



City Update on the Coronavirus Relief Fund Strategic Plan

This report provides City Council with an update on the Community Services programs that were approved under the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) Strategic Plan.

Summary

On March 27, 2020 the CARES Act was signed into law to address the economic fallout resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic in the United States. The bill is the largest economic bill in United States history totaling over \$2.1 trillion. The CARES Act provides different types of funding for which local governments can apply for funding to offset COVID-19 related expenses. As a large city with a population in excess of 500,000, Phoenix was awarded a direct allocation of \$293 million in Coronavirus Relief Funds. The CRF is intended to cover only those costs that are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19. On May 5, City Council approved a plan to allocate the CRF into three major categories:

- Community Services - \$75 million
- City Operations - \$75 million
- Reserve to Preserve City Services - \$143 million

As originally adopted, the Community Services portion of CRF was allocated to projects related to the health and safety of residents, small business assistance, and other social assistance programs. Programmatic expenditures under Community Services were broken down into seven distinct sections:

- Business Assistance - \$15.7 million
- Utility & Rent/Mortgage Assistance - \$30 million
- Distance Learning and Wi-Fi Access - \$3.3 million
- Mitigation and Care for Vulnerable Populations - \$10 million
- Food Delivery - \$5 million
- Better Health Outcomes and Community Testing - \$5 million
- Unallocated Funds - \$6 million

On Oct. 13, 2020 City Council approved reprogramming \$15 million in CRF funds to address additional community needs. The funding was reallocated from the Commercial City Services Assistance Program (\$5.8 million), the Unallocated Funds (\$6 million) and the Payroll Expense Reimbursement Program (\$3.2 million). Funds were allocated to the following programs and strategic plan categories:

- US Vets - \$10.5 million (Mitigation and Care for Vulnerable Populations)
- PPE/Technology for Schools - \$2 million (Better Health Outcomes and Community Testing)
- Job Training - \$1 million (Mitigation and Care for Vulnerable Populations)
- Food Delivery - \$1 million (Food Delivery)
- Animal Welfare - \$500K (Better Health Outcomes and Community Testing)

On Nov. 4, 2020 City Council approved reprogramming of \$444K in the Community Services allocation from the Better Health Outcomes and Community Testing category to the Food Delivery category. The funds have been reprogrammed to increase the funding available to the Other Community Needs program and are described in that section in **Attachment B**.

The revised CRF Strategic Plan now consists of the following revised allocations:

- Community Services - \$78.2 million
- City Operations - \$71.8 million
- Reserve to Preserve City Services - \$143 million

The purpose of this report is to provide City Council with a regular update on the progress staff has made on the programs under Community Services. To date, we have released approximately \$48.9 million of the funding to participants or vendors responsible for delivering services. The bulk of expenditures have been spent in the Business Assistance and Utility & Rent/Mortgage Assistance sections, together they represent approximately \$33.1 million in expenditures. A detailed breakdown of the life-to-date spending and activities for each program can be found in **Attachment A**. In addition, **Attachment B** from Wildfire provides a detailed year-to-date summary of direct payments made on behalf of residents under the Utility & Rent/Mortgage Assistance Program. While open, total attendance at the Summer Heat Respite Center exceeded 27,000, the detailed daily attendance metrics can be found in **Attachment C**.

Responsible Department

This item is submitted by Deputy City Manager Jeff Barton and the Budget and Research Department.

ATTACHMENT A

**2020-21
CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND
COMMUNITY SERVICES
STATUS UPDATE
Updated November 4, 2020**

Program/Status	Budgeted Amount	Life to Date Expenditures
<u>Business Assistance - \$15,700,000</u>		
1. <u>Program: Small Business Assistance (CED)</u> More than 620 Phoenix businesses with less than 25 employees received grant funding to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.	\$5,000,000	\$4,553,649
2. <u>Program: Small Business Guidance (CED)</u> Staff continues to evaluate options. A contract with Co+Hoots is on the 11/4 Formal Council Agenda.	100,000	-
3. <u>Program: Restaurant Restart Resiliency Grant (CED)</u> This program is currently closed and fully subscribed. 103 restaurants received funding. (Grant program closed)	1,000,000	1,000,000
4. <u>Program: Airport Small Business Concessionaire Grant (CED)</u> Grant funding was awarded to 18 small business concessionaires operating at Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. 18 concessionaires funded. (Grant program closed.)	1,000,000	1,000,000
5. <u>Program: Microenterprise Resiliency Program (CED)</u> More than 1,500 Phoenix businesses with 5 or fewer employees have received grant funding to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.	6,000,000	5,999,460
6. <u>Program: Arts and Culture Coronavirus Relief Program (Office of Arts and Culture)</u> The Office of Arts and Culture funded \$1,885,000 in relief grants to 68 nonprofit arts and culture organizations and \$524,419 in two rounds of applications to 369 individual artists as part of the city's Coronavirus Relief Fund.	2,600,000	2,409,419
Total Business Assistance	15,700,000	14,962,528

