

Town of Gilbert, Arizona
Recovery Plan

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery
Funds**
2023 Report

Town of Gilbert 2023 Recovery Plan

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GENERAL OVERVIEW

Executive Summary

Gilbert, Arizona, is a suburban community within the greater Phoenix Metropolitan Region. The community population is 281,600, with data utilized from FY2023 as new population totals are not yet available. Throughout the pandemic, the community has continued to display overall resilience. However, long-term impacts that can be directly correlated to the stresses of the COVID-19 pandemic are being felt. Inflationary pressure and the related costs of goods and services resulting largely from the COVID-19 pandemic are impacting our community members and nonprofits. These stressors can be observed via increasing crime trends in key categories and needs for social services within the community. Fortunately, these impacts had been planned for via the intended uses of the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) from the Treasury. Specifically, Gilbert intends to apply the SLFRF funds to two categories: support of nonprofit entities serving Gilbert residents and to provide robust service delivery to victims of crimes, particularly those in underserved demographic populations, via a Family Advocacy Center. In Fiscal Year 2023, over 16,500 residents benefitted from nonprofit services provided by the funding of the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds. Additionally, Gilbert procured Project Management/Construction Management services and architectural services for the Advocacy Center and has begun the design process.

Contained within this report is a discussion regarding Gilbert's intended use of SLFRF funding and updates on current SLFRF projects.

Uses of Funds

Gilbert's usage of SLFRF funding aligns with two specific areas, a Family Advocacy Center under the Public Health category and support for nonprofit entities as part of the Public Health, Negative Economic Impacts, and Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities categories.

Family Advocacy Center

The Family Advocacy Center aligns with the area of Public Health because it will offer services to address one of the identified public health impacts from the Final Rule—COVID's effect on violence, particularly domestic violence, sexual assault, crimes against children, and human trafficking. The Town of Gilbert identifies these survivors as a population disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. While COVID-19 had negative impacts on most members of the local community—like mental and physical stress, financial loss, or isolation—the negative impacts of the pandemic were meaningfully more severe for those vulnerable to abuse and violence. Loss of childcare, homeschooling requirements during lockdowns, and stay-at-home orders created additional household stress. Layoffs and business closures resulted in job loss and unanticipated financial burdens. Certain coping strategies, like alcohol use, may have increased the risk of abuse. During the pandemic, some adult and adolescent victims were forced to live with their abusers with no direct contact with support systems or mandatory reporters like teachers or physicians. Further, stay-at-home orders made accessing victims' services especially difficult. It is established knowledge that the pandemic exacerbated the impact and incidence of physical and sexual abuse while making accessing services more difficult.

Prior to the pandemic, Gilbert was already experiencing an increase in interpersonal violence that continued through the height of COVID. According to Gilbert Police Department statistics, from 2015 to 2021, Gilbert experienced a 66.7% increase in sex crime-related offenses involving an adult victim and a 51.4% increase in sex-crime-related offenses involving a child victim. In its totality, there was a 55.7% increase in sex crime-related offenses involving adult and child victims. During this same time frame, Gilbert experienced a 121.3% increase in domestic violence-related offenses involving a child victim and a 66.1% increase in domestic violence-related offenses involving an adult victim. Combined, there was an 80.2% increase in domestic violence-related offenses involving adult and child victims.

Additionally, while Gilbert continues to be a very safe community, we have experienced an uptick in violent crime from FY2020 to FY2021 reporting. During FY2021, total violent crime increased by 8%, homicides increased by 125%, rapes increased by 8%, and aggravated assault increased by 11%. These trends reinforced the Town's commitment to the Advocacy Center and the services that will be supported by the facility. Victims of these types of crimes are at a higher risk for mental health struggles, and the legal process can take years, requiring long-term support. The Center will provide short and long-term support in one location, creating reliable access to victim resources.

In late 2019, just a few months before the pandemic, Gilbert sponsored a Community Needs Assessment conducted by the Williams Institute for Ethics and Management (TWI). For its research, TWI actively engaged with the Gilbert human services community (both recipients and providers of services); residents and community advocates; faith communities; leaders/staff members of the Town of Gilbert human services and public safety departments; volunteers; and members of nonprofit boards, commissions, and coalitions to conduct a human services needs assessment for the community. The assessment concluded with a community rank order of where additional resources are needed most critically. One of the top groups identified as most in need were survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. While TWI began with pre-determined groups in need as focus areas for its research, TWI identified this new group as critically in need through the research process. TWI's final report states, "This serious stand-alone group is in need of immediate attention in Gilbert." To address the needs of this group, the Community Needs Assessment recommended the following:

Recommendation #1: Develop a transitional, seamless model for immediate connection with services and resources, in addition to linkage to follow-up at periodic intervals appropriate to individual and family needs. The assessment recommended for Gilbert:

- Establish the Gilbert Advocacy Center currently under study (modeled after the Chandler and Mesa centers) – where police, social workers/counselors, human services providers, prosecuting attorneys, and on-site physicians work together to reduce the trauma of domestic violence, child and adult sexual assault and abuse, and human trafficking. The center would provide on-scene crisis intervention from trained victim services personnel to avoid re-traumatizing victims by allowing them to tell their stories one time.

