

County of Northampton, Pennsylvania  
**Recovery Plan**

**State and Local Fiscal Recovery  
Funds**

2021 Report

**County of Northampton, Pennsylvania**  
**2021 Recovery Plan**

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## GENERAL OVERVIEW

### **Executive Summary**

Northampton County intends to use Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Funds to mitigate the public health and economic impact of the Coronavirus on the residents, small businesses, and non-profit organizations in our community. On June 17, 2021, Northampton County Council adopted Resolution No. 71-2021, approving the following investments to promote a response to the pandemic and economic recovery. In response to the public health impact, the County will invest funds to continue the operation of the Covid-19 testing site in partnership with Lehigh Valley Hospital-Coordinated Health Allentown Hospital (LVHCHA), enhance the Covid-19 testing site to include vaccinations, facilitate the vaccination campaign, and replenish the supply of personal protective equipment. The County will use funds to provide premium pay to eligible public sector workers who have performed essential work during the public health emergency at the county-owned Gracedale Nursing Home. In response to the negative economic impact, the County will use funds to provide assistance to Small Businesses and charitable non-profit Organizations in our community that have faced closures or revenue loss or are implementing new safety measures. Northampton County will use payment from the Fiscal Recovery Fund for the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue experienced due to the Covid-19 public health emergency. Key outcome goals include sustaining the small business sector in Northampton County by providing crucial economic assistance to 1,000 small businesses that have experienced an adverse economic impact due to Covid-19 that has threatened their ongoing operations; ensuring non-profit organizations remain viable to continue providing vital services to our community with a goal of assisting 50 organizations; compensate the essential workers who have put their physical well-being at risk to meet the needs at Gracedale Nursing Home; continued operation of the Covid-19 Testing Site; and expanding the Testing Site to include vaccinations which will support meeting our goal of 70% of the population with at least one vaccine dose. The site began administering vaccinations on June 3, 2021, and has served 556 residents as of August 10, 2021. As of August 17, 2021, Pennsylvania Department of Health reports 180,720 Northampton County residents have received at least one dose of the vaccine. This represents 65.8% of the population. The Covid-19 Testing Site reports 599 tests administered in the period from March 3, 2021 to July 31, 2021. Testing is still a critical part of our response to ultimately stop the spread of COVID-19. Increased testing will help determine the prevalence of the virus in Northampton County and assist in recovery planning. Through the Northampton County Covid-19 Relief Small Business Grant Program, 93 small businesses that have experienced adverse economic impacts from the pandemic have received funding to date to support their ongoing operations. The Northampton County American Rescue Plan Non-Profit Assistance Program began accepting applications on August 2, 2021, and anticipates award notifications in October 2021.

### **Uses of Funds**

Northampton County is supporting a strong and equitable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic through public health initiatives. The Northampton County Covid-19 Testing Site is operated in partnership with Lehigh Valley Hospital-Coordinated Health Allentown Hospital (LVHCHA) centrally located for residents at 3100 Emrick Blvd. in Bethlehem Township, just off major thoroughfare Route 33. The site provides drive-through COVID-19 testing that is open to

everyone. A physician's order is not required for a COVID-19 test. In addition, the cost of testing is covered by the County for Northampton County residents who do not have health coverage. Northampton County supports the national vaccination campaign and has expanded the testing site to include a vaccination center. Vaccinations are by appointment only and are only available for Northampton County residents ages twelve and over. Patients can choose from all three vaccines: Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson. Northampton County also intends to invest funding in personal protective equipment.

Northampton County is supporting a strong and equitable recovery by addressing negative economic impacts. Northampton County is home to thousands of small businesses which are the lifeblood of our community and contribute in so many ways to our county's economic prosperity. Northampton County has created the Covid-19 Relief Small Business Grant Program to mitigate the effects of mandated closures and sharp declines in revenue due to Covid-19 on our community's small businesses. Non-profit organizations also provide essential services to our community and have faced similar economic and financial challenges as a result of the pandemic. A lack of donations and the inability to hold fundraisers due to the pandemic have created a devastating financial setback for the vital organizations that support our community. The County has created the American Rescue Plan Non-Profit Assistance Grant Program to provide the funding necessary for our community's non-profit organizations to continue operating.

