

Emergency Inflation Relief Community Support Proposal

Finance and Governance Committee | August 16, 2022

Bill Request 22-0901

- Amends Ordinance No. 0591, Series of 2021, as amended by subsequent ordinances, to allocate a total of \$1,000,000 in spending for the Recovery category in the American Rescue Act Plan (ARPA) Grant Fund, which will be funded from interest earnings generated by the ARPA program.

Emergency Inflation Relief Community Support Overview

Purpose: *The primary goal of this request is to assist City of Denver individuals and families who have experienced food insecurity due to financial hardship as a result of economic impact of COVID-19 and inflation by providing grocery gift cards/voucher and providing culturally relevant food box distribution events in high need areas in the 4th Quarter 2022.*

- *1 in 3 Coloradans are food insecure (Hunger Free Colorado)*
- *This recommendation was based on program models in New York, Florida, and Maryland*

Funding Source

- DOF has identified ARPA interest earnings as the funding source for the program
- Interest earnings are not subject to ARPA program restrictions, meaning they are a flexible way of responding to community needs without the customary ARPA restrictions on use
- ARPA interest funds have already been allocated to meet pressing administrative needs and will continue to play a role in addressing time-sensitive needs as they arise over the course of the ARPA program

Interest Earnings Use	Funding Amount
Emergency Food Assistance	\$1,000,000
Data Evaluation & Analysis	\$507,300
Non-Profit Support	\$500,000
Public Outreach	\$150,000
Total:	\$2,157,300

Project Logistics

City Agencies

- Human Rights and Community Partnerships (HRCP)
- Denver Human Services (DHS)
- Denver Department of Public Health and Environment (DPHE)
- Denver office of Economic Development and Opportunity (DEDO)
- Office of Children's Affairs (OCA)

Grocery Gift Card Distribution \$800,000

- Each agency will receive a total of \$160,000 worth of gift cards (primarily electronic) which equals 800 gift cards at \$200 increments per agency
- Everyone will work collaboratively towards strategic planning on outreach and distribution mechanisms of the gift cards (For example, HRCP could distribute through Denver Connects Van, Community events, etc.)
- Distribution of the cards across the 5 agencies will minimize the impact to each office regarding operations and staffing
- Gift Cards will be on a first come first serve basis

Food Box Distribution \$200,000

- Multiple City Food Distribution events in identified high need areas in the city
- At a projected \$25/box the goal will be to distribute 2,600 boxes at each event for a total of 8,000 boxes distributed overall.
- DDPHE and HRCP will work in partnership with the Mayor's office to procure the necessary culturally relevant boxes
- The events will also aim to bring other resources to the community for a more holistic approach (such as hygiene items etc.)

Grocery Gift Card Eligibility Requirements

For any individual or family that has declared that they have been directly impacted with financial hardship due to economic impact of COVID-19 and inflation.

Must be a Denver Resident

Limit one card per household

Must be at or under 200% Federal Poverty Level

Important Considerations:

- No verifications will be required other than providing proof of Denver residency through ID or mail with name on it
- A signed one-page application with an attestation specific to information provided on application is accurate
- All agencies will utilize the same application and data tracking mechanism to avoid duplication of issuance etc.
- All applications will be received and conducted in person

Number of Persons in Family/Household	200% FPL
1	\$27,180
2	\$36,620
3	\$46,060
4	\$55,500
5	\$64,940
6	\$74,380
7	\$83,820
8	\$93,260
	For families/households with more than 8 persons add \$9,440

Next Steps

- Agencies to finalize distribution process and strategic planning by 9/1/2022
- Work with Purchasing team to put an RFP in place for procurement of the Gift Cards (Purchasing Parameters)
- Identify the locations for food box distribution
- Work with Communications team on messaging
- Translation of application in top 5 identified languages
- Will work to identify current City Contractors for Food Box Distribution

QUESTIONS?

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