




Interoffice Memorandum

June 15, 2020

AGENDA ITEM

TO: Mayor Jerry L. Demings
-AND-
Board of County Commissioners 

FROM: Dianne Arnold, Manager
Citizen Resource and Outreach Division
Community and Family Services Department

SUBJECT: **Consent Agenda Item – June 23, 2020**
Approval of CARES ACT Funding Amendment

Orange County Government received \$243.1M in federal CARES Act funding and allocated \$36.5 million of the funding for financial assistance to individuals and families directly impacted by a loss of income due to Covid-19. The program model presented to the Board on May 19, 2020 included a plan to provide payments on behalf of residents directly to vendors such as landlords, mortgage companies, utility companies, etc.

The CARES Individual and Family Assistance program opened and started accepting applications on June 8, 2020. Due to the large number of documents required in order to process payments directly to the vendors, the residents encountered significant issues with uploading all the required documents and many residents were not able to complete their applications. Based on those challenges, we have reviewed the process and evaluated other options that would allow us to provide assistance to residents as quickly as possible within the guidelines provided by the US Treasury Department.

Of all the options evaluated, the best option for assisting residents quickly is to issue the assistance directly to residents without the payment going through the additional steps needed to process payments to vendors. We are requesting approval to provide the \$1,000 financial assistance per household approved by the Board on May 19, 2020 directly to the resident who is experiencing financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic business closures. This one-time funding will help resident's bridge financial gaps for any of their unmet needs including overdue rent, mortgage, medical, food or utility expense.

ACTION REQUESTED: Authorization to pay the one-time CARES Act funding financial assistance of \$1,000 per household directly to residents impacted by Covid-19 instead of making the payment to the resident's vendor.

DA:jam

c: Byron W. Brooks, AICP, County Administrator
Randy Singh, Deputy County Administrator
Lonnie C. Bell, Jr., Director, Community and Family Services Department