Northampton County is supporting a strong and equitable recovery by providing services to disproportionately impacted communities. According to US Census data, Northampton County consists of more than 5,000 low-income tenants, including residents of public housing and senior citizens. Local courts and community legal aid agencies provided high estimates of renters affected by the Covid-19 pandemic and The Lehigh Valley Regional Homeless Advisory Board informed of an overwhelming influx of calls for assistance. Northampton County responded and developed the Community Mediation and Eviction Diversion Program (CMED). The CMED Program is currently funded through the Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program established by the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021, signed into law by Governor Wolf on February 5, 2021, administered by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services; ERA1 under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, which was enacted on December 27, 2020; and ERA2 under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which was enacted on March 11, 2021, administered by the US Treasury. CMED was created to provide emergency financial assistance to residents experiencing financial rental arrears challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. For eligible households, the program offers rental assistance to help Northampton County residents avoid eviction and prevent homelessness, and utility assistance to prevent loss of utility service. CMED has since expanded by referring eligible homeowners to programs providing foreclosure assistance. CMED is also a comprehensive program consisting of four elements: Mediation/Tenant Navigation, Rental Assistance, Financial Counseling, and Wrap-Around Social Service Support and sustained through partnerships with the following agencies: New Bethany Ministries, ProJeCt of Easton, Third Street Alliance, Easton Area Neighborhood Center, Community Action of the Lehigh Valley, North Penn Legal Services, and Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living. The County and the experienced navigators of our partner agencies are equipped to provide the supportive social services in conjunction with the financial support of ERA funds to continue providing a safety net for our most vulnerable residents.

Northampton County is supporting a strong and equitable recovery by providing premium pay to eligible frontline workers. Gracedale Nursing Home, located in Northampton County, is the largest nursing home under one roof in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. There are more than 600 residents living at Gracedale with approximately 700 people tasked with caring for them. Northampton County has done and continues to do everything possible to limit exposure to the residents and staff at Gracedale during the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite best efforts, positive cases of Covid-19 occurred in both residents and staff at the facility. The County is providing premium pay from the Fiscal Recovery Fund to the essential hourly workers who have put their physical well-being at risk to meet the needs at Gracedale Nursing Home throughout the pandemic.

Northampton County will utilize Revenue Replacement funds on Information Technology related expenses to continue providing fundamental government services to the community throughout the recovery.

### **Promoting equitable outcomes**

The Northampton County programs described above have been designed to ensure that resources are being effectively and equitably distributed. The Northampton County Covid-19 Testing and Vaccination Site provides drive-through COVID-19 testing that is open to everyone. A physician's order is not required for a COVID-19 test. In addition, the cost of testing is covered by the County for Northampton County residents who do not have health coverage. Vaccinations are available by appointment only and are available to all County residents ages 12 and over. Outreach is shared across social media platforms and throughout our community, with the help of partner social service agencies. Materials provide information on the site and encourage residents to get tested and vaccinated. Spanish is the most common foreign language spoken in Northampton County therefore informational materials are printed in English and Spanish for distribution.

Northampton County's CMED Program, sustained through ERA Program funding, prioritizes low income families and helps renters experiencing rental arrears financial challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. For eligible households, the program offers rental assistance to help Northampton County residents avoid eviction and prevent homelessness, and utility assistance to prevent loss of utility service. Extensive outreach to share awareness of this program has been targeted to communities most adversely affected through the County's partnership with non-profit social service agencies including New Bethany Ministries, ProJeCt of Easton, Third Street Alliance, Easton Area Neighborhood Center, Community Action of the Lehigh Valley, North Penn Legal Services, and Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living. As Spanish is the most common foreign language spoken in Northampton County, outreach and services are available through our partnering agencies in English and Spanish so that eligible families do not face unnecessary barriers to access. Lehigh Valley Center for Independent Living has experienced navigators dedicated to assist individuals with all types of disabilities.

