

SUBMITTAL OF A SUBSTANTIAL AMENDMENT TO THE
FISCAL YEAR 2019/2020 ACTION PLAN AND ACCEPTANCE
AND APPROPRIATION OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS ALLOCATED
TO THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA UNDER THE CORONAVIRUS
AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT (CARES ACT),
AND ESTABLISH COVID-19 RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

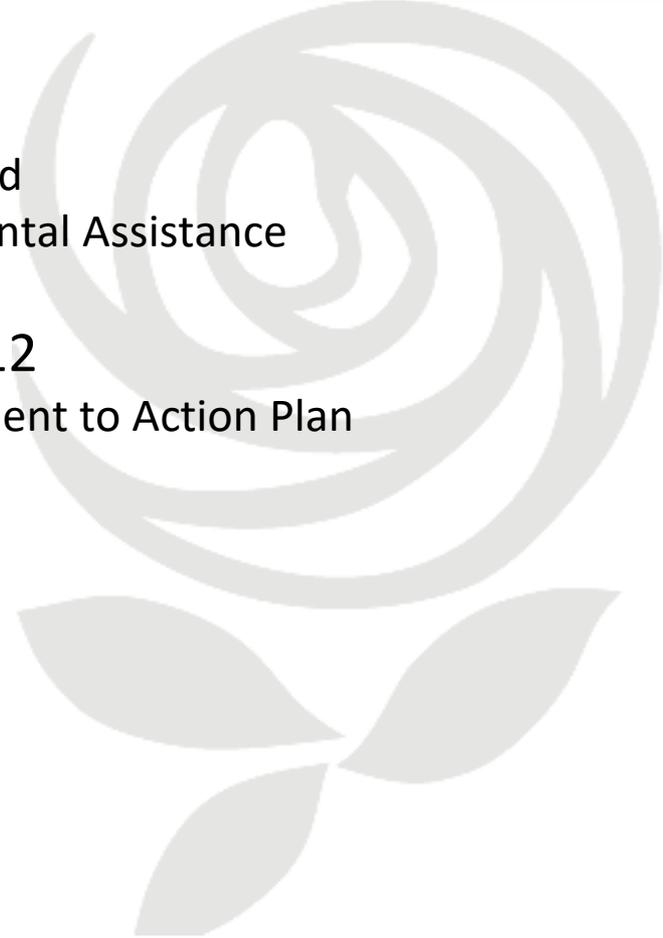
City Council

May 19, 2020

Megan Basinger and Rebecca Lane,
Housing & Community Services Managers
Housing & Community Services

- COVID-19 pandemic resulted in Shelter-in-Place orders
 - March 17, 2020 Sonoma County Public Health Officer
 - March 19, 2020 California Public Health Officer
- CARES Act signed March 27, 2020
 - Provides additional funds to HUD grantees for response to COVID-19
- Santa Rosa received:
 - \$859,608 CDBG-CV
 - \$65,180 HOPWA
- HUD waivers & guidance provide flexibility and include:
 - Reduced public comment period to 5 days
 - Suspension of CDBG public services cap
 - HOME-funded Tenant-Based Rental Assistance rapid deployment

- Amendment to Action Plan required:
 - To utilize new CDBG-CV and HOPWA funds;
 - To shift CDBG funds to additional public services; and
 - To shift HOME funds from housing production to Rental Assistance
- Five-Day comment period from May 5 – May 12
 - Comments received will be included in the Amendment to Action Plan



- CDBG fund balance of \$472,405 reallocated from housing production to be used in combination with CDBG-CV fund of \$859,608 for additional support to persons experiencing homelessness (total amount \$1,332,013);
- Additional HOPWA funding of \$65,180 will be used to maintain and enhance existing HOPWA services; and
- HOME fund balance of \$775,657 reallocated from housing production to Rental Assistance.

“Stable housing is a prerequisite for economic mobility, job security, and health and well-being”

NLC Report “Homeward Bound, The Round to Affordable Housing”

- Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers
- Undocufund
- Salvation Army and CAPSC Programs
- New City-wide COVID-19 Rental Assistance Program

Rental Assistance – Section 8

Existing Rental Assistance – Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers

- Over 2,000 Santa Rosa households
 - Program is a balance of households and funding provided by HUD
 - Household income is at or below 50% of area median income
- Participants that have experienced loss of income, portion of rent paid by program has increased
- Funding is in place to support all existing Section 8 Households that have been affected by COVID-19

Rental Assistance – Non-Profits

- Undocufund
 - Must be resident of Sonoma County
 - At least 1 undocumented wage-earner
 - Be impacted by disaster (fire, flood, COVID-19, etc.)
 - One time assistance - \$500 individual/\$1,000 per family
- Community Action Partnership of Sonoma County
 - One-time Assistance between \$1,500 - \$1,800 per household
 - Countywide, households below 80% of AMI

Rental Assistance – Non-Profits

- Salvation Army
 - One-time Assistance between \$2,000 - \$3,000 per household
 - Must have lived in Santa Rosa, Rohnert Park or Cotati for at least 6 months
 - Eligible households:
 - Have children under 18 living in home;
 - Over 55; or
 - Disabled

New COVID-19 Rental Assistance Program:

Program Funding:

- Reprogram \$600,000 of federal HOME funds to provide assistance

Eligibility:

- City households that have lost or reduced wages as a result of COVID-19
- Household income at or below 60% area median
- At least one documented individual in the household (could be a minor)

New COVID-19 Rental Assistance Program:

Program Timing

- Action by Council May 19th 2020 to approve re-appropriating funding
- Approval by HUD (2-3 weeks)
- Application Period 1 week (estimated June 1-7)
- Provide rental assistance through December 31, 2020