Recommendation #2: Establish a visible community program to reduce domestic violence, sexual assault and abuse, and human trafficking in Gilbert. The assessment recommended Gilbert:

- Develop an awareness campaign to inform the Gilbert community and students of the issues/warning signs and resources available to all those impacted by violence – children and adults, witnesses, and survivors.

- Increase visible treatment options for individuals in need of treatment, counseling, and follow-up services (immediate priority to life/death/health endangerment situations).
- Explore opportunities for partnerships (perhaps with local medical facilities, police stations, or fire stations) to provide access to "safe spots" for adults or teens experiencing violence in the home, sexual threats within the community, or exploitation by human traffickers.

In recent years, the Gilbert Police Department has invested in additional resources to serve local survivors, including hiring Victims' Advocates and executing an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Arizona Department of Child Services' Office of Child Welfare and Investigations (OCWI). Gilbert now has two OCWI Investigators working side by side with detectives. The OCWI Investigators assist in conducting investigations of the Child Abuse Hotline reports classified as criminal conduct and provide integrated services to children and families in the pursuit of child safety. The Gilbert Police Department dedicated efforts in FY2022 in preparation for this endeavor by expanding their staffing and partnerships to serve the community better. Gilbert Police Department hired a Victim Advocate to assist victims in navigating the criminal justice system and provide resources to help them with future needs. During FY2023, Gilbert Police will add a second Victim Advocate to the staff to assist with increasing workload, the community's future growth, and in preparation for expanded roles following the completion of the Advocacy Center. Gilbert has and continues to bolster its resources for local survivors. However, policy changes and additional funding for existing programs cannot replicate the advantages of one facility that offers a multidisciplinary approach to caring for survivors and provides services in an environment that prioritizes their needs.

Currently, survivors travel miles to access various services, often requiring them to repeatedly relive their trauma. After examining specific crime trend data available and understanding the challenges survivors face in the current local system, the Gilbert Police Department identified a Family Advocacy Center that will also serve as a visible community program to reduce violence and that works with local partners to connect survivors to "safe spots," as a high priority for the Town of Gilbert. This recommendation from the Gilbert Police Department, in conjunction with the findings from the Community Needs Assessment and the data showing COVID-19's impact on already rising levels of violence in our community, led us to select the construction of a Family Advocacy Center as the best use for a portion of Gilbert's SLFRF funding.

The Advocacy Center will provide needed services for the entire community. We expect that it will have an even more significant positive impact on underserved community members who may not have the resources or capabilities to obtain victim services or who have an ongoing need for counseling services after their initial involvement in an incident. The COVID-19 pandemic continues to disproportionately impact underserved local populations, who have more limited access to resources, limited financial stability, and worse social determinants of health. The Advocacy Center will assure equitable services to all community members during some of the most challenging points in their lives.

Support for Nonprofits

Support of nonprofits serving the Gilbert community has also been identified as a priority in the allocation of federal COVID-19 relief funds, in alignment with federal categories A (Public Health), B (Negative Economic Impacts), and C (Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities). As a portion of the CARES Act funds were also dedicated to nonprofit initiatives, the Town reserved SLFRF funds for distribution to nonprofits until Fiscal Year 2023 (July 2022).

This methodology helped to ensure ongoing support to nonprofits during the protracted years of impact that COVID-19 has had on the nonprofit community. During the 2021 Performance Report, Gilbert noted its intention of dividing a 5% total allocation of SLFRF between FY23 and FY24. However, reexamining the needs of nonprofits triggered a change in methodology regarding funding division over two years. In early 2022, Gilbert's Community Resources Division solicited applications for support from the nonprofit community utilizing criteria established in the Final Rule. Gilbert identified priority support areas such as Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Families in Crisis, Survivors of Domestic Violence, and Homelessness and Housing Insecurity for Individuals and Families in this award. After reviewing applications, it was determined that total allocation of 5% of the SLFRF funds in FY2023 was appropriate. As such, Gilbert Town Council approved the allocation of these funds at the June 14, 2022, Council Meeting. Allocation occurred after July 1, 2022, via quarterly invoicing, and performance metrics were measured throughout the year.

