raise awareness of APRA-funded programs and projects.
- Establish continued progress reporting to ensure transparency and accountability throughout the funding period.

Internal Stakeholder Assessment:

- Gather input regarding pressing community areas of need and program readiness from WC Leadership Team.

External Stakeholder Engagement:

- Topic-specific, small listening sessions and focus groups with stakeholders from the state, cities and community service-based organizations.
- Continued progress reports and focus group updates, regularly scheduled throughout the funding program.

Regional Stakeholders Collaboration:

- Topic-specific discussions with regional partners to ensure collaboration where funding priorities may cross-over.

Transparency and Accountability:

- Create channels where the public can clearly discover programs that are funded, why they are funded, ways to benefit from services.
- Provide a public dashboard to visualize key program metrics and community indicators regarding progress and funds invested.



Activity

1 – Initialization and Prioritization

August 2021 – September 2021

- Collect feedback from WC staff and leadership regarding potential funding areas.
- Establish community outreach survey and outreach channels.
- Select software services for the collection, aggregation, and reporting of outreach efforts.
- Establish how equity will be addressed in outreach and engagement activities.
- Create engaging messaging and copy for website and collateral needs.
- Identify key stakeholders to engage with and involve in Listening Sessions.

2 – Validate Direction through Outreach and Engagement

September 2021 – December 2024

- Raise awareness about funding and gather input on needs at community meetings and events.
- Schedule and facilitate Listening Sessions with stakeholder groups identified in Phase 1.
- Create content for distribution to promote survey release.
- Design questions for community survey to validate key areas of need and inform desired program outcomes.

3 – Transparency and Reporting

August 2021 – December 2026

- Ensure all Recovery Fund program owners have a clear understanding of program reporting requirements, processes, and deadlines.
- Maintain awareness regarding program progress, expenditures, and outcomes directly to local media, stakeholder groups and other key community, regional and state partners.
- Establish a public-friendly, accessible way to learn about APRA-funding programs and projects that also includes a visualization of fund investments and progress.
- Broadly distribute Treasury reports to local media, key stakeholder groups and make available on public-facing webpage.

Labor Practices

Washoe County is in the process of developing our strategy for funding eligible SLFRF projects and programs. Our Board of County Commissioners have directed staff to consider, one-time projects and infrastructure, as one of our guiding principles in determining priority projects. It is anticipated that several projects will be capital projects involving the use of labor practices. During this planning phase, Washoe County will take advantage of the opportunity to investigate workforce practices used in other communities, but not yet utilized by Washoe County such as: Community Benefits Agreements.

A Community Benefits Agreement or "CBA" is a contract signed by community groups and a real estate developer that requires the developer to provide specific amenities and/or mitigations to the local community or neighborhood. Site-specific community benefits agreements (CBAs) ensure that particular projects create opportunities for local workers and communities.



Washoe County will use the Nevada State Prevailing Wage requirements for Public Works projects. NRS 338.020. Hourly and daily rate of wages must not be less than prevailing wage in region; rate must be included in contract and posted on-site; payment of overtime; wages paid in accordance with jurisdictional classes recognized in region. Every contract to which a public body of this State is a party, requiring the employment of skilled mechanics, skilled workers, semi-skilled mechanics, semi-skilled workers or unskilled labor in the performance of public work, must contain in express terms the hourly and daily rate of wages to be paid each of the classes of mechanics and workers.

Use of Evidence

As the county begins the process of identifying and prioritizing SLFRF funded projects, consideration will be given to projects using evidence-based interventions. Many expenditure categories are specifically identified as areas where Washoe County must identify the amount of funds that are allocated to evidence-based interventions.

Evidence-based approaches help service providers use program models that have been proven to succeed. Therefore, when making funding determinations, Washoe County will weigh programs that are designed using evidence-based practices.

Strong evidence means the approach has been proven (through a research-based model) to cause positive or intended outcomes; moderate evidence means the approach has positive outcomes as compared to a group that has not received the services; and preliminary evidence means that program beneficiaries have demonstrated a benefit or improvement and have their experience monitored at the end of the program.

The preference for evidence-based practices will be clear for applicants who review program qualifications, and for those who are submitting applications. Since some programs may not yet have an evidence-based model in place, the county will provide ways to access evidence-based clearinghouses to help with program development that may need to incorporate evidence-based interventions into their program design.

