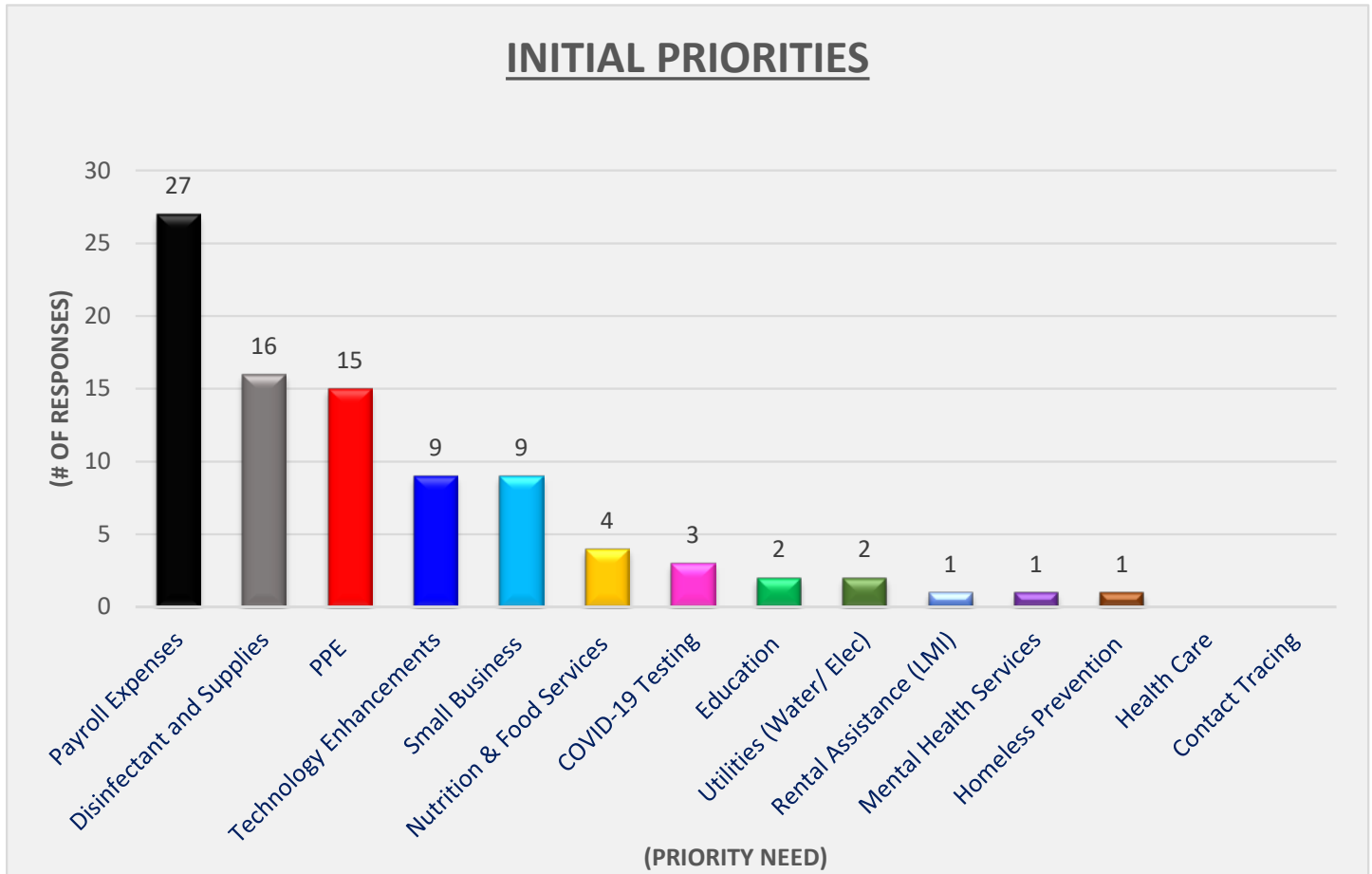


FBC CARES Act Advisory Committee



FBISD

- 1. Community feeding program: The District currently operates 23 feeding sites that serve over 11,000 grab and go meals daily at no cost. Meals are available Monday through Friday to children between 18 months and 18 years old, and to students with special needs regardless of age. The District will continue this program through the summer months at 17 sites. A \$3.5 million deficit in the Child Nutrition Fund is expected due to the feeding program – primarily caused by labor costs. Funding is requested to continue the program, including staffing, food supplies, to-go containers, and labor costs.
- 2. Mental health services: The District operates 8 Vida mental health clinics that are funded through the Victims of Crime Act grant. These services are administered by a contractor, are focused solely on mental health, and are in addition to the school counselors that each campus has. Costs for students referred to the Vida clinics are only reimbursed if the child is a victim of crime. Non-crime referrals to the clinics have occurred due to the pandemic. The District is currently absorbing these costs. Funding is requested to continue these services with the contractor and any other direct or indirect expenses the District incurs for mental health services.

- 3. Disinfectant and hand sanitizer supplies for all campuses, buildings, and buses: The District serves close to 80,000 students and has over 11,000 employees. Although the District budgets for routine cleaning supplies, it is expected these costs will exponentially increase to ensure the safety of student and staff during the pandemic. Funding is requested for this type of supplies.
- 4. Personal protective equipment (masks, gloves, sneeze guards, etc.) for all students and staff: Unless directed otherwise by the Texas Education Agency, the District will resume in-class instruction for the 2020-21 school year in August. Assuming the threat of infection remains at the time in-class instruction begins, PPE for students and staff will help mitigate the spread of the virus. Funding is requested to purchase the equipment.

Katy ISD

- 1. Nutrition and Food Services - Katy ISD has provided meal services to students throughout the COVID closure. In addition to several reimbursable meal sites, we have also served meals at three sites that are not reimbursable: Williams Elementary, Cinco Ranch High School, and Tompkins High School. Although these campuses are not reimbursable sites, and are historically not low income, we have been able to serve thousands of meals to students from surrounding areas of the district that have been hit hard by the economic downturn related to COVID.
