



# Coronavirus Relief Fund Phase #2 Disbursement

Budget Response Committee Briefing  
August 6, 2020

# Agenda

- Overview
- Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) Phase #1 Recap
- CRF Phase #2 Overview
- CRF Phase #2 Proposed Investments

# Overview

- The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act was passed to replace money lost in the collapse of the economy due to the coronavirus pandemic emergency
- The federal relief bill included:
  - Direct payments to individuals and families
  - Small business loans
  - Unemployment insurance benefits
  - Loans to distressed companies
  - Funding for hospitals for equipment and infrastructure needs
  - Disaster relief to state and local governments
- Denver received \$126.8M

# CRF Phase #1 Recap

\$20 million disbursed to key areas impacted by the coronavirus that can be quickly operationalized around existing programs

Economic Support \$6.5 million	Housing \$6.5 million	Food \$2 million
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grants to non-profits: \$2.0M</li><li>• Grants to small businesses: \$4.5M</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rent and utility assistance: \$4M</li><li>• Mortgage assistance: \$1M</li><li>• Rapid re-housing: \$1.5M</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Food delivery to vulnerable populations: \$1.5M</li><li>• Sanitizing &amp; PPE to food delivery programs: \$500k</li></ul>
<b>Public Health \$5M:</b> \$1.5M PPE for businesses & non-profits; \$1.4M community testing; \$1.3M immunizations for at-risk children & adults; \$630k in-home health consultations for vulnerable communities; \$147k additional public health and safety needs		

# CRF Phase #2 Approach

- \$25M in projects proposed for CRF Phase #2
- City Council identified priority investment areas
- City agencies submitted proposals
- Continued focus on community investments
- **Considerations:**
  - Equity focus
  - Readies city for potential resurgence
  - Positions city and residents for long-term recovery
  - Able to implement quickly
  - Mindful of ongoing costs or commitments given one-time nature of funding
  - Are other funding sources more appropriate? i.e. FEMA vs. CRF

# Council Priorities

- **Public Health and Safety**, such as widespread testing, PPE, sanitizing equipment, public restrooms
- **Food Supports**, such as food delivery for historically marginalized communities of color, First Nations people, and under-resourced communities
- Grant programs for impacted **non-profits** and **small businesses**
- **Childcare Support**
- **Left Behind Workers Fund**
- **Housing Assistance**, such as rent, utility and mortgage assistance
- **Services and Shelter** for people experiencing homelessness

# Non-Profit Grant Relief Program- Round 2

Lead Department: DEDO

## Explanation

Provides up to \$15,000 per grant to support non-profits and other community organizations needing support due to decreased funding or increased demand as a result of COVID-19. This is an extension of the non-profit Emergency Relief Fund grants program launched in July 2020 with CRF Round 1 funds.

## Audience Served

Non-profits and other community organizations that support and provide services to all facets of Denver's communities and residents in need.

**Anticipated Benefits:** Provides financial support to additional 150-200 community-based organizations affected by the COVID pandemic – primarily through direct grant funding to assist with payroll, operating costs, additional supportive services, lost revenue due to closures, etc. To date, 50+ NPOs have received Round 1 funds.

**Recommended Investment: \$2,000,000**

**! Council action required – contract extension**

# PPE Provision for Small Businesses- Round 2

Lead Department: DEDO

## Explanation

An extension of the PPE Kit program launched in Aug. 2020 with CRF Round 1 funding. Provides free PPE kits to Denver small businesses and non-profits negatively impacted by the COVID-19. The free kits help each organization offset unexpected expenses and helps ensure a safe environment for employees, volunteers, and customers as organizations continue to reopen.

## Audience Served

Small businesses and non-profits with less than 25 employees, operating within the City and County of Denver.

**Anticipated Benefits:** 2,500 - 3,000 businesses to receive free PPE, including masks, hand sanitizer, surface disinfectant, face shields, contactless thermometers, etc. DEDO has already received over 1,400 registrations for PPE within the first 24 hours of the Round 1 program that launched Aug. 3, 2020.

**Recommended Investment: \$1,000,000**

**! Council action required – contract extension**



# Small Business Local Support Grant Program- Round 2

Lead Department: DEDO

Explanation

Provides grants of up to \$7,500 each to eligible Denver small businesses experiencing economic hardships resulting from Covid-19. This is an extension of the current Small Business Emergency Relief Fund grants launched in March.

Audience Served

Small businesses with locations in the City and County of Denver with fewer than 25 employees and less than \$2M in annual revenues pre-COVID

**Anticipated Benefits:** To date, DEDO provided nearly 1,000 small businesses with direct grant support in Round 1 of this program. DEDO anticipates over 500 more businesses will be funded with this round of support.

