



# TOWN OF FAIRFAX

## STAFF REPORT

### January 20, 2021

**TO:** Mayor and Town Council

**FROM:** Garrett Toy, Town Manager

**SUBJECT:** Ratify the allocation of an additional \$30,000 to the Town's Residential Rental Assistance Program to assist extremely low-income renters whose household incomes were adversely affected by COVID-19

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#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Ratify allocation of \$30,000 and appropriation of funds from General Fund (Fund 01) reserves.

#### **DISCUSSION**

At its August 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

At its December 16<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Council received an update on the program. Staff reported that 18 grants have been awarded for a total amount of approximately \$29,000 and that there were 9 applications in the pipeline. If all 9 applicants were to receive the average grant amount of approximately \$1,600/household, the project would award another \$14,400 in grants. This would leave an approximate balance of \$17,000 remaining. We also indicated that both non-profits would like the Town to consider aiding those households who previously received rental assistance from the Town or other programs but require additional assistance. Anecdotally, SVdP believes upwards of 80% of the households assisted could use additional assistance and more households will need assistance because of the current County/State's Stay Home Order.

Based on this information, the Town Council directed staff to modify the program to allow an additional one month of rental assistance to be requested by those households who have previously received assistance from Fairfax or other rental assistance programs, but otherwise would be eligible for the program. Priority would be given to those households who have not previously received any type of rental assistance. The Council also requested that an additional \$30,000 be allocated to the program. Staff indicated we would move forward with funding, but that the Council will need to ratify the allocation of the \$30,000 for appropriation purposes at this meeting.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

As described above