

# CARES ACT ADVISORY TASK FORCE MEETING

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

---

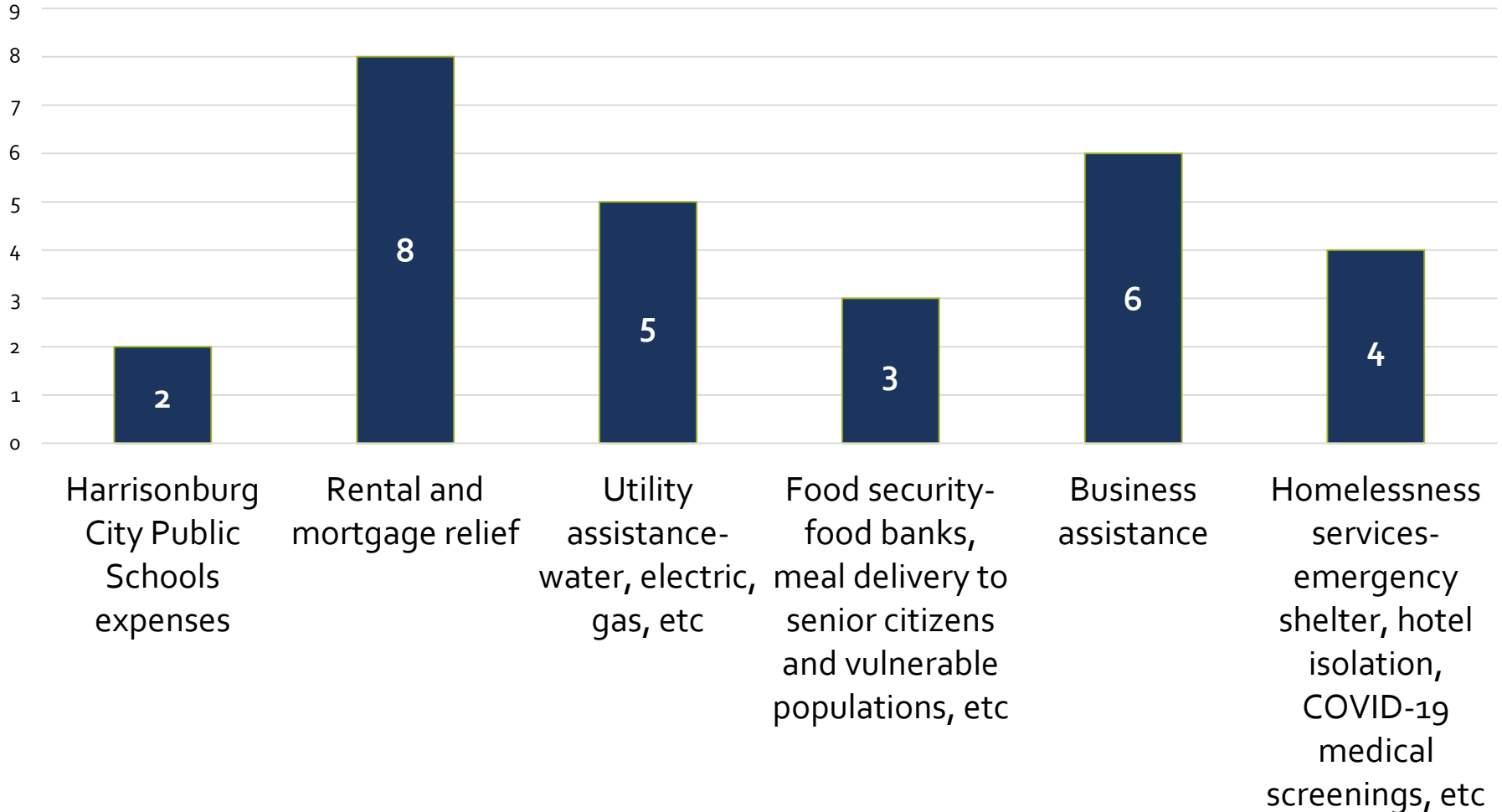


# Community Needs Survey Results



## Question 2

