



City of Milpitas

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Milpitas Approves over 1.3 Million Dollars for most vulnerable residents and small businesses hardest hit by COVID-19

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The City of Milpitas has received significant grants from the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, totaling \$1,364,363. At its meeting on June 23, 2020, the Milpitas City Council approved allocation of funding, which is incorporated in the Annual Action Plans, with a focus on funding services related to COVID-19.

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) provides annual grants to local cities and counties to address community development needs through investment in public services and capital projects that provide resources to the most vulnerable low-income communities. This year, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act allocated additional funds for Community Development Block Grant Coronavirus (CDBG-CV) response.

“Over the past several months, we have worked hard to ensure the grants we received would go to help the people who need it most. Thanks to these grants, we are able to support nutrition programs for local students, expand our existing rent relief program, and provide even more aid to small businesses struggling right now,” says Vice Mayor and member of the CDBG Subcommittee, Bob Nuñez.

The City of Milpitas was allocated \$676,413 in FY 20-21 CDBG funds, as well as \$397,911 in CDBG-CV (COVID) funds. Additionally, unused funding from prior fiscal years is now allowed to be used for COVID-19 prevention or response. As a result, the City of Milpitas has an additional \$290,039 that can be used for COVID-19 activities.

The adopted Annual Action Plan will provide grants ranging in amounts from \$5,000 to over \$300,000 to the City’s nonprofit partners to provide public services, capital projects, program administration, and COVID-19 response.

Funds will go towards direct aid to small businesses and microenterprises that endured economic hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic; the City’s rent relief program and wraparound services for preventing displacement of Milpitas’ most vulnerable residents; nutrition service and access to technology to help counter social isolation for seniors; the creation of a domestic violence prevention curriculum and nutrition support for students at the Milpitas Unified School District; and emergency shelter, crisis counseling, and case management services for domestic violence victims.



Councilmember Karina Dominguez, who sits on the Small Business Assistance Subcommittee and Economic Development and Trade Commission, says, "Domestic violence is a public health issue. As we respond to COVID-19, we must be aware of the less-obvious impacts it has, like trapping victims of domestic violence (or emotional/mental harm) in homes with their abusers. The pandemic has made these situations even more dangerous than before, but I am hopeful that our work will address this issue. We are allocating funds to provide shelter protection and counseling for at-risk or abused residents, and focusing resources for domestic violence prevention curriculum at local schools."

For capital projects, a partnership was created between a nonprofit agency and the property owner whereby funding will be provided to assist with roof replacement of the residential buildings at the Sunnyhills Apartment Complex to maintain these buildings and keep the Sunnyhills community safe. Other services that are being funded to assist the low-income residents in the Milpitas community include comprehensive housing assistance services for the disabled; legal assistance, meal delivery and groceries for seniors; long term care ombudsman program for seniors and disabled; and fair housing, tenant-landlord counseling and dispute resolution services.

While there are a variety of needs in the community, the City Council has prioritized the allocation of the City's CDBG resources to address needs resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. Through the allocation of these resources, the City Council has also provided assistance and stability for Milpitas' vulnerable residents during this time of uncertainty.

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