

Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE October 9, 2020

TO Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

SUBJECT **Upcoming Office of Community Care Agenda Item: CARES Act Funded – Nonprofit Assistance Program**

On October 13, 2020, City Council will consider the following Office of Community Care (OCC) Agenda Item:

Item 20-1934: Authorize **(1)** an emergency Nonprofit Assistance Program (Program) **(Exhibit A)** to provide financial support in the form of a grant for operational expenses, including, but not limited to rent, utilities, staff salaries and benefits, cleaning supplies, and programs supplies incurred between July 1, 2020 and December 14, 2020, and resulting from COVID-19 and/or in response to needs caused by the pandemic, to Dallas-based nonprofit organizations that deliver social service programming; and **(2)** execution of all documents and agreements necessary to implement the Program, including but not limited to subrecipient agreement(s) to administer the Program through an open application process - Not to exceed \$550,000.00 - Financing: U.S. Department of Treasury, Coronavirus Relief Funds

On June 17, 2020, the Dallas City Council allocated \$550,000 in CARES Act funding for nonprofit assistance program funding. The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic constriction have led to substantial impact across sectors, particularly the nonprofit sector. The Council of Nonprofits states on its website that “conversations on nonprofit sustainability have turned into conversations on their survivability” in light of the crisis. The nonprofit sector is critical in times like these as needs for their services grow, with more individuals seeking basic needs support and other services provided by the sector. Additionally, State, County and local COVID-19 regulations, as well as social distancing and safety considerations, though in place to promote safety and protect community members, unfortunately also create additional operational challenges to service delivery.

According to the State of the Sector 2020 Report produced by the Center for Nonprofit Management, there were 11,096 registered 501(c)3 public charities in Dallas. Regionally, nearly 60% of registered public charities indicate a mission aligned with human services (26.6%), education (16.2%), health (excluding hospitals) (5.9%), or public and social benefit (9.8%). Though the data collected in the report largely pre-dates the pandemic, the Report notes that COVID-19 will have a significant impact on the sector and that the data will serve as a baseline against a planned post-pandemic report.

In response to this need, the Nonprofit Assistance Program will support nonprofit organizations, as outlined in the attached Program Statement, that provide programming and services among the below:

- Organizations and programs focused on providing access to health services of all kinds, including those focused on addressing disparities; mental health services for children and youth; and supporting COVID-19 testing and access to testing/tracing

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- Organizations and programs focused on preparing people for living wage jobs in the COVID-19 environment (e.g., via rapid re-employment, upskilling or reskilling through partnerships with community colleges/schools and/or moving to online adult learning)
- Organizations that provide supportive services for workers, such as childcare, food, or transportation
- Providing safe, stable housing for families or individuals
- Organizations that provide services to re-entry populations to assist them as they are returning to the community during this very challenging time
- Programs focused on personal safety from violence in the home
- Programs focused on public safety in the community and eliminating violence directed at people of color, disenfranchised and marginalized populations
- Programs working to reduce learning loss and close the racial academic achievement gap
- Programs focused on supporting teachers/students given current online learning challenges
- Programs addressing the digital divide
- In- and out-of-school engagement programs for children and youth
- Organizations that provide basic needs and emergency assistance for low income clients, such as food assistance, rental and utility assistance, transportation or similar

The Office of Community Care developed the Nonprofit Assistance Program Statement and sought feedback from local nonprofit funders and foundations, including representatives from organizations involved in the collaboration of funders behind North Texas Cares. The program will administer grants in the amount of no more than \$30,000.00 each, provided to nonprofits through this program. Grants can support operational expenses, including but not limited to expenses such as rent, utilities, staff salaries and benefits, cleaning supplies, and program supplies incurred between July 1, 2020 and December 14, 2020 and resulting from COVID-19 and/or nonprofit response to needs caused by pandemic. Grants will be administered via an online application process during one or more established application periods, which launch in late October/early November. Should the level of funding requests exceed funding availability, applicants will be prioritized that are located within communities of concentrated poverty and/or that primarily or exclusively serve such communities and/or clients experiencing poverty. The City's Equity Impact Assessment Tool demonstrates that income and economic resilience are among COVID-19 high risk economic factors, thus supporting organizations that serve clients experiencing poverty is critical to maintaining a social safety net for low income clients and continuing the City's focus on the "drivers" of poverty.

On October 1, 2020, the Ad Hoc Committee on COVID-19 Recovery and Assistance was briefed via memo on the item.

OCC is in the process of selecting a subrecipient to administer the application and grant process through a Request for Applications (RFA) process. Staff expects to have a subrecipient identified by October 14, 2020 and will provide an update via memo to the City Council on this selection.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact myself or Jessica Galleshaw, Director of Office of Community Care.

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Kimberly Bizer Tolbert
Chief of Staff

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Chris Caso, City Attorney
Mark Swann, City Auditor
Biliera Johnson, City Secretary
Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge
Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager

Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager
Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager
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M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer
M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity and Inclusion
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