

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA



Agenda Date:	May 18, 2020
Action Required:	Appropriation
Presenter:	Kaki Dimock, Director, Department of Human Services
Staff Contacts:	Kaki Dimock, Director, Department of Human Services
Title:	Appropriation from Department of Human Services Fund Balance for the Pathways/Community Resource Hotline - \$400,000

Background:

Department of Human Services is seeking an appropriation of \$400,000 from the Department of Human Services Fund Balance to provide emergency finance assistance to community members through the Pathways/Community Resource Hotline. This hotline is maintained by the Department of Human Services in order to provide immediate financial relief to community members experiencing a financial crisis.

Discussion:

Due to the pandemic crisis, requests for financial assistance through the resource hotline have increased dramatically, resulting in the full distribution of previously appropriated funds from City Council. Most callers are seeking assistance with rent or housing costs which are paid directly to the landlord.

At this writing, there are approximately 500 requests for financial support from the city pending and every expectation that this need will continue over the next few months.

The department seeks to use \$50,000 of these funds to provide one-time financial assistance to people ineligible for the Federal stimulus due to their designation as undocumented, immigrant, migrant or domestic worker as a match to the \$250,000 grant to the community from the Open Society Foundation's Emma Lazarus Campaign on Cities. \$350,000 will be used to fund emergency financial relief payments as described above.

Alignment with City Council's Vision and Strategic Plan:

This appropriation request is aligned with city council's vision; specifically the areas of 'economic sustainability' and 'quality housing opportunities for all'.

Community Engagement:

The Department of Human Services is in regular contact with community members in need, community partners addressing financial needs, and partners in Albemarle County to ensure that we are able to be responsive and comprehensive, particularly during this health and economic crisis. Hotline operators have engaged with over 4,000 community members in need as part of the partnership with the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation and United Way of Greater Charlottesville.

Budgetary Impact:

Funding for this expenditure will be transferred to the General Fund from the Department Human Services Fund balance. This transfer still leaves sufficient funding in the Department of Human Services fund balance should funding be needed to manage unexpected changes in state or federal funding in the coming months.

Recommendation:

Staff recommend approving the appropriation.

Alternatives:

Should council decide not to appropriate funds, community members will not receive assistance from the city to address their financial need.

Attachments:

APPROPRIATION

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation of Human Services Fund Balance for the Pathways/Community Resource Hotline

\$400,000

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, that the sum of \$400,000 in Department of Human Services fund balance, is hereby appropriated in the following manner:

Expenditures - \$400,000

Fund: 213 Cost Center: 3411001000 G/L Account: 561105

Transfer From:

Fund: 213 Cost Center: 3411001000 G/L Account: 561105

Transfer To:

Revenue:

Fund: 105 Cost Center: 974302008000 G/L Account: 498010

Expense:

Fund: 105 Cost Center: 974302008000 G/L Account: 599999

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the amount above appropriated from the Human Services Fund balance for the Pathways/Community Resource Hotline shall not be deemed to expire at the end of the fiscal year, but are hereby automatically appropriated in the ensuing fiscal year unless altered by further action of City Council.