

Item Title: Amend the 2019-2020 Housing Action Plans with Housing Related Services provided through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act)

Specific Action Requested:
That the Board of Commissioners:

- 1. Approves the 2019-2020 Wake County Housing Action Plan Amendment; and**
- 2. Authorizes the Chair to sign documents necessary to submit to HUD and to carry out activities described in the Amendment.**

Item Summary:

Purpose: The Board of Commissioners approve all substantial amendments to the 2019-2020 Wake County Housing Action Plan and authorize submission to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Background: As of April 2, 2020, HUD announced its first round of special allocations of funds under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act), to respond to the growing effects of the historic public health crisis. Funds are allocated to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus (COVID-19). An additional \$2,018,246 in federal entitlement funds were accepted and appropriated in the Housing Special Revenue Fund by the Board of Commissioners on May 4, 2020.

Wake County is required to submit a substantial amendment to the 2019-2020 Action Plan, to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), incorporating the special allocations of Coronavirus Aid funds.

Board Goal: This Board action complements housing affordability initiatives in the Social and Economic Vitality goal area.

Fiscal Impact: \$2,018,246 was appropriated on May 4, 2020 in the Housing Special Revenue Fund for the special allocation of coronavirus aid funds. No additional appropriation is required.

Additional Information:

The FY 2019-2020 Action Plan was approved on June 3, 2019 by the Board of Commissioners. The Annual Action Plans describes the way Wake County Housing Affordability and Community Revitalization will use funds from HUD to help meet the housing and community development needs of low-moderate income families.

The Wake County COVID-19 Strategic Plan for Housing, to minimize the effects of COVID-19 on homeless and precariously housed Wake County residents, while maximizing opportunities for positive long-term outcomes, was presented to the Board of Commissioners on May 4, 2020. There are seven distinct components of this plan required to properly address this crisis for housing and housing related services. Round one of CARES Act funding allocations and activities will support the Wake County's Strategic Plan. On May 4, 2020, the Board of Commissioners accepted and appropriated \$2,018,246 in CARES Act funding for housing related services.

This 2019-2020 Substantial Amendment is to integrate the CARES Act funding for housing related services responding to COVID-19, with the remainder of the Action Plan still in effect. No other amendments to the 2019-2020 Action Plan are being proposed. Substantial plan amendments, related to the CARES Act, require public notice, a public comment period of no less than 5-days, and Board of Commissioners approval.

The CARES Act program funding proposed below, is to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to facilitate assistance to eligible communities and households economically impacted by COVID-19.

Proposed Activities by Eligible Funding Type

CDBG: \$1,258,790

Funding to support Wake County COVID-19 initiatives and grants made to community service partner agencies for the purposes of:

- Housing assistance payments (rent, mortgage, and/or utilities)
- Emergency home maintenance and rehabilitation
- Affordable housing rehabilitation
- Emergency public housing maintenance
- Meal and medicine delivery
- Related administrative and delivery costs

ESG: \$626,800

Funding to support Wake County COVID-19 initiatives and grants made to community service partner agencies for the purposes of:

- Street outreach (urgent needs, equipping staff, transportation, and referrals)
- Rapid re-housing
- Homelessness prevention
- Shelter operations (supplies, furnishing, equipment and transportation)
- Related administrative and delivery costs

HOPWA: \$132,656

Funding to support Wake County COVID-19 initiatives and grants made to community service partner agencies for the purposes of:

- Rental assistance and short-term payments to prevent homelessness
- Assessment & case management
- Substance abuse treatment

- Mental health treatment
- Nutritional services
- Assistance with daily living

Community input was considered in the development of this plan. While it is difficult to reach everyone under the current time constraints, numerous individual and group conversations were held with housing service providers, community advocates and faith leaders the week of April 20, 2020. This plan addresses the majority of the concerns that the broader community brought forth, to the extent that we believe we're able. The Housing Department will continue to engage the community in dialog as we all work together to meet the needs of our most vulnerable.

A public notice for the amendment was published in The Carolinian, The News & Observer, and Que Pasa. The public comment period began April 29, 2020 and continued through May 4, 2020.

Attachments:

1. Presentation
2. Public Notice