

Introduced by: Mr. Cartier, Mr. Carter
Date of Introduction: July 28, 2020

ORDINANCE NO. 20-087

AMEND THE GRANTS BUDGET: APPROPRIATE AN ADDITIONAL \$25,000,000 FROM THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TREASURY TO THE CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND GRANT FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES DELAWARE, TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE OFFICE OF FINANCE

WHEREAS, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (the “CDC”) has determined that a novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2, which causes a coronavirus disease named COVID-19, is a serious threat to public health, and has advised the public to minimize interactions with others and employ social distancing practices to help mitigate community spread of the COVID-19 virus; and

WHEREAS, on March 12, 2020, Governor Carney declared a state of emergency (the “Emergency Declaration”), which subsequently has been extended four times, most recently on July 7, 2020 until further notice, due to the public health threat of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (the “CARES Act”) was signed into law on March 27, 2020; the CARES Act established the Coronavirus Relief Fund (“CRF”), which provides monies to state governments and units of local government with populations of 500,000 or more to cover costs that are necessary expenditures incurred due to the COVID-19 public health emergency; were not accounted for in the government’s budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020; and were incurred during the period March 1 through December 30, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the CARES Act requires the United States Department of Treasury (the “Treasury”) to regulate, administer, and disburse CRF monies; and

WHEREAS, New Castle County government is an eligible recipient of CRF monies because its population exceeds 500,000, and New Castle County government received \$322,766,668.80 of CRF grant monies from the Treasury; and

WHEREAS, recent appropriation and administration of a portion of the CRF grant monies of approximately \$85,000,000 was necessary to respond to the ongoing public health emergency created by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, appropriation and administration of an additional portion of the CRF grant monies of \$25,000,000 for use by Healthy Communities Delaware (“HCD”) is necessary to respond to the ongoing public health emergency created by the COVID-19 pandemic especially in relation to the needs of vulnerable populations, as addressed more fully below; and

WHEREAS, Healthy Communities Delaware is an initiative comprised of Delaware Community Foundation, the University of Delaware Partnership for Healthy Communities, and the Delaware Department of Health and Social Services; and

WHEREAS, HCD focuses on helping coordinate activities and resources throughout Delaware to address the social determinants of health, such as housing, education, food, income, and social justice and equity; and

WHEREAS, HCD aims to increase health, well being, and equity in Delaware communities; it is comprised of business, non-profit, and community participants; and

WHEREAS, HCD is a network of collaborators, each playing different and important roles in advancing health and equity, and it provides a mechanism to facilitate the alignment and investment of resources into communities to enable greater impact; and

WHEREAS, many Delawareans lack the basic resources for health and well-being - safe and healthy homes, a quality education, meaningful employment, a healthy environment, access to healthy foods, financial stability, and reliable transportation; these challenges have been exacerbated by and during the coronavirus pandemic; and

WHEREAS, low-resourced families, especially those of color, have disproportionately been losing jobs and income, or continuing to labor in low wage jobs that place them at greater risk of exposure; low-wealth populations are also less able to comply with isolation or quarantine recommendations due to lack of disposable income, multi-generational housing, etc.; and

WHEREAS, the overall State response includes testing, contact tracing, isolation/quarantine supports, and surveillance; as COVID-19 is disproportionately impacting vulnerable communities, additional targeted supports are critical; and

WHEREAS, the State of Delaware and New Castle County government have made significant investments in expanding testing and access thereto; testing is a necessary component of the response strategy, and contributes to our understanding of the situation, but it is not an intervention; moreover, contact tracing is critical, but it is dependent on the ability to reach people who are positive or exposed and the ability of these individuals to isolate or quarantine; and

WHEREAS, existing efforts are only part of the solution to the challenges we face; community-based education, prevention, and social supports must be a part of the comprehensive COVID- response and recovery. Only with these will vulnerable populations be better connected to testing, more able to meet prevention and care recommendations, and more able to cope with the impact of the coronavirus; and

WHEREAS, HCD has identified specific goals and benefits of the initiative identified herein for all New Castle County residents, including the following:

- Community health workers and a comprehensive communications strategy to connect residents and especially vulnerable populations (low-income, Black and brown, non-English speakers) in New Castle County to COVID-19 prevention measures, testing, and care;
- Increase ability to take preventive measures (*e.g.*, mask, distancing, cleaning);
- Increase testing rate;
- Provide social supports to vulnerable populations impacted by COVID-19 to enable them to quarantine or isolate safely (*e.g.*, food, individual housing for quarantine/isolation period, communication with family, monitor for symptoms);
- Libraries and other community-based organizations will act as community hubs to

provide wrap-around social supports for vulnerable populations impacted with job loss, food and housing insecurity, etc.; supports will include social workers, employment and financial coaches, and legal aid;

- Increase communication and connection between residents and City of Wilmington, New Castle County, and State representatives to support better understanding of community needs and co-creation of effective solutions;
- Accelerate community development work to increase affordable housing, healthy food access, access to parks and playgrounds, transportation, etc.; and
- Decrease disparities in COVID-19 infection rate between Black and White populations, and Hispanic and White populations.

