



## RESOLUTION 328-2020

### A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND SUPPORTING THE ALLOCATION OF FUNDING UNDER THE CORONAVIRUS AID, RELIEF, AND ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT

**WHEREAS**, United States government adopted the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act ("CARES Act") and appropriated \$150 Billion to fund assistance under the CARES Act; and

**WHEREAS**, funding for the CARES Act for municipalities under the population of 500,000 and within a county with a population of greater than 500,000 was directed to the county; and

**WHEREAS**, the Office of the Governor has issued the following guidance for allocation of funds for municipalities in counties with a population greater than 500,000: The direct Treasury disbursements to the 12 counties were calculated based on their population, less the total population inside cities larger than 500,000 that reside within those counties. In the same way that cities and counties across the rest of the state will be provided funding on a per capita basis, and are encouraged to work together to address expenses that cross jurisdictional lines, the 12 counties that received direct funding from Treasury based on the total number of residents in their counties (excluding those in the six largest cities) are expected to use their funds to address expenses incurred by incorporated areas with a population less than 500,000 that are located in those counties as well as the needs of residents in unincorporated areas of those counties. Each of the incorporated areas located in a county that received a direct allocation from Treasury should seek funding for COVID-19 expenses directly from that county; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission of the City of Richmond has determined that it is in the best interest of the citizens of Richmond, Texas, that Fort Bend County immediately allocate and pay to each municipality its per capita portion of the \$134,262,393 received by Fort Bend County under the CARES Act; and,

**WHEREAS**, the City Commission of the City of Richmond agrees that the balance of the CARES Act funding, after allocation and payment of each municipality's per capital share, should be allocated for the benefit of all the residents of Fort Bend County as prioritized by the CARES Act Advisory Team; and, **Now Therefore**,

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND, TEXAS:**

**Section 1.** The facts and recitations set forth in the preamble of this Resolution are

hereby found to be true and correct.

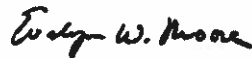
**Section 2.** The City Commission of the City of Richmond requests Fort Bend County Commissioners Court to immediately allocate and pay to the City of Richmond on a 50/50 split of the \$174.49 per capita which Fort Bend County was allocated, or at least at \$55 per capita, for its per capita portion of the \$134,262,393 received under the CARES Act, as described in the letter from the Fort Bend County Mayor & Council Association, dated May 15, 2020.

**Section 3.** The City Commission of the City of Richmond supports the allocation of the balance of the CARES Act funding, after allocation and payment of each municipality's per capital share, as prioritized by the CARES Act Advisory Team.

**Section 4.** Effective Date. This Resolution shall be effective from and after its adoption.

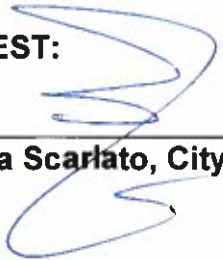
**PASSED AND APPROVED** by a vote of the members of the governing body of the City of Richmond voting in favor thereof on this the 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2020.

**APPROVED:**



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**Evalyn W. Moore, Mayor**

**ATTEST:**



\_\_\_\_\_  
**Laura Scarlato, City Secretary**

**FORT  
BEND  
COUNTY  
MAYOR  
&  
COUNCIL  
ASSOCIATION**

**ARCOLA  
BEASLEY  
FULSHEAR  
HOUSTON  
KATY  
KENDLETON  
MEADOWS PLACE  
MISSOURI CITY  
NEEDVILLE  
ORCHARD  
PLEAK  
RICHMOND  
ROSENBERG  
SIMONTON  
STAFFORD  
SUGAR LAND  
TOWN OF THOMPSONS  
VILLAGE OF  
FAIRCHILDS  
WESTON LAKES**

May 15, 2020

Fort Bend County Commissioners Court  
301 Jackson St  
Richmond, TX 77469

**RE: CARES Act Funding**

Dear Commissioners,

The Fort Bend County Mayors and Council Association (FBMCA) would like to thank you for your work in combating the corona virus in Fort Bend County and for creating the Fort Bend County CARES Act Advisory Committee. As you are aware, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed by the president on March 27, 2020. It was designed in part to provide federal funding for the local response to COVID-19. As the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs often says, the response to COVID-19 is federally funded, state led, and locally executed.

