

# City of Gainesville

Housing & Community  
Development Division

Coronavirus Relief Funds (CRF)  
Utility Assistance Program

**September 3, 2020**

**Gainesville City Commission Meeting**

- The Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) is a portion of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act passed by Congress and signed into law by the President in March 2020 in response to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Governor DeSantis authorized \$120 million of Florida's CRF allocation to Florida Housing Finance Corporation (Florida Housing) to assist renter and homeowner households that have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

- CRF Program will be administered through the Florida Housing State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program (SHIP) platform though not funded through SHIP.
- As required by the State, the CRF grant program must be completed and funds expended by December 30, 2020 .
- Propose a Utility Assistance Program that includes, electric, water, cable, phone and/or internet services.

- Focus only on providing financial assistance towards a Utility Assistance Program for extremely low, very low, low and moderate income city neighbors.
- Continuing with the GNVcares about Neighbors funding concept, eligible recipients can receive up to \$1,250 in utility payment assistance.
- Applications will be submitted through an online application portal on a first come first serve basis.

## Fiscal Impact

- City of Gainesville's allocation is \$350,511 with 10% being allocated for program administration.
- This will allow the City to assist approximately 252 households.

## Recommendation

The City Commission: 1) approve the Coronavirus Relief Fund Utility Assistance Program; 2) authorize the City Manager or designee to take actions as appropriate to expend funds associated with Coronavirus Relief Fund Utility Assistance Program; and 3) authorize the City Manager to execute any required programmatic and financial agreements to implement the Coronavirus Relief Fund Utility Assistance Program, subject to approval by the City Attorney as to form and legality.

# Questions?