The request from nonprofits to Gilbert for support funds increased between FY2020 and FY2022 by over 59%. Significantly, the requests between FY2022 and those received for FY2023 jumped from \$1.8M to \$2.5M, an increase of an additional 39%. The allocation of AZCARES and additional funding from CDBG-CV3 helped to support the requests in previous years. However, nonprofits have indicated a significant concern about sustainability due to the impacts of COVID-19. Specifically, they have lost considerable ground in fundraising due to pandemic limitations. Correspondingly, donor contributions have not recovered to pre-pandemic numbers. These noted impacts, attributed to the strain on nonprofits by the pandemic and current economic considerations, have created significant concerns about sustainability. Compounding this challenge is increased service needs identified throughout the community due to the pandemic. Gilbert remains committed to aiding our nonprofits, who, in turn, provide vital services to our community members.

Promoting equitable outcomes

Gilbert is steadfast in its commitment to promoting equitable outcomes in the distribution of federal relief funds. While recognizing that overall, Gilbert is a community with relative economic stability, its population is diverse, and the needs of our citizens are great. U.S. 2020 Census data for Gilbert reflects trends in diversity growth in recent years. Gilbert recognizes the need to provide programming that promotes equitable outcomes for all its citizens. Gilbert has a growing senior population, increasing by approximately 2% of the population in the past five years. Gilbert has almost 13,000 residents living below the poverty rate (5.3%), of which 23% are children. 9.3% of Gilbert's residents are foreign-born, and approximately 1/3 of its 267,918 residents are people of Hispanic, Latino, Asian, Black, American Indian, or Hawaiian/Pacific Islander descent. Approximately 8.2% of residents of Gilbert identify as having some form of recognized disability, whether physical or mental.

Family Advocacy Center

The SLFRF-funded Advocacy Center will be the first of its kind in the community. Currently, after an incident, victims visit multiple locations for interviews, exams, and assistance. Often forcing survivors to retell their stories and relive their trauma. Logistically, this can create significant challenges for those holding multiple jobs, individuals with children, or those who do not have access to personal transportation. Gilbert is designing the Advocacy Center to ensure services are accessible to community members from all backgrounds. In that effort, the Center will be constructed in a central location that is accessible by public transport. Gilbert is still planning what exact services will be offered and when the full facility will be open, but the Town

intends to offer assistance 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to victims needing acute care. Further, although the Advocacy Center will only be a service provision center (meaning housing will not be provided), the Center's victim advocates will be connecting victims to services provided by community partners, including local nonprofits and other service providers, who are experienced in working with underserved and minority populations and are sensitive to the needs of those communities.

Although domestic violence and sexual violence victimization can occur at any income level, research shows higher rates of these types of violence are associated with lower socioeconomic status of victims.^{1,2} The pandemic exacerbated the circumstances of those already living in poverty, and COVID-19 pulled many more individuals and families into poverty. The Family Advocacy Center aims to provide assistance and improve outcomes for these victims regardless of income level. However, research demonstrates that victims seeking assistance will likely be those of lower socioeconomic status, meaning the Center will inherently address the effects of economic inequality in the community.

Gilbert is also planning a campaign to raise awareness in the community about the Town's Advocacy Center project and the services the facility will offer. This campaign will include holding open houses where residents can view storyboards illustrating the programming and space. Residents will also be able to speak with Town staff to ask questions. Gilbert plans to launch this campaign and the end of this summer, and the Town looks forward to sharing more details about this effort in its 2024 Recovery Plan Performance Report. The intent is to make all community members, regardless of race, socioeconomic, or religious background, aware of the Advocacy Center and the resources it can provide to anyone in need.

Support for Nonprofits

Gilbert's Community Needs Assessment and an Inclusivity Study completed in 2022 further highlight the pressing needs for the services provided by our nonprofits within the community. Highlighted within these studies were the significant needs for services in underserved areas of the community. In determining the allocation of 5% of the overall SLFRF funds towards the support of nonprofits, applicants were asked to explain economic hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic that threatened their ability to provide services to the community. Furthermore, the nonprofits detailed how the funding award would subsequently enhance service provision to the community. From the applications received, ten recipients were identified. Services identified in the applications will benefit the community in areas such as assistance to domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking victims, assistance for those enduring homelessness or housing insecurity, assistance for families in crisis, aging-in-place services for the elderly, and food bank services.

Projects identified for utilization of SLFRF funds align with recommendations and findings from the Community Needs Assessment, the Inclusivity Study, and feedback from community members. We believe these projects will provide services that promote equitable outcomes in the community. Utilizing the funds towards these projects ensures that marginalized or underserved residents can access needed resources and services.

