

Item Title: Amend the 2020-2021 Housing Action Plan for the Second Round of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) Funds

Specific Action Requested:
That the Board of Commissioners:

- 1. Approves the 2020-2021 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 approves all substantial amendments to the 2020-2021 Wake County Housing Action Plan and authorize submission to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Background: On April 2, 2020, HUD announced the 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. \$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. On June 9, 2020, HUD announced its second round CARES Act funding. An additional \$1,709,995 in federal entitlement funds were accepted and appropriated in the Housing Special Revenue Fund by the Board of Commissioners on July 6, 2020.

HUD requires Wake County to advertise and receive public input on how funds will be used. Staff conducted this process and seeks the Board's approval to amend the Housing Action Plan to satisfy HUD planning requirements and allow the County to commit the funds. Grant funds will be used to assist individuals and families with housing needs due to the economic impacts of COVID. Specific services may include rapid re-housing, homelessness prevention and street outreach.

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

Fiscal Impact: \$1,709,995 was appropriated on July 6, 2020 in the Housing and Community Revitalization Special Revenue Fund for the special allocation of coronavirus aid funds. No additional appropriation is required.

Additional Information:

The FY 2020-2021 Action Plan was approved on May 4, 2020 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. The plan addresses the current highest priorities of maximizing the number of individuals who are stably housed through its seven distinct components that properly address this crisis for housing and housing related services. Round one of CARES Act funding allocations and activities supported 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.

On May 26, 2020, the Board of Commissioners also approved a Substantial Amendment to the 2019-2020 Action Plan which integrated the CARES Act funding for housing related services responding to COVID-19, with the remainder of the Action Plan still in effect.

This Substantial Amendment to the 2020-2021 Action Plan is to add the second round of federal ESG-CV funds (ESG II) to Wake County's housing related services responding to COVID-19 crisis. No other amendments in the 2020-2021 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 additional 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

ESG II: \$ 1,709,995

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

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 in the time available. The Housing Department has

continued to engage the community in dialog as we all work together to meet the needs of our most vulnerable.

A 10-day public notice for the amendment was published in The Carolinian, The News & Observer, Que Pasa, and the Wake County website. The public comment period began August 24, 2020 and continued through September 3, 2020.

Attachments:

1. Public Notice