



CITY OF HARRISONBURG
OFFICE OF THE
CITY MANAGER

ERIC D. CAMPBELL, CITY MANAGER
409 SOUTH MAIN STREET, HARRISONBURG, VA 22801
OFFICE (540) 432-7701 • FAX (540) 432-7778

Memo

To: Mayor Reed and Members of Harrisonburg City Council
From: Eric D. Campbell, City Manager *Eric D. Campbell*
CC:
Date: 9/17/2020
Re: CARES Act Advisory Task Force – Staff Funding Recommendation

City staff have been diligently working on the identified list of community needs and the prioritization of those needs by the Task Force. This presentation includes staff's funding recommendations as well as the beginning of details on how to accomplish funding the priorities set forth by the Task Force.

By way of background, City Council created and established the CARES Act Advisory Task Force on a community engagement model implemented by the City of Roanoke. In this process, the Task Force, led by community leaders, identified needs from a categorical level and then prioritized those needs. These priorities were then adapted by City staff into a funding recommendation that married federal spending parameters and the logistics of service delivery. In Harrisonburg, this same process was followed on a more aggressive schedule. Given the federal guidelines of a spending deadline by December 30, 2020, the Task Force met over the course of three facilitated meetings and two weeks. During these meetings the Task Force discussed community needs, gaps between those needs and already existing funding and assistance programs and ultimately prioritized those needs for staff to tailor into a final proposal for City Council's consideration.

The final categories and needs were ultimately agreed on and prioritized through a consensus process by the Task Force. The broader categories included Economic Stabilization, Thriving Education, Social Services and Community Health. Within these categories fell tier one, tier two and tier three funding priorities. Those categories and individual priorities can be seen on the attached CARES Act Advisory Task Force Recommendations.

City staff have begun to identify community partnerships as well as addressing both the eligibility and logistics of how best to meet the funding priorities of the Task Force. This research also involves quantifying the level of need. This work is not complete and continues as City Council deliberates on proposed funding amounts for the specific priorities. Some of this is envisioned to utilize already existing systems such as the processes established for business assistance grants and community assistance for rental and mortgage relief. Others have involved communication and future negotiations with broadband providers to try and address internet access as well as proposing a process that still meets the funding eligibility and deadlines.

Details can be shared at a future City Council meeting as part of the appropriation ordinance.