Program/Status	Budgeted Amount	Life to Date Expenditures
<u>Utility & Rent/Mortgage Assistance - \$24,200,000</u>		
<p>1. <u>Program: Residential Utility and Rent/Mortgage Assistance Program (NSD)</u> Wildfire received \$12,000,000, or 50% of the total contract, in advance payment to get the program started. On October 16, 2020, a second payment of \$6,000,000 was issued, totaling \$18,000,000 in life to date expenditures. To date, 3,220 households have received \$10,488,900 in rent/mortgage assistance and \$2,103,100 in utility assistance. A total of \$12,592,000 in assistance has been provided to date. Wildfire continues to provide technical assistance to all participating agencies and is monitoring expenditure patterns to ensure the full allocation is expended timely. (See Attachment B for additional information from Wildfire).</p>	24,000,000	18,000,000
<p>2. <u>Program: Commercial City Services Assistance Program (Water Services)</u> CED and WSD have partnered on distribution of CARES Commercial Assistance funds to Phoenix small businesses. In a joint outreach effort, 21,800 small businesses were contacted by phone and made aware of the multiple programs being offered. Arizona Community Foundation has worked with CED to determine eligibility and provided WSD with lists of eligible applicants. WSD then verifies that the applicant has a COP City Services Bill (CSB) and credits the account for four months of actual bills. The number of eligible accounts has been reduced by the fact that many small businesses are tenants and the CSB is paid by their landlord, so they do not have their own CSB. As follow-up, WSD has included CARES Assistance messaging on Residential and Commercial CSBs. To date, more than 246 small businesses have received assistance through this program. Outreach efforts are ongoing.</p>	200,000	195,598
Total Utility & Rent/Mortgage Assistance	24,200,000	18,195,598

Distance Learning and WiFi Access - \$3,300,000

1.	<p><u><i>Program: WiFi and Tablets for Public Housing (Housing)</i></u> Housing staff completed the distribution of 800 tablets with built-in WiFi hotspots to public housing households with school age children. Residents have reported they are using the devices for schoolwork, telemedicine appointments, and staying connected with friends and family. All invoices have been paid at this time.</p>	660,000	561,528
2.	<p><u><i>Program: WiFi at Additional Recreation Centers (ITS and Parks)</i></u> Installation of indoor Wi-Fi access points, and the carrier Internet circuit at 2 sites is complete and the sites activated. The remaining 2 sites are awaiting the delivery of internet circuits from the carrier vendors, which is expected to occur by the end of November and December.</p>	70,000	70,000
3.	<p><u><i>Program: Access Points and Antennas at 52 Public Facilities (ITS and Parks)</i></u> Two sites were activated this week for a total of 47 sites complete. The 3 remaining sites are awaiting delivery of Internet circuits from the carrier vendors. The circuit delivery for two sites is scheduled to occur by the end of November and delivery of the circuit for the remaining site is expected to occur by the end of December. Staff continues work on gathering performance metrics and analytics.</p>	520,000	520,000
4.	<p><u><i>Program: Bridging the Digital Divide (ITS, CMO and CED)</i></u> CED and ITS are investigating opportunities to bridge the digital divide with our educational institutions. The collaboration team is reviewing opportunities around hardware, digital literacy, and connections. An IGA is currently in development for this program.</p>	2,050,000	-
Total Distance Learning and WiFi Access		3,300,000	1,151,528

Mitigation and Care for Vulnerable Populations – \$21,500,000
Coronavirus Relief Funding for the Mitigation and Care for Vulnerable Populations section was increased by \$11,500,000 at the Oct. 13, 2020 Policy Session.