Northampton County Covid-19 Relief Small Business Grant Program is administered in partnership with the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce (GLVCC). Serving more than 5,000 businesses, the GLVCC is the largest in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and in the top six nationwide. GLVCC boasts thirty-plus affiliated chambers, councils and committees with more than 1,500 community focused volunteers who actively contribute, at the grass roots, to develop

and achieve their respective and collective goals. The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Collaborative is an initiative of the GLVCC and is a result of the growth and success of the Chamber's Diversity Councils: African American Business Leaders Council, Hispanic Chamber of the Lehigh Valley, LGBTQ Business Council, Women's Business Council, and the Young Professionals Council. The County's partnership with GLVCC in carrying out the Small Business Grant Program assures that historically underserved, marginalized, or adversely affected groups of small business owners are targeted in our outreach efforts to spread awareness of the grant opportunity among GLVCC members and non-members alike. GLVCC has conducted outreach and marketing in the form of email blasts, newspaper ads, radio promotion, information on the Chamber website, and distributed flyers to ensure all businesses, including small, vulnerable, and disadvantaged businesses, have access to the grant application platform. GLVCC provides technical assistance to business owners during application preparation and online submission so that no small business is hindered in the application process due to technical skills. The application is also available in Spanish. The program is structured to provide aid to small businesses, hit hardest by the pandemic, with 100 or fewer employees. Grant applications are reviewed by a committee consisting of Northampton County Administration, Northampton County Council members, and the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce who make recommendations to the Northampton County Executive. Priority is given to businesses that have not received other state or federal Covid-19 grant funding.

Northampton County non-profit, charitable organizations form a vital public-private partnership with a shared sense of purpose and common incentives with equity in mind. The American Rescue Plan Non-Profit Assistance Grant Program is designed to assist Northampton County non-profit, charitable organizations that have experienced revenue loss or are implementing new safety measures recover from the Covid-19 pandemic and corresponding economic crisis. The County is conducting outreach to a wide range of potential applicants for this program by holding an open call for grant applications shared on social media, the County website, public announcements, and direct email to partners. The County has hosted a Zoom Grant Workshop to share information on the grant program and provide an opportunity to ask questions.

### **Community Engagement**

The Northampton County Executive, Northampton County Council, and Northampton County department heads have discussed the intended investment of American Rescue Plan Fiscal Recovery Funds at bi-weekly council meetings which are open to the public and livestreamed on YouTube. Citizen participation and input are encouraged through announcements on the Northampton County website and by providing courtesy of the floor at the beginning of each council meeting. Request for Proposals are being utilized to garner input from Northampton County small businesses, non-profit organizations, and municipalities to capture the needs of the community and ensure Fiscal Recovery Funds are targeting these needs. Northampton County Department of Community and Economic Development hosted a Zoom Grant Workshop on August 12, 2021, providing information on recently announced grant programs funded through the American Rescue Plan. 134 registrants from Northampton County municipalities and non-profit organizations signed up to attend the virtual workshop which was recorded. The workshop recording was sent to all registered attendees and anyone who requested the recording by email. The recording is also posted on the Northampton County Department of Community and Economic Development - [DCED Home Page \(northamptoncounty.org\)](https://www.northamptoncounty.org/DCED).

## Use of Evidence

The effectiveness of Northampton County's use of funding will be assessed through rigorous program evaluations and data collection. Data received from the Covid-19 Testing and Vaccination Site include daily test counts, detection rate, and vaccinations administered including first dose, second dose, and fully vaccinated. The number of businesses assisted through the Covid-19 Relief Small Business Grant Program will be recorded to determine if the goal of assistance to 1,000 businesses is achieved. The number of non-profit organizations assisted through the American Rescue Plan Non-Profit Assistance program will be recorded to determine if the goal of assistance to 50 organizations is achieved.

