

Subject:

Resolutions approving Pinellas CARES Programs

Recommended Action:

Adoption of resolutions 1) to expand and implement additional programs under the CARES Act to equitably address the most pressing needs resulting from COVID-19 with a focus on economic recovery and resiliency for individuals, families, and local businesses as well as public health mitigation and response to slow community spread; and 2) authorizing the County Administrator to make necessary and prudent adjustments to the programs, allocations, and expenditures consistent with these goals and the guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Treasury.

Strategic Plan:

Ensure Public Health, Safety, and Welfare

2.1 Provide planning, coordination, prevention, and protective services to ensure a safe and secure community

2.3 Be a facilitator, convener, and purchaser of services for those in need

2.4 Support programs that seek to prevent and remedy the causes of homelessness and move individuals and families from homelessness to permanent housing

Foster Continual Economic Growth and Vitality

4.2 Invest in communities that need the most

Deliver First Class Services to the Public and Our Customers

5.2 Be responsible stewards of the public's resources

Summary:

Adopting the resolutions will provide staff direction to implement expanded and additional programs within the funding received by the County under the CARES Act to equitably address the most pressing needs resulting from COVID-19 with a focus on economic recovery and resiliency for individuals, families, and local businesses as well as public health mitigation and response to slow community spread.

To provide the flexibility needed to adapt and respond quickly as understanding of the impacts from COVID-19 becomes more clear, the resolutions also delegate authority for the County Administrator to make adjustments to the programs, allocations, and expenditures among CARES Act funded County programs consistent with the goals and policies of the resolutions and within the guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Treasury.

Background Information:

On March 27, 2020, the CARES Act was enacted to provide emergency relief to families and small businesses that have been impacted by the coronavirus. Through the \$150

billion Coronavirus Relief Fund, the CARES Act provides for payments to State, Local, and Tribal governments navigating the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Amounts paid to States, the District of Columbia, U.S. Territories, and eligible units of local government were based on population as provided in the CARES Act. A unit of local government eligible for receipt of direct payment includes a county, municipality, town, township, village, parish, borough, or other unit of general government below the State level with a population that exceeds 500,000.

The CARES Act requires that the payments from the Coronavirus Relief Fund only be used to cover expenses that:

- (1) are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19);
- (2) were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020 (the date of enactment of the CARES Act) for the State or government; and
- (3) were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020.

Additional guidance on eligible uses of Fund disbursements by governments and FAQs were issued by the Treasury on June 24.

On April 28, 2020 the Board of County Commissioners adopted Resolution 20-36 approving Pinellas CARES Financial Assistance Program and Resolution 20-37 approving Pinellas CARES Small Business Grants Program seeking to bridge this gap to stabilize residents and support eligible small businesses impacted by the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

The Financial Assistance program received 732,895 phone calls, 270,486 text messages, and 470,116 web page views. Expenditures for the program through June 30 are estimated to be \$5.0 million.

Up to \$35 million in emergency relief funds was initially identified to support the small businesses hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic through the Small Business Grants program. The program received 6,738 applications before it closed on June 30. As of July 2, 75.8% of applications had been reviewed. Of these, 34.6% of applications were denied. Expenditures for the program are estimated to be \$15.0 million.

Fiscal Impact:

Payment to Pinellas County from the CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund was received on April 22 in the amount of \$170,129,283.40. Expenditures for Pinellas CARES programs through June 30 are estimated to be \$20.0 million. Remaining CARES Act funds will support the Pinellas CARES Programs in amounts to be determined consistent with the intent of the Pinellas CARES resolutions and the guidelines established by the U.S. Department of Treasury.

Staff Member Responsible:

Aubrey Phillips, Strategic Performance Manager, Office of Management and Budget

Partners:

United States Department of Treasury
2-1-1 Tampa Bay Cares

Attachments:

Pinellas CARES Financial Assistance Resolution
Pinellas CARES Expanded and Added Programs Resolution
Pinellas CARES Recommended Framework and Estimated Investments
CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund Treasury Guidance and FAQ