

RESOLUTION R-20-120

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, REGARDING PUBLIC HEALTH; PROVIDING FINDINGS; APPROVING GUIDELINES FOR THE CARES ACT GRANT HOUSING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ROUND 3; APPROVING THE FORM OF GRANT AWARD LETTERS FOR CARES ACT GRANTS; PROVIDING FOR REPORTING; PROVIDING FOR EXECUTION OF CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND (CRF) SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENT; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Florida Constitution and Florida Statute 125.01 authorize the County to exercise home rule powers for the health, safety and welfare of the general public; and

WHEREAS, on March 1, 2020, Governor Ron DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-51, declaring that appropriate measures to control the spread of Corona Virus 2019 (“COVID-19”) in the State of Florida are necessary, and therefore directed that a Public Health Emergency be declared in the State of Florida; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020, the Board of County Commissioners (Board) adopted Resolution No. R-20-041, declaring that appropriate measures to control the spread of COVID-19 in Manatee County are necessary, and therefore directed that a Public Health Emergency be declared in the County; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 emergency has caused disruption in Florida’s economy leading to high rates of unemployment and business closures; and

WHEREAS, as a direct result of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, many individuals and families within the County that were already in precarious financial situations, now find themselves without funds, insurance or any other federal assistance to pay for basic utilities, rent or mortgage payment, or other critical needs; and

WHEREAS, Manatee County residents are in need of assistance with rental housing and mortgage payments and associated utilities; and

WHEREAS, the threat to these most vulnerable individuals and families constitutes a significant threat to public safety and welfare; and

WHEREAS, on March 27, 2020, Congress passed, and the President signed the “Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act” (CARES Act); and

WHEREAS, on April 22, 2020, the U.S. Treasury Department (Treasury) issued Guidance for State, Territorial, Local, and Tribal Governments relating to payments made available under the CARES Act; and

WHEREAS, the CARES Act, section 601(d) of the U.S. Social Security Act, created the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) and provided Florida with \$8,328,221,072; of which Florida Housing Finance Corporation allocated on July 6 and provided notification on July 17 of the distribution award of \$997,668.00 to the COUNTY pursuant to a Subrecipient Funding Agreement (“Funding Agreement”) between the COUNTY and the Florida Housing Finance Corporation; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Funding Agreement, CARES Act funds allocated to the COUNTY may be used for providing economic support to renters and homeowners residing in Manatee County and its municipalities, excluding the City of Bradenton, who are in need of rent or mortgage and associated utility payment assistance due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic through grants of CARES Act funds issued by the COUNTY in accordance with the CARES Act, the Subrecipient Funding Agreement and US Treasury Guidance, to fund eligible expenditures.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA, THAT:

SECTION 1. FINDINGS. The Board hereby makes the following findings:

1. The recitals set forth above are true and correct;
2. It is in the best interest of the County, and furthers the public health, safety and welfare of the County: (a) to approve guidelines for a CARES Act Grant Housing Assistance Program Round 3 (the “Program”) to provide rental or mortgage and associated utility payment assistance to qualifying residents impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic; (b) to authorize the execution of grant award letters pursuant to the CARES Act and the Program Guidelines, and (c) to approve the execution of the Funding Agreement.

SECTION 2. APPROVAL OF PROGRAM GUIDELINES. The Board hereby approves the Program Guidelines attached hereto as Exhibit “A” pursuant to and in accordance with the Act.

SECTION 3. APPROVAL OF FORM OF GRANT AWARD LETTER. The Board hereby approves the form of CARES Act grant award letters, substantially in the form attached hereto as Exhibit “B” pursuant to and in accordance with the Act. The County Administrator or her designee is hereby authorized to sign such award letters pursuant to and in accordance with the CARES Act, Funding Agreement and the Program Guidelines.

SECTION 4. APPROVAL OF EXECUTION OF FUNDING AGREEMENT. The Board hereby authorizes the Chair of the Board of County Commissioners to execute Funding Agreement attached hereto as Exhibit "C" pursuant to and in accordance with the Act. The County Administrator or her designee is hereby authorized to sign future forms or agreements from the Florida Housing Finance Corporation to implement the program as approved and adopted by the Board of County Commissioners in this Resolution.

SECTION 5. REPORTING. The County Administrator shall annually provide a list of names, addresses and grant amounts to the Board of all awards authorized pursuant to Section 3, above.

SECTION 6. SEVERABILITY. If any section, sentence, clause, or other provision of this Resolution shall be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not be construed as to render invalid or unconstitutional the remaining sections, sentences, clauses, or provisions of this Resolution.

SECTION 7. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED WITH A QUORUM PRESENT AND VOTING THIS THE 11th DAY OF AUGUST, 2020.

**MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS**

By: _____
Chairperson

**ATTEST: ANGELINA COLONNESO
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND COMPTROLLER**

By: _____
Deputy Clerk

EXHIBIT "A"
PROGRAM GUIDELINES

EXHIBIT "B"
FORM OF AWARD LETTER

EXHIBIT "C"
FUNDING AGREEMENT