1.	<p><u>Program: Refugee and Asylee Microenterprise Assistance (NSD)</u> ACF and IRC received advanced payments, a total of \$266,062, to get the microenterprise program started this summer. To date, IRC has received approval on 33 applications, 117 businesses have or are receiving technical assistance and 186 businesses have been contacted and provided information about the grant program. This week, IRC continued to conduct outreach and work with applicants to submit proper verification documentation.</p>	300,000	266,062
2.	<p><u>Program: Refugee and Asylee Residential Utility and Rent/Mortgage Assistance</u> Wildfire received \$850,000, or 50% of the total contract, in advance payment to get the program started. To date, 209 households have received \$656,700 in rent/mortgage assistance and \$88,500 in utility assistance. A total of \$745,200 in assistance has been provided to date. Wildfire continues to provide technical assistance to all of the participating agencies to ensure applications are completed and approved in a timely manner. (See Attachment B for additional information from Wildfire)</p>	1,700,000	850,000
3.	<p><u>Program: Refugee and Asylee Non-Profit COVID Relief Grants</u> City Council approved a total of 24 contract awards for programs administered by 20 agencies. To date, 12 contracts have been fully executed, four contracts have been routed for signature, three agencies are pending the submission of their complete pre-contract documentation, four contract awards are pending final review of submitted documentation and one contract award was formally declined by the agency. Staff are continuing to work with the agencies on pre-contract documents. Staff received the first grant reporting and billing packages and anticipate the first expenditures to be approved for disbursement in mid-November for agency program activities.</p>	1,000,000	-
4.	<p><u>Program: Domestic Violence (HSD)</u> Contract executed. Payment to Arizona Coalition to End Sexual and Domestic Violence issued. Sub-awards to Chicanos Por La Causa, Chrysalis, DOVES, Shelter Without Walls and Sojourner Center have also been issued.</p>	1,090,000	1,090,000

5.	<u><i>Program: Human Trafficking (Housing, HSD, and PD)</i></u> Housing Department staff worked with the on-site property manager at Starfish Place to increase the frequency of common area cleanings, purchase PPE for staff and residents, stock up on disinfectant and sanitizer, as well as, installing social distancing decals in common areas. Expenses incurred also include social programming, antimicrobial furniture, a telehealth station and touchless features for the public restroom The Phoenix 1 st Step Drop-In Center has been meeting with partners to determine how to proceed in a COVID environment. In the coming weeks staff will be submitting invoices for furniture, a telehealth station and touchless features for the public restroom.	310,000	140,392
6.	<u><i>Program: Community Legal Services/Landlord Tenant (HSD)</i></u> Through the Community Legal Services contract, 49 cases have been opened impacting 72 Phoenix household members. Additionally, 78 households have been served through the \$300,000 Human Service Department Landlord Tenant Program CARES Act. allocation.	1,150,000	1,148,289
7.	<u><i>Program: Heat Relief (HSD)</i></u> Since opening at the end of May, total daily attendance exceeded 27,000 and over 46,000 meals were served at the Summer Heat Respite Center (see Attachment C for detail). Originally the Respite Center was only scheduled to run through the end of July, however based temperature, the increasing number of COVID-19 cases, and the need to coordinate with the county's respite center operations were extended through the end of September. Final costs for the program will be approximately \$1.1 million.	870,000	924,449
8.	<u><i>Program: Seniors (HSD and Public Works)</i></u> To date Area Agency on Aging has served 762 people through the Goods2HOME program at 16 unique low-income senior housing sites and 256 clients through the HiNeighbor program. Additionally, Public Works has selected the firms who are responsible for identifying the recommended improvements to the senior center facilities. These assessments are expected to be complete within the next 30 days and then the physical improvements can begin in earnest.	3,580,000	1,188,458
9.	<u><i>U.S. Vets Housing (CED)</i></u> Funding for this program will be used to assist the US Vets organization with an alternate housing location. This program was approved at the Oct. 13, 2020 Policy Session.	10,500,000	-

10. <u>Job Training (HSD)</u>		
Funding for this program has been designated to assist residents who are currently unemployed or underemployed. This program was approved at the Oct. 13, 2020 Policy Session.	1,000,000	-
Total Mitigation and Care for Vulnerable Populations	21,500,000	5,607,650

Food Delivery - \$6,000,000

Coronavirus Relief Funding for the Food Delivery section was increased by \$1,000,000 at the Oct. 13, 2020 Policy Session.

1.	<u>Program: AZ Food Bank (HSD)</u> To date a total of 30 grants have been issued to community agencies. The budget for this program was increased by \$300,000, to a total of \$800,000 at the Oct. 13, 2020 Policy Session.	800,000	500,000
2.	<u>St. Mary's Food Bank (HSD)</u> St Mary's is working with 39 food distribution partners and currently has 29 Home Delivery routes. 145,541 residents served to date. The budget for this program was increased by \$700,000, to a total of \$2,700,000 at the Oct. 13, 2020 Policy Session.	2,700,000	2,000,000
3.	<u>St. Vincent de Paul (HSD)</u> More than 236,000 lbs of food purchased for distribution and 156,733 to go meals served	365,000	365,000
4.	<u>Salvation Army (HSD)</u> Operation Feed the Need Phoenix was held September 12th. 1,000 families and nearly 4,800 individuals were served with more than 154,000 lbs in food and water distributed.	135,000	135,000
5.	<u>City of Phoenix (HSD)</u> To date, 35,294 meals were delivered.	300,000	300,000
6.	<u>Other Community Needs (Office of Environmental Programs)</u> Feed Phoenix - funding for restaurants, caterers, event venues, farmers, mobile markets, CSAs. Local First Arizona Foundation (LFAF) is administering the funds. A cumulative total of 29,283 meals and 2,246 CSA boxes were delivered as of October 31.	2,144,000	1,369,733

