



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Office of Audits and Investigations

September 28, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: Robert J. Williams, Jr.
Council Administrator

William M. Hunt
Deputy Council Administrator

THRU: Josh Hamlin
Senior Legislative Budget and Policy Analyst

FROM: Warren E. Burris, Sr.
Senior Legislative Budget and Policy Analyst

RE: Policy Analysis and Fiscal Impact Statement
CR-97-2020 State of Maryland CDBG COVID Round 2

CR-97-2020 (The Council Chair (by request – County Executive))

Assigned to Committee of the Whole (COW)

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING THE STATE OF MARYLAND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT COVID ROUND 2 FUNDING APPLICATION for the purpose of supporting the application submitted by Prince George's County, through its Department of Housing and Community Development.

Fiscal Summary

Direct Impact:

Expenditures: None

Revenues: None

Indirect Impact:

Likely positive

Legislative Summary

CR-97-2020, sponsored by the Council Chair (by request – County Executive) was introduced on September 22, 2020 and referred to the Committee of the Whole. CR-97-2020 would provide support and approval for the application from the County to be submitted to the State Department of Housing and Community Development for COVID Round 2 funding in the amount of \$2,672,725 for activities related to the coronavirus crisis response.

Under the CARES Act, Congress provided \$5 billion to fund Community Development Block Grant program (CDBG-CV) for activities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus crisis. The State of Maryland, through the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) was awarded \$4,691,887. HUD then awarded a \$1 billion to states, of which Maryland was awarded \$16,144,887 that will be distributed under Round 2.

For this grant, the State of Maryland chose to accept applications from county governments and the City of Baltimore, through a competitive process. The applying jurisdictions are required to develop and/or enhance programs that will support communities affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

With the proposed \$2,672,725 of COVID Round 2 Funding, Prince George’s County, through its DHCD proposes continuation and enhancement of the County's Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) Program to allow for new applicants and prevent any duplication of benefits. With a general population of 905,161, the County has experienced more negative impact than any other Maryland jurisdiction, to include: unemployment, challenges to pay rent, small business closings, etc.

Policy Analysis

- *Potential Benefits of Approving CR-97-2020*

Approval of CR-97-2020 could result in grant awards that could assist with housing expenses for many residents and housing providers affected by the COVID crisis. This could greatly increase the likelihood of saving many residents from future evictions and assist with offsetting some of the monetary challenges residents are experiencing due to the pandemic.

- *Potential Costs of Approving CR-97-2020*

Approval of CR-97-200 should have no costs or impact as the resolution is authorizing approval of County to submit application.

Fiscal Impact:

Direct Impact

Approval of CR-97-2020 will have no fiscal impact on the County.

Indirect Impact

There would likely be a positive indirect impact to the community if grants funds are secured through the submission of grant application.

Appropriated in the Current Fiscal Year Budget

No.

Resource Personnel

DHCD Staff
Council Administration

Considerations

- ✓ Ensure compliance of the State and federal requirements regarding the Citizen Participation as approved and outlined in the Formula Grant Allocation governed by 24 CFR 570.486 and Citizen's involvement of CDBG activities governed under 24 CFR 570.431.