

Staff Report

This report was developed by staff from the Manager's Office and Business Management Department

This report provides details about:

1. Eligible expenses under the Coronavirus Relief Fund for state, local and tribal governments
2. Federal relief packages and a proposed reimbursement strategy
3. Proposed spending categories and anticipated amounts for the Town's \$746,410 allocation

i. Eligible Expenses

Eligible expenses under the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) include expenditures: (1) incurred due to COVID-19 between 3/1/20 and 12/30/20 and (2) not funded under the Town's FY2019-20 or FY2020-21 budgets.

Expense examples provided by Orange County's application template include:

- Medical support
- Public health measures and compliance
- Payroll for COVID-19 response personnel
- Economic relief in connection to COVID-19
- Other COVID-related expenses reasonably necessary to the function of government
- Grants to municipalities and non-profits

For additional information about eligible expenses, please see the FAQs from the [U.S. Treasury](#)¹ and [North Carolina Pandemic Recovery Office](#)².

ii. Federal Relief Packages and Proposed Reimbursement Strategy

The federal government has provided a variety of resources to state, local and tribal governments in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of the funding is new (e.g., Coronavirus Relief Fund - CRF) and some is available through grants and other funding sources that the Town has used in the past (e.g., Federal Emergency Management Agency - FEMA, Community Development Block Grants - CDBG, etc.).

For expenses that are eligible for reimbursement under both FEMA's Public Assistance Program (FEMA-PA) and the CRF, the North Carolina Pandemic Recovery Office (NCPRO) recommends that local governments first utilize FEMA-PA. Many of the Town's expenditures to date fall under the category of public health measures and compliance. Using the state's recommended reimbursement strategy of "FEMA first" will help stretch federal funds the farthest, and we plan to follow this guidance. We are also utilizing other federal sources like CDBG, where possible.

Town staff will continue to follow federal and state activities to learn about additional relief and recovery funding opportunities. Examples of possible recovery funding areas

¹ <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Coronavirus-Relief-Fund-Frequently-Asked-Questions.pdf>

² https://files.nc.gov/ncgov/documents/files/FAQ_Local_Coronavirus_Relief_Funds.pdf

include more support for small businesses, as well as grants for community resilience, public transit, complete streets and other infrastructure. We will keep the Council updated as new information and resources become available.

iii. Proposed Spending Categories, Possible Expenses and Projected Amounts

Recovery Support Function Category	Possible Expenses	Projected Amount
Human Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sheltering for people experiencing homelessness public computing and internet access at Library and Parks & Recreation facilities distance learning and teleworking support for low-income and public housing residents part-time food distribution staff childcare subsidy for low-income families 	\$351,360
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> rental assistance and foreclosure prevention for low-income families 	\$50,000
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> small business grants social distancing measures for Franklin Street businesses long-term economic recovery planning 	\$180,000
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> washers and dryers for 3 Fire stations to clean Personal Protective Equipment and uniforms. <u>note</u>: many health-related expenses are eligible for FEMA reimbursement and will be filed separately. 	\$4,800
Community Planning and Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> temporary in-road multiuse paths for mobility with physical distancing 	\$5,000
Public Information and Intergovernmental Affairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> high definition virtual meeting broadcast technology enhanced cyber security for remote workforce and other protections virtual meeting technology to link Fire stations with other Town facilities 	\$155,250
	Total	\$746,410