



Department of Planning and Community & Economic Development

Community Development Division

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Child Care
Community Resources
Community Development Block Grant
Madison Senior Center

Memo

To: CDBG Committee
From: Linette Rhodes, Community Development Grants Supervisor
Date: August 6, 2020
Re: Community Development Block Grant-CV Uses

The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) provides \$1,160,897 of Community Development Block Grant funds (CDBG-CV) for use **to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus pandemic** (COVID-19). The Community Development Division recommends that these funds be used to support community members most impacted by COVID-19. More specifically, CDD recommends giving highest priority to these needs:

Rent and utility assistance for lower-income tenants living in assisted housing developments and connected to a non-profit service agency.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant economic impact on low and-moderate households. One area of greatest concern is housing insecurity. A considerable commitment of resources to rental assistance has already been made, drawing on Federal CARES Act funding. Dane County passed \$10 million of CARES funding through to the Tenant Resource Center while the State of Wisconsin sent \$3 million to the Community Action Coalition of South Central Wisconsin, whose service area includes Dane County, for rent assistance. While the Tenant Resource Center, has been able to help many tenants with these funds, others, including those residing in federally assisted housing developments, have encountered barriers. Households in these units are at particularly high risk of homelessness if they are unable to cover housing expenses. When possible, non-profit housing providers work with tenants to resolve payment issues, however, most lack the financial capacity to absorb extended delays in rental revenues without serious impacts on their operating budgets, services or other tenant resources.

Financial assistance for undocumented immigrant populations.

The City of Madison recognizes and values the presence and contributions of immigrant communities who choose to call Madison home. Some COVID-related challenges within immigrant communities are exacerbated due to factors such as higher numbers of female-headed households or higher incidences of domestic violence. Immigration status, lack of documentation and other obstacles often make it more difficult for some immigrant households to access federal and state resources, leaving them among the most vulnerable members of our community during the current pandemic. The City has already deployed \$150,000 to help meet these needs but more is needed.

Subsidized child care for lower-income households

The Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) will be starting the fall semester relying on a virtual learning model. As the economy continues to open up and parents are called back to work, there will be a substantial demand for child care during the work day. MMSD and community-based childcare providers are working to meet that demand. It is clear that lower-income families will need assistance in securing quality childcare for children, particularly those aged 4-12. Many of the sites at which childcare will be available will be in school buildings, while some will be in community facilities. Access to childcare during the work day is essential to ensure that parents can maintain employment and that their children can participate in virtual learning. During the time they are in care, students will be supported in completing their virtual learning responsibilities by staff onsite. After completing virtual learning, the students will be provided with an enrichment curriculum of activities as well as homework assistance, if needed. CDBG funds, which will be used to supplement resources from MMSD and other sources, will help subsidize care for approximately 100 low to moderate school-age children.