**Table of Expenses by Expenditure Category**

| Category |   | Cumulative expenditures to date (\$) | Amount spent since last Recovery Plan |
|----------|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1        | Expenditure Category: Public Health   |                                      |                                       |
| 1.1      | COVID-19 Vaccination  | 10,277.50                            | 10,277.50                             |
| 1.2      | COVID-19 Testing  | 10,277.50                            | 10,277.50                             |
| 1.3      | COVID-19 Contact Tracing  |                                      |                                       |
| 1.4      | Prevention in Congregate Settings (Nursing Homes, Prisons/Jails, Dense Work Sites, Schools, etc.)                       |                                      |                                       |
| 1.5      | Personal Protective Equipment   |                                      |                                       |
| 1.6      | Medical Expenses (including Alternative Care Facilities)  |                                      |                                       |
| 1.7      | Capital Investments or Physical Plant Changes to Public Facilities that respond to the COVID-19 public health emergency |                                      |                                       |
| 1.8      | Other COVID-19 Public Health Expenses (including Communications, Enforcement, Isolation/Quarantine)                     |                                      |                                       |
| 1.9      | Payroll Costs for Public Health, Safety, and Other Public Sector Staff Responding to COVID-19                           |                                      |                                       |
| 1.10     | Mental Health Services  |                                      |                                       |
| 1.11     | Substance Use Services  |                                      |                                       |
| 1.12     | Other Public Health Services  |                                      |                                       |
| 2        | Expenditure Category: Negative Economic Impacts   |                                      |                                       |
| 2.1      | Household Assistance: Food Programs   |                                      |                                       |
| 2.2      | Household Assistance: Rent, Mortgage, and Utility Aid   |                                      |                                       |
| 2.3      | Household Assistance: Cash Transfers  |                                      |                                       |
| 2.4      | Household Assistance: Internet Access Programs  |                                      |                                       |

| Category |   | Cumulative expenditures to date (\$) | Amount spent since last Recovery Plan |
|----------|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 2.5      | Household Assistance: Eviction Prevention   |                                      |                                       |
| 2.6      | Unemployment Benefits or Cash Assistance to Unemployed Workers  |                                      |                                       |
| 2.7      | Job Training Assistance (e.g., Sectoral job-training, Subsidized Employment, Employment Supports or Incentives) |                                      |                                       |
| 2.8      | Contributions to UI Trust Funds*  |                                      |                                       |
| 2.9      | Small Business Economic Assistance (General)  | 1,491,949.09                         | 1,491,949.09                          |
| 2.10     | Aid to nonprofit organizations  |                                      |                                       |
| 2.11     | Aid to Tourism, Travel, or Hospitality  |                                      |                                       |
| 2.12     | Aid to Other Impacted Industries  |                                      |                                       |
| 2.13     | Other Economic Support  |                                      |                                       |
| 2.14     | Rehiring Public Sector Staff  |                                      |                                       |
| 3        | Expenditure Category: Services to Disproportionately Impacted Communities                                       |                                      |                                       |
| 3.1      | Education Assistance: Early Learning  |                                      |                                       |
| 3.2      | Education Assistance: Aid to High-Poverty Districts   |                                      |                                       |
| 3.3      | Education Assistance: Academic Services   |                                      |                                       |
| 3.4      | Education Assistance: Social, Emotional, and Mental Health Services   |                                      |                                       |
| 3.5      | Education Assistance: Other   |                                      |                                       |
| 3.6      | Healthy Childhood Environments: Child Care  |                                      |                                       |
| 3.7      | Healthy Childhood Environments: Home Visiting   |                                      |                                       |
| 3.8      | Healthy Childhood Environments: Services to Foster Youth or Families Involved in Child Welfare System           |                                      |                                       |
| 3.9.     | Healthy Childhood Environments: Other   |                                      |                                       |
| 3.10     | Housing Support: Affordable Housing   |                                      |                                       |
| 3.11     | Housing Support: Services for Unhoused persons  |                                      |                                       |
| 3.12     | Housing Support: Other Housing Assistance   |                                      |                                       |
| 3.13     | Social Determinants of Health: Other  |                                      |                                       |
| 3.14     | Social Determinants of Health: Community Health Workers or Benefits Navigators                                  |                                      |                                       |
| 3.15     | Social Determinants of Health: Lead Remediation   |                                      |                                       |
| 3.16     | Social Determinants of Health: Community Violence Interventions   |                                      |                                       |
| 4        | Expenditure Category: Premium Pay   |                                      |                                       |
| 4.1      | Public Sector Employees   |                                      |                                       |
| 4.2      | Private Sector: Grants to other employers   |                                      |                                       |
| 5        | Expenditure Category: Infrastructure  |                                      |                                       |