¹ Breiding, M. J., Basile, K. C., Klevens, J., & Smith, S. G. (2017). Economic Insecurity and Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Victimization. *American journal of preventive medicine*, 53(4), 457–464. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amepre.2017.03.021>

² Lubker, Disa K. V. (2004) Socioeconomic Status and Domestic Violence. *International Journal of Global Health and Health Disparities*, 3(1), 85-91. <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/ijghhd/vol3/iss1/10>

Community Engagement

Gilbert has already made significant efforts in ensuring community engagement via the Community Needs Assessment and the Inclusivity Needs Assessment that it performed. Both studies were conducted by an independent research firm and derived their findings from community outreach. The outreach occurred through written surveys, social media engagement to solicit involvement, connections through local nonprofit providers, outreach to targeted civic engagement and activism groups, and focus group interviews. The design of these studies was built on the foundation of civic involvement and input to provide equitable and holistic perspectives about the challenges impacting the residents of Gilbert. Gilbert's identified priorities for distributing federal funds align with this community engagement and research.

Additionally, Gilbert formed a Community Engagement Task Force (CETF) during FY2022. This Task Force, comprised of nine diverse community members, has been tasked with working with the Town Council to evaluate the needs of our community and to provide recommendations that will improve services within Gilbert. CETF will provide continued input in conjunction with the Community Needs Assessment.

So far, in 2023, CETF has focused on two areas of identified concern: Mental Health and Suicide Prevention and Human and Sex Trafficking. Recently, CETF presented its Mental Health and Suicide Prevention recommendations to the Town Council, which included the following:

Topic	CETF Recommendations
Mental Health and Suicide Prevention	Specific Recommendation: <i>Awareness / Education campaign of mental health resources available in the Town of Gilbert. Improve distribution / awareness of information on available mental health services and resources. Add or retain services of Navigation, Family Advocacy Center, and Mental Health Professionals (therapists and mental health providers).</i>
	Actionable recommendation: <i>Mental Health/Suicide Prevention Services – Develop Family Advocacy Center.</i>

In August, CETF will present their recommendations to Council on Human and Sex Trafficking. These recommendations are anticipated to include the following:

Topic	Anticipated CETF Recommendations
Human and Sex Trafficking	Resources: <i>Highlight, improve, recommend, and make accessible resources that help with choices, healing, and self-sufficiency.</i>
	Family Advocacy Center <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Trauma Informed Care</i> • <i>Victim Advocate positions</i> • <i>Support services for drug addiction</i> • <i>Establish relationships with group homes to help provide them with direct access and resources of supportive services that</i>

	<p><i>may be available from the Advocacy Center</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Provide a "safe" spot to start for minors and adults who experience violence or sexual threat or exploitation.</i>
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In August, the CETF will start its third area of identified concern: Domestic Violence. So far, CETF has voiced a continued community need for the Advocacy Center. This group has developed valuable recommendations for services that could be provided in this facility to ensure the proper assistance is provided to survivors of violence. Gilbert anticipates that further recommendations from the CETF will align with support for the Advocacy Center in this focus area.

As mentioned previously, Gilbert is also planning a campaign to raise awareness in the community about the Town's Advocacy Center project and the services the facility will offer. Gilbert plans to launch this campaign at the end of this summer. This campaign will include holding open houses where residents can view storyboards illustrating the programming and space. Residents will also be able to speak with Town staff to ask questions. The Town looks forward to sharing more details about this effort in its 2024 Recovery Plan Performance Report.

Labor Practices

The Family Advocacy Center is a capital expenditure. For this project, Gilbert is committed to utilizing strong labor standards in alignment with the Final Rule to promote the effective and efficient delivery of a high-quality infrastructure project. For example, Gilbert will adhere to the Davis-Bacon Act during the construction phase of this project. In doing so, Gilbert ensures all laborers and mechanics on the project are paid prevailing wages.

This project is in the development and design phase. At this time, Gilbert is considering how best to meet several priorities related to labor practices, including how to maintain ready access to a sufficient supply of appropriately skilled and unskilled labor to ensure high-quality construction, how to minimize labor disputes and disruptions, and the best ways to maintain a safe and healthy workplace for construction workers. Gilbert will provide updates on these items and the Town's final decisions as it nears the contracting and construction phase of the Advocacy Center project.

Use of Evidence

Gilbert is committed to evidence-based and data-supported programming. The Advocacy Center project is a capital expenditure in category 1.14 – Other Public Health Services. Although SLFRF funding is only supporting facility construction and not the services it will offer, the Center's intended model of providing increased access to victims' services via a multidisciplinary approach is supported by strong to moderate evidence, according to the Treasury's definition.