- 2. Cleaning Products and Services - As a result of COVID exposures and the cleaning related to all Katy ISD facilities, the district has incurred costs related to cleaning and disinfecting buildings/facilities. We have purchased disinfecting misters, outsourced the deep cleaning and disinfecting of a campus, and have increased our normal purchase of cleaning materials, hand sanitizer, and like products.
- 3. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) - Although campuses have been closed since the middle of March, we have had district employees actively working to support students. Examples are: KISD Police Department, Nutrition and Food Service workers at feeding sites, Maintenance and Operations Employees working on and cleaning buildings, and Technology employees handing out devices to students. Although we were able to utilize PPE that was already in stock, we were forced to spend funds on additional PPE to keep our essential personnel outfitted with the proper protective equipment.
- 4. Overtime - The district has incurred overtime costs related to the COVID closure. The increased police presence at feeding sites, technology handout, the Harris County COVID testing site, and the Fort Bend COVID testing site has increased overtime. In addition, cleaning schedules for custodians and maintenance requests related to COVID have increased overtime needs in the Maintenance and Operations department.

Needville ISD

- 1. Expenses to facilitate distance learning, including technological improvement, in connection with school closings to enable compliance with COVID-19 precautions
- 2. Unemployment insurance costs related to the COVID-19 public health emergency if such costs will not be reimbursed by the federal government pursuant to the CARES Act or otherwise.

City of Fulshear

- 1. Direct grant support to small businesses to cover costs as allowable under CARES Act guidance including PPE and necessary sanitation and safety modifications (and potential procurement support thereof)
- 2. Provide Jurisdiction with Funding to purchase disinfectant systems and develop cleaning protocols for City Buildings. Thus, ensuring our ability to keep the public and staff safe while accomplishing city business.
- 3. I would also request funds be made available to help provide residents of Fort Bend County with rent assistance to prevent homelessness. I know there are limited dollars, less than 1M, available through the Community Development Block Grant. However, some nonprofit leaders are estimating that shortfall could push toward 40M.