| Category |   | Cumulative expenditures to date (\$) | Amount spent since last Recovery Plan |
|----------|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 5.1      | Clean Water: Centralized wastewater treatment                   |                                      |                                       |
| 5.2      | Clean Water: Centralized wastewater collection and conveyance   |                                      |                                       |
| 5.3      | Clean Water: Decentralized wastewater                           |                                      |                                       |
| 5.4      | Clean Water: Combined sewer overflows                           |                                      |                                       |
| 5.5      | Clean Water: Other sewer infrastructure                         |                                      |                                       |
| 5.6      | Clean Water: Stormwater   |                                      |                                       |
| 5.7      | Clean Water: Energy conservation                                |                                      |                                       |
| 5.8      | Clean Water: Water conservation                                 |                                      |                                       |
| 5.9      | Clean Water: Nonpoint source                                    |                                      |                                       |
| 5.10     | Drinking water: Treatment                                       |                                      |                                       |
| 5.11     | Drinking water: Transmission & distribution                     |                                      |                                       |
| 5.12     | Drinking water: Transmission & distribution: lead remediation   |                                      |                                       |
| 5.13     | Drinking water: Source  |                                      |                                       |
| 5.14     | Drinking water: Storage   |                                      |                                       |
| 5.15     | Drinking water: Other water infrastructure                      |                                      |                                       |
| 5.16     | Broadband: "Last Mile" projects                                 |                                      |                                       |
| 5.17     | Broadband: Other projects                                       |                                      |                                       |
| 6        | Expenditure Category: Revenue Replacement                       |                                      |                                       |
| 6.1      | Provision of Government Services                                |                                      |                                       |
| 7        | Administrative and Other  |                                      |                                       |
| 7.1      | Administrative Expenses   |                                      |                                       |
| 7.2      | Evaluation and data analysis                                    |                                      |                                       |
| 7.3      | Transfers to Other Units of Government                          |                                      |                                       |
| 7.4      | Transfers to Nonentitlement Units (States and Territories only) |                                      |                                       |

Project Inventory

**Project: Covid-19 Vaccination**

Funding Amount: \$10,277.50

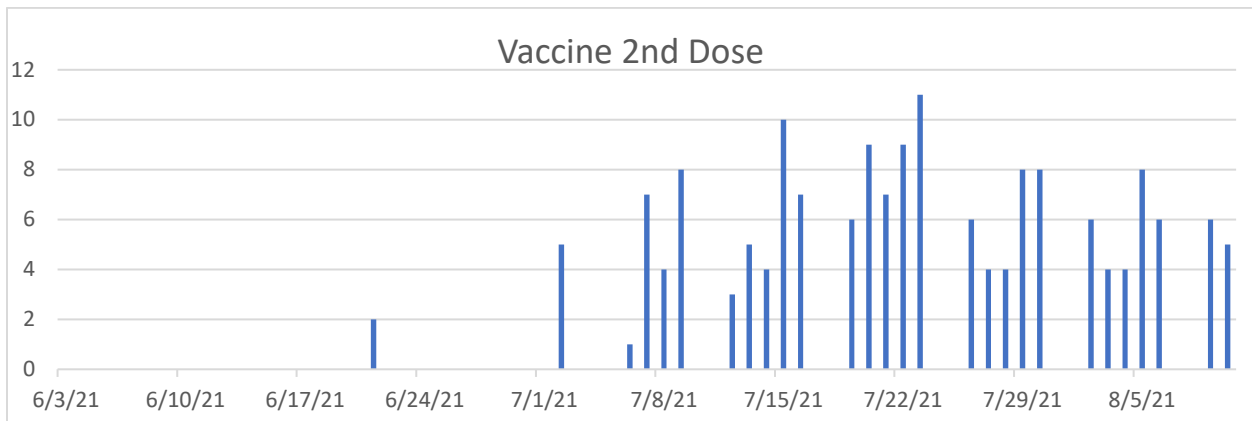
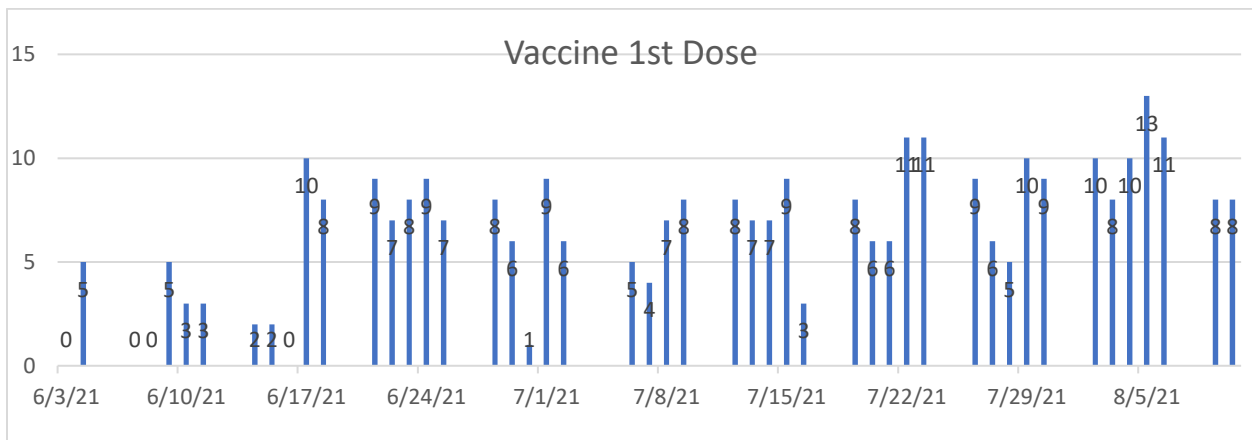
Project Expenditure Category: EC1 Public Health 1.1