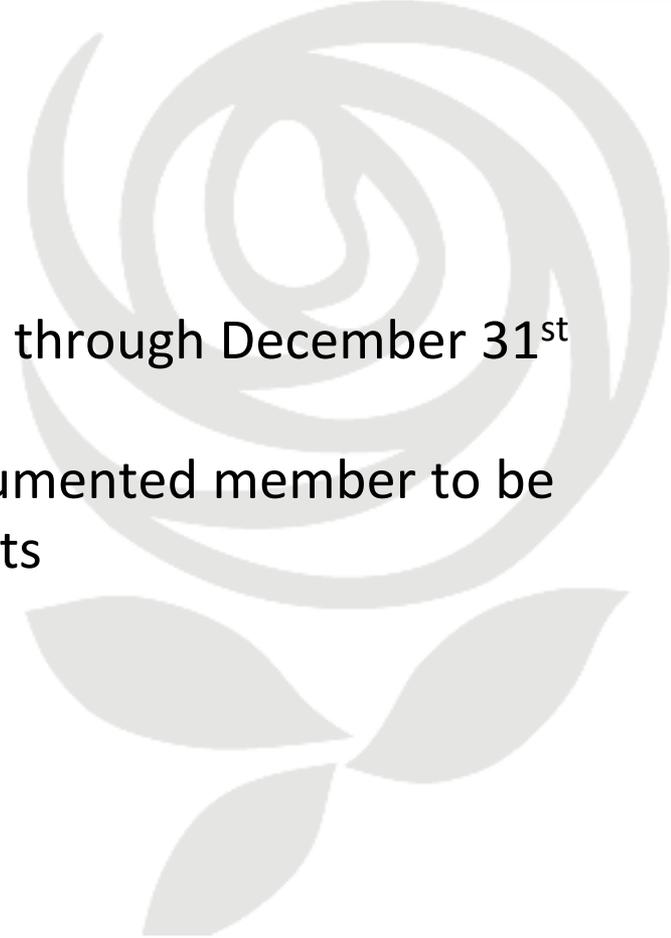
Program Structure/Implementation

- Utilize City's Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program structure
- 1 week online application period
- Randomize selection process
- Tenant would pay 30% of income and program would make up the rent differential

New COVID-19 Rental Assistance Program:

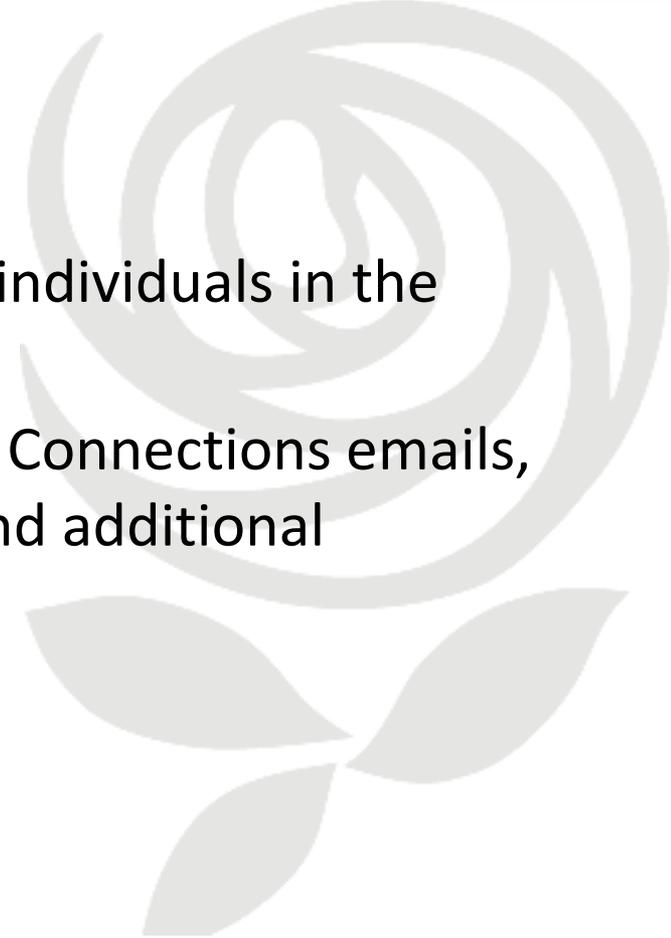
Program Limitations:

- Funding estimated to assist 50 households through December 31st
- Households must include at least one documented member to be eligible due to federal funding requirements



- Solutions:
 - Due to the nature of funds (federal sources), staff is in discussions with nonprofits to understand what gaps will exist for our undocumented residents.
 - Goal is to have a program/partnership that addresses the needs of all residents and expands number of households assisted.

- Outreach:
 - Multilingual strategy
 - Engage nonprofit partners to assist individuals in the applying
 - Use City social media channels, City Connections emails, Next Door, Emergency Webpage, and additional methods that are identified.



It is recommended by the Housing & Community Services Department that the Council, by resolution: (1) approve and authorize submittal of the Substantial Amendment to the Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Action Plan to reprogram Community Development Block Grant and Home Investment Partnership funds; (2) authorize the City Manager to execute all agreements and amendments to the City's federal HOPWA and CDBG funds along with any additional documents required by HUD to implement the CARES Act funding; (3) authorize the Director of Housing & Community Services to execute an amendment to the 2019/2020 Grant Agreement for Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) Funds with Face to Face to incorporate the additional CARES Act funding; (4) authorize the Director of Housing & Community Services to execute professional services and grant agreements required to carry out the public services needed to expend the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Community Development Block Grant – Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funds allocated for these services; and (5) appropriate additional Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) funds in the amount of \$65,180 and Community Development Block Grant – Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) funds in the amount of \$859,608, both as allocated to Santa Rosa under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act).

Questions?