If evidence-based approaches cannot be integrated into a program framework, a scientifically based evaluation design will need to be identified that will contribute to the monitoring and tracking of intended social, economic, or civic outcomes that are in alignment with advancing equity.



Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category

Category		Cumulative expenditures to date (\$)	Amount spent since last Recovery Plan
1	Expenditure Category: Public Health	0	0
2	Expenditure Category: Negative Economic Impacts	0	0
3	Expenditure Category: Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities	-	-
3.12	Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance	16,920	16,920
4	Expenditure Category: Premium Pay	0	0
5	Expenditure Category: Infrastructure	0	0
6	Expenditure Category: Revenue Replacement	0	0
7	Administrative and Other	0	0



Project Inventory

Project #1: Nevada Cares Campus CIP

Funding Amount: \$4,000,000

Project Expenditure Category: 3.11 Housing Support: Services for Unhoused Persons

Project Overview

This project is focused on making physical land improvements as well as structural additions and changes to the Nevada Cares Campus. The Nevada Cares Campus is the region's low-barrier emergency homeless shelter with a 600-bed capacity for single adult men, women, and couples. Volunteers of America operates the shelter and provides on-site supervision and case management to program participants. The goal of the program is provide housing-first case management that helps participants transition out of homelessness into stable housing as quickly as possible.

Use of Evidence

This low-barrier and person-centered shelter uses a housing-first model built around the Built for Zero framework. This includes implementing the following evidence-based interventions:

- Coordinating Entry and Matchmaking
- By Name Lists
- Case Conferencing
- Trauma Informed Care
- Motivational Interviewing

The use of these interventions will result in measuring and tracking a successful total number of applications, exits to permanent housing, average lengths of stay, and other relevant metrics.



Project #2: Washoe County Safe Camp CIP

Funding Amount: \$4,500,000

Project Expenditure Category: 3.11 Housing Supports: Services for Unhoused Persons

Project Overview

This project is focused on making physical improvements to the land where the Washoe County Safe Camp is located. This project is a low-barrier trauma-informed shelter environment comprised of 45 tents. Karma Box Project operates the camp and case management is provided by an experienced contracted case manager. The goal of the program is providing housing-first case management that helps participants transition out of homelessness into stable housing as quickly as possible.

Link: <https://www.washoecounty.us/homelessness/Safe-Camp/index.php>

Use of Evidence

This low-barrier and person-centered shelter uses a housing-first model built around the Built for Zero framework. This includes implementing the following evidence-based interventions:

- Coordinating Entry and Matchmaking
- By Name Lists
- Case Conferencing
- Trauma Informed Care
- Motivational Interviewing

The use of these interventions will result in measuring and tracking a successful total number of applications, exits to permanent housing, average lengths of stay, and other relevant metrics.



Project #3: Our Home – Women’s Pilot Project

Funding Amount: \$612,000

Project Expenditure Category: 3.11 Housing Supports: Services for Unhoused Persons

Project Overview

HSA is establishing a pilot program for supportive housing of persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities or mental health conditions that impede their ability to live with complete independence. The pilot will include the provision of living space as well as access to a comprehensive case management and continuum of care for this high-need/high-intensity population. The pandemic has resulted in a shortage of affordable and/or suitable housing options for these high need individuals.

Program will provide supportive housing and comprehensive care based on the individual's need, including Withdrawal Management, Outpatient Substance Use Treatment, Medication Assisted Treatment, Outpatient Behavioral Treatment, Outpatient Psychiatric Services, Outpatient Medical Services, Medical Home for client, Chronic disease management, Targeted Case Management (SMI), Medical Case Management, Pharmacy, Physician/Psychiatrist/APRN Medical clearance and H&P, Medication management, Para-professional staff structure, tiered & need specific housing options (IDD/mental health need/sober living, etc.), Vocational Program and Eligibility specialists (SOAR and Medicaid).

Use of Evidence - in development as pilot program

- Provide safe and stable housing - Comprehensive Case management
- Reduce the number of SMI/IDD individuals utilizing the homeless shelter
- Provide medical and mental health services - Various EBP's

Performance Report

- # of women housed for 30/60/90, and over 90 days