**Recommended Investment: \$3,500,000**      ! Council action required – contract extension

# Priority Neighborhoods Local Business Support Grant

Lead Department: DEDO

## Explanation

Provide grants of up to \$7,500 each to eligible Denver small businesses experiencing economic hardships due to COVID-19. This program places additional priority on small/micro businesses residing in the NEST neighborhoods and is an extension of the current NEST Small Business Emergency Relief Fund grants to be launched in August 2020.

## Audience Served

Small and micro businesses with locations in Denver with less than \$250,000 in annual revenue pre-coronavirus, and fewer than 5 employees – priority placed on businesses residing within designated NEST neighborhoods.

**Anticipated Benefits:** DEDO anticipates funding more than 150 small/micro businesses through this program with up to \$7,500 in grant funding each

**Recommended Investment:** \$1,000,000

! Council action required – contract extension

# Denver Economic Recovery Planning

Lead Department: DEDO

## Explanation

Engage a professional, community-focused planning and economic development-firm to build a guidance document and road map for DEDO and Denver's business community over the next several years, to address a strategy to enhance Denver's economic resiliency and better define a framework in which we can rebuild an inclusive and equitable economy for a post-COVID future.

## Audience Served

City & County of Denver;  
Denver's residents, businesses,  
and neighborhoods.

**Anticipated Benefits:** A more equitable and inclusive economy that rebounds with a stronger and more resilient strategy amongst Denver's peer cities as it relates to the recent economic downturn and subsequent anticipated growth post-COVID.

**Recommended Investment: \$150,000**

# Computer Access for Job Seekers

Lead Department: DEDO

## Explanation

DEDO will partner with an organization that lends technology (laptops/tablets) and hot spots to residents who have entered unemployment due to the pandemic. Denver has seen a surge in unemployment claims due to COVID, and with workforce centers physically operating on a limited basis, many unemployed residents need access to the technology required to upskill, engage with employers, and search for new jobs.

## Audience Served

Unemployed residents of Denver who are constrained with accessing the necessary equipment to train, educate, and/or look for work.

**Anticipated Benefits:** Serve up to 750 unemployed residents without the means to purchase technology/equipment would receive computers/tablets on loan to enable them to receive the full catalogue of workforce services; something that would not occur without access to this equipment

**Recommended Investment: \$300,000**

# Expanded Shelter and Respite for People Experiencing Homelessness

Lead Department: HOST

## Explanation

Expand and improve shelter for persons experiencing homelessness, including additional capacity to serve general shelter needs and increased service for those in need of medical care. COVID-19 positive cases are anticipated to rise in the fall and winter, with state projections indicating a need for additional respite capacity.

## Audience Served

Persons experiencing homelessness, service providers.

**Anticipated Benefits:** Rehab or lease of additional space for shelter and respite

**Recommended Investment:** \$11,975,000

**Council action required**

# Temporary Outside Expansion Program

Lead Department: DOTI

Explanation

Supports businesses wanting to safely operate outdoors through creation of new patio areas in parking lots, street parking spaces, on sidewalks, and by fully closing select streets. DOTI has provided permits to 260 businesses out of 550 applicants, and few businesses in equity areas have applied. This funding provides technical and material support to businesses needing expertise or capital to safely operate outdoors and drive patrons to priority areas.

Audience Served

Small to medium-sized businesses  
– priority will be given to businesses located in equity-focused areas and women/minority-owned businesses that have higher barriers to engage in the permit program.

**Anticipated Benefits:** 70-85 businesses to receive direct technical and material (tables/chairs/barricades/etc.) assistance to create outdoor dining that will allow them to safely serve more patrons and collect additional revenue

**Recommended Investment: \$435,000**

# Temporary Shared Streets

Lead Department: DOTI

Explanation

DOTI has closed 12 streets to through traffic across the city to create people-first areas safe for all ages and abilities. DOTI created the program to address safety concerns for residents entering busy streets due to the inability to safely pass on the sidewalk and due to overcrowding at popular parks. These shared streets have reduced traffic by 80% and lowered speeds by 30%, resulting in close to 10,000 people a day using them for recreation or safe commuting. This funding keeps the current shared streets in place until October 31st, matching the end date of the Temporary Outdoor Expansion Program.

Audience Served

All Denver residents.

**Anticipated Benefits:** 8,000 – 10,000 residents per day utilizing the shared streets for recreation and safe commuting

**Recommended Investment:** \$65,000

# 16<sup>th</sup> Street Restroom

Lead Department: DOTI

## Explanation

DOTI will install a pre-fabricated, fixed public restroom immediately adjacent to the 16th Street Mall. The restroom will allow residents and visitors to access critical hygiene services (toilets, handwashing) important for supporting public health during and after the pandemic emergency.