City of Katy

- 1. Ensure the following expenses are recovered: PPE, medical transportation, safety measures undertaken and payroll expenses for personnel whose time was substantially spent on COVID-19 measures
- 2. Expenses for disinfection of public areas and other facilities
- 3. Expenses to improve telework capabilities for employees
- 4. Expenses of providing paid sick and paid family leave
- 5. Expenses related to the provision of grants to small businesses to reimburse the costs of business interruption caused by required closure

City of Meadows Place

- 1. Costs associated with telecommunications and “telework” capabilities for our employees, including off-site VPN enabled computers, webcams, and other telecom devices.
- 2. Physical equipment and infrastructure to protect and shield employees and the public, such as retrofitting lobbies with “shields” or windows between Staff and the public, touchless sliding doors, faucets and other accessories, hand sanitizer stations, foggers, signage, etc.
- 3. Hazard pay reimbursement for Public Safety employees
- 4. Personal Protective Equipment reimbursement and allocation for future PPE purchases
- 5. Contracted cleaning services above and beyond normal cleaning schedules
- 6. Reimbursement for and allocation for more fencing, protective barricades for parks facilities, playgrounds, etc.

City of Missouri City

- 1. Payroll expenses for public safety, public health, health care, human services, and similar employees whose services are substantially dedicated to mitigating or responding to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Expenses of providing paid sick and paid family and medical leave to public employees to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.
- 2. Expenses for acquisition and distribution of medical and protective supplies, including sanitizing products and personal protective equipment, for medical personnel, police officers, social workers, child protection services, and child welfare officers, direct service providers for older adults and individuals with disabilities in community settings, and other public health or safety workers in connection with the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- 3. Expenses for disinfection of public areas and other facilities, e.g., nursing homes, in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- 4. Expenses for quarantining individuals.
- 5. Costs of providing COVID-19 testing, including the serological testing.
- 6. Expenditures related to the provision of grants to small businesses to reimburse the costs of business interruption caused by required closures.
- 7. Any other COVID-19-related expenses reasonably necessary to the function of government that satisfy the Fund's eligibility criteria.

City of Needville and Small Cities

- 1. Small Business Grants.
- 2. Senior Center support for food and distribution.
- 3. City staff paid leave due to Covid-19.

City of Pearland

- 1. The City does have some utility and transportation infrastructure in place that involves projects that could have a nexus to COVID-19 and future pandemic prevention/response efforts, particularly around continuity of operations and emergency services (police, fire/EMS).
 - However, its important to note that Fort Bend ESD 7 annexed that territory as part of its service district and serves it with Fire and EMS services. While I don't think the City wasn't properly engaged by the District in that process, ultimately our Fire Chief and City Manager did not have major issues with this so it will continue to remain in their service territory.
2. Funding be made available to cover some of the costs of our Traffic Pre-Emption and other management infrastructure in the Fort Bend County portion of Pearland, which is being put in place city-wide, as that will ensure the City and the County (Fort Bend) can function in an emergency services environment consistent with the rest of the City.
 - The Traffic Pre-Emption program is slated to roll out soon and involves work designed to give our emergency and public safety apparatus the technological capability to control signalization and routing to build increases in the speed and weight of service delivery...response times if you will. The challenge could be in the Fort Bend portion as we don't provide primary service, are there for mutual aid purposes, but need to ensure that the City's standards are met so those residents/citizens don't cry foul due to disparate infrastructure compared to the rest of the City. So, this would create the opportunity for parity in infrastructure and make sure that FBC ESD 7 has access to the system in a way that allows them to provide the same level of service in that area that other Pearland residents and property owners receive.
- 3. Since the City also has critical infrastructure in that area (FM 521 lift stations and storage tanks, etc...), other thoughts are that some of those facilities, serving residents that are both Pearland and Fort Bend County, need the ability to update and maintain SCADA technology badly in the context of a pandemic. In such a situation, staff may not be able to always physically attend to those facilities if there are distancing orders or other policies that keep staff from being able to be onsite at all times. We'd still need to monitor functions and levels and SCADA gives us that capability in times of any disaster, including a pandemic.
- 4. The City needs to update/upgrade its Emergency Operations Center and ability for continuity of operations during pandemic and other disasters. The pro-rata share of costs related to the work needed at our Public Safety Building could also be a priority (generator, expansion of the Center, tech improvements, etc...). This is not only central to City related matters but those emergency situations involving mutual aid outside the jurisdiction.

