



TOWN OF FAIRFAX

STAFF REPORT

October 28, 2020

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Garrett Toy, Town Manager

SUBJECT: Receive report on the status of Residential Rental Assistance Program to assist extremely low-income renters whose household incomes were adversely affected by COVID-19 and who are at risk of homelessness

RECOMMENDATION

Receive report.

DISCUSSION

At its August 19th meeting, the Council approved the creation of a rental assistance program for residents and allocated \$60,000 for the program. The purpose of the program is to help residents in need whose household incomes are adversely impacted by COVID-19. The program is modeled after the County program, which was limited to extremely low-income households (i.e., earning 30% or less of median income adjusted for household size) and who were also at-risk of homelessness. St. Vincent de Paul (SVdP) and Ritter Center both volunteered to administer the program on behalf of the Town. For simplicity, the funding was split between SVdP and Ritter Center. The two non-profits coordinate their efforts to ensure there is no duplication of services to residents.

SVdP and Ritter Center provided the following status update, as of 10/13, on the program:

Status of Fairfax Rental Assistance Program		
	Number	
Grants Awarded	8	
Grants in process	1	
Waiting for applicant documentation	4	
Still in process of being contacted	10	
Closed due to no response after multiple efforts (3)	8	
Ineligible/no longer need assistance	7	
Total applicants	38	
		Avg. Grant
Total grants awarded	\$ 16,617.50	\$ 2,077.19
Balance remaining	\$ 43,382.50	

Ritter Center indicates that a few of the households who received rental assistance under the County’s program are still in need. The above table shows that upwards of 14 households (waiting for documentation and in process of being contacted) may potentially qualify for renter assistance under the program. Staff recommends the Town Council wait until the application process has been completed before considering any program revisions.

FISCAL IMPACT: n/a