

**Item Title:** Appropriation of Funds Associated with COVID-19 Response

**Specific Action Requested:**

**That the Board of Commissioners amends the fiscal year 2021 budget to:**

- 1. Accept and appropriate \$2,470,760 allocated to Wake County by NCDHHS for vaccination operations through the CDC Vaccine Program.**
- 2. Accept and appropriate \$8,904,193 allocated to Wake County by NCDHHS for enhanced detection and testing operations from the CDC Emerging and Infection Disease Program.**
- 3. Appropriate \$10,000,000 of fund balance for additional costs associated with the County's COVID-19 response.**

**Item Summary:**

**Purpose:** The Board of Commissioners appropriates all funds for County services.

**Background:** The County is responsible for several functions during emergency events, including but not limited to public health and safety, emergency response, communications, and community recovery. Normal operating budgets may not support the expenses for these functions. This budget appropriation recognizes funding provided by the state governments to respond to the current public health emergency and its secondary effects on Wake County services and residents. The budget appropriation also appropriates additional County funds until additional dollars are identified and allocated through Federal and State programs.

**Board Goal:** Supports County operations for emergency response efforts.

**Fiscal Impact:** This item appropriates a total of \$11,374,953 in additional funding received from the NC Department of Health and Human Services. The appropriation allows for the use of these funds through their expiration date of June 30, 2024.

This item appropriates \$10,000,000 of the County's unassigned fund balance for continued expenses associated with the COVID-19 response. It is anticipated that a portion or all these funds may later be replaced with additional funds coming from federal or state programs before June 30, 2021, including FEMA reimbursements or state allocations.

### **Additional Information:**

**Vaccination Operations:** Wake County is now well into vaccination operations. As part of the additional federal relief stimulus funding approved in late December, North Carolina received funding to assist with local health departments with COVID-19 vaccination planning and implementation.

Required activities of the grant include the following:

- Increase COVID-19 vaccination capacity across the jurisdiction, including among high-risk and underserved populations.
- Ensure high-quality and safe administration of COVID-19 vaccines.
- Ensure equitable distribution and administration of COVID-19 vaccines.
- Increase vaccine confidence through education, outreach, and partnerships.
- Develop and implement community engagement strategies to promote COVID-19 vaccination efforts.
- Support high vaccination uptake in tribal nations
- Use immunization information systems to support efficient COVID-19 vaccination.

The State funding is being awarded to local health departments to support these goals in the planning and implementation of on-site, satellite, or off-site vaccination clinics.

**Testing Operations:** While the County shifts some efforts to vaccinations, Public Health still works with various partners to maintain testing operations at various sites and disease detection efforts. The federal stimulus funding approved in December also included allocations to the states to support these continued efforts, of which the state recently determined an allocation formula to local health departments.

**COVID-19 Response:** In addition to its vaccination efforts, the County continues to be a leader in the COVID-19 response, providing mass testing to residents throughout the County, continuing assistance with food security, job opportunities, and housing and utility support.

In April 2020, the County received \$194 million from the Coronavirus Relief Fund which provided most of the funding for the County's COVID-19 response to date. As of February 28, 2021, there was approximately \$5,000,000 remaining of these funds.

The appropriation of \$10,000,000 in unassigned fund balance will ensure continued support of the response until additional resources are received.

### **Summary**

The County's response to the COVID-19 pandemic remains agile, considering our responsibility for public health, community needs, and funding received from the federal and state government to support these efforts. Given the fluid and volatile political climate at the federal level, the County continues to closely monitor and adjust how all funds received are administered to ensure the maximum benefit is achieved while maintaining compliance with all state and federal laws. The County anticipates additional funding from NCDHHS through the CDC, FEMA reimbursements, and potential funding from the US

Treasury. County staff will continue to provide updates on all funding received related to the COVID-19 response.

**Attachments:**

1. Presentation
2. Budget Memo – FY21 Grants and Donations Fund
3. Budget Memo – FY21 COVID-19 Response
4. Budget Memo – FY21 Non-Departmental