According to the National Children's Alliance—an accrediting body for more than 900 Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) in the United States—"CACs are child-focused, facility-based programs in which representatives from many disciplines work together to conduct interviews and make team decisions on cases of child abuse." There has been extensive research on the CAC model and its multidisciplinary approach to handling crimes against children. The Gilbert Advocacy Center will not solely focus on children and instead will provide services to survivors

of domestic violence, child and adult sexual assault and abuse, and human trafficking. This is more similar to the Family Advocacy Center (FAC) model utilized in established centers like the [Mesa Family Advocacy Center](#) and the [Chandler Family Advocacy Center](#). The FAC model utilizes the same multidisciplinary approach central to the CACs. Therefore, studies on the CAC model will apply to the effective design of FACs.

In 2019, the National Children's Alliance published its annual National Report on Outcomes for Children's Advocacy Centers.^{3,4} This report includes survey results to measure the success of Children's Advocacy Centers. Seventy-three thousand caregivers and multidisciplinary team members took the survey. Key takeaways from the survey included:

- 73% of caregivers agree that Children's Advocacy Centers provide them with resources to support their children.
- 98% of team members believe clients benefit from the collaborative approach of multidisciplinary teams.
- 97% of caregivers would recommend others utilize a Children's Advocacy Center if faced with similar circumstances

Additionally, a 2015 peer-reviewed article completed a systematic review of existing research to determine "the effectiveness of the multidisciplinary team (MDT) approach of child advocacy centers (CACs) on prosecution rates of alleged sex offenders and satisfaction of non-offending caregivers of children less than 18 years of age, with allegations of child sexual abuse (CSA)."⁵

This review of existing research revealed that the use of CACs:

- increases felony prosecution of child sexual abusers,
- improves child forensic interviewing,
- leads to increased referrals for mental health services, and
- increases non-offending caregivers' satisfaction⁶

Advocacy Centers provide improved victim services. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, data from the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) revealed that victims who received victim services were more than five times (24% compared to 4%) more likely to proceed through all four phases of the criminal justice system. The four phases being: 1) Police are notified; 2) Criminal report completed; 3) Arrest is made; and 4) Adjudication of criminal charges. When victims seek out services, they are more likely to see an arrest made in their case than victims who do not receive direct assistance. Compounding the problem, only 58% of serious violent crimes (rape, sexual abuse, robbery, and aggravated assault) are reported to the police. Of those who do report the crime to the police, only 9% of victims of serious violent crimes receive assistance from a victim service agency.⁷ Advocacy Centers improve the reporting process and increase victim services, increasing the likelihood of prosecution.

Similarly, and in keeping with Gilbert's use of evidence and data-based practices, the need for support from our nonprofit community partners continues to grow. Nonprofits requested an increase of over 59% in municipal funding support applications from FY2020 to FY2022.

³ National Children's Alliance. (2019). *Health, Justice, & Trust: A National Report on Outcomes for Children's Advocacy Centers*. <https://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/OMS-Report-2019-web.pdf>

⁴ National Children's Alliance. (2019). *Health, Justice, & Trust: A National Report on Outcomes for Children's Advocacy Centers (Brief)*. <https://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/2019-OMS-Brief.pdf>

⁵ Nwogu, N., Agrawal, L., Chambers, S., Buagas, A., Daniele, R. M., & Singleton, J. (2015). The effectiveness of child advocacy centers and the multidisciplinary team approach on prosecution rates of alleged sex offenders and satisfaction of non-offending caregivers with allegations of child sexual abuse: a systematic review protocol. *JBIR database of systematic reviews and implementation reports*, 13(3), 47–60. <https://doi.org/10.11124/jbisrir-2015-1842>

