

## 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.

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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.**

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### GNVCares About Neighbors

This program is designed to assist households (neighbors) who are in the extremely-low, very-low, low, and moderate income categories<sup>1</sup> 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 \$696,000 from SHIP and CDBG sources.<sup>2</sup>

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#### 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.

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#### Funding Sources:

##### SHIP Funds<sup>3</sup>

Reprogram unencumbered funds from Program Years 17-19	\$556,000
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CARES Act CDBG Funds	<u>140,000</u>
	<u>\$696,000</u>

<sup>1</sup> See attached chart for definitions of household income levels.

<sup>2</sup> Grants are provided on a first-come/first-served basis with each income level group with priority given in the following order: extremely-low, very-low, low, and moderate income levels.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

## GNVCares About Businesses

This program is designed to assist City of Gainesville **small businesses** that saw their operations curtailed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic with a \$5,000 grant<sup>4</sup> to offset costs such as rent and utilities. The program would be funded with \$2,490,000 from General Fund, CDBG and GCRA sources.

**Commented [FLR1]:** Consideration of inclusion of art-related non-profits that rely upon ticket sales for their revenue.

Minimum criteria<sup>5</sup> 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.
- Have current Business Tax Receipt from the City of Gainesville.
- Business has not filed for bankruptcy protection prior to March 16, 2020.

**Commented [FLR2]:** Further discussion required as to requiring a minimum loss in revenue.

Applications would be reviewed and recommended for award by a 5-member staff committee of GCRA, HCD, EO and General Fund staff members and signed off by the City Manager based upon the following criteria:

- Operations halted/curtailed by Emergency Orders
- Good faith efforts to provide pay/benefits to furloughed employees; retention of employees
- Local ownership (non-corporate store)
- Number of employees

Funding Sources:

### General Fund

Commission Chambers Technology Upgrades	\$400,000
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>\$830,000</u>

### CDBG<sup>6</sup>

Reprogram CDBG <b>PY19</b> Funds	\$430,000
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<sup>4</sup> 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).

<sup>5</sup> Locational criteria would be additionally involved depending on source of funds such as CDBG or GCRA (old and new funds).

<sup>6</sup> Subject to HUD Guidelines

CARES Act CDBG Funds <sup>7</sup>	<u>400,000</u>
	<u>\$830,000</u>
GCRA	
Reprogram FY20 Economic Development Funds	\$630,000
Reprogram Midtown Policing <sup>8</sup>	<u>200,000</u>
	<u>\$830,000</u>

The City would contract with Capital Access<sup>9</sup> (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

<sup>7</sup> The City will receive approximately \$800,000 in funding allocating \$160,000 to Public Service Agencies; \$140,000 for eviction mitigation; \$400,000 for small business assistance; \$100,000 for administrative costs.

<sup>8</sup> Funding restricted to College Park University Heights

<sup>9</sup> [www.capitalaccessinc.com](http://www.capitalaccessinc.com) estimated fees at 5% - \$125,000