For the week of November 2-8, 15 restaurants/caterers are preparing approximately 3,820 meals that will be delivered to Harvest Compassion Center, FIBCO Family Services, Native Health, UMOM, Living Streams Church Pantry, MOMS Pantry, Arizona Kosher Pantry, Feed Phoenix Project, Justa Center and Wesley Community Health Center, 7th Street Pantry, Solid Rock Teen Center, CPLC De Colores, 3 Arizona Housing Inc. locations, and 4 Native American Connection locations.

Green on Purpose, Inc. is serving as the food hub to gather local produce from farmers and distribute to the restaurants and caterers preparing meals.

Maya's Farms and Project Roots are providing 150 CSA boxes to Native Health and Arizona Housing Inc's Horrace Steele Commons.

On November 4, Phoenix City Council approved an additional \$351,000 for the Feed Phoenix program managed by LFAF. \$300,000 will be used to prepare an additional 25,000 to 30,000 meals, plus 5,000 Thanksgiving meals to be provided to 8 social service organizations.

Funds to Feed Phoenix - funding for community and grassroots organizations, nonprofits, health centers, Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) is administering the funds.

As of September 30, 16,326 meals and 1,225 food boxes were provided to 15,894 families in zip codes 85008, 85012, 85013, 85016, 85040 85041, 85042, and 85051.

Funds for Schools - funding for Phoenix school districts. The funding provided to Roosevelt School District contributed to 150,874 meals as of September 30.

On November 4, Phoenix City Council approved an additional \$93,000 for the Funds for Schools program managed by LISC that provides the original amount of funding requested from each school district. A total of 339,158 will be provided by Alhambra, Balsz, Cartwright, and Roosevelt school districts.

The overall budget for this program was increased by \$444,000, to a total of \$2,144,000 at the Nov. 4, 2020 Formal Meeting.

Total Food Delivery	6,444,000	4,669,733
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Better Health Outcomes and Community Testing - \$7,500,000
Coronavirus Relief Funding for the Better Health Outcomes and Community Testing section was increased by \$2,050,000 at the Oct. 13, 2020 Policy Session.

1.	<u>Community COVID-19 Testing Events (CMO)</u> In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the city has partnered with local providers to offer Community COVID-19 testing. The total cost for the community testing program was originally estimated at \$1 million however as the spread of the virus increased it became prudent to expand the testing plan. As a result, the program is now estimated at approximately \$1.6 million and includes over 20 weekend testing events, a 12-day-two-site FEMA testing blitz, an extended testing event at Caesar Chavez Library, and a 100-day mobile testing program coordinated with Vincere Cancer Center. To date 45,688 individuals have been tested.	1,000,000	1,189,526
2.	<u>Surgical Masks for the Community (Finance)</u> A purchase order was completed for the procurement of 1.2 million masks to distribute to the community. To date, approximately 200,000 masks have been distributed. This distribution has included providing masks to the Mayor and City Council offices, at the Convention Center respite site, during on-site appointments and to partner organizations throughout the community, such as Circle the City. Staff continues to pursue opportunities to strategically distribute all the remaining masks to partner organizations and the wider community.	500,000	500,000
3.	<u>PPE and Other COVID-Related Supplies for Schools (Youth and Education)</u> To date staff has placed orders for various PPE materials requested by schools. To date hand sanitizer and gowns have been received. An order for cloth masks has been completed and an RFQ for the masks with plastic face shields is in process. Allocations of materials are made based on student enrollment percentages and distribution efforts are underway. Staff is currently in the process of purchasing necessary equipment as well as designing a distribution plan for the equipment once it has been received. The budget for this program was increased by \$2,000,000, to a total of \$4,500,000 at the Oct. 13, 2020 Policy Session.	4,500,000	2,497,657
4.	<u>Healthcare Connectors (CMO and HSD)</u> A contract with Keogh Health Connection was executed on October 9, 2020.	256,000	-

5. <u>COVID-19 HOPE Fund for Employees (CMO and HR)</u> To date, the HOPE Fund has served 45 families.	300,000	149,150
6. <u>Animal Wellness</u> Funding for this program has been designated to provide fostering support the animals of those individuals who are experiencing homelessness and are impacted by COVID-19. This program was approved at the Oct. 13, 2020 Policy Session.	500,000	-
Total Better Health Outcomes and Community Testing	7,056,000	4,336,333
Total Community Investment Program	78,200,000	48,923,370