

OVERVIEW OF PINELLAS CARES

BACKGROUND

Pinellas County received \$170.1 million from the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Funds must be expended by December 30, 2020.

The CARES Act requires that these funds only be used to cover expenses that:

- Are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19;
- Were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020; and
- Were incurred between March 1 and December 30, 2020.

Federal guidelines do not allow the CARES funds to pay for:

- Expenses that will be paid by any other federal program or insurance.
- Reimbursement to donors for donated items or services.
- Payroll or benefits expenses for public health, safety, and similar employees whose work duties are not substantially dedicated to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- Restoration of reduced governmental revenue.
- Payment of property taxes or other governmental taxes, fees, and charges.

Thousands have already applied for emergency financial relief through initial Pinellas CARES programs:

- **Financial Assistance** - Direct payment of overdue rent/mortgage and utilities for eligible residents
 - \$5.0M estimated total payments
- **Small Business Grants** - One-time \$5,000 grants for qualifying small businesses
 - \$15.0M estimated total payments

COMMUNITY INPUT

Engaged the community to request broad input on CARES fund uses

- **Fielded a Short Online Survey** (June 5-14) on priorities and ideas
 - 1,114 survey responses from a broad cross-section of the community
 - Large sample size yielded no representation issues in age, gender, or race/ethnicity
- **Hosted a Live, Online Community Conversation** on June 12 to solicit broad community feedback
 - 122 unique attendees; 372 open-ended comments and feedback

What We Heard:

- Assistance to individuals, families, and local businesses is top priority
- Public health mitigation and response is a significant concern
- Opportunities to improve initial CARES programs
- New and creative ideas

GOALS

Develop Pinellas CARES programs to equitably address the most pressing needs resulting from COVID-19

- **Economic Recovery and Resiliency** for individuals, families, and local businesses
- **Public Health Mitigation and Response** to slow community spread

NEXT STEPS

Use a flexible framework to provide short-term relief to support public health and a sustained economic recovery

- Extend current program providing financial assistance for individuals and families
- Continue developing new programs based on framework
 - Delegate authority to implement programs, establish partnerships and associated agreements, and adjust funds dedicated to each program
 - Provide flexibility needed to adapt and respond, based on availability of funds
- Provide updates to the Board and the community
- September: Reevaluate and take stock

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PINELLAS CARES RECOMMENDED FRAMEWORK AND ESTIMATED INVESTMENTS

ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY

INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES	\$58.2M (34.2%)
<i>Extend beyond June 30 existing program providing financial assistance with overdue rent/mortgage and utility payments for individuals and families that have lost income as a result of COVID-19</i>	\$26.2M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplified documentation requirements • Expand Eligibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Documented loss of hours and/or job due to COVID-19 (rather than income at time of application) ○ Increase allowable liquid asset limit to \$10,000 (currently \$4,000) • Increase cumulative maximum award amount from \$4,000 to \$5,000, applied retroactively to prior applicants 	
<i>Support not-for-profit organizations providing services directly related to COVID-19</i>	\$30.0M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priorities from public input: feeding programs; homelessness; behavioral health; and legal assistance to prevent evictions 	
<i>Workforce reemployment, retraining, and placement for residents that suffered economic impact due to COVID-19</i>	\$2.0M
LOCAL BUSINESSES	\$54.4M (32.0%)
<i>Provide grants to bridge the gap for local businesses most impacted as a result of COVID-19</i>	\$36.9M
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplified documentation requirements • Sliding scale grant awards ranging from \$2,500 to \$10,000 based on 2019 gross revenue • Extend eligibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Businesses with more than 25 employees ○ Businesses that don't occupy commercial space (e.g. home-based businesses) ○ Additional industries most impacted as a result of COVID-19 	
<i>Provide grants to licensed childcare facilities to mitigate impact of low enrollment & increased costs as a result of COVID-19</i>	\$5.0M
<i>Provide reimbursement matching grants up to \$10,000 to assist Target Industry businesses in implementing COVID-19 related health and safety precautions</i>	\$5.0M
<i>Invest in micro-grants via Creative Pinellas to support professional artists, arts/creative businesses, and non-profit arts organizations experiencing COVID-19 related loss</i>	\$2.5M
<i>Invest in business diversity micro-grant program to provide financial assistance and capacity building for businesses impacted by COVID-19 with barriers to participation</i>	\$5.0M
PINELLAS CARES NAVIGATORS FOR INDIVIDUALS AND BUSINESSES	\$1.6M (0.9%)
<i>Contract with existing community partners to serve as geographically focused navigators that raise awareness of and facilitate individuals and local businesses applying for Pinellas CARES programs</i>	\$1.6M
COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH MITIGATION AND RESPONSE	
PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS	\$55.9M (32.9%)
<i>Build local capacity for testing, contact tracing, skilled nursing, personal protective equipment (PPE), community health educators, and other public health measures</i>	\$43.0M
<i>Reimbursement of local government costs incurred related to COVID-19 mitigation and response</i>	\$12.9M