

COVID-19 RESPONSE & RECOVERY INITIATIVES

Attachment 5

	<i>Human Service Response</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Comments</i>
1	<p><i>Rental Assistance, Emergency Shelter & Eviction Services</i></p> <p>Supplemental funding to support expanded capacity for rental assistance, emergency shelter and eviction prevention services with the Department of Community and Human Services.</p>	On-going	<p>DCHS opened a 24/7 COVID-19 shelter for men and women experiencing homelessness at the Charles Houston Recreation Center. This shelter can serve in excess of 40 men and women so that social distancing can be safely accommodated.</p> <p>DCHS secured hotel for families and high-risk vulnerable individuals experiencing homelessness to increase social distancing in the emergency shelters and promote adherence to Governor's sheltering in place order.</p> <p>DCHS is working to address the increased need for rental assistance, including scheduling over 100 client appointments per month.</p> <p>DCHS is partnering with the Office of Housing on the creation of a proposal for an expanded Citywide Rental Assistance Program possibly to be funded with federal CARES dollars.</p> <p>DCHS is educating residents on the eviction moratorium put in place by the CARES Act</p> <p>City Council approved Draft CFY 2021 Action Plan on April 18, 2020, including Proposed Use of \$671,570 in CDBG COVID-19 CARES Act supplemental grant fund allocation to provide rental assistance of up to \$1500 to eligible residents of City-supported affordable rental housing, including set-aside units.</p> <p>https://alexandria.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4417146&GUID=721BDBE1-2FBE-4E52-93A5-5A2E9C16EE86&FullText=1</p>

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2	<p><i>Alexandria Fund for Human Services Supplement</i></p> <p>One-time, short-duration solicitation to fund existing, scalable non-profit capabilities to support emergent human-service needs in Alexandria as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak and response.</p>	Modified/On-going	<p>In lieu of issuing a short duration solicitation, staff has been working with current grant recipients requesting FY 20 budget line items adjustments to shift program approaches in order to stay connected to program participants and meet emergency needs.</p> <p>City Council provided \$200,000 in matching funds for the ACT NOW COVID-19 Fund which raised over \$500,000 in private monies to be granted to nonprofits to meet COVID-19 related client needs.</p>
3	<p><i>Nutrition Supplement</i></p> <p>Funds to support expanded capacity of existing senior nutrition programs and to support expansion and delivery of proposed ACPS nutrition programs.</p>	On-going	<p>Currently, we are offering residents 14 frozen meals per week for those aged 60 or above, their spouses, or an individual with a disability, regardless of age, who resides with a program recipient aged 60 or above; have difficulty getting food and are homebound because of COVID 19.</p> <p>As of the week of 4/27, 64 individuals will be served through this program, and an additional three homeless individuals may be added to this count, as well as any other new referrals.</p> <p>Those receiving the meals include participants from the Senior Center/Congregate Meal Program, the Adult Day Services Center, and clients of other Division of Aging and Adult Services units. As of 4/23, Senior Services volunteers delivered meals to 57 people.</p> <p>On 4/23, the notice about the availability of these meals was distributed to all DCHS staff and many community agencies.</p> <p>During spring break and as needed, RPCA staff have been providing support for delivery of ACPS nutrition programs.</p> <p>City Council provided \$270,000 to ALIVE! to fund costs of expanded emergency food distribution for those in need in Alexandria.</p>

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4	<i>Local Social Service Extension</i> Request for extension of renewal requirements and additional funding to ensure continuity of existing local social services.	Complete	SNAP renewal requirements have been extended to September 1, 2020. SNAP Interview Waiver Moratorium on closing Medicaid cases, exceptions are death and moving to another jurisdiction.

