

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FRESNO, CALIFORNIA, DIRECTING APPROPRIATIONS TO THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND TO CREATE A CONSUMER GRANT PROGRAM TO ASSIST FRESNO FAMILIES IMPACTED BY JOB LOSS OR REDUCTION IN WORKING HOURS, AND DIRECTING APPROPRIATIONS TO THE SAVE OUR SMALL BUSINESS PROGRAM

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared a COVID-19 world-wide pandemic, and on March 16, 2020, Mayor Brand declared a Local Emergency, ratified by the Council; and

WHEREAS, as a result of those declarations, and the growing number of people affected by the disease, day to day life has been significantly impacted for many Fresno residents; and

WHEREAS, working families are experiencing financial impacts and many of Fresno's small businesses have already seen a major drop in gross receipts since the COVID-19 outbreak; and

WHEREAS, businesses and nonprofits are instructing employees to stay home, many without pay, and gig workers and those with performance contracts will no longer be working and garnering income; and

WHEREAS, rent payments to local landlords will be delayed, which could lead to eviction and possibly impact the ability to pay mortgages and property maintenance, which will have ripple effects in the local economy; and

Date Adopted:
Date Approved:
Effective Date:
City Attorney Approval: _____

Resolution No.

WHEREAS, on March 25, 2020, via Ordinance No. 2020-012, Council created the Fresno COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund, and on March 25, 2020, Council passed the Save our Small Businesses Act to provide relief to small businesses impacted by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Council now wishes to provide additional funding to the Save our Small Business program, and to create a Consumer Grant Program that will provide support to those who cannot pay their rent or cover their basic needs; and

WHEREAS, the Consumer Grant Program for some Fresno residents, like our farmworkers and some DACA healthcare workers, who were categorized as “Essential Workers,” will be the only source of relief. For other Fresno residents it will be a bridge until they receive state or federal funding; and

WHEREAS, to mitigate these impacts, the Council directs the City Administration and staff to appropriate funding to the Fresno COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund to award consumer relief grants pursuant to the criteria in this Resolution, and increase the allocation to the Save our Small Business Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Fresno as follows:

1. The Council hereby directs the Administration to prepare for Council consideration an appropriation of an additional \$1 million to the Save our Small Business program. The Administration shall return to Council by May 6th with an Amendment to the Annual Appropriation Resolution (AAR) to effect the appropriation.

2. The Council hereby directs the Administration to prepare for Council consideration an appropriation of \$1.5 million to the Fresno COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund. The Administration shall return to Council by May 6th with an Amendment to the Annual Appropriation Resolution (AAR) to effect the appropriation.

3. Funding for the appropriations referenced in paragraph 1 and 2 above shall come in part from any unused General Fund dollars, including but not limited to unfunded projects, such as Fresno Food Expo, Housing trust fund and any revenues received from sales of public assets that have yet to be allocated via Council action, and Housing Successor dollars via the Low and Moderate Income Housing Asset Fund.

4. The Council hereby directs Administration to seek Federal reimbursement for these expended funds, as they are COVID-19 related.

5. The Council hereby creates the COVID-19 Consumer Grant Program. Grants shall be used to prevent eviction or support housing related financial assistance, and are available to households that meet the eligibility criteria below. Submitting an application does not guarantee financial assistance. Application approval requires each program requirement be met and supporting verifiable documentation provided.

a. Applicant must be a City of Fresno resident.

b. Applicant must have a signed rental agreement or an alternate form of documentation verifying applicant's tenancy and monthly rent.

c. Provide evidence the Grant will be used to prevent eviction or support housing related financial assistance. This may include, but is not limited to, payment of rent, future rent, utilities, and needed health and safety related home repairs that, if left unaddressed, will jeopardize occupancy. Applicant must provide documentation such assistance is required due to loss of income during the COVID-19 crisis.

d. Applicants must be at or below 80% of Area Median Income (AMI). Income must be verified by documentation from a third party or an affidavit signed by the applicant stating current income during the COVID-19 crisis.

e. Applicants must meet one or more of the following requirements during the COVID-19 crisis, as verified by supporting documentation. Acceptable documentation may include an affidavit from the Applicant.

- i. Decrease in income.
- ii. Unexpected medical and/or disability expenses paid without credit.
- iii. Fleeing domestic violence.
- iv. Work-related vehicle expense, where a vehicle is required for the job. Supporting documentation from an employer may be required.
- v. COVID-19 related financial losses.
- vi. Applicant has fallen behind on rent due to other factors to be approved at the discretion of the fund administrator.

- f. Priority should be given to Fresno City residents that meet the program criteria and are otherwise ineligible for Federal stimulus funding.
- g. Consumer Grants may be awarded in the following amounts: \$400 per individual; \$800 per couple or single parent with children; \$1,000 for a family with multiple adults and children.

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA)
 COUNTY OF FRESNO) ss.
 CITY OF FRESNO)

I, YVONNE SPENCE, City Clerk of the City of Fresno, certify that the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Council of the City of Fresno, at a regular meeting held on the _____ day of _____ 2020.

AYES :
 NOES :
 ABSENT :
 ABSTAIN :

YVONNE SPENCE, MMC CRM
 City Clerk

By: _____
 Deputy Date

APPROVED AS TO FORM:
 DOUGLAS T. SLOAN
 City Attorney

By: _____
 Katie Doerr Date
 Chief Assistant City Attorney