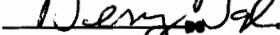


AGENDA BILL

**Beaverton City Council
Beaverton, Oregon**

SUBJECT: COVID-19 City Response and Program Development and Funding

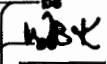



FOR AGENDA OF: 04-14-20 **BILL NO:** 20111

MAYOR'S APPROVAL: 

DEPARTMENT OF ORIGIN: CDD 

DATE SUBMITTED: 04-09-20

CLEARANCES:

- City Attorney 
- Mayor's Office 
- Purchasing 
- Finance 

PROCEEDING: WORK SESSION

- EXHIBITS:**
1. COVID Response Program Concepts
 2. COVID Response Recommended Program Matrix

BUDGET IMPACT

EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT	APPROPRIATION
REQUIRED \$507,000	BUDGETED \$0	REQUIRED \$507,000

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

City Council participates in a work session to discuss proposed programs under consideration to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, and gives direction to staff on program design and FY 19-20 funding priorities.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:

A significant number of Beaverton residents and small businesses are in a dire state of uncertainty and economic strain due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Prior to the COVID-19 crisis, close to 25% of Beaverton households were severely rent burdened (paying over 50% of their income in housing). With the current economic realities, not only are these households in jeopardy of losing their housing but many others that have experienced loss of income as well. It is also apparent that COVID-19 disproportionately impacts communities of color and some of our most vulnerable community members, including people with pre-existing conditions, residents over the age of 60, and people with inadequate access to healthcare (typically low income community members and people experiencing homelessness). These community members are more likely to be cost burdened, more likely to live in substandard housing, and more likely to be vulnerable to evictions. Through the years, the city has stabilized vulnerable households by providing rent assistance through community partners. For fiscal year 2019-20, the city allocated \$28,000, which as of April has been completely spent.

The Economic Development Division assisted the Chamber with a survey of over 200 businesses in

mid-March to assess the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis and resulting executive orders regarding mandatory business closures and a stay-at-home order for the general public. This survey revealed that the top concern of business regarding the new business climate as a result of changed consumer behavior and the COVID-19 measures was revenue declines of 50% or more and business continuity if the economic climate continued to deteriorate, which it has.

Beaverton launched the Emergency Business Assistance Program on March 18 to provide immediate rent or mortgage relief to Beaverton's small, independent businesses to stay afloat during the pandemic. Beaverton was one of the first cities in Oregon to launch such a fund, and it has provided reassurance to the 120 businesses that have been allocated funding thus far. A total of 378 applications were received for the initial round of the program, illustrating a broad need among Beaverton's small businesses.

INFORMATION FOR CONSIDERATION:

Staff has proposed programs to support housing and services as well as economic development. Program priorities and budgets are provided in the attached Exhibits.

The first phase of relief totaled \$250,000 and was spent on the Emergency Business Assistance program. The proposed cost to General Fund to implement the next phase of COVID-19 response programs is \$774,000, which would be comprised of a new allocation of \$507,000 and a reprioritization of existing budgets in the amount of \$267,000. The proposed General Fund contribution is in addition to CDBG funds proposed to be allocated and reprioritized for COVID activities as they become available. These resources will provide additional "bridge" assistance for small businesses and low-income residents. Staff will continue to monitor and be poised to access state and federal stimulus programs when available.

COVID -19 Program Development

Updated April 7, 2020

Overarching Principles:

- Access federal/state stimulus dollars to the extent reasonably possible to augment local resources
- Know our priorities as a community and propose federal/state stimulus dollars to assist in achieving those priorities
- Focus city dollars where they are needed most: bridging critical needs while awaiting federal/state funds and filling in gaps thereafter
- Identify and assist our most vulnerable residents and businesses with their most critical needs
- Use an equity lens in all program development and implementation

Housing/Services Programs

Key Funding Tools: (Federal/state Stimulus Funds, Emergency Support Grants Washington County, CDBG, General Fund, etc.):

- 1st Priority: Identify and prioritize community housing and service needs
- 2nd Priority: Keep people housed
 - Augmented emergency rent program
 - Implementation of eviction moratorium (Legal Aid, hotline/email support)
 - Augment homeless shelter services (Severe Weather Shelter, other shelter assistance, vouchers as needed)
- 3rd Priority: Make sure people have sufficient food
 - Assist food banks
 - Assist Meals on Wheels
- 4th Priority: Help ensure people have access to health care
 - Assistance to Virginia Garcia and others
- 5th Priority: Augment other services as needed
 - Nonprofits will be stretched with additional need; what can we do to help?
 - Technical assistance to navigate applications for funding

Economic Development Programs

Key Funding Tools: Federal/State Stimulus Funds, CDBG, General Fund, BURA, etc.)

