

Title: Accept Additional 2019-2020 Federal Emergency Solutions Grant Allocation under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) for Homeless Populations Amid Coronavirus (COVID-19) Recovery

Specific Action Requested:
That the Board of Commissioners:

- 1. Accepts and appropriates an additional allocation of \$1,709,995 in Federal Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for homeless populations amid Coronavirus (COVID-19) recovery; and**
- 2. Authorizes the Chair to sign documents necessary to submit to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).**

Item Summary:

Purpose: The Board of Commissioners accepts all grant funds allocated from the Federal Government. HUD has allocated additional ESG funds to Wake County.

Background: Following Congress' appropriation of CARES Act funds, HUD announced in early April its first round of special allocations under the CARES Act to respond to the growing effects of the historic public health crisis. The Board of Commissioners approved the acceptance and appropriation of \$2,018,046 of CARES Act funding on May 4, 2020. Of that total, \$626,800 was for the ESG program, which funds homelessness support and prevention programs.

In June, HUD announced the allocation of \$2.96 billion in ESG funding to support homeless Americans and individuals at risk of becoming homeless because of hardships such as job loss, wage reduction, or illness due to COVID-19. This funding is in addition to \$1 billion of ESG grants announced within a week of President Trump signing the CARES Act. Wake County will receive an additional \$1,709,995 in Federal ESG funds from HUD for homeless populations amid coronavirus recovery.

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

Fiscal Impact: The County will receive an additional \$1,709,995 in Federal ESG funds from HUD under the CARES Act. The funds will be budgeted in the Housing Affordability and Community Revitalizations Special Revenue Fund. HUD has waived the matching requirement for these funds.

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.

A substantial plan amendment, related to the CARES Act, requires public notice, a public comment period, and approval by the Board of Commissioners. The substantial amendment is forthcoming for BOC approval at a future meeting.

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 and requires BOC acceptance.

Round 1 Program Funding (BOC Approved)

FFY	Funding Activity Name	Activity Type	Amount
2019	CDBG-CV	COVID-19 Rapid Response	\$ 1,258,790
2019	ESG-CV	COVID-19 Homeless Response	626,800
2019	HOPWA-CV	COVID-19 Supportive/Assistance Response	132,656
Total			\$ 2,018,246

Round 2 Program Funding (Proposed)

FFY	Funding Activity Name	Activity Type	Amount
2019	ESG-CV	COVID-19 Homeless Response	\$ 1,709,995
Total			\$ 1,709,995

HUD authorized activities for the additional allocation of ESG funding include:

- Make more emergency shelters available for homeless individuals and families.
- Operate emergency shelters by providing food, rent, security, maintenance, repair, fuel, equipment, insurance, utilities, furnishings, and supplies necessary for their operation.
- Provide Hotel/Motel Vouchers for homeless families and individuals.
- Provide essential services to people experiencing homelessness including childcare, education services, employment assistance, outpatient health services, legal services, mental health services, substance abuse treatment services, and transportation.
- Prevent individuals from becoming homeless and rapidly rehouse homeless individuals.

Attachments:

1. Budget Memo