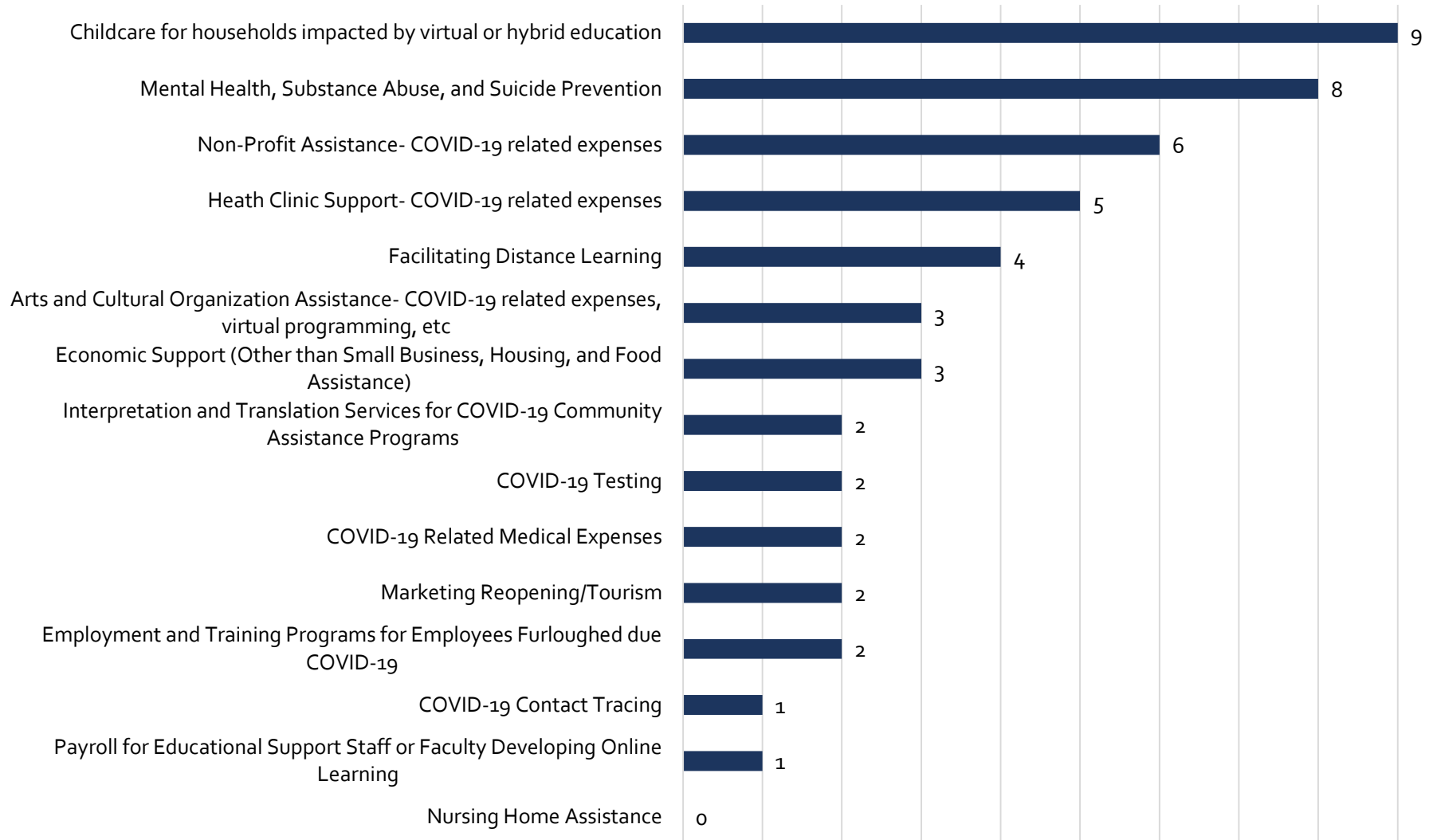
Please select from the list below any existing areas of spending you think should receive more funding from the additional \$3.1 million in CARES Act relief funds.





