

Success Stories

Asset Funding to Aid with Response and Recovery:

COVID 19 Emergency Housing Assistance:

On April 23, 2020, The San Antonio City Council approved the creation of the COVID-19 Emergency Housing Assistance Program to respond to exponential increases for housing assistance requests as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. The new program is funded with \$25 million from various sources. The new program provides individuals and families rent, mortgage, utility and internet access assistance in the event of a hardship. Funds are paid directly to the landlord, financial institution, internet provider and utility provider. In addition, funds for groceries, medicine and fuel, in the form of cash assistance, will be distributed directly to individuals or families in an amount not to exceed \$300. Direct assistance – in amounts ranging from \$150 to \$300 based on household size – is available. Direct assistance is possible through a partnership between the City and the Family Independence Initiative. The COVID-19 Emergency Housing Assistance Program is proposed to end on July 31, 2020.

The City of San Antonio's COVID-19 Emergency Housing Assistance Program is the most comprehensive housing and utility assistance program in the state. The program also leverages the long-standing programs and partnerships the City of San Antonio has with local non-profits, community groups and housing providers so that we can together help more residents.

Funding for the program comes from a variety of sources including the FY 2020 Affordable Housing Budget. That budget includes the balance currently available in the Risk Mitigation Fund, \$536,233 from the Affordable Housing Fund, \$5.2 million from HUD Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, \$7.7 million from the Corona Virus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act CDBG funds. \$2 million has been requested from the San Antonio Housing Trust Foundation and the San Antonio Housing Trust Public Facilities Corporation.

The establishment of this program is due in large part to direct advocacy and identification of community priorities by the COVID – 19 Community Action Working Group Social Services Committee.

Advocacy for Additional Direct Assistance Supports for Families:

Through a partnership between the City of San Antonio Human Services and Neighborhood and Housing Services Departments, San Antonio Area Foundation, United Way of San Antonio and Bexar County, Methodist Healthcare Ministries, H.E. Butt Foundation and the Family Independence Initiative, nearly \$3 million in direct assistance for families (including \$1.9 Million in Emergency Housing Assistance Funding) has been made available for cash assistance ranging from \$150 to \$500. Individuals and families who are not eligible for stimulus funding will have needed access to emergency, direct cash assistance through this program.

Through allocation of COVID 19 Relief Funds, managed by the San Antonio Area Foundation and United Way, an additional \$1.8 million in direct cash assistance has also been provided for food, shelter and other emergency needs to local non-profit partners for distribution in the community.

Protections to Assist Families at Increased Risk for Intimate Partner Violence and Child Abuse:

In mid-April, the City of San Antonio launched a cross-departmental effort to share domestic violence resources and information with individuals calling hotlines and accessing services across the Metropolitan Health District, Neighborhood and Housing Services, and Human Services Departments. These efforts join existing information and resource supports currently provided through 211 and 311 to connect residents with San Antonio Police Department Crisis Response Teams, Family Violence Prevention Services, Bexar County Family Justice Center Foundation, and other community resources.