

MOTION:

**April 14, 2020
Regular Meeting**

SECOND:

Res. No. 20-

RE: ACCEPT, BUDGET, AND APPROPRIATE \$324,534 IN FEDERAL AND STATE GRANTS AND \$300,000 FROM AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROFFER FUNDS FOR EMERGENCY SHELTERING AND ASSISTANCE TO PERSONS AGE 60 AND OLDER IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 VIRUS – COUNTYWIDE

ACTION:

WHEREAS, Virginia Governor Ralph Northam declared a State of Emergency on March 12, 2020, in response to the spread of the COVID-19 virus. County Executive, Christopher E. Martino, declared a state of local emergency in Prince William County on March 16, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Homeless Crisis Response Plan (“The Plan”) has been activated as part of the County’s emergency response. The Plan recommends non-congregate shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness that need quarantine or isolation because of COVID-19 exposure or symptoms; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Office of Housing and Community Development has awarded Virginia Homeless Solutions Program (VHSP) grant funds for emergency sheltering services to assist Virginia localities with the COVID-19 response. Prince William County has been awarded \$189,000; and

WHEREAS, VHSP grant funds will be used for hotel or motel rooms that have been designated as Crisis Response Housing; and

WHEREAS, the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services awarded grant funds for homeless services, telephone reassurance services, food or other services that will assist persons age 60 and older during this emergency. Prince William County has been awarded \$135,534; and

WHEREAS, Action in Community Through Service (ACTS) will receive \$10,000 of the DARS grant award for the telephone reassurance program, SeniorLink; and

WHEREAS, Affordable Housing proffers can be used for emergency sheltering of those in need of housing assistance during an emergency as approved by the Board of County Supervisors, via Resolution No. 11-640, dated September 20, 2011. COVID-19 is an emergency and \$300,000 from affordable housing proffers will be used to provide housing for persons experiencing homelessness for their safety and the safety of the community; and

WHEREAS, any unspent grant and proffer funds will be carried forward into Fiscal Year 2021; and

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors hereby accepts, budgets, and appropriates \$324,534 in federal and state grants and \$300,000 from affordable housing proffer funds for emergency sheltering and assistance to persons age 60 and older in response to the COVID-19 virus.

Votes:

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent from Vote:

Absent from Meeting:

For Information:

Social Services Director

ATTEST: _____

Clerk to the Board



STAFF REPORT

Board Meeting Date:	April 14, 2020
Agenda Title:	Accept, Budget, and Appropriate \$324,534 in Federal and State Grants and \$300,000 from Affordable Housing Proffer Funds for Emergency Sheltering and Assistance to Persons Age 60 and Older in Response to the COVID-19 Virus
District Impact:	Countywide
Requested Action:	Accept, budget, and appropriate State and Federal grant funding and Affordable Housing Proffer Funds for emergency sheltering services, telephone reassurance services, and food in response to COVID-19 virus.
Department / Agency Lead:	Department of Social Services
Staff Lead:	Courtney Tierney, Director

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To assist Virginia localities with the COVID-19 response, the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development has awarded Virginia Homeless Solutions Program (VHSP) grant funds for emergency sheltering services. The Prince William Area Continuum of Care (CoC), for which the Prince William County Department of Social Services (DSS) serves as the fiscal and administrative agent, has been notified it will receive \$198,000. Of this, \$189,000 will be used by DSS to initiate its Homeless Crisis Response Plan (HCRP) and the VHSP grant funds will be used for non-congregate care sheltering for individuals experiencing homelessness in three categories: those in need of isolation due to positive COVID-19 test; those in need of quarantine due to exposure to a person with COVID-19; and those with underlying health conditions that place them in high risk during the pandemic. The Commonwealth will directly distribute the remaining \$9,000 equally to local homeless services providers who are engaged with the HCRP.

The Agency on Aging has received \$135,534 in federal funding under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act to assist persons age 60 and older during the COVID-19 virus emergency. These funds may be used for homeless services, telephone reassurance services, food or other services that will assist persons age 60 and older during the emergency. Of the \$135,534, Action in Community Through Service (ACTS) will receive \$10,000 for the telephone reassurance program, SeniorLink, and \$100,000 will be used by DSS for homeless services.

Finally, \$300,000 from available Affordable Housing Proffer Funds can be used for emergency sheltering.

Staff recommends that the Board of County Supervisors accept, budget, and appropriate \$324,534 in Federal and State Grants and \$300,000 from Affordable Housing Proffer Funds for emergency sheltering and assistance to persons age 60 and older in response to the COVID-19 virus.

BACKGROUND

Virginia Governor Ralph Northam declared a State of Emergency on March 12, 2020, in response to the spread of the COVID-19 virus. County Executive, Christopher Martino, declared a state of local emergency in Prince William County on March 16, 2020.

In FY 2020, the Prince William Area Continuum of Care (CoC) was awarded \$809,826 as part of the Virginia Homeless Solutions Program (VHSP) for prevention services, emergency shelter operations, rapid re-housing and administration costs. To help localities in their response to COVID-19, the state has established emergency grant funding for current VHSP participants. The funds need to be expended by June 30, 2020.

The emergency funds being disbursed in response to COVID-19 are dedicated to ensuring emergency homeless shelter providers can respond to the health and safety needs of individuals and households experiencing homelessness as well as essential services staff.

Following the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) guidelines, Prince William County (PWC) has established a HCRP for Emergency Support Function #6 – Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Temporary Housing and Human Services. PWC has virtually activated the HCRP and these funds will support the operationalization of the plan.