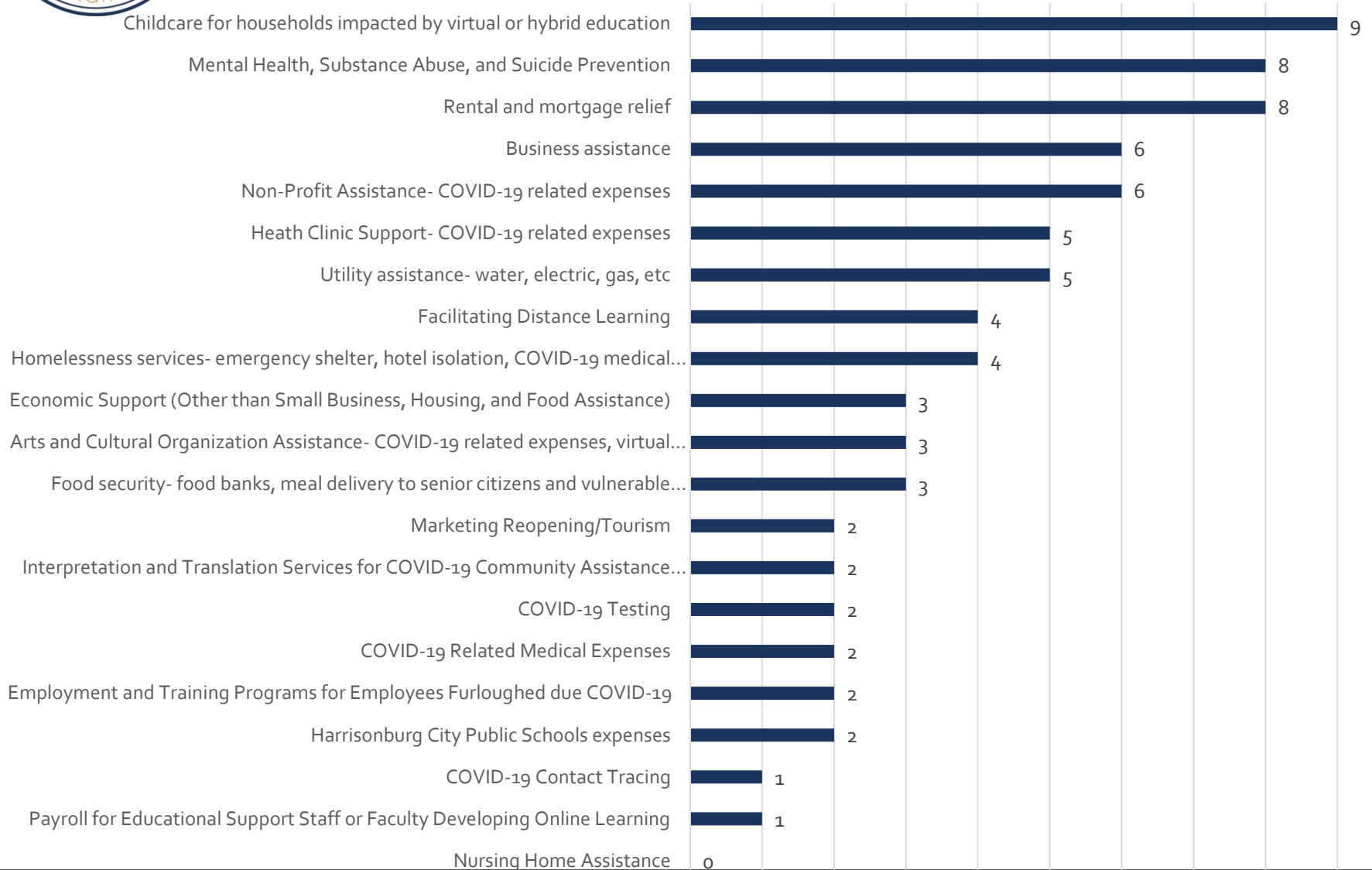
### Question 3

Please select from the list below any community needs created or exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency that you think should be addressed with the remaining CARES Act funding.





# Q. 2 and Q. 3 Combined





## Question 4

If there are any community needs created or exacerbated by the COVID-19 public health emergency you think should be addressed with CARES Act relief funding that were not included in question 2 or question 3, please write them here:



# Question 4 Response – Non-profits

- Nonprofits and museums - they have been excluded from the small business grant program and need assistance similar to what businesses have been receiving. This is more than getting PPE, it's getting operating funds.
- Assistance with PPE and facility modifications for agencies serving the community.



