



NEWS RELEASE
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City of South Fulton Government

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City Approves Plan for Allocation of CARES Funding

(CITY OF SOUTH FULTON, GA – Oct. 14, 2020) – The City of South Fulton will use CARES Act funds it expects to receive from Fulton County to provide mortgage and rental assistance, help for local small businesses, childcare programming and other initiatives, according to a plan approved by city council members Tuesday.

The city anticipates it will receive \$4.14 million from the county as its share of Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES) funding provided by Congress to assist local governments with expenses related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The plan, which includes some \$2 million in reimbursable costs for overtime incurred by the city's public safety departments and \$2 million in programs used to resolve COVID-19 related challenges to residents.

“Like most other cities across the county, South Fulton and our residents have had to absorb a variety of unexpected costs as we have worked to provide world-class services and residents have worked to managed their standards of living during this unprecedented time,” said City Manager Odie Donald II. “We are thankful to our representatives in Washington, DC the state of Georgia and our partners at Fulton County for providing resources to help offset those burdens.”

The plan, which received unanimous council approval, includes the following initiatives:

- A mortgage and rent assistance fund providing one-time assistance payments to residents who lost their jobs because of the pandemic. The \$750,000 budget includes \$100,000 for each city district and approximately \$50,000 in administrative fees to be paid to an external partner who will administer the program. The city will start accepting applications shortly after Oct. 19. Under the proposal, City staff will screen all applications and the external partner will manage the disbursement of funds.
- A \$500,000 addition to the city's Small Business Stabilization Program. The funds will provide for up to 25 grants of \$19,000 each to local small businesses impacted by the pandemic. The remaining \$25,000 will be donated to a non-profit organization that will manage the process. Businesses can apply for grants starting Oct. 19.
- Childcare and virtual school assistance for essential city employees who are not able to send their children to school when they are working. The program will be managed through Care.com, a recognized provider of child and adult care. Employees would be able to use up to 10 days of virtual school programming or on-site care at a provider identified by Care.com.

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- Enhanced cybersecurity measures to protect employees who are teleworking as well as improved mobile equipment and technology.
- Virtual learning programming provided by the city's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Department. The initiative would provide education PODS, where students could attend virtual school. It also would provide outdoor exercise options and expanded virtual programming offered by the department.
- COVID-19 related facility upgrades, including barriers and signs, to provide a greater level of safety for staff and residents as they interact through city services.
- Hazard pay for essential employees through the city's Gladiator Benefits Program. The employees would receive cash compensation for work performed in hazardous conditions.

City officials plan to formalize programs no later than Oct. 19, followed by a formal launch shortly thereafter.

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