WHEREAS, HCD is well-positioned to coordinate the integration of the above proposal with the existing State efforts, given that the Division of Public Health is one of three Managing Partner organizations, along with the University of Delaware Partnership for Healthy Communities and Delaware Community Foundation; and

WHEREAS, a significant increase in the effort to control COVID-19 in New Castle County is essential to ensuring a safe economic re-opening, a safe reopening of educational institutions, and to protect all Citizens of the County; the continuing threat from the pandemic demonstrates that this is no time for timidity in taking action; and

WHEREAS, HCD's initiative is focused on assisting vulnerable residents of New Castle County, whose very health and lives are in the balance; time *is* of the essence; and

WHEREAS, County Council finds that this Ordinance is necessary to meet the public emergency created by the COVID-19 pandemic which has severely affected the life, health, safety, property, and the public peace of New Castle County's Citizens, especially its vulnerable populations.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNTY OF NEW CASTLE HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. New Castle County Council hereby appropriates an additional \$25,000,000 of the original \$322,766,668.80 received from the Treasury, for the use of such funds by Healthy Communities Delaware in support of its initiatives to respond to the public health emergency created by COVID-19 especially in relation to the needs of vulnerable populations, as identified above.

Section 2. The Grants Budget as adopted by Ordinance No. 75-173 is hereby amended by adding the material on the attached Exhibit A, which shall be considered underscored in its entirety, attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, and made a part thereof.

Section 3. The Office of Finance is hereby authorized to administer and expend \$25,000,000 of the Coronavirus Relief Fund Grant monies as identified on Exhibit A for the purpose of responding to the public health emergency created by COVID-19 especially in relation to the needs of vulnerable populations, as addressed above.

Section 4. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon its adoption by County Council and approval by the County Executive, or as otherwise provided by 9 *Del. C.* § 1156.

Adopted by County Council of
New Castle County on:

President of County Council
of New Castle County

Approved on:

County Executive
of New Castle County

SYNOPSIS: This Ordinance, if approved, will appropriate an additional \$25,000,000 of the \$322,766,668.80 originally received from the U.S. Department of Treasury to the Coronavirus Relief Fund grant for use by Healthy Communities Delaware for purposes of responding to the public health emergency created by COVID-19 especially in relation to the needs of vulnerable populations, as identified above.

As background, New Castle County government is authorized to expend Coronavirus Relief Fund grant monies for purposes of responding to the public health emergency created by COVID-19 especially in relation to the needs of vulnerable populations that are necessary expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19; were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020 for New Castle County; and were incurred during the period of March 1 through December 30, 2020.

FISCAL NOTE: This Ordinance, if approved, will amend the Grants Budget by appropriating \$25,000,000 from the U.S. Treasury to the Coronavirus Relief Fund grant. The fiscal impact of this Ordinance, if approved, will be an increase in the authorized spending authority of the Grants Budget of \$25,000,000 to be used to respond to and provide for the needs of vulnerable populations in New Castle County. This increase will affect FY2021 since the targeted program completion date is December 30, 2020. There will be no fiscal impact beyond FY2021, however, as a result of this grant award. There will be no fiscal impact on the Operating Budget as a result of approving this grant.

DEPARTMENT:

EXHIBIT A

PROGRAM TITLE: Coronavirus Relief Fund

Ordinance No. 20-087

Federal: \$25,000,000.00

Object Level	Federal		County		State		Total	
	<i>Initial</i>	<i>Revised</i>	<i>Initial</i>	<i>Revised</i>	<i>Initial</i>	<i>Revised</i>	<i>Initial</i>	<i>Revised</i>
11-Salaries and Wages								
15-Employee Benefits								
22-Training/Civic Affairs								
23-Comm/Utilities								
24-Materials/Supplies								
25-Contractual Services								
26-Equip Replacement								
27-Grants/Fixed Charges	\$25,000,000.00						\$25,000,000.00	
28-Land and Structures								
29-Contingencies								
Total:	\$25,000,000.00						\$25,000,000.00	

Supplemental Information

Estimated Program Initiation: TBD

Estimated Program Completion: 12/30/2020

**Local Match: N/A
Code #:**

Found in:

Ordinance Passed: TBD

Date Revised:

DEPARTMENT:

EXHIBIT A

PROGRAM TITLE: Coronavirus Relief Fund

Ordinance No. 20-087

Federal: \$25,000,000.00

PROGRAM EXPENDITURES – Eligible expenditures for purposes of responding to the public health emergency created by COVID-19 especially in relation to the needs of vulnerable populations, as follows:

27 - Grants

Appropriation of \$25,000,000 for Healthy Communities Delaware, to be administered by the Office of Finance, for purposes of responding to the public health emergency created by COVID-19 especially in relation to the needs of vulnerable populations in New Castle County.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

Funding will be used by the New Castle County Department of Administration to fund initiatives of Healthy Communities Delaware directed to addressing the needs of vulnerable populations in New Castle County that are necessary expenditures incurred due to the COVID-19 public health emergency; were not accounted for in the budget most recently approved as of March 27, 2020; and were incurred between March 1 and December 30, 2020.