- 1st Priority: Identify and prioritize business types and need for assistance
- 2nd Priority: Help businesses survive this short-term downturn with short-term programs
 - Rent assistance
 - Payroll/operating assistance for job retention
 - Mediation services and toolkit for navigating landlord tenant discussions
 - Technical assistance and program information referral
- 3rd Priority: Assist businesses to retool to produce needed products for crisis response (e.g. Hue Noir transitioning to hand sanitizer)
- 4th Priority: Identify services that will be needed post closure to ensure a quick return for businesses and workers.

City of Beaverton COVID-19 Response - Program Recommendations

EXHIBIT TWO

updated April 10, 2019

Program/Activity		Funding								
Name	Description	TOTAL	Potential Federal	Potential State	CDBG	General Fund Spent	Existing General Fund to Reallocate	General Fund New Allocation	BURA	Other
HOUSING/SERVICES										
Eviction Moratorium	phone and email resource to provide information and referrals for landlords and tenants regarding residential eviction moratorium (COB)	\$ 4,000	potential backfill from stimulus funding to State				\$4,000 for translation services (may be covered in existing MO budget)			
Emergency Rent (residential)	expand emergency rent program to assist renters (and affordable housing nonprofit partners) experiencing financial impacts from pandemic, particularly those not covered by federal stimulus funding (Community Action/CBO's/COB)	\$ 1,040,000	potential backfill of GF portion from stimulus funding to State		\$400,000 (COVID CDBG) \$40,000 (FY20-21 Emergency Rent funds) \$200,000 (uncommitted FY19-20 CDBG)		\$243,000 (existing affordable housing 506 funds)	\$157,000		
Severe Weather Shelter	continue operating severe weather shelter seven days a week through May 31; consider possible year round expansion and 24 hour operation (Just Compassion WA County)	\$ 90,000	potential ESG backfill through County							\$90,000 Community Action/OCF
Unemployment Benefit Technical Assistance	contract with Community Based Organization(s) to provide technical assistance navigating the unemployment benefits process	\$ 20,000	potential backfill from stimulus funding to State				\$20,000			
Meals on Wheels	support meals on wheels distribution of food to residents in need	\$ 13,000			\$13,000 (COVID CDBG)					
Subtotal		\$ 1,167,000			\$ 653,000	\$ -	\$ 267,000	\$ 157,000	\$ -	\$ 90,000

SMALL BUSINESS

Program/Activity		Funding								
Name	Description	TOTAL	Federal	State	CDBG	General Fund Spent	Existing General Fund to Reallocate	General Fund New Allocation	BURA	Other
Emergency Business Assistance	Top priority to quickly fund commercial rent assistance for neediest businesses impacted by the pandemic (COB)	\$ 1,000,000	potential backfill from stimulus funding to State	\$500,000 (possible match from Strategic Reserve Fund/ Special Session funding)		\$250,000		\$250,000		
Business Retention	Marketing, business planning, financial planning and other technical assistance	\$ 290,000			\$ 50,000 (uncommitted FY19-20 CDBG) \$140,000 (FY20-21 Microenterprise) \$100,000 (FY20-21 uncommitted CDBG)					
Operating Capital Business Relief and Recovery	Funding for businesses to participate in relief during the pandemic (face masks, hand sanitizer, ventilator equipment, other) and recovery after the pandemic (funding for hiring, inventory, equipment).	\$ 200,000	potential backfill from stimulus funding to State	\$100,000 (possible match from SRF/Special Session Funding)				\$100,000		
Enhanced Storefront and Tenant Improvement Programs	Additional funding for Storefront and Tenant Improvement programs to assist relaunch of businesses impacted by pandemic	\$ 200,000							\$100,000 (additional BURA FY20-21 Storefront Improvement) \$100,000 (additional BURA FY20-21 Tenant Improvement)	
	Subtotal	\$ 1,690,000		\$ 600,000	\$ 290,000	\$ 250,000	\$ -	\$ 350,000	\$ 200,000	
	TOTALS	\$ 2,857,000		\$ 600,000	\$ 943,000	\$ 250,000	\$ 267,000	\$ 507,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 90,000