The HCRP recommends the use of non-congregate sheltering for homeless individuals that need to be quarantined or isolated. In a letter dated April 1, 2020, to the Virginia Department of Emergency Management, FEMA granted Virginia's request to use non-congregate sheltering for the homeless population during the COVID-19 response.

The Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) awarded grant funds to Area Agencies on Aging under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. These funds may be used for homeless services, telephone reassurance services, and food or other service that will assist persons age 60 and older during this emergency.

The Affordable Housing Proffer Funds are available for use in times of emergency. The Prince William Board of County Supervisors approved its use on September 20, 2011, via Resolution No. 11-640, during Tropical Storm Lee. At that time, over sixty (60) persons were homeless and funds were used for congregate sheltering. In the present COVID-19 emergency, those needing sheltering must be placed in a non-congregate setting such as a motel or hotel for their and the community's safety.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is the recommendation of County staff that the Board of County Supervisors (BOCS) accept, budget, and appropriate \$324,534 in Federal and State Grants and \$300,000 from Affordable Housing Proffer Funds for emergency sheltering and assistance to persons age 60 and older in response to the COVID-19 Virus.

Service Level / Policy Impact

COVID-19 VHSP grant funds can be used for hotel or motel rooms to provide temporary shelter as needed. Hotel/motel rooms should be prioritized for persons who are particularly vulnerable for complications due to COVID-19 including unsheltered persons, older adults, and those with an existing medical condition. If existing shelter space is unavailable or not appropriate, hotel/motel rooms may be used to provide overflow temporary shelter, separation (for persons with symptoms of COVID-19 while awaiting test results or those who are particularly vulnerable for complications due to COVID-19), or isolation (for persons who are confirmed positive for COVID-19 but who do not need hospitalization). County staff has worked with local hotels to block rooms for these purposes. The \$100,000 Federal grant will also be used for hotel/motels for persons age 60 and older. ACTS will receive \$10,000 for the telephone reassurance program and the Agency on Aging will use the remaining \$25,534 for food or other services that will assist persons age 60 and older during the emergency.

Affordable Housing Proffer funds can be used for expenses associated with providing housing during an emergency. The current request is \$300,000.

It is expected that 140 persons experiencing homelessness may be served.

Fiscal Impact

DSS' Fiscal Year 2020 (FY 20) revenue and expenditure budget will increase by \$589,000. The Agency on Aging revenue and expenditure budget will increase by \$35,534. There is no local match required. The VHSP stage grant needs to be expended by June 30, 2020. The federal grant needs be expended by September 30, 2021. The Proffered Affordable Housing funds do not require a match nor is there a time limit for use.

Because it is unknown when the COVID-19 emergency will be declared over, for administrative grant close out procedures, any unspent state, federal, and affordable housing proffer funds should be carried over into Fiscal Year 2021.

Legal Impact

This item meets the criteria set forth in the emergency ordinance to provide for the continuity of government.

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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PRINCE WILLIAM
COUNTY

Homeless Crisis Response Plan

COVID-19

April 14, 2020

PWC Department of Social Services

Human Services: *Transforming Lives*



PRINCE WILLIAM
COUNTY

DSS Transforming Lives: Safety, Support, Self-sufficiency

Successful Model: King County, WA

United States Interagency Council on Homelessness
CDC

- Uses motels
- Nurse, Behavioral Health and Non-medical Case Managers in partnership
- Separates 3 homeless populations who do not need hospitalization as defined by FEMA and 1 as defined by the OAA:
 - COVID-19 test positive
 - COVID-19 exposure
 - Adults needing social distancing as a precautionary measure, particularly for high-risk groups (people 65+ OR with certain underlying health conditions (respiratory, compromised immunities, chronic diseases)
 - Persons experiencing homelessness who are age 60 or older (Older Americans Act funding not FEMA)



Methodology

- 40% of Homeless will need help (social distancing, underlying conditions)
- 40% of the 40% will need direct help as a result of COVID-19
- PWA 350 Homeless (335+)
 - 40% = 140
 - 40% = 56
 - 80 rooms
 - 60 days (April 20 or before to June 19)

NOT ALL AT THE SAME TIME

January 2020 PIT Count	
Singles	214
Persons in Families	<u>121</u>
Total	335



Prince William Area Team 4/2/2020

- PWC
 - Human Services
 - EOC
 - Public Works
 - DOIT
 - PD/Animal Shelter
 - Finance
 - Economic Development
 - Parks, Rec and Tourism
- Novant and Sentara hospitals' Case Manager/Discharge Nurse Supervisors
- Non-profits: ACTS; NVFS SERVE; Streetlight Community Outreach Ministries
- Manassas and Manassas Park DSS
- PRTC
- Prince William Health District
- GMU MAP* Clinic (Mason and Partners interprofessional clinic serving uninsured)



Work Groups

- Motels/Hotels
- Transportation
- Food
- Security
- Laundry
- Intake
- Case Management
- Pets
- Storage
- Cleaning



Status as of April 14, 2020

- Negotiating with Motels/Hotels
- Have Medical, Behavioral and Routine Case Management
- Budget is developed
- Teams pinning down details and securing existing contracts



What we need today from BOCS

**Accept, Budget, and Appropriate
\$324,534 in Federal and State Grants and
\$300,000 from Affordable Housing Proffer
Funds for Emergency Sheltering and
Assistance to Persons Age 60 and Older
in Response to the COVID-19 Virus**





Questions ?

