

DRAFT PROCESS

CDBG COVID-19 RELATED FUNDING

Ruth Pérez, City Council President
Members of Renton City Council
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- a) **Step 1: Allocate Emergency Assistance/Rental Assistance funds to agencies with current program capacity and an existing contractual relationship with the City.**

Of the agencies currently contracted to provide emergency assistance/rental assistance services to Renton residents, four have experience managing federal funds. These are St. Vincent de Paul, St. Anthony, Catholic Community Services, the Multi Service Center and Refugee Women's Alliance. Staff are working to assess capacity and will make an allocation determination based on the agency's ability/desire accept CDBG funds and deploy resources quickly and with a minimum of additional hiring required. The amount they are able to receive may not match the total funds available for emergency assistance/rental assistance. If the City still has funds available for this purpose, additional distribution will occur utilizing the process outlined in step 2 below.

- b) **Step 2: Allocate emergency assistance/rental assistance to an agency with a presence in South King County and an active rental assistance program that currently receives CDBG or CSGB (Community Services Block Grant) funds.**

The federal requirements governing these funds are intensive, and it is important that agencies have the existing structure in place to accurately track staff time, client service eligibility, and all other applicable federal regulations. This may include adding city funds to a King County contracted agency as long as that agency has a presence in South King County. The amount they are able to receive may not match the total funds available for emergency subsistence payments. If the City still has funds available for this purpose, additional distribution will occur utilizing the process outlined in step 3.

- c) **Step 3: Allocate emergency assistance/rental assistance funds via an open RFP process.**

Any funds set aside for emergency assistance/rental assistance payments not allocated in Steps 1 and 2 will be made available via an application process. Agencies without a current structure in place in South King County would be eligible to apply to provide either rental assistance or mortgage assistance to low-moderate income households in Renton. Agencies will need to have an existing program in place, experience managing federal funds, and meet all standard City of Renton CDBG requirements for agencies.

2. **Allocation of food assistance funds.**

Renton currently funds the Salvation Army Renton Food Bank and Sound Generations meal programs. Staff will assess capacity and make an allocation based on the agency's ability to meet CDBG requirements, and deploy resources quickly. Although Renton has some smaller feeding programs, due to their size and capacity, they are not able to comply with CDBG requirements.

3. **Contingency Plan**

If Renton is unable to expend all the funds in the categories above, staff proposes funding go toward legal assistance to prevent or defend eviction. Once eviction suspensions are lifted, landlords will move to evict residents for non-payment of rent and ancillary issues. These residents will need legal assistance. Potential agencies include the King County Bar Foundation, and Eastside Legal Assistance Program-Housing Stability. Staff would assess capacity and make an allocation of remaining funds.

CONCLUSION:

City of Renton staff, along with our counterparts in Northeast and South King County have identified the following two priority needs that will likely continue over the course of this pandemic.

- Public Services including basic needs such as rent, utility, and food assistance
- Micro-enterprise/small business support

The CDBG-CV funds are more restrictive and are proposed to be used exclusively for public services support, with the City contracting with non-profit agencies to implement.

The CARES Act funds from the state appear more flexible and better aligned to support micro-enterprise and small business assistance.

By scheduling a public hearing on June 22, the Council will provide an opportunity for public comment on the allocation of the City's CDBG-CV funds.