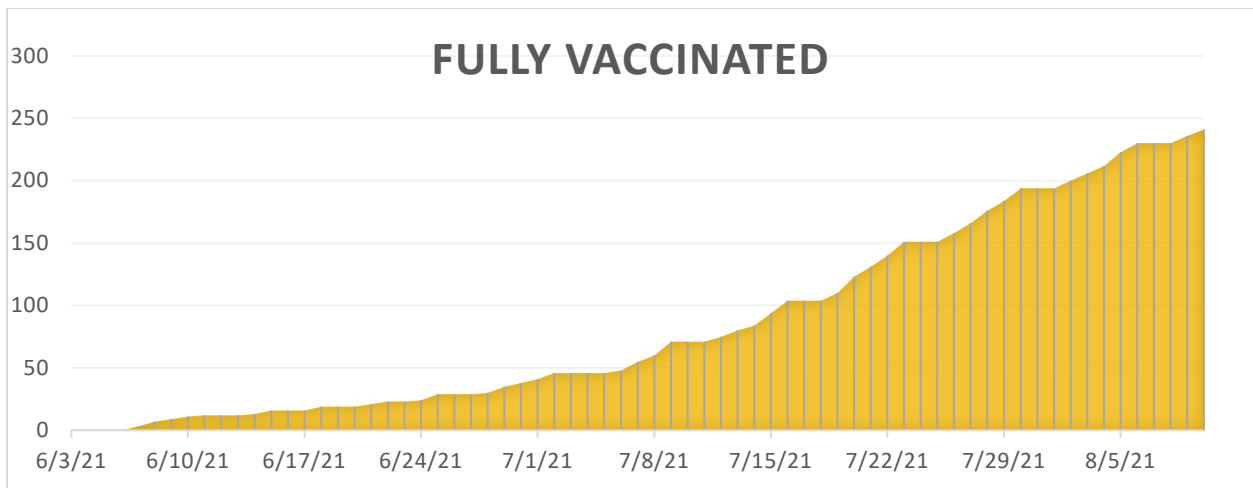
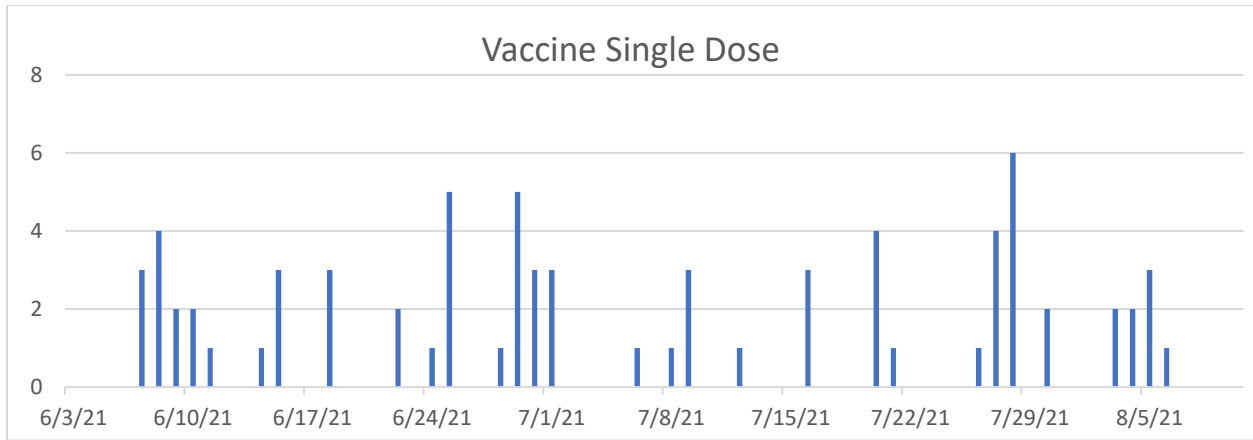
The Covid-19 Drive-through Vaccination/Testing center is a collaboration between the Northampton County Department of Community and Economic Development, Emergency Management Services and Lehigh Valley Hospital-Coordinated Health Allentown Hospital (LVH-CHA). It is located at 3100 Emrick Boulevard in Bethlehem Township. Vaccinations are by appointment only and only for Northampton County residents. Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are available to residents age eighteen and older. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is a single dose. Those receiving the Moderna vaccine will require a second dose three weeks