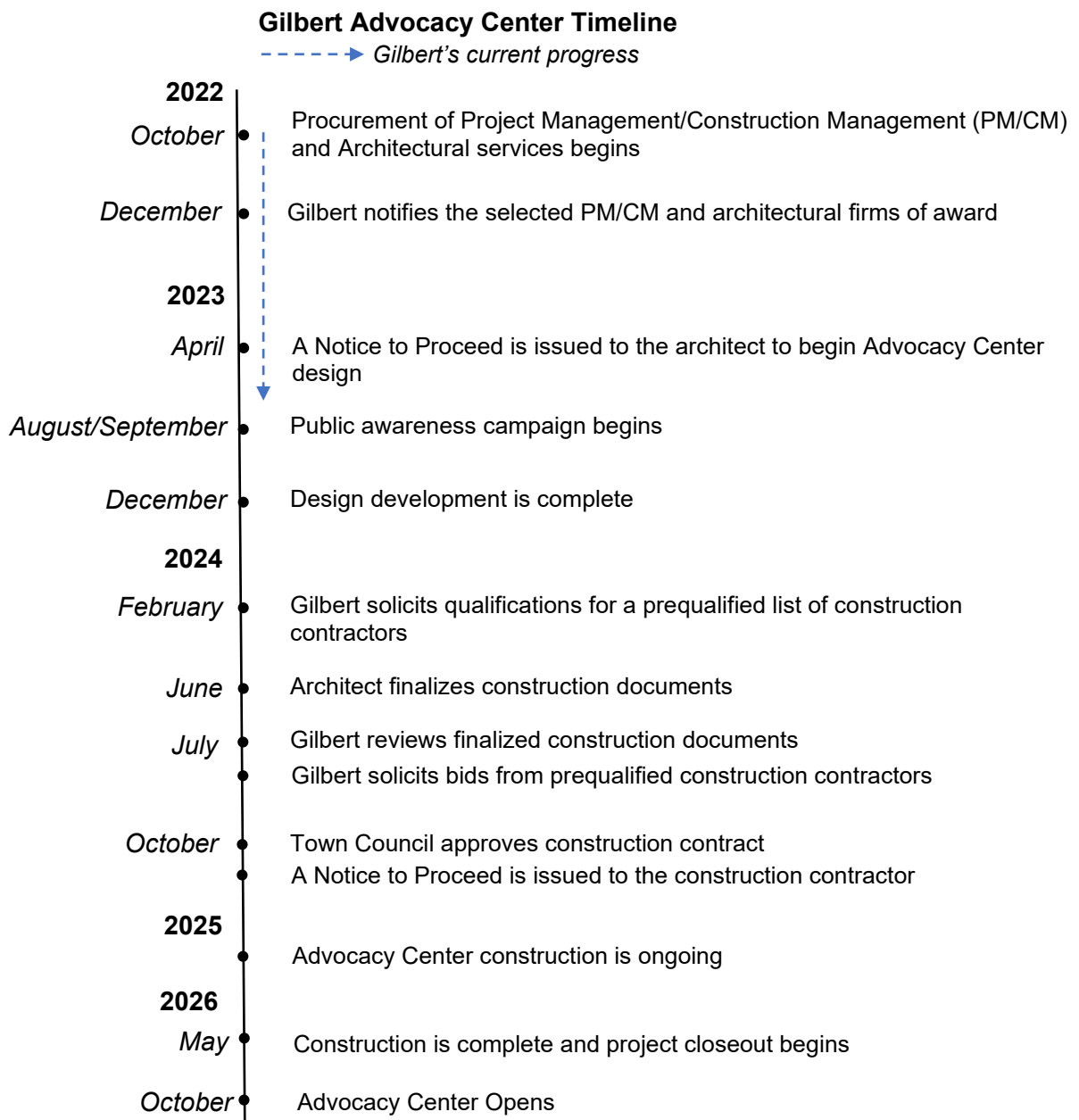
⁶ Ibid.

⁷ U.S. Department of Justice. (August 2011). *Use of Victim Services by Victims of Serious Violent Crime, 1993-2009*. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/uvsavsvc9309.pdf>

Between FY2022-FY2023, that figure grew another 39%, totaling over \$2.59 million requested by nonprofit community partners. Most of this is directly attributed to the decreased fundraising capacity and economic instability of nonprofit entities during a time of increased service demand.

Performance Report

The Town of Gilbert's Advocacy Center is a capital expenditure project involving the construction of a new facility that will house a variety of victim services in one central location. SLFRF will not fund any services or programs within the facility. Therefore, performance indicators for this project and associated SLFRF funding will focus on the facility's design and construction progress. The diagram below displays the current project timeline, complete with major milestones as well as Gilbert's current progress.



In the previous year, Gilbert completed the procurement of a Project Management/Construction Management firm and an architecture firm. The architect began project design in early 2023, and Gilbert's project team visited different Advocacy Centers around the nation to identify the best design and facility practices to incorporate into Gilbert's project. For the upcoming year, Gilbert is initiating procurement of the project's construction contractor and is finalizing the project design.

As mentioned in the Promoting Equitable Outcomes and Community Engagement sections above, Gilbert is planning a Public Awareness Campaign for the Advocacy Center. The goals the Town has for that effort include:

- Hiring a consultant to assist with public relations and outreach
- Hosting a series of open houses for the community
- Neighborhood and virtual outreach to local populations

Nonprofit entities applying for a portion of SLFRF funds agreed to quarterly reporting of performance in the designated areas for projects. Upon distribution of funds in FY2023, nonprofits will provide the following data quarterly:

- Number of residents served (both new and ongoing)
- Number of services provided
- Service definitions
- Race/Ethnicity data
- Poverty level of assisted residences
- Household composition
- Age of residents served
- If the resident is handicapped/disabled
- Measurable outcomes of the contracted service provisions
- Narrative of successes
- Narrative of challenges
- Number of volunteers providing services
- Volunteer hours
- Types of volunteer services provided

The Town will subsequently analyze these metrics to assess SLFRF funding performance and determine if the intended goals for the funds were achieved.

