



Takoma Park City Council Meeting – July 29, 2020

Agenda Item 1

Work Session

Check-In on COVID-19 Assistance to Residents and Businesses

Recommended Council Action

Report on staff progress implementing COVID-19 relief services funded by the COVID-19 Relief Fund.

Context with Key Issues

On May 13, the City Council voted to blunt the impact of the COVID-19 public health crisis in Takoma Park through the creation of a new COVID-19 Relief Fund totaling \$634,150. The purpose of the COVID-19 Relief Fund is to provide financial assistance and support for City residents and small businesses.

On June 10, Economic Development Manager Samira Cook Gaines and Housing Manager Grayce Wiggins presented a detailed spending plan to City Council that splits the COVID-19 Relief Fund into five key service areas: direct financial support to businesses, housing subsidies for both renters and homeowners, protective COVID-19 equipment provision, technical advice and cost reimbursement for reopening businesses complying with new public health mandates, and workforce development services. City staff will provide an update on the status of their progress.

Council Priority

A Livable Community for All: Identify Programming Needs in the Community

Environmental Considerations

There is no direct environmental impact from the City's COVID-19 relief initiatives.

Fiscal Considerations

The City of Takoma Park's COVID-19 Relief Fund is one-time funding obtained through savings approved by Council during the Fiscal 2021 budget reconciliation. The starting balance in the fund was \$634,150 from a Fiscal 2021 set-aside of \$440,000 and a Fiscal 2020 set-aside of \$194,150. \$55,500 of the Fiscal 2020 set-aside has already been spent; the rest was carried over as a Fiscal 2021 appropriation. The breakdown of spending estimates according to the Housing and Economic Development spending plan is below:

Spending Category	FY20 Amount Spent	FY21 Amount Remaining	Total, FY21-FY20
Expansion of Emergency Financial Assistance		\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000
Creation of Rental Assistance Program		\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000
Assistance to Condominiums/Homeowners' Assoc.		\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000
Assistance to Homeowners (Non-Fed mortgages)		\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Assistance with PPE (Housing)		\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Small Business Mini-Grant	\$ 55,500	\$ 88,500	\$ 144,000
Healthy Business Initiative		\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Small Business Technical Assistance		\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000

Additional Economic Development Assistance		\$ 50,000	\$ 50,000
Workforce Development		\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
Emergency Assistance - Contingency		\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000
TOTALS	\$ 55,500	\$ 578,500	\$ 634,000

Racial Equity Considerations

Residents and business owners most impacted by the pandemic are disproportionately people of color. City staff have developed community and business engagement strategies that target the City's hardest-to-reach populations so that they are aware of the new services.

Attachments and Links

- [COVID-19 Resource Page](#) on the City's website summarizes City services for residents and businesses impacted by COVID-19.
- The [Racial Equity Initiative Page](#) on the City's website summarizes the City's methodology for ensuring that minority populations are among the beneficiaries of the new funding.
- The [Healthy Business Initiative Page](#) summarizes small business support related to adapting business operations to state and county public health reopening rules and guidance.