City of Richmond

- 1. Expenses to improve telework capabilities for public employees to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.
- 2. Expenses for acquisition and distribution of medical and protective supplies, including sanitizing products and personal protective equipment, for medical personnel, police officers, social workers, child protection services, and child welfare officers, direct service providers for older adults and individuals with disabilities in community settings, and other public health or safety workers in connection with the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- 3. Expenses for disinfection of public areas and other facilities, e.g., nursing homes, in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency.
- 4. Expenditures related to the provision of grants to small businesses to reimburse the costs of business interruption caused by required closures.
- 5. Expenses of providing paid sick and paid family and medical leave to public employees to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.
- 6. Costs of providing COVID-19 testing, including serological testing.
- 7. Any other COVID-19-related expenses reasonably necessary to the function of government that satisfy the Fund's eligibility criteria. Waived Convenience Fee, Late fees, Loss of Water Revenue from nonpayment.

- 8. Expenses to facilitate distance learning, including technological improvements, in connection with school closings to enable compliance with COVID-19 precautions.

City of Rosenberg

- 1. Grants for small businesses to reimburse costs of business interruption caused by the required closure.
- 2. Expenses for acquisition of medical and protective supplies, including sanitizing products and personal protective equipment for police, fire, ems
- 3. Expenses related to improve telework capabilities for public employees to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.
- 4. Expenses related to modify buildings to protect public employees from possible exposure while transacting business and to encourage the public to conduct business on-line, over the phone, or drive-thrus.
- 5. Expenses for disinfection of public buildings.
- 6. CDBG funding to improve water pressure and volume in qualifying low/mod income areas to improve personal hygiene / sanitizing.
- 7. Hazard pay for first responders
- 8. Expenses for quarantining individuals.
- 9. Expenses of providing paid sick and paid family and medical leave to public employees to enable compliance with COVID-19 public health precautions.

City Sugar Land

- 1. FBC – Expansion of Testing (Both Public & LG Employees) & Contact Tracing
- 2. All Local Governments – 18-Month Stock of PPE, Thermometers & Sanitizing Equipment / Supplies – for both Fire/EMS/First Responders and General Workforce
- 3. FBC – Food Service Meals & Distribution to Underserved Communities & Citizens Facing Financial Hardship Due to Impact of COVID-19
- 4. FBC & Local Governments – Funding for Utility Assistance Programs to Help Residents Avoid Disconnection of Water Service for Non-Payment
- 5. All Local Governments – 18-Month Stock of PPE, Thermometers & Sanitizing Equipment / Supplies for Entertainment and Hospitality Venues
- 6. FBC & All Local Governments – Small Business Assistance for PPE, Thermometers, Sanitizing Equipment / Supplies
- 7. All Local Governments – Technology Improvements at Public Facilities to Allow for Continued Public Services During Extended & Continued Social Distancing
- 8. All Local Governments – Reimbursement for Cost of Event and/or 25% Match for FEMA Reimbursed Expenses

Texana

- 1. Request will be for \$30,000 to help pay for PPE. (Have submitted a FEMA grant that will pay 75% of our expense, so this amount is the remaining 25%.)