## Audience Served

All Denver residents

**Anticipated Benefits:** 150-200 uses per day based on data collected with temporary restroom trailers.

**Recommended Investment:** \$800,000

Council action required



# Small Business and Non-Profit Technical Assistance and Support

Lead Department: Office of Financial Empowerment & Protection

### Explanation

The coronavirus has spotlighted equity disparities in our community and further impacted minority businesses, families, individuals and non-profits. OFEP and partners (DEN, DEDO) will invest in non-profits to address financial insecurity by adding additional financial coaches and navigators to help prevent business, family, and non-profit displacement in under-resourced communities and historically marginalized communities of color.

### Audience Served

Minority- & Women-owned businesses (MBWE), low- to moderate-income residents, non-profits serving communities of color, and NEST target neighborhoods. Addresses priorities 1. rent utility assistance 2. non-profit grants 3. small business grants

**Anticipated Benefits:** Increase investment into non-profits serving MWBE and low-income communities of color to prevent business and housing displacement. 20% of registered MBWE will get business consulting, lease mediation, legal assistance, create a pathway to capital through an MBWE grant fund, financial coaching and resource navigation for personal and business. The focus will be on creating economic resilience, preventing displacement, and/or going out of business. Services will be created through an equity lens due to the virus' higher rate of impact on communities of color.

Recommended Investment: \$250,000

# Small Business and Non-Profit Technical Assistance and Support

Lead Department: Office of Financial Empowerment & Protection

## Explanation

The coronavirus has spotlighted equity disparities in our community and further impacted minority businesses, families, individuals and non-profits. OFEP will invest in non-profits to address financial insecurity and help prevent displacement of businesses, families and non-profits from under-resourced communities, and historically marginalized communities of color.

## Audience Served

MWBE, low- to moderate-income residents, non-profits serving communities of color, and NEST target neighborhoods. Seniors, people with disability, and people on the verge of homelessness. Addresses priorities 1. rent utility assistance 2.non-profit grants 3. small business grants

**Anticipated Benefits:** Build investment and capacity to provide financial coaching, navigation, advocacy and 500 hours of mediation focused on predatory lending, elder financial abuse, wage theft, frauds/scams, notario fraud and predatory housing/business leasing to businesses and families. Create a grant fund as an alternative to predatory payday loans and other high interest loans. The focus will be to create economic resilience through an equity lens. ~ 100 businesses and individuals will be served and have access to capital to avoid evictions, increase credit scores, reduce debt, and create savings.

**Recommended Investment: \$250,000**

# Artists & Cultural Organizations Assistance Program

Lead Department: DAV

Explanation

Provides support for individual artists' and gig workers' basic needs including food, housing, and medication, as well as for organizations and creative businesses with venues and are dependent on events for survival.

Audience Served

- Individual Artists: \$300K (of total program investment)
- Cultural Organizations and Small Creative Businesses: \$700K (of total program investment)

**Anticipated Benefits:** Helps address crisis in the cultural sector in Denver. The coronavirus has had a \$9.1B impact on the US arts sector as of July 2020; 67% unemployment rate among artists/gig workers; 96% of arts/cultural orgs. have cancelled events since Jan. resulting in loss of 325 million ticketed admissions and billions more dollars in event-related spending

Recommended Investment: \$1,000,000

Council action required

# Emergency Food Relief Fund Grants- Round 2

Lead Department: Denver Department of Public Health & Environment

## Explanation

Provides rapid response grant opportunities to expand critical emergency food, grocery, and meal programs for residents impacted by COVID-19.

As a result of the pandemic, Denver has seen widespread impacts to food security, and increased demand on emergency food providers and pantries.

## Audience Served

Communities of color; Older adults; People experiencing poverty or homelessness; Immigrants and refugees; People living with disabilities; LGBTQ; Veterans  
Priority neighborhoods ([see website for list](#))

**Anticipated Benefits:** Food delivery support for vulnerable populations; Decrease in food insecurity in Denver; decrease in food insecurity in vulnerable populations; assistance to critical non-profit emergency food providers in Denver; estimate serving ~80k+ meals.

**Recommended Investment:** \$1,000,000

Council action required – contract extension

# Childrens' Organizations Community Grant Program

Lead Department: Office of Children's Affairs

Explanation

Provides up to \$10,000 per grant to support non-profits and community organizations serving youth and struggling with decreased funding or increased demand as a result of COVID. OCA and partners will focus on strategies that increase access, participation and improve the quality of programs and services available to Denver children and youth.

