



BOC Commissioner (District 2)

Bob Ott, Commissioner

Districts All

Item No. 17.

Cobb County...Expect the Best!

TO: Dr. Jackie R. McMorris, County Manager

FROM: Bob Ott, Commissioner

DATE: May 26, 2020

PURPOSE

To approve emergency funding to provide rent relief for low-income families living in qualified apartment communities in Cobb County adversely affected by COVID-19; and to authorize the Chairman to execute the Memorandum of Understanding and any other necessary documents for said purpose.

BACKGROUND

The World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a world health emergency and a global pandemic. A National Public Health Emergency was declared for the United States on March 13, 2020. And, the Governor of the State of Georgia declared a State Public Health Emergency in Georgia on March 14, 2020, currently extended through June 12, 2020. Further, the Governor of Georgia issued a shelter in place order through April 30, 2020, currently extended through June 12, 2020 for medically fragile persons, necessary to prevent the spread of COVID-19, which has had devastating effects on the economy and the ability of Cobb citizens to care for their families.

Star-C Communities (Star-C) is a collaborative, nonprofit 501(c)3, operating throughout the Atlanta area, providing affordable apartment community residents with wrap-around educational, wellness and gardening programs. Its mission is to reduce resident transiency in affordable housing communities and nearby schools, provide academic support for children and ultimately improve the quality of life for the individual and the neighborhood.

One of Star-C's existing programs, the Eviction Relief Fund, offers rent payment solutions to those threatened with eviction in a qualified apartment community. A qualified apartment community is one which offers rentals at a rate of no more than 30% of 80% of the Area Medium Income, as that figure may from time to time be revised. For this emergency funding, the program will be structured as follows: A tenant may apply for a scholarship/grant of up to 70% of their rental delinquency. The tenant will be expected to match 20% of the delinquency and the landlord will match 10% and waive any late fees. For example, if a tenant owes \$3,300 (\$3,000 rent and a \$300 late fee), the tenant may apply for a \$2,100 rent scholarship (70%), the tenant pays \$600 (20%), and the landlord will be asked to waive the late fee and \$300 (10%) of the rent.

It is requested that the Board of Commissioners authorize a fund balance appropriation in the amount of \$1,620,000.00 to support this effort. Star-C will administer the emergency funding in the amount of \$1,500,000.00 for this crucial effort during this critical time. Cobb County intends to compensate Star-C for the grant administrative services in an amount not to exceed \$120,000.00, or 8.0% of the allocated funds. Administrative services include but are not limited to, review of application requests, assessment of needs, proper allocation and facilitation of communications.

IMPACT STATEMENT

N/A

FUNDING

Funding is available in the CARES Fund with the following budget transactions:

Transfer From:	278-055-V9CT-8820	Undesignated Contingency	\$1,620,000.00
Transfer To:	278-493-V9S3-6574	Contributions	\$1,500,000.00
Transfer To:	278-493-V9S3-6326	Professional Services	\$ 120,000.00

RECOMMENDATION

The Board of Commissioners approve emergency funding to provide rent relief for low-income families living in qualified apartment communities in Cobb County adversely affected by COVID-19; authorize the corresponding budget transactions; and to authorize the Chairman to execute the Memorandum of Understanding and any necessary documents for said purpose.

UNDER SEPARATE COVER

Memorandum of Understanding between Cobb County and Star-C Communities

ATTACHMENTS

None