after the first shot. Vaccinations became available at the site on June 3, 2021. Appointments for a vaccine at the COVID-19 testing site can be made through the following options:

1. Schedule at the LVHN website at [LVHN.org/appointments](http://LVHN.org/appointments).
2. Schedule on the MyLVHN patient portal, at [MyLVHN.org](http://MyLVHN.org).
3. Call 833-584-6283 (833-LVHN-CVD).

The COVID-19 Vaccine Hotline is open Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Saturday-Sunday 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Data received from the Covid-19 Testing and Vaccination Site provide the number of vaccinations administered including first dose, second dose, and fully vaccinated. This data will be analyzed to determine if the project goal of 70% of the population is at least partially vaccinated. The site began administering vaccinations on June 3, 2021, and has served 556 residents as of August 10, 2021. As of August 17, 2021, Pennsylvania Department of Health reports 180,720 Northampton County residents have received at least one dose of the vaccine. This represents 65.8% of the population. This data will be analyzed to determine if the project goal of 70% of the population is at least partially vaccinated.





**Project: Covid-19 Testing**

**Funding Amount:** \$10,277.50

**Project Expenditure Category:** EC1 Public Health 1.2

The Covid-19 Drive-through Vaccination/Testing center is a collaboration between the Northampton County Department of Community and Economic Development, Emergency Management Services and Lehigh Valley Hospital-Coordinated Health Allentown Hospital (LVH-CHA). It is located at 3100 Emrick Boulevard in Bethlehem Township. A Physician’s order is not required for a COVID-19 test. The drive-through site is open to everyone, but only residents of Northampton County will have the cost of testing covered by the County if they do not have health coverage. All testing will be through HNL Lab Medicine unless insurance requires an alternate laboratory. Participants should bring a photo ID and their insurance card, if they have one, with them to the testing site. Data received from the Covid-19 Testing and Vaccination Site include daily test counts and detection rate which will help determine the prevalence of the virus in Northampton County and assist in recovery planning.

**Project: Covid-19 Relief Small Business Grant Program**

Funding Amount: \$1,491,949.09

Project Expenditure Category: EC2 Negative Economic Impacts 2.9

Northampton County has partnered with the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce Foundation and the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce (GLVCC) to provide administration of the Covid-19 Relief Small Business Grant Program. The funding amount above represents half of the delivery fee for the administrative services provided. The remaining funds will be released upon completion of the program. The project scope includes:

- Program Design – GLVCC will work with the County to develop the program guidelines, application form, and electronic application portal through the GLVCC website
- Marketing and Promotions – GLVCC will promote the program throughout all of Northampton County to all eligible businesses regardless if they are a chamber member or not. The GLVCC will leverage existing platforms at its disposal including but not limited to:
  - Radio promotion on Business Matters by Tony Iannelli with Gunther on WAEB
  - Videos promoting this grant opportunity, encouraging all businesses to apply that meet the requirements
  - Social Media promotion on all our platforms (Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram, Twitter)
    - GLVCC Facebook Page, Twitter, LinkedIn
    - Nazareth Area Chamber Facebook (covers Nazareth Borough, Lower Nazareth Township, Upper Nazareth Township, Bushkill Township, Stockertown Borough, and Plainfield Township)
    - Greater Bath Area Chamber Facebook (covers Bath Borough, East Allen Township, and Moore Township)
    - Northampton Chamber Facebook (covers Northampton Borough)
    - Hellertown-Lower Saucon Chamber Facebook (covers Hellertown Borough and Lower Saucon Township)
    - Easton Chamber Facebook (covers City of Easton)
    - Bethlehem Chamber Facebook (covers City of Bethlehem)
    - The Diversity & Small Business Council Facebook & Instagram
    - On the GLVCC website where people can apply:  
<https://www.lehighvalleychamber.org/norcogrants.html>
  - E-Newsletter that goes out weekly with separate email blasts through Constant Contact
- Outreach to municipalities to ensure the small business grant information is included in their communications to the business community and promoted on their social media pages
- Feet on the Street marketing –GLVCC colleagues that cover the Chambers within Northampton County will hand out the letter from County Executive McClure and a supporting document with the link on where to apply to business owners
- Municipality Meetings - Attend Council meetings throughout Northampton County's boroughs and townships to ensure the small business grant opportunity is on meeting agendas, provide additional information, and answer questions

- Technical Assistance – GLVCC will provide technical assistance to any eligible Northampton County business that needs help in filling out and submitting an application
- Application Collection and Administrative Review – GLVCC will collect all applications and perform an administrative review to ensure all required documentation has been submitted
- Grant Application Review Committee Organization – GLVCC will organize all applications and supporting documentation and present the information to the application review committee. GLVCC will maintain committee review notes and document recommendations of the committee.
- Applicant Communication – GLVCC will be responsible for maintaining clear communications with all applicants regarding the status of their applications. Applicants shall be notified when their completed application has been received, administrative review has been completed, and a funding decision made
- Meeting Attendance – GLVCC will attend County Council Meetings, Grant Application Review Committee Meeting and other coordination meetings as requested by Northampton County Department of Community and Economic Development

The Northampton County Covid-19 Relief Small Business Grant Program opened for applications on July 7, 2021, and is administered by County Administration in partnership with the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce. Northampton County businesses with fewer than 100 employees may apply for up to a \$15,000 grant for COVID-19 related expenses. The Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce will conduct outreach and marketing to ensure small, vulnerable and disadvantaged businesses have access to the grant application platform. The Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce will provide technical assistance to business owners during application preparation and online submission. Once applications are received, Northampton County DCED in partnership with the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce will process applications and review for administrative completeness. Grant applications will be reviewed by a committee consisting of Northampton County Administration, Northampton County Council members and the Greater Lehigh valley Chamber of Commerce who will make recommendations to the Northampton County Executive. Priority will be given to businesses that have not received other state or federal COVID-19 grant assistance and/or funding. The County Executive will make final recommendations to Northampton County Council. County Council will consider each application for approval or denial. Northampton County will fund grants to approved businesses. Businesses will be required to provide certifications regarding accuracy and truthfulness of information submitted in the application. Grant recipients must agree to comply with and be bound by the terms and conditions set forth in Northampton County Administrative Code Section 13.15(g). The Covid-19 Relief Small Business Grant Program will consist of several rounds during the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> quarters of 2021. The US Census Bureau reports on Census Business Builder: Regional Analyst Edition - 3.4 that Northampton County is home to 6,171 small business with fewer than 100 employees. The goal of the Small Business Grant Program is to provide funding to 1,000 of these businesses who report and certify that their business has suffered an adverse economic impact due to Covid-19 and the grant request is necessary to support the ongoing operations of the business. Upon completion of the program, data collected will reveal the total number of businesses that have received the above grant and demonstrate if the intended goal has been met.