Texas received \$11.24 billion from the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF), which was split between the state of Texas and local governments in Texas with populations exceeding 500,000. The six largest cities in Texas received a direct allocation of this funding from the federal government. Additionally, on May 11, 2020, Governor Abbott, Lt. Governor Patrick, Speaker Bonnen, and members of the Senate Finance, House Appropriations committees made an announcement that certain local jurisdictions in Texas would be eligible to apply for a \$55 per capita allocation from the \$1.85 billion appropriated to Texas. Unfortunately, the funding opportunity only applies to local jurisdictions that are not located within the 6 cities and 12 counties in Texas with populations greater than 500,000. Because Fort Bend County's population is over 500,000, the county received an allocation of approximately \$134 million. While this allocation was based on a population figure that included all Fort Bend County cities, this also means that cities within Fort Bend County are not eligible for this state funding and are depending on the County to equitably appropriate CARES funding to them. The following are concerns that the FBMCA feels the Commissioners Court should take into consideration when making your final decisions in appropriating CARES funding.

**Per Capita Appropriations**

The FBMCA supports splitting CARES Act funding between the County and its cities on a 50/50 basis per capita or at the very least distributing funds in a similar way to the state at \$55 per capita. Per capita allocation of funds such as this would ensure that dollars are equitably beneficial to not just cities and the County, but to residents and businesses across Fort Bend County. Each individual city can tailor their allocation to meet the unique and individual needs of each of their communities. The County utilized the populations of its cities in order to receive their federal funding allocation; therefore, it is appropriate to further utilize population to distribute funds within the county.

Speaker of the House Dennis Bonnen shared the attached email and calculations which finds that Fort Bend cities would be far better served if they were to receive a 50/50 split of the \$174.49 per capita which Fort Bend County was allocated, as opposed to the \$55 which the state provides to other cities. A 50/50 split in Fort Bend County would come out to \$87.24 per capita.

#### **FEMA Funding**

Although the FEMA Disaster Relief Fund was designed to cover 75% of total expenses due to disasters, the fund has never been asked to respond to a nation-wide pandemic – and therefore may be much more limited in its ability to provide reimbursements for all aspects of this emergency. Additionally, reimbursements from the fund can take years while relief is needed immediately. Therefore, CARES Act funds should be used for what they are designed for, to provide direct and immediate relief to individuals, businesses, and states and local governments.

#### **Future Federal Funding**

Headlines have been made about the Health and Economic Recovery Omnibus Emergency Solutions (HEROES) Act proposed by the United States House of Representatives, which would provide \$187.5 billion to all cities for emergency fiscal assistance. While welcomed, this piece of legislation is far from guaranteed and likely to receive significant opposition in the United States Senate – including from the Texas delegation; therefore, it cannot be relied on to make decisions that would provide less to Fort Bend County cities. Some congressional leaders have indicated that cities should file for bankruptcy as opposed to providing further federal aid. With this in mind, we must focus our efforts on the money that is currently appropriated and in the bank. Let's not forgo aid to Fort Bend County cities now on the promise of federal funding in the future; it is risky and would not provide adequate aid to our shared constituents.

Further, Cities that are working to respond to COVID-19 expect to incur further expenses associated with the safety and health of our Staff and our community. Future purchases of personal protective equipment, facility protections, equipment, and other COVID-19 related expenditures also fall under the bounds of the CARES Act. Cities will be relying upon the resources provided to Fort Bend County for reimbursement of those future expenses as well, and we request that Fort Bend County ensure that a portion of the CARES funding be available to Cities for reimbursement purposes through the end of this year, as future expenses are incurred.