OakBend Medical Center

- 1. Due to the Governor’s order and the decisions of people in our community, our revenues are down over 50% from pre-COVID levels, while our costs in many areas have increased. We have furloughed staff as

much as possible, but that does not mitigate the loss of revenue to the degree necessary. Our first priority would be to cover the expenditures of OakBend for the increased costs of the COVID-19 epidemic including:

- Additional labor costs
 - Tele-medicine
 - PPE and associated infection control expenditures
 - Isolation equipment
 - Drugs used for treatment of COVID-19 patients not covered by insurance
 - Equipment rentals such as ventilators, UV sterilization and negative pressure devices
 - Cost of maintaining providing PTO and health care benefits to furloughed public employees
 - Increased cost of unemployment insurance from furloughed employees
 - Telework expenditures
 - Secure
 - Costs of transferring patients to a single location for treatment
 - Secure technology to allow for patients and family to connect when visitors are precluded
- 2. Provide grant funding to allow us to bring back all furloughed employees
 - 3. Provide grant funding to support the continuing costs of the pandemic noted in priority number 1
 - 4. Provide grant funding to build up our capabilities to handle more activities remotely including:
 - Telemedicine
 - Tele-work
 - Securing texting/communications tools
 - Remote registration

Fort Bend Economic Development Council

- 1. We ask you to include a business grant program that mirrors the City of Rosenberg's direct grant terms, conditions and grant eligibility on a county wide basis. The program guidance is established, can be expanded for the benefit of Fort Bend Businesses and is scalable based on allocation levels to assist many small businesses. Rosenberg's program pays for one month's rent up to \$6,000 for businesses with 1-25 employees. A similar program Countywide would approximate \$5 Million (Rosenberg program \$250K; Rosenberg to FB Population (40K/800K) or 5%). However, the County Program could entertain a higher employee and rent qualification thresholds with more Cares Act fund authorization.
 - Please see <https://rosenbergtx.gov/business-resiliency-grant/>
- 2. The second program would follow similar qualification criteria and would provide a direct grant of funds to pay for PPE associated with COVID 19 related requirements.

Comments:

- These programs would be eligible on a first come first serve basis and available Countywide except those areas served by the City of Houston who received their own direct allocation of Cares Act funds.
 - The FB Business COVID 19 Grant Program should be administered at the County, be related to businesses that have seen interruptions to their operations and be directly related to COVID 19.
- 3. We would further ask the County if they have the capability of PPE sourcing through their purchasing department. Centralized supply chain options through the County may provide enhanced supply and reduced cost for authorized purchases under the grant program and provide control and ease administration of the program for the majority of authorized expenditures.

Stafford EDC

- 1. Lost revenue – Yes, we are aware this is not covered but with an estimated \$4M loss, we will begin laying people off by the end of the month
- 2. First responder/direct COVID related employer payroll reimbursement
- 3. PPE
- 4. Technology – purchases that needed to be done for employees to work remotely – ie bandwidth, etc
- 5. Paid Sick/FMLA expense reimbursement

County Courts at Law

- 1. Sneeze Guards / Plexiglas Shields installed throughout County Court at Law Courtrooms.
- 2. An Electronic Paperwork Solution that integrates with Tyler Technologies Odyssey Case Management System and Workflow.

ABHR (represents about 120 special districts in FBC)

- 1. Districts Providing Water and Wastewater operations:
 - Most of the MUDs and similar districts (excluding Levee Improvement Districts, and in city districts where the City system provides water and wastewater) have costs related to 2 areas:
 - (a) System operations: Item 5 Public Health expenses for public safety measures undertaken in response to COVID-19 (or Item 6 Any other COVID 19 related expense reasonably necessary to the function of government. The Districts’ operators handle facilities related to the provision of a public water supply system and a wastewater collection and treatment system. The operators’ had to purchase PPEs such as hand sanitizer, medical grade masks and latex gloves, etc. The operators handle facilities at the water plants and wastewater plants, as well as manholes and water meters (both for maintenance and for reading). Each of the operator companies have added these costs to each district bill. The operators believe the costs will average about \$1,000 per district. Further, these operating companies have instituted emergency operations that are NOT being passed on to districts. I am enclosing a copy of some of these type of emergency actions and equipment being purchased, much of which is passed on.
 - (b) Item 5 Business Interruption: Each year, the special districts are required to adopt budgets. These budgets rely upon various sources of revenue including water bills and taxes. Each district budget also estimates and includes late charges imposed on late bills. The districts know the CARES Act funds are not intended to cover budget shortfalls. However, each district has lost considerable revenue due to compliance with County requests to cease late charges on bills. Many districts, for example, lose revenue of between \$1,000 and \$4,000 per month. So for the 3 months they have been asked to cease imposing late charges, they have lost between \$3,000 and \$12,000. Although, in and of itself this is not a large sum of money, this revenue loss coupled with unanticipated expenses will result in a need for either a water rate or tax rate increase this fall.
 - (c) Item 2, Expenses related to communication: All of these districts have incurred expenses related to communication. Per the Governor’s order suspending certain provisions of the TOMA, the districts have had to secure the opportunity to post “agenda packets” on a website, secure telephone lines capable of recording meetings with enough line capacity to accommodate all members of the public who wish to address the Board, adopt various forms of emergency resolutions to sign documents electronically and make payments on all checks written to cover monthly bills, incur messenger charges due to inability to meet in person,

- 2. Districts Providing Parks
 - Many special districts, including both MUDs and LIDs, operate parks in their communities. These Districts contract with companies who provide the operation and maintenance. These districts have incurred expenses, in addition to those expenses identified in Section 1(c) above, for disinfection and cleaning, signage, website content development, and roping off areas not able to be opened. Obviously, there are manpower hours and costs associated with the supplies. Further, some of the districts have been unable to rent their facilities and not only have rental income lost but have had to give refunds from cash on hand. A perfect example of such a District is FBC MUD 23 which has the Massey Administration Building which has been used by County officials for town hall meetings. This building is rented almost every weekend throughout the year, often for as many as 4 events.
- 3. Comment: In summary, unless lost revenue from no late charges being imposed are recoverable, costs incurred by their operators and park managers for disinfection, cleaning and PPEs and signage and communication would be the highest priority for actual incurred costs. As far as community priorities, all of these special districts have businesses which have been adversely affected. Since there is going to be a significant shortfall in funds to help the economy recover, at initial discussion, helping fund companies' disinfection and cleaning costs would be one of the highest priorities, without regard to kind of business. All businesses from hospitals to the smallest of restaurants or shops will have costs to disinfect and keep disinfected and cleaned. Keeping all businesses clean, which will allow economic recovery will be the highest priority of funds to make available from our limited resources.

Coats and Rose (represents special districts, such as MUDs, LIDs, and MMDs in FBC)

- 1. COVID-19 related medical protection and equipment (masks, gloves, sanitizer, etc.) – all necessary to conduct meetings in a safe manner once the TOMA laws are no longer waived by the Governor, and needed for district consultants when performing district work orders.
- 2. Sanitization of District facilities like parks, restrooms, recreational facilities, etc.; and
- 3. Disinfectants for plants - there is an increase in chlorine/bleach use because more people are home and so there is more flow at the plants. More flow equals more disinfectant.

Coveler & Peeler, P.C. (ESDs)

- 1. Reimbursement/payment for PPE, Disinfectant, and Station supplies

ESD 4

- 1. Reimbursement for COVID expenses: miscellaneous supplies, legal expenses, payroll

Muller Law Group (special districts)

- 1. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the field staff at wastewater treatment plant(s) and park & recreational facilities.
- 2. Increased security at park & recreational facilities caused by closing and/or social distancing safety requirements.
- 3. Additional administrative costs for remote meetings and courier costs for routing checks and documents for execution.