



**CITY OF HARRISONBURG**  
**OFFICE OF THE**  
**CITY MANAGER**

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## Memo

To: Members of the CARES Act Advisory Task Force

From: Eric D. Campbell, City Manager 

CC:

Date: 8/31/2020

Re: CARES Act Advisory Task Force

Thank you for your willingness to share your time, expertise and assistance as the City determines how best to address the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic and hopefully begin to lay the foundation for our community's recovery.

As part of the federal response to the COVID epidemic, the U.S. Congress passed the *Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020*. This legislation included \$150 billion in assistance for local units of government. On May 12, municipalities across the Commonwealth were notified by Governor Northam of his intention to release funds on a population basis for addressing the relief and recovery of communities in Virginia. The City's first allocation was \$4,625,442, which was received on June 1. Those funds were appropriated in the following categories:

**City of Harrisonburg, VA**  
**CARES Act and CDBG Funds**

Descriptions	CDBG	CARES Act
City Expenses*	0	2,325,442
HHS2	0	600,000
HCPS	0	700,000
Business Assistance	0	750,000
<u>Community Assistance</u>	<u>314,293</u>	<u>250,000</u>
	314,293	4,625,442

**\*Includes Contingencies and Homeless Needs**

On July 28 Governor Northam notified cities and counties of the second and final allocation of federal Coronavirus Relief Funds, which for Harrisonburg was a second allocation of \$4,625,442. In deliberation on this second allocation of CARES Act funding, City Council determined to create a community

engagement process to address the ongoing needs of Harrisonburg and thus created the CARES Act Task Force.

Both the first and second allocations of CARES Act funding come with specific funding parameters as established by the federal legislation. "Specifically, the CARES Act provides that payments from the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) only may 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, (the date of enactment of the CARES Act) for the State or government; and
3. were incurred during the period that begins March 1, 2020 and ends on December 30, 2020."

It is with these federal parameters in mind that the task force seek direction on defining the on-going community needs associated with the COVID epidemic and make recommendations to City Council on how CARES funding might be spent. These recommendations should be focused on categories of need, (e.g. childcare and PPE) and not individual organizations. Also, it is important that the task force not focus on specific amounts for each category, but rather the funding will be suggested through surveying the members on their proposed prioritization of the final list of categories.

Attached to this memorandum are the following documents: 1) June 30, 2020 Coronavirus Relief Fund Guidance, 2) August 10, 2020 Coronavirus Relief Fund FAQ, 3) August 15, 2020 VML Coronavirus Relief Fund Abstract

Thank you again for your time and willingness to serve on this task force. I look forward to your work and recommendations. I and City staff stand ready to assist you in this important effort.