

City of Alexandria CARES Funding Investments



Investing in our Employees and their Safety

- The City has invested approximately \$5 million in the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE) and supplies for use by City employees in the performance of their jobs. PPE procured to date includes more than 400,000 surgical masks, more than 70,000 respirator masks, and other PPE, including gloves, face shields, hand sanitizer, and disinfectant.
- During the height of the crisis, the City invested approximately \$2 million on COVID-19 Emergency Response Premium Pay, a supplement of \$4 per hour for front-line employees. Almost 1,200 employees qualified for this supplemental pay, including employees required to work on-site in public safety, code administration, community and human services, resource recovery, public works, traffic services, building maintenance, information technology support, and other critical government functions. This supplemental pay will terminate at the end of June 2020.

Providing Rental Assistance to Residents Facing Housing Insecurity

- The City is investing \$4 million in an emergency rental assistance program to help Alexandria renters who experience COVID-19 related income loss reduce their future rent repayment balances.
- This citywide program provides \$600 per month for up to three months, with payments made directly to landlords, in exchange for the landlord's certification to work in good faith to help the tenant maintain their housing.
- Based on the program's \$1,800 per household cap, approximately 2,200 households will receive assistance through this investment.
- The program prioritizes households with monthly incomes at or below 50% of the Virginia median income.
- Since the program launch on May 19, more than 2,900 applications – from neighborhoods throughout Alexandria – have been received with the first payments to landlords issued in early June.
- The program offers options to apply in English, Spanish, Amharic and Arabic, and is designed to reduce barriers and target those with the greatest need and least access to resources. The City does not inquire about an applicant's legal status and has implemented a streamlined process to document an applicant's income.
- A team of approximately 18 City staff members – from departments across our organization – are working to process applications, provide individual follow up, and coordinate with landlords on account balances and good will certifications.
- Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. The Department of Housing anticipates that current funding may be exhausted by late July, when a new wave of applications is expected as unemployment assistance is reduced.



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Alexandria Back to Business Grants

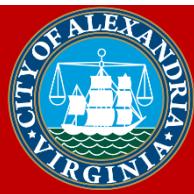


Helping Alexandria Businesses Recover and Return to Profitability

- The City is investing \$4.4 million in the ALX Back2Business (B2B) grant program for Alexandria businesses impacted by COVID-19.
- The goal of the B2B grant program is to accelerate Alexandria business' return to profitability, which will stabilize business income, protect jobs, and shore up the City's commercial tax base.
- The grant program is providing grants of \$10,000, \$15,000 and \$20,000 to qualifying Alexandria businesses (with 2 - 100 employees) that have experienced revenue loss of 25% or greater due to COVID-19.
- Grants are intended to offset costs related to reopening and operating in the new COVID-19 business environment, specifically related to facilitating the successful reopening of the business and a return to profitability.
- The City received 355 applications for the ALX B2B grant program. Applications are being reviewed with grant awards expected to be made by the end of June.
- In coordination with the grant program, the City is investing in wrap-around services and support for businesses related to reopening requirements from the federal, state and local governments, as well as best practices focused on long-term business sustainability.
- Due to the overwhelming success of the program and ongoing need for business recovery grant funds in our community, the City's economic development agency is finalizing a proposal for a second round of ALX B2B grants.

Providing Assistance to Residents Facing Food Insecurity

- The City has invested more than \$300,000 to date, and will invest another \$2.1 million in the months ahead, in programs and projects intended to increase the availability and distribution of food across Alexandria and support vulnerable community members facing food insecurity.
- The City has leveraged partnerships with local nonprofits to provide food to members of the community – including seniors and medically compromised residents – facing food insecurity.
- Food distribution programs and projects supported by the City have included the distribution of thousands of prepared meals, grocery purchase cards, shelf-stable groceries, fresh produce, and frozen meals.



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Ensuring Continuity of Government, Access to Government

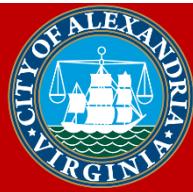
- COVID-19 created a sudden and significant need to support telework for City employees and shift many “in-person” services and meetings to an online, virtual environment. In response, the City has invested approximately \$500,000 in the procurement of technical resources to ensure continuity of government and public access to government services, meetings and programs.
- This investment has enabled the City to drastically increase the scope and scale of teleworking capabilities, ensure public access to virtual public meetings, and enable virtual contact centers for the public to engage staff for needed programs and services.
- This investment has allowed 65% of City staff to telework from anywhere with connectivity while having 24/7 access to City systems.
- In addition, the City has held more than 25 virtual meetings of City Council, boards and commissions, with public access and robust participation.

Protecting Health, Providing Resources Throughout the Alexandria Community

- In order to provide accurate and timely information regarding COVID-19, the City has invested more than \$100,000 in communication efforts, including more than 100 signs, mailers, videos and other products for use in our community. The products were translated into the four primary languages spoken in Alexandria and have been distributed throughout the community and were made available to the public for use by residents, businesses and organizations. In addition, these communication products have been made available to, and have been widely disseminated by, other Northern Virginia jurisdictions.
- The City has invested approximately \$5,000 per month to install 30 hand sanitizer stations in areas across Alexandria with vulnerable populations, as well as areas with generally high activity, including parks, bus stops and community centers. In addition, each unit is fitted with the City's “Six Steps to Stop the Spread” infographic, in four languages.
- In addition, the City has installed five portable toilets with hand sanitizer dispensers along the City's popular waterfront area. This investment of approximately \$1,000 per month is intended to accommodate the needs of residents and visitors making use of the area for physically distanced outdoor dining and recreation.
- With libraries closed to patrons and access to books limited for those who rely on Alexandria's libraries, the City has invested \$50,000 in additional audio books, which were made available for free to Alexandria library card holders through the system's digital collection.



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Protecting Our Most Vulnerable Residents

- In addition to the personal protective equipment (PPE) and supplies procured for City employees, the Alexandria has invested more than \$150,000 in PPE and supplies for vulnerable, isolated or displaced members of our community, with a focus on masks and cleaning supplies. The City has also provided personal and household materials to members of the Alexandria community who were required to quarantine.
- The City has invested approximately \$67,000 to provide medical screening of City clients and customers at many of our community and human services sites. Since many City community and human service offices are still receiving clients and providing services – including families needing expedited SNAP benefits, individuals seeking homeless services, seriously mentally ill clients needing intakes, medications, and injections, and all of our residential services – the City has placed Certified Nursing Assistants at these offices to ensure clients are not ill when they enter the facility and are not putting staff and other clients and customers at risk.
- In order to safely house congregate care clients facing challenges related to isolation and quarantining, the City secured housing for intellectually disabled and mental health clients. The City procured deeply discounted hotel rooms in the local area and reconfigured our detox facility in order to accommodate this population. The City also provided housing for families and women experiencing homelessness in our community, procuring hotel rooms in order to ensure adequate physical distancing in our existing shelters. The total investment in providing these housing options to some of our most vulnerable residents was approximately \$800,000.
- The City also invested approximately \$100,000 to open a temporary shelter in one of its recreation centers to ensure individuals experiencing homelessness could remain safe and sheltered during the height of the pandemic.