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5	<p><i>Seek Eviction Deferrals</i></p> <p>Formal request to landlords to defer eviction actions. Request to General Assembly to enact legislation deferring evictions.</p>	Complete/On-going	<p>Letter sent from Mayor Wilson to Alexandria Multifamily Property Owners and Landlords on 3/16 seeking relief for residents impacted by COVID-19, including rent repayment plans, no evictions, no late fees.</p> <p>https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/housing/20202MayorLandlordLetter_COVID19.pdf</p> <p>Office of Housing staff continue to follow up with property owners and have provided information and referrals to DCHS for hundreds of residents seeking assistance.</p> <p>Letter sent from to Governor Northam on March 19, 2020, signed by Mayor Wilson and the Mayors and Chairs of the Counties of Fairfax, Arlington, Loudoun and Prince William and the City of Fairfax seeking housing and human services relief to mitigate impacts of COVID-19.</p> <p>The Supreme Court of Virginia declared a judicial emergency (suspending evictions) through May 17, 2020</p> <p>City Council approved Resolution No. 2937 on April 14, 2020 calling on U.S. Congress and Governor Northam to enact a moratorium on rent and mortgage payments.</p> <p>http://alexandria.legistar.com/gateway.aspx?M=F&ID=47390b15-20fd-47a1-9b55-5563dbff366c.pdf</p>
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6	<p><i>Expanding Child-Care Fee Subsidy</i></p> <p>Add additional funding to support child-care for the children of parents working outside the home.</p>	Complete/On-going	<p>\$70 million in State Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) stimulus funds (CARES Act)</p> <p>New federal funding has been made available through the recently passed stimulus legislation to support programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This includes an additional \$70 million in funding to Virginia for FY2020. This funding is explicitly intended to support parents of young children whose participation in the workforce is of critical importance during this pandemic.• Virginia plans to use at least half of this new funding to support childcare programs that are open during the pandemic. This is not limited to programs that are currently participating in the Child Care Subsidy Program.
7	<p><i>AHOP Restoration</i></p> <p>Restore Affordable Homeownership Preservation Grant Program for single-year FY 2021 relief. Program provides real estate rebates to eligible homeowners meeting income qualifications.</p>	Pending	<p>At its April 28 Legislative meeting, City Council will direct staff regarding the proposed use of upcoming federal CARES Act monies, including options for rental assistance and/or real estate tax relief for income eligible homeowners.</p> <p>https://alexandria.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=4426689&GUID=C5AE1A1D-4A78-4427-9295-03166B3A3294</p>

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8	<p><i>Healthcare Capacity</i></p> <p>Provide funds to address emergent infrastructure, services, and staffing needs in support of healthcare delivery, including Alexandria Health Department, Neighborhood Health and INOVA Alexandria Hospital.</p>	On-going	<p>Eight (8) ACPS nurses are working with the Health Department 20 hours a week/five days a week.</p> <p>City staff assisting the Health Department with IT, HR and communications support. City staff resources offered to the Health Department when requested, if the City had the needed resources.</p> <p>Additional Epidemiologist was added through federal funding. Health is asking VDH to waive hiring freeze for one additional Epidemiologist.</p> <p>Additional need for other Health providers with CARES funding as possible source.</p> <p>City successfully advocated that INOVA establish testing capacity in the City, as well as assisted Neighborhood Health in their testing program in the City.</p>
9	<p><i>Enhanced Communications Capability</i></p> <p>Provide support to created dedicated COVID-19 communications channels to push out information throughout the community.</p>	Complete/On-going	<p>See attached Joint Information System (JIS) Report of extensive and ongoing communications to the community at-large, as well as targeted communities at risk.</p>

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	<i>Small Business Rescue</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Comments</i>
10	<i>Ease Dining Tax Collection</i> Eliminate late fees (retain interest accrual) on dining tax collection for the remainder of calendar year 2020.	Complete	Approved by City Council on April 18, 2020, meals and hotel taxes due to the City from March to June may be deferred without penalty or interest applied and with one year to repay.
11	<i>Small Business Stabilization Fund</i> Repurpose portion of business attraction funds to provide micro-loans to qualifying small businesses.	Modified/Pending	AEDP does not recommend micro loans, but is developing a proposal for a business grant program to be considered by City Council to possibly be funded with CARES dollars.
12	<i>SBA Loan Assistance</i> Provide staff assistance and support to assist small businesses in seeking Small Business Administration emergency loans.	On-going	AEDP and SBDC have been providing extensive on-going assistance to local businesses in applying for SBA loans.

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	<i>Small Business Rescue</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Comments</i>
13	<i>Allow Food Delivery/Pick-Up By-Right</i> Adopt emergency Text Amendment allowing a restaurant to provide delivery services by-right regardless of Special Use Permit restrictions.	Complete	This initiative was Implemented through a suspension of enforcement on March 19, 2020 and adopted by City Council by ordinance on April 18, 2020 (link) and will continue through the declared emergency or earlier upon a decision by the City Manager. In addition to allowing all restaurants to provide delivery services, the suspension of enforcement also covers restrictions on the hours that restaurants and food stores may receive deliveries. It also suspends enforcement of restrictions on hours of operation for restaurants, convenience stores, catering operations and automobile service stations (gasoline stations). In addition, staff suspended enforcement of the A frame sign regulations to allow businesses to set up signage which may be needed to ensure social distancing, clarify where pick up is taking place, etc. News of these initiatives were communicated to the business community through a variety of mechanisms, including eNews, postingsonthewebsite , direct communication to individual businesses, through organizations such as AEDP, Visit Alexandria, the Chamber of Commerce, and Old Town Business Association. Staff also participated in a webinar for restaurateurs to explain the provisions and answer questions.