With the allocation of funding in FY2023, the performance of nonprofit funding was assessed using multiple metrics. Reporting from nonprofits who received funding demonstrated:

- 10,896 New individual residents served
- 5,922 Ongoing individual residents served
- 251,880 Services provided to individuals

Types of services provided utilizing SLFRF included:

- Safe, stable shelter bed nights, case management, and basic needs. Items provided such as toiletries, food, hygiene products, and linens. In addition, clients had access to monthly basic life skills (cooking, cleaning, fitness, parenting) classes, workforce services, food boxes, legal aid, financial wellness workshops, a resource fair, and a variety of social events (craft club, game room, etc.)

- Rental and utility assistance to residents to help prevent eviction & assist with providing funds for utilities to prevent shut off.
- Domestic violence victim bed nights, a counseling session, a victim advocacy session, or a support group session.
- Children's dental clinic, which provided: preventive dental services, including dental assessments, professional cleanings, X-rays, sealants, and fluoride varnish treatments
- Meals distributed within the Town through nonprofit partner agencies and other community partners.
- Emergency and Minor Home repair services, keeping low/mod income individuals safe in their homes

PROJECT INVENTORY

Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations

Project Name: Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations

Funding Amount: \$1,207,993.00

Project Expenditure Category: 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations (Impacted or Disproportionately Impacted)

Project Expenditure Category Group: 2 – Negative Economic Impacts

Project Overview and Performance Report

On June 14, 2022, the Gilbert Town Council awarded contracts for this project after an extensive application and review process. Funding began in July 2022, and quarterly reporting began thereafter. Nonprofit award recipients for this project were:

- Dignity Health Foundation, Gilbert Children's Dental Clinic, \$287,993 – Performs preventative dental services, including dental assessments, professional cleanings, X-rays, sealants, and fluoride varnish treatments, using specially-certified dental hygienists who work with a dentist through teledentistry. Due to COVID-19, families have put off care; as a result, there are increased numbers of children with advanced dental conditions. These funds enabled the clinic to provide services to the community three days per week in four operatories.
- Child Crisis Arizona, Caring for Homeless Children and Youth, \$100,000 – Child Crisis Arizona provides complete care for homeless children and youth, ages birth through 21 years. Youth originating from or in Gilbert benefitted from services to improve their current situations and provide opportunities to move forward into thriving lives.
- A New Leaf, Domestic Violence Services, \$40,000 – Addressing priorities identified in the Town of Gilbert's 2019 Community Needs Assessment, A New Leaf provides crisis intervention, safety, and support services for Gilbert residents who are survivors of domestic and/or sexual violence.
- Rebuilding Together Valley of the Sun, Safe At Home, \$100,000 – Safe At Home has provided free critical/emergency home repairs, home fall prevention modifications, and/or code compliance violation remediation services for approximately 80 economically disadvantaged Gilbert resident households throughout 2022.
- AZCEND, Community Action Program, \$300,000 – The Gilbert Community Action Program provides financial assistance to prevent a more significant crises such as homelessness and utility disconnect for families in crisis. Case management, financial coaching, and referrals to other community resources for low-income Gilbert residents are also part of the Community Action Program service delivery model.

- AZCEND, Gilbert Homeless Services, \$100,000 – The AZCEND homeless services program provides emergency shelter, case management, outreach, connection to resources, and supportive services to those experiencing homelessness in Gilbert. The I-HELP program provides shelter 365 days a year, and resource navigation services are available Monday-Friday through street outreach and in-office assessments.
- My Sisters' Place, Survivors of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault/Abuse, and Human Trafficking, \$25,000 – Located in the East Valley, My Sister's Place is a 24-hour, 365 days per year emergency domestic violence shelter offering safety and healing for women, men, and their dependent children fleeing domestic violence.
- Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS), Emergency Shelter and Case Management Services for Gilbert Residents Experiencing Homelessness, \$100,000 - Central Arizona Shelter Services, Inc. (CASS) 's Emergency Shelter and Case Management Services for Gilbert Residents Experiencing Homelessness Program provides immediate shelter and dedicated case management services in Gilbert 24/7/365 at their Single Adult Shelter and Vista Colina Family Shelter for individuals, children, and families experiencing homelessness in Gilbert, as well as an embedded case manager in a location in Gilbert where collaboration and delivery of resources can occur.
- Midwest Food Bank NFP, Half Million Meals!, \$55,000 - Midwest Food Bank (MFB) proposed distributing 500,000 nutritious meals to partner agencies in Gilbert through June 2023. MFB packages a nutritious meal packet called "Tender Mercies," which contains rice, beans, and protein, and pledged to distribute these meals to the 16 nonprofits they currently serve in Gilbert, along with any new churches, schools, shelters, or community partners that apply for assistance.
- Habitat for Humanity Central Arizona, Aging In Place, \$100,000 - Habitat's Aging in Place (AIP) Program completes safety and functional home modifications and repairs to enable low-income senior homeowners to remain in their homes through low-cost, low-barrier, high-impact home modifications that reduce older adults' risk of falling, improve general safety, increase accessibility, and improve their functional abilities in their homes.