Audience Served

Non-profit youth serving organizations around the City of Denver

**Anticipated Benefits:** Organizations will have more financial stability; more youth can be served by virtual or in person programming. This community re-investment directly addresses the economic impact due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Recommended Investment: \$150,000**

# Culturally Responsive Engagement

Lead Departments: DDPHE & Office of Social Equity and Innovation

## Explanation

Bolsters efforts to enhance public health marketing materials and elevates communication strategy toward historically marginalized communities of color and First Nations/Indigenous people served through thoughtful material messaging to create equitable access to information.

## Audience Served

Supports increased awareness in historically marginalized communities of color and First Nations/Indigenous people disproportionately impacted by the coronavirus.

## **Anticipated Benefits:**

Targets communities lacking internet access; Ensures all content is translated into multiple languages; Distributes printed public health informational materials to historically marginalized communities of color and First Nations/Indigenous people who are disproportionately impacted by the virus based on data and community feedback

**Recommended Investment: \$75,000**

# Targeted Partnerships: Contact Tracing + Case Investigations

Lead Departments: DDPHE & Office of Social Equity and Innovation

## Explanation

Provides enhanced contract tracing and case investigations to respond to and improve upon partnerships to address COVID-19 disparities in hospitalizations and mortality rates impacting historically marginalized communities of color and First Nations/Indigenous people. This includes tailoring culturally responsive scripting to increase engagement and uptake of information.

## Audience Served

Historically marginalized communities of color and First Nations/Indigenous people disproportionately impacted by the coronavirus.

**Anticipated Benefits:** Partnering with Community Based Organizations to support contact tracing and case investigation efforts to target communities of color and First Nations/Indigenous people disproportionately impacted to COVID; Home Visit program: Enhanced Patient Support; Denver Public Health Immunization Project

**Recommended Investment: \$305,000**

# Technical Assistance

Lead Departments: DDPHE & Office of Social Equity and Innovation

Explanation

Bolsters efforts to enhance contact tracing and case investigations for historically marginalized communities of color and First Nations/Indigenous people who are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. Technical assistance from a public health practitioner who specializes in content creation with a health and racial equity focus will be used to refine public health material.

Audience Served

City employees and Community Based Organizations; Historically marginalized communities of color and First Nations/Indigenous people disproportionately impacted by the coronavirus.

**Anticipated Benefits:** Increased awareness and knowledge among city staff and CBOs through learning and development; Updated contact tracing scripts and requested documents

**Recommended Investment: \$20,000**



# Targeted Learning Support

Lead Departments: DDPHE & Office of Social Equity and Innovation

## Explanation

Tailored mini-grant opportunities for organizations to support students and parents/guardians impacted by COVID-19 through small learning clusters where students adhere to safety and physical distancing standards. The funding will help address persistent achievement disparities in targeted neighborhoods where we see racial and ethnic disparities with the virus' impacts.

## Audience Served

Community Based Organizations;  
Historically marginalized communities of color and First Nations/Indigenous people disproportionately impacted by the coronavirus; Students within identified opportunity neighborhoods; Denver Public Schools partnership

## **Anticipated Benefits:**

Targets people without internet access; Ensures all content is translated; Distributes printed material for historically marginalized communities of color and First Nations/Indigenous people disproportionately impacted to COVID-19; and Supports students who have a parent/guardian who earns a low wage through work outside of the household

**Recommended Investment: \$100,000**

# Carshare Program

Lead Department: Office of Climate Action, Sustainability, and Resiliency

## Explanation

Funds 5 new electric vehicles and EV charging stations for the non-profit “eGo Carshare” to locate the vehicles in low-income, under-resourced communities, and provide subsidized memberships for at least 450 residents.

Safe, reliable, affordable mobility options are critical for accessing groceries, employment, medical care, and other basic human necessities. Yet, low-income and older residents have been cut off from reaching necessities during the pandemic due to mass transit service reductions and because many do not own a vehicle.

## Audience Served

Residents of under-resourced communities; historically marginalized communities of color and First Nations/Indigenous people; youth; seniors.

**Anticipated Benefits:** Expansion of safe, reliable and affordable mobility options for residents; reduced air pollution in targeted communities; reduced greenhouse gas emissions citywide; reduction of vehicle ownership; subsidized memberships for at least 450 residents.

**Recommended Investment: \$300,000**

# Left Behind Workers Fund

Lead Department: Human Rights and Community Partnerships

## Explanation

Provides cash assistance to Denver residents who lost employment due to the coronavirus impacts and are not eligible for federal relief nor are eligible for state unemployment insurance

## Audience Served

Denver residents who were ineligible for direct federal stimulus payments provided under the CARES Act or any similar successor act and state unemployment benefits.

**Anticipated Benefits:** Assist Denver residents with providing for basic pressing needs including housing, utilities, food, health care, transportation, and childcare.

**Recommended Investment:** \$1,000,000

# Questions?