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14	<p><i>Allow Sidewalk/Parking Lot Vending By-Right</i></p> <p>Adopt emergency Text Amendment temporarily (through end of 2020) allowing a restaurant or retail establishment to vend on adjacent sidewalks or private parking lots.</p>	Complete	This initiative was implemented through a suspension of enforcement on March 19, 2020 and adopted by City Council by ordinance on April 18, 2020 (link) and will continue through the declared emergency or earlier upon a decision by the City Manager.
	<i>Small Business Rescue</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Comments</i>
15	<p><i>Outdoor Dining Expansion</i></p> <p>Adopt emergency Text Amendment to allow temporary (through November of 2020) administrative approval of expanded outdoor dining areas (to provide for increased distance between seats) and flexibility to reallocate seats between outdoor and indoor areas.</p>	Not Feasible	This initiative as not implemented as it was determined through consultation with the Health Department that it was not possible to ensure public safety with six-feet distancing and allow outdoor dining and also, to meet the requirements of the Governor's orders regarding assembly.

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16	<i>Off Premises Alcohol Sales</i> Adopt emergency Text Amendment to allow temporary (through end of 2020) off-premises alcohol sales for all restaurants (subject to ABC licensure)	Complete	This initiative was implemented through a suspension of enforcement on March 19, 2020 and adopted by City Council by ordinance on April 18, 2020 (link) and will continue through the declared emergency or earlier upon a decision by the City Manager.
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	<i>Small Business Rescue</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Comments</i>
17	<p><i>Free Saturday Parking</i></p> <p>Eliminate parking meter fees on Saturdays temporarily (through end of calendar year 2020).</p>	Complete	<p>Free Saturday Metered Parking was implemented starting on Saturday, April 4. Other changes to parking include:</p> <p>Food pickup zones: The City has also implemented reserved parking zones for food delivery and pickup in front of restaurants that have requested them.</p> <p>Enforcement Changes: In coordination with APD, we have also suspended enforcement of select parking regulations to ease the burden on residents and Parking Enforcement Officers. These include street sweeping restrictions (starting March 18), 72-hour rule violations (starting March 18), vehicle inspection violations (starting March 25), and residential permit parking (starting March 25). These enforcement changes were formally adopted by City Council on April 18, 2020.</p> <p>Parking Garage Operations: The City also reduced the hours of operation of the City's three largest parking garages starting on March 26 (Market Square, Courthouse, and 220 N. Union Street) and is only accepting credit card payment at those facilities to reduce contacts with cashiers.</p> <p>These changes are summarized on the TES COVID website:</p> <p>https://www.alexandriava.gov/tes/info/default.aspx?id=114270#Parking</p>
18	<p><i>Seek Rent Deferrals</i></p> <p>Formal request to landlords to provide business tenants with rent deferrals/reductions.</p>	Not pursued	<p>Many landlords are working with businesses on dealing with overdue rent by deferrals, lease extensions, etc.</p>
19	<p><i>Business Recovery Task Force</i></p> <p>Create blue-ribbon task force to identify concepts for recovery of Alexandria's economy.</p>	To be initiated	<p>Joint City AEDP Task Force to be proposed.</p>

City Manager's Office

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April 28, 2020

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	<i>Municipal Finance</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Comments</i>
20	<p><i>The City Manager is requested to provide budget memo responses on the following major budget modification scenarios:</i></p> <p><i>1) Revenue re-estimate projections assuming significant degradation of consumption-based revenues.</i></p>	Complete	<p>This item is addressed in the revised budget and CIP version 2.0.</p> <p>https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/budget/info/budget2021/FY%202021%20Proposed%20Budget%20Version%202.0.pdf</p>
	<p>2) Deferral of portion of proposed FY 2021 capital expenditures until FY 2022 to provide for retention of existing real estate tax rate (\$1.13).</p>	Complete	<p>This item is addressed in the revised budget and CIP version 2.0.</p> <p>https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/budget/info/budget2021/FY%202021%20Proposed%20Budget%20Version%202.0.pdf</p>
	<p>3) Proposed operating budget spending reductions to provide for an additional 1 or 2 cent real estate tax reduction (beyond the capital reductions proposed above).</p>	Not pursued	<p>This item was not addressed because we were already reducing the budget by \$56M and reducing the tax rate by 1 or 2 cents would require an additional \$8.5M to \$17M in proposed reductions or use of fund balance.</p>