Fort Bend County cities stand ready to aid in the eradication of COVID-19. With the necessary resources, we are confident that Fort Bend County will continue to be a vibrant destination location and a successful economic hub.

Sincerely,



Charles D. Jessup IV, Meadows Place Mayor  
FBCMCA Chairman

Enclosures

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## Email from Speaker Dennis Bonnen

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Speaker Administration <[Speaker.Administration@speaker.texas.gov](mailto:Speaker.Administration@speaker.texas.gov)>  
**Subject:** COVID Relief Fund: Allocation of Local Funds (Fort Bend)  
**Date:** May 11, 2020 at 6:25:33 PM CDT  
**To:** Speaker Administration <[Speaker.Administration@speaker.texas.gov](mailto:Speaker.Administration@speaker.texas.gov)>

Fort Bend County delegation members --

There were several questions on today's call with the Governor regarding the allocation of funds for smaller cities within larger counties which received a direct allocation from the U.S. Treasury.

Attached is a PDF my office put together based on estimates and available data which puts into perspective the amounts going to the Big 12 counties and six cities, and then what the smaller cities in that county could potentially receive in funds from the county.

Of note, these other cities would be far better served if they were to receive even a 50/50 split of the \$174.49 per capita which the large county was allocated, as opposed to the lesser amount of \$55 which the state would be able to provide. These large counties did in fact utilize the populations of these smaller cities in order to receive their federal funding allocation.

Additionally, below is a copy of the press release on this topic which includes a link to the letter to cities and counties.

Thank you. Please call on my office if you have any questions on this complex issue.

Dennis



**Governor Abbott, Lt. Governor Patrick, Speaker Bonnen, Senate Finance, House Appropriations Committee Chairs Announce Federal Funding For Local Jurisdictions**

AUSTIN - Governor Greg Abbott, Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick, House Speaker Dennis Bonnen, Senate Finance Committee Chair Jane Nelson, Vice Chair Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa, and House Appropriations Committee Chair Giovanni Capriglione and Vice Chair Oscar Longoria today [sent a letter](#) to city and county leaders announcing \$5.06 billion in funding available to local governments in Texas through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Of this \$5.06 billion, the U.S. Department of Treasury has directly sent over \$3.2 billion to the 6 cities and 12 counties in Texas with a population greater than 500,000. The remaining \$1.85 billion will be available to other cities and counties throughout the state. Funding will go towards reimbursement of direct expenses incurred by cities and counties due to COVID-19.

The 242 counties, and the cities within those counties, that did not receive direct allocations from the Treasury are eligible to apply to the state for a \$55 per capita allocation from the \$1.85 billion. Upon execution of a grant agreement, governments will be able to immediately draw down 20% to their allocation. After those jurisdictions provide documentation on the initial funding, they will then be able to access the remainder of their allocation on a reimbursement basis. The unallocated funds will be reserved for local expenses as future outbreaks and the long-term impacts of COVID-19 are better known. In the letter, the leaders encourage cities and counties to work together to address expenses that cross jurisdictional lines.

"All Texans expect government to work in a unified fashion to address this unprecedented situation, and we will continue to do so," reads the letter. "Thank you again for your work on behalf of your residents. These are tremendously difficult times for all Texans. Please know that the elected representatives in your state government are working continuously to protect the health and safety of this state, mitigate the economic ramifications of COVID-19, and build a path towards recovery."

The Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) will administer the reimbursement process and will partner with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension to provide individual assistance to each city and county throughout the process. Information on how to apply for funding, as well as guidance about eligible uses, can be found at the following website: [www.tdem.texas.gov/crf](http://www.tdem.texas.gov/crf).