Nonprofit recipients of SLRF funding have provided quarterly performance reporting using the metrics outlined in the Performance Report section. These quarterly reports are analyzed internally by the Town and also used to congregate data for the Annual Performance Report.

Disproportionately Impacted Communities

The 2.34 – Assistance to Impacted Nonprofit Organizations expenditure category requires recipients to report whether projects primarily serve disproportionately impacted communities. Gilbert achieved this by distributing funding to support nonprofits providing services to the most vulnerable in the community, including low-income residents, senior citizens, local youth in crisis, and survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Financial strain, job loss, isolation, lack of access to services, and increased risk of violence were some of the effects of COVID-19 that made the impact of the pandemic meaningful more severe for these groups.

Family Advocacy Center

Project Name: Family Advocacy Center

Funding Amount: \$22,951,878.00

Project Expenditure Category: 1.14 Other Public Health Services

Project Expenditure Category Group: 1 – Public Health

Project Overview

Gilbert is building an Advocacy Center to provide a "one-stop shop" for survivors of domestic violence, child and adult sexual assault and abuse, and human trafficking. This project is a capital expenditure, and funds will be used to construct a new facility on Town-owned land. Currently, victims visit multiple locations for interviews, exams, and assistance, often forcing them to retell their stories and relive their trauma. This facility will house an array of professional services, enabling victims to move through the steps of forensic and criminal investigations while accessing victim services in one location. Local data and community feedback indicated a strong need for the Center before COVID and the pandemic only exacerbated the impact and incidence of these types of violence, making accessing services more difficult. For victims of physical or sexual abuse and trafficking, the trauma and negative impacts of abuse can be long-lasting. Survivors of these types of crimes are at a higher risk for anxiety, depression, and substance abuse disorder, and the criminal justice process can take years, meaning long-term access to resources is needed. The Advocacy Center is designed to provide short and long-term support in a centralized location, allowing community members reliable access to resources for years to come. The Center is anticipated to have a significant positive impact on community members who previously may not have had the resources to obtain victim services and who have a long-term need for support. The goals of the Center are to provide a multidisciplinary approach to the investigation and response to these crimes to reduce stress, to minimize trauma and revictimization by limiting the number of victim interviews and medical exams, and to provide services in a comfortable and central location sensitive to victims' needs. With greater access to victims' services, Gilbert anticipates an increase in the local reporting rate, and research shows that when victims receive direct assistance, they are more likely to see an arrest made in their case. Gilbert is currently in the development and design phase of this project. Early this year, Gilbert procured and executed contracts with a Project Manager/Construction Manager and an architect.

Use of Evidence

Since Gilbert is using its SLFRF funding to construct this facility and will not be spending any funding to support the programs or services that the Advocacy Center will provide, the amount of funds dedicated to evidence-based interventions is zero. However, as described in the Use of Evidence section earlier in this report, the multidisciplinary approach to victims' services that the Center will utilize is a proven successful approach supported by strong to moderate evidence.

Performance Report

As mentioned above, Gilbert's Advocacy Center project is a capital expenditure project involving the construction of a new facility. The primary performance indicator for this is the progress of the design and construction of the facility against the project timeline. The project timeline diagram above on page 10 shows Gilbert's current progress on the project and goals for next year.

Additionally, Gilbert also has goals pertaining to the Public Awareness Campaign upcoming for the Advocacy Center. Goals the Town has for that effort include:

- Hiring a consultant to assist with public relations and outreach
- Hosting a series of open houses for the community
- Neighborhood and virtual outreach to local populations

Gilbert looks forward to providing more detail on the outcome of this campaign in its following annual report.

Disproportionately Impacted Communities

The 1.14 – Other Public Health Services expenditure category requires recipients to report whether projects primarily serve disproportionately impacted communities. As mentioned, Gilbert identifies survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, crimes against children, and human trafficking as a disproportionately impacted community because the impacts of the pandemic were meaningfully more severe for this population. The Advocacy Center is designed specifically for this subset of residents. According to Gilbert Police Department statistics, there was already an increase in these types of crimes before the pandemic. We know that stay-at-home orders and lockdowns only exacerbated circumstances for these survivors. For some, this meant being isolated with their abuser and cut off from support systems. For others, the pandemic worsened existing battles with depression, anxiety, or post-traumatic stress disorder. In both examples, victims faced reduced access to assistance and resources during the pandemic.