# Question 4 Response- Childcare

- Working parents that are now LMI need help with daycare/child care and supervision during learning hours due to virtual learning as well as while they are working.
- I would add to the childcare category, childcare for all ages (including infants and toddlers), not exclusively school-aged children, as many of them lost slots with school-aged children taking priority
- Child Care Facilities such as Roberta Webb Child Care Center and Harrisonburg/Rockingham Day Care Center





# Question 4 Response- Arts and Culture

- A mural and outdoor public Art program would be amazing and could include murals and sculptures.
- Finally, live music has suffered tremendously and the performance industry in general; I think we need a robust support system for our performing artists that can sustain them some financially as well as personally. This could also have a massive benefit for the spirits of our citizens.
- Nonprofits and museums - they have been excluded from the small business grant program and need assistance similar to what businesses have been receiving. This is more than getting PPE, it's getting operating funds.
- Creative economy support - Musicians and artists can use some relief and community members can use some joy. Could we blend the two needs and have programs for things like murals throughout the city or having musicians play unplugged in public spaces?



# Question 4 Response- Business

- Black and Brown businesses were even more so impacted by the pandemic due to a lack of support and funding due to racism and a lack of relationships.



# Question 4 Response- Housing

- Housing Trust Fund
- Rent assistance due to loss of employment for August and September.



# Question 4 Response-Schools

- During today's call, it sounded like the schools were getting additional CARES funding separate from this allocation. If that is not correct, then I would include them in my answer for Q2.



# Question 4 Response- Mental Health

- Mental Health services that are open to the public seem vital to surviving this pandemic.
- Stress relief for over work essential workers



# Question 4 Response- Direct Payments

- Direct Bonus payments to front line workers who's income is below 33,000/annually



# Question 4 Response- Internet

- Subsidizing the use of internet services is a big need. Now more than ever people need better internet services and help to off set that cost.



# Question 4 Response- City Services

- Parks - do the parks need any support - perhaps add another trail or pavilion shelter or to put a walking trail around the golf course's perimeter? I have noticed more people using the parks than before - is there a way to maximize the space we have? Can we create more space like pop up outdoor picnic or dining space? I know a lot of people who are getting take out and meet friends at the park shelters so they can be together but have a lot of space apart outside. Can we add these spaces around town and get creative with where we do this so people can still have some safe social distancing options?





# Additional Needs Sent via Email

- Safe voting
- Flu shots
- Legal assistance for renters facing eviction

# Establishing Need Categories



# Coronavirus Relief Fund Federal Guidance

The CARES Act provides that payments from the Fund may only be used to cover costs that—

1. are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID–19);
2. were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020 for the State or government; and
3. were incurred during the period that begins on March 1, 2020, and ends on December 30, 2020.<sup>2</sup>



# Eligibility Review

The Task Forces' identified community needs will be turned into defined categories at today's meeting.

After today City staff will begin closely reviewing the categories and identified needs through the lenses of the federal guidance.

The federal parameters may unfortunately lead to some community needs identified by the Task Force being deemed ineligible for this funding.



# Eligibility Review

“Such a program should be structured in such a manner as will ensure that such assistance is determined to be necessary in response to the COVID-10 public health emergency and otherwise satisfies the requirements of the CARES Act and applicable law.”



# Initial Proposal for Umbrella Categories

## **Economic Stabilization**

- Assistance for businesses, non-profits, museums, artists/musicians, etc
- Job training
- Marketing/re-opening tourism

## **Community Health**

- Mental health, substance abuse, suicide prevention
- COVID-19 medical expenses
- Health clinic support
- Contact tracing
- COVID-19 testing
- Flu shots

## **Community Support**

- Rent/mortgage relief
- Food assistance
- Utility assistance
- Interpretation/translation for COVID-19 programs
- Homelessness services
- Childcare
- Internet
- Legal assistance
- Financial assistance

## **Thriving Education**

- Distance learning
- HCPS expenses
- Payroll for educational support staff

**Next Step: Prioritization**



# Next Steps

- City staff will email the Task Force a prioritization survey
- Survey response deadline will be **tonight, Wednesday Sept. 9th, at midnight**
- Survey results will be reviewed at tomorrow's Task Force meeting, Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup> at noon