

GnVCares

The City's Response to the Immediate Recovery of Gainesville

GnVCares is a plan to reprogram existing resources as well as allocate federal and state dollars that the City of Gainesville will receive under the CARES Act. Under GnVCares we will provide direct assistance (grants) to our businesses and neighbors.

This is the first phase of a plan which will be expanded upon the availability of additional resources. **It is intended to be a starting point, not an end.**

GnVCares About Neighbors

This program is designed to assist households (neighbors) who are in the extremely-low, very-low, low, and moderate income categories¹ that were financially impacted during the COVID-19 pandemic with temporary rent/mortgage and utility payments for up to 2 months, not to exceed \$1,250. The program would be funded with \$1,593,000 from SHIP, General Fund and CDBG sources.²

Minimum criteria:

- Income verification to demonstrate extremely-low, very-low, low, and moderate income levels, with priority given to extremely-low, very-low and low income neighbors.
- Proof that COVID-19 pandemic caused unemployment or reduction in work hours which resulted in a reduction of wages.

Demographic information of applicant head of households will be collected, but not used for evaluation, and shall include: (1) race/ethnicity; (2) gender; (3) primary and secondary language; (4) disability status; and, (5) veteran status.

Funding Sources:

SHIP Funds³

Reprogram unencumbered funds from Program Years 17-19	\$556,000
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¹ See attached chart for definitions of household income levels.

² Grants are provided based upon income level group with priority given in the following order: extremely-low, very-low, low, and moderate income levels.

³ The Florida Legislature included full SHIP Funding in the adopted budget. Once the City is notified of the FY 21 allocation, additional funds can be added for this activity.

General Fund ⁴	
Commission Chambers Technology Upgrades	330,000
CARES Act CDBG Funds ⁵	<u>540,000</u>
Reprogram CDBG PY19 Funds	167,000
	<u>\$1,593,000</u>

GNVCares About Businesses

This program is designed to assist City of Gainesville small businesses⁶ that saw their operations curtailed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic with a \$5,000 grant⁷ to offset costs such as rent and utilities. The program would be funded with \$1,593,000 from General Fund, CDBG and GCRA sources.

Minimum criteria⁸ would be:

- Business must be located in the City of Gainesville as of March 16, 2020.
- Loss in revenue due to public health restrictions (i.e., Emergency Orders).
- Maximum of 50 employees.
- Operations halted/curtailed by Emergency Orders
- Have current Business Tax Receipt from the City of Gainesville.
- Business has not received “Payroll Protection Program” funds and/or “SBA Disaster Assistance in Response to the Coronavirus” funds.
- Business has no pending petition for bankruptcy protection.
- Good faith efforts to provide pay/benefits to furloughed employees; retention of employees
- Local ownership (non-corporate store)

Applications will be furnished to EO, HCD and GCRA to determine compliance with their respective programs. Applications will be determined to be eligible by the City Manager. At the conclusion of the application period, eligible applications will be awarded in a randomized manner.

⁴ Immigration status or sources of income will not disqualify an applicant from receiving General Fund funds.

⁵ The City will receive approximately \$800,000 in funding allocating \$160,000 to Public Service Agencies; \$540,000 for GNVCares; \$100,000 for administrative costs.

⁶ Defined as separate corporate entities

⁷ Maximum grants are \$5,000 per business, but may be funded from multiple sources depending on eligibility (e.g. CDBG- \$2,000, GCRA -\$1,750, General Fund - \$1,250).

⁸ Locational criteria would be additionally involved depending on source of funds such as CDBG or GCRA (old and new funds).

Funding Sources:

General Fund

Commission Chambers Technology Upgrades	\$70,000
Small Business Loan Seed Money	100,000
Enterprise Zone Program	75,000
QTI Payments	75,000
Fuel Savings	140,000
Electric Charging Stations	<u>40,000</u>
	<u>\$500,000</u>

CDBG⁹

Reprogram CDBG PY19 Funds	<u>\$263,000</u>
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GCRA

Reprogram FY20 Economic Development Funds	\$630,000
Reprogram Midtown Policing ¹⁰	<u>200,000</u>
	<u>\$830,000</u>

The City would contract with Capital Access¹¹ (City’s HUD Consultant) to implement an on-line application program, administer funding (General Fund, CDBG and GCRA) criteria and reporting requirements and assist staff in the review of applications for sufficiency. The City would also have certain protections in place to guard against fraud resulting in claw back of grant funds.

Additional efforts to assist small businesses:

- Working Food - \$15,000 grant administered through the Community Foundation to provide food to distressed families.
- Feed GNV – supporting restaurants by buying food to augment feeding to vulnerable communities (homeless neighbors). *Launched*
- Assisting the local arts and performance community through scheduling virtual concerts and performances.
- Advanced buying from local suppliers.
- Rental forbearance for tenants where City is the landlord.

GNVCares is a work in progress and will be adapted as economic conditions warrant.

“To achieve great things, two things are needed: a plan and not quite enough time”
- Leonard Bernstein

⁹ Subject to HUD Guidelines

¹⁰ Funding restricted to College Park University Heights

¹¹ www.capitalaccessinc.com estimated fees at 5% - \$125,000