[Read the letter to city and county leaders in Texas.](#)

**Estimates of Direct City / County Allocation of Coronavirus Relief Fund designated for Cities and Counties**

Info provided through TDEM

**NOTE: Amounts are estimates based on best available data. Amounts are subject to change as better data becomes available.**

		<i>Population</i>	<i>Relative Population</i>	<i>Estimated Allocation</i>
Bexar County		2,003,554	471,321	\$ 82,241,880
	San Antonio	1,532,233	1,532,233	\$ 267,362,843
Collin County		1,034,730	1,034,730	\$ 180,552,406
Dallas County		2,635,516	1,290,469	\$ 225,176,889
	Dallas	1,345,047	1,345,047	\$ 234,700,329
Denton County		887,207	887,207	\$ 154,810,780
El Paso County		839,238	156,549	\$ 27,316,593
	El Paso	682,689	682,689	\$ 119,123,966
Fort Bend County		811,688	811,688	\$ 141,633,297
Harris County		4,713,325	2,387,823	\$ 416,656,700
	Houston	2,325,502	2,325,502	\$ 405,782,166
Hidalgo County		868,707	868,707	\$ 151,582,673
Montgomery County		607,391	607,391	\$ 105,985,046
Tarrant County		2,102,515	1,207,507	\$ 210,700,660
	Fort Worth	895,008	895,008	\$ 156,171,994
Travis County		1,273,954	309,700	\$ 54,040,262
	Austin	964,254	964,254	\$ 168,254,887
Williamson County		590,551	590,551	\$ 103,046,596
	Subtotal		18,368,376	\$ 3,205,139,966
	Texas Total		28,995,881	

Total Texas Allocation CRF From CARES Act	\$ 11,243,461,411
Estimate of Texas Local Funding With 45% Maximum Allocated to All Texas Cities and Counties	\$ 5,059,557,635
Estimate of Remaining Texas Local Funding After Direct Allocation to Cities and Counties Greater Than 500,000	\$ 1,854,417,669

NOTE: Amounts are estimates based on best available data. Amounts are subject to change as better data becomes available.

	Relative Population	Direct Funding from Treasury	Per Capita
<b>Fort Bend County</b>	811,688	\$ 141,633,297	\$ 174.49
<b>Cities in Fort Bend Co &lt; 500,000</b>	<b>2018 Census City Data</b>	<b>Amount If County Distributed Total Amount Received at \$174.49 Per Capita to Smaller Cities Within Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Amount If County Split Total Funding Received By Half to Smaller Cities Within Jurisdiction (\$87.24 Per Capita)</b>
Arcola	2,492	\$ 434,829	\$ 217,402
Beasley	663	\$ 115,687	\$ 57,840
Fairchilds	1,224	\$ 213,576	\$ 106,782
Fulshear	11,990	\$ 2,092,135	\$ 1,046,008
Houston	41,806	\$ 7,294,729	\$ 3,647,155
Katy	2,159	\$ 376,724	\$ 188,351
Kendleton	397	\$ 69,273	\$ 34,634
Meadows Place	4,617	\$ 805,620	\$ 402,787
Missouri City	68,432	\$ 11,940,700	\$ 5,970,008
Needville	3,077	\$ 536,906	\$ 268,437
Orchard	407	\$ 71,017	\$ 35,507
Pearland	1,021	\$ 178,154	\$ 89,072
Pleak	1,611	\$ 281,103	\$ 140,544
Richmond	12,033	\$ 2,099,638	\$ 1,049,759
Rosenberg	38,061	\$ 6,641,264	\$ 3,320,442
Simonton	879	\$ 153,377	\$ 76,684
Stafford	18,003	\$ 3,141,343	\$ 1,570,582
Sugar Land	118,600	\$ 20,694,514	\$ 10,346,664
Weston Lakes	3,820	\$ 666,552	\$ 333,257
Thompsons	337	\$ 58,803	\$ 29,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,143,317</b>	<b>\$ 57,865,944</b>	<b>\$ 28,931,314</b>
<b>Total Remaining With County</b>		<b>\$ 83,767,